

Desmond Tutu: 'I'd Pick Hell Over an Anti-Gay Heaven'

Retired South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu has apparently joined the ranks of gay rights supporters in the church. On Friday, he said he would rather go to hell before going to a heaven that "condemned homosexuality as a sin."

"I would not worship a God who is homophobic, and that is how deep I feel about this," Tutu said at a United Nations' gay rights campaign function in Cape Town, South Africa. "I would refuse to go to a homophobic heaven. 'No,' I would say. 'Sorry. I mean, I would much rather go to the other place.'"

Tutu likened gay rights to the civil rights battle for blacks and apartheid.

"I am as passionate about this campaign as I ever was about apartheid," Tutu said, as reported by *Agence France-Presse*. "For me, it is at the same level."

Pope Francis also said this week that he would not judge gay priests that are sexually inactive, if he happened to learn about their sexual orientation.