

The Lakeview Lamp

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." - Psalm 119:105

July 20, 2008

Same Sex Marriages

J.R. Bronger

The California Supreme Court struck down the state's ban on same-sex marriage recently, saying sexual orientation, like race or gender, "does not constitute a legitimate basis upon which to deny or withhold legal rights." In a 4-3 120-page ruling, the justices wrote that "responsibly to care for and raise children does not depend upon the individual's sexual orientation." As expected, Gay and Lesbian advocates celebrated the ruling. The Governor of New York gave a press conference in which he said New York would recognize (sanction) same-sex marriages that have been performed in other states.

This is about undermining all that God has revealed about homosexuality. The agenda of the pro-homosexual lobby in America is to demand that sodomy be mainlined and God marginalized. They want to make it so that your children will grow up and view homosexuality to be as natural as heterosexuality.

Parents in the Lexington, Massachusetts School District have been ordered by a federal court to allow without notification, the local *elementary* school to use homosexual propaganda in its curriculum. A group of parents filed suit after the Lexington Superintendent of schools refused to provide parental notification when pro same-gender relationships were being discussed in classes. The administration did not want to allow parents to opt out. The court agreed with the school. The three-judge panel wrote: "There is no free exercise right to be free from any reference in public elementary schools to the existence of families in which parents are of different gender combinations." Sarah Wunsch (ACLU attorney) crowed: "The courts have rightfully found that parents can't control which books are used in school just because they are in conflict with their personal religious beliefs."

There is absolutely nothing natural about same-sex relationships. Calling a homosexual (or lesbian) copulating couple a marriage is farcical. It is a counterfeit marriage. Marriage is, and has always been, between a man and a woman. *"And Adam said: 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh,'" (Genesis 2:23-24).*

Those who respect the scriptures clearly understand God's view of homosexuality. When God regulated sexual morality in the book of Leviticus, He said: *"You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination," (18:22).* The gay community might wish to call it love, but God said it is an abomination. That is, disgusting, an abhorrence! It is nothing more than perverted sexual relations, and it is no more natural than what God condemns in the very next verse: *"Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion," (Leviticus 18:23).* It is just a matter of time until some "sexual pervert" begins making a case before the courts to be able to "marry" his sheep. He can argue that he was born with the gene that causes him to be attracted to animals and that he has a constitutional right to marry his beloved "Lambchop."

The New Testament is just as condemning as the Leviticus' passage. *"Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the*

natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due,” (Romans 1:24-27).

What are Christians to do about this blatant abomination that the state is trying to force upon us? There have been many responses from those claiming to order their lives according to scripture. Some want to argue that the attraction (desire) one has for someone of the same sex is genetically preprogrammed by God, thus natural. These people are usually divided into sub groupings. One saying that although the desire is natural, the behavior is sinful; while the other group is, in my judgment, more consistent, in that they conclude that since the inclination is given by God the act is also sanctioned by God. These are those who advocate “matrimonial rights” for homosexual couples. The “governator” of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger said: “I respect the court's decision and as governor, I will uphold its ruling. Also, as I have said in the past, I will not support an amendment to the constitution that would overturn this state Supreme Court ruling.” This places his imprimatur upon homosexuality!

Some Christians wish to ignore the issue. They say, “I am against it because of what the Bible says, but it’s something we best leave to the politicians and keep it out of churches.” If this were a mere political issue, I would concur. This is not, however, a matter of politics; it is a matter of biblical ethics. Therefore, it is something that we must be militant in opposing; not only in our sermons and studies within the church building, but everywhere.

There may come a time when this will not be permitted by law. An article recently appeared on WorldNetDaily.com telling about what happened in Canada. A “Canadian Human Rights Tribunal” ordered a denominational preacher to renounce his faith and never again express moral opposition to homosexuality. If this does not make your spine tingle I don’t know what will. Here is a man being told by the government to renounce his faith. Additionally this man was banned from expressing his biblical perspective of homosexuality and ordered to pay \$5,000 in “damages for pain and suffering” as well as apologize to the activist who complained of being hurt.

What would we do if told we must renounce our belief that homosexuality is wrong? This is not as farfetched as you might believe. If homosexuality is viewed as a lawfully protected right, then those who oppose it are in violation of law. One candidate for president, who describes himself as a “devout Christian,” although he is presently without a home church, said that he would do everything within his power, if elected, “to treat same-sex couples with full equality.” This would include, keeping them from being “hurt” or offended by religious fanatics.

If it becomes against the law to preach against what God calls an abomination and unnatural, it is my prayer that God will grant Christians the courage of Peter and John, who, when faced with a similar dilemma, responded with unwavering bravery. “. . . *whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard,” (Acts 4:19-20).*

News and Notes

Rough drafts for an **updated 2008 directory** are on the credenza in the back. Please make any needed changes in one of them.

Flyers for the meeting are now available in the back. It begins **next week!**

Mary Burnett remains at home on Hospice care.

Metty Fain remains in Highland Manor Nursing Home; Room B2; 215 Highland Circle Dr; Portland, TN 37148.

Nathan Fultz, who once worshiped here, was baptized Wednesday night.

Cotton Read continues to have breathing and sleeping problems.

Nancy Read went to her eye doctor last week and was told nothing could be done for her pain.

Ame White continues to have pain on and off. She is having knee surgery next Thursday for some torn cartilage.

Absent: **Nicholson family** (DC), **Jim and Tanya Stubblefield** (GA today, then Maine thru Sat.).

New Reports: None known.

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"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks" (1 Thes 5:16-18).