

When Sin Becomes a Civil Right

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. "Since I took office, my Administration has worked to broaden opportunity, advance equality, and level the playing field for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered people and communities. We have fought to secure justice for all under the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and we have taken action to end housing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. We expanded hospital visitation rights for LGBT patients and their loved ones, and under the Affordable Care Act, we ensured that insurance companies will no longer be able to deny coverage to someone just because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. Because we understand that LGBT rights are human rights, we continue to engage with the international community in promoting and protecting the rights of LGBT persons around the world.

Because we repealed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," gay, lesbian, and bisexual Americans can serve their country openly, honestly, and without fear of losing their jobs because of whom they love. And because we must treat others the way we want to be treated, I personally believe in marriage equality for same-sex couples."

"Now, therefore, I, Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2012 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month. I call upon the people of the United States to eliminate prejudice everywhere it exists, and to celebrate the great diversity of the American people."

B. "Numerous polls and studies on the issue have been conducted, including those that were completed throughout the first decade of the 21st century. A consistent trend of increasing support for same-sex marriage has been revealed across the world. Much of the research that was conducted in developed countries in the first decade of the 21st century shows a majority of people in support of same-sex marriage. Support for legal same-sex marriage has increased across every age group, political ideology, religion, gender, race and region of various developed countries in the world.

Recent polling in the United States has shown a further increase in the American public's support for same-sex marriage. When adults were asked in 2005 if they thought "marriages between homosexuals should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages", 28 percent replied in the affirmative, while 68 percent replied in the negative (the remaining 4 percent stated that they were unsure). When adults were asked in March 2013 if they supported or opposed same-sex marriage, 50 percent said they supported same-sex marriage, while 41 percent were opposed, and the remaining 9 percent stated that they were unsure... Support for same-sex marriage generally increases with higher levels of education, and younger people are more likely to support legalization than older generations. (Wikipedia)

C. "In June, 2013 the SCOTUS determined that the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), signed by Bill Clinton on 9/21/96 was unconstitutional. DOMA allowed states to refuse to recognize same-sex marriages granted under the laws of other states. Until Section 3 of the Act was ruled unconstitutional in 2013, DOMA, in conjunction with other statutes, had also effectively barred same-sex married couples from being recognized as "spouses" for purposes of federal laws, or receiving federal marriage benefits.

Speaking against homosexual behavior is considered "hate speech." Scott Lively (President of Defending the Family International) is being sued in US Federal Court for "crimes against humanity" for preaching against homosexuality in UGANDA, Africa.

- D. Feels like the flood is washing away our home and all we can do is watch
1. What can we do?!

I. THINGS THAT WON'T WORK

A. Ranting does not edify

1. Do not become judgmental or un-Christian; God doesn't like your sin any more than He likes theirs - Rom. 1:24-32

B. Ignoring or dismissing the facts leads to more ignorance. We can't change this, and it serves little purpose to stamp and snort about it.

1. Some people will choose homosexuality regardless; however, not as many as publicized. Some will choose this; that's not going to change.
 - a. The Alfred Kinsey Report of 1948-53 said 10%
 - b. Conventional thinking says 3 - 5%
 - c. 1.7% - Gary Gates is demographer-in-residence at the Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy, University of California, Los Angeles. An additional 6.5% have experimented with it.
2. Believers and followers of God are viscerally repulsed by it. Not going to change without abandoning the faith, not with education nor PSAs.
3. Homosexuality will never become the majority practice, but those who practice it will remain a vocal and influential minority.
4. It is not the cause of the fall of a nation; it is a symptom of its decline.
 - a. When the traditional beliefs of a nation erode, the nation dies. Religion provides the set of standards that govern a nation. Historian Will Durant said, "There is no significant example in history, before our time, of a society successfully maintaining moral life without the aid of religion." (Kerby Anderson)
 - b. In describing the decadence of the Roman Republic, historian Polybius wrote that this preoccupation with luxury led to carnal indulgences. "For some young men indulged in affairs with boys. They paid a talent (roughly a thousand dollars) for a boy bought for sexual pleasure. Marcus Cato was outraged by this and, in a speech to the people, complained that one might be quite convinced of the decline of the republic, when pretty boys cost more than fields."
 - c. Three important trends demonstrate moral decay. They are the rise in immorality, the decay of religious belief, and the devaluing of human life.
 - d. The classic study of Roman civilization, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, written by English historian Edward Gibbon published in 1776. He observed that "the leaders of the empire gave into the vices of strangers, morals collapsed, laws became oppressive, and the abuse of power made the nation vulnerable

to the barbarian hordes. Manners and social life fell into debauchery. Under Justinian, entertainment grew bawdier and more bizarre. Homosexuality was openly practiced.”

- e. Professor Allan Bloom in his book *The Closing of the American Mind*, said, "This is the American moment in world history, the one for which we shall forever be judged.
 - f. Arnold Toynbee describes the predictable pattern of "challenge and response." We as a nation are challenged in fundamental ways, and our response will either pull us back from the brink or push us over it. Will we follow the path to renewal and reformation or will we follow the path to destruction?
 - g. The tragic and historically inevitable fact is this: Once a nation has declined to the point that homosexuality is generally accepted and openly practiced, NO nation has ever reversed its fall. It is only a matter of time.
5. You will not solve this at the polls. It can be slowed at the wallet. It will not end until society resets with a fall and rise or a traumatic revolution.
 - a. Churches becoming political instead of evangelical
 6. Anger and un-Christ-like responses may feel good, but are ineffective and will damage our cause.
 7. The means of this world will have little impact or effect - 2Cor. 10:3-5
 - a. Our weapons are spiritual: prayer, teaching, encouragement
 8. Contrary to the belief of some professed Christians, homosexuals can be saved and are equal to any other citizen in the kingdom of God - 1Cor. 6:9-11
 9. Foolish and arbitrary distinctions between sins
 - a. Every temptation can be overcome; every sin forgiven - 1Cor. 10:13. God did not make a distinction between the sins because there is no significant difference.
 10. We had better love them and make it our goal to lead them to salvation. Illustration: Once, a man was walking along a beach. The sun was shining and it was a beautiful day. Off in the distance he could see a person going back and forth between the surf's edge and the beach. Back and forth this person went. As the man approached he could see that there were hundreds of starfish stranded on the sand as the result of the natural action of the tide.

The man was stuck by the apparent futility of the task. There were far too many starfish. Many of them were sure to die. As he approached the person continued the task of picking up starfish one by one and throwing them into the ocean. As he came up to the person he said, "You must be crazy. There are thousands of miles of beach covered with starfish. You can't possibly make a difference." The person looked at the man. He then stooped down and picked up one more starfish and threw it back into the ocean. He turned back to the man and said, "It made a difference to that one!"
 11. What members of the church and their children need to hear is not incessant condemnation of this sin, but how we are to do the will of God in a world where this sin exists. Yes, sin is bad, and they

shouldn't have done it. But it is in the world; now, how do we deal with it wisely and effectively?

12. How is this sin worse than porn, affecting 1 in 5 members of the church under age 50? Or gossip, destroying the good names of people who worked a lifetime to build it. Not diminishing it; getting you to focus on the real issue and an effective solution.
13. The Adversary deceives us by using our natural revulsion of the sin to divert our attention away from the solution. Changing light bulbs in a burning house
14. This sin has been around since the Patriarchs
 - a. Gen. 6:6, 19:5 -Sodom; Egyptian Pharaohs; Alexander the Great
 - c. "Greeks had wives for children and men for pleasure"
 - d. "Julius Caesar was every woman's man and every man's woman"

II. A STAND WE MUST TAKE

- A. ONE Man and ONE Woman for ONE Life - Matt. 19:4-6
- B. Male and female created He them, and imparted to them His Divine image - Gen. 1:26-27
- C. Be fruitful and multiply - Gen. 1:28
- D. Husband and wife for life; no divorce, immorality, or homosexual behavior
 1. Christians give up their credibility to challenge the culture when their divorce rate is the same as everyone else's, and then tell people to follow Biblical instructions on marriage and home life.
- E. God has spoken once and for all time on this matter
 1. Lev. 18:22, 26-29, 20:13; Ez. 16:49-50; Jude 7; Rom. 1:26-27
- F. We must stand for what God has said without descending to the world's level of conduct in response and without abandoning God's will in handling this
 1. Stand fast - Joshua 24:15
 2. Accept the fact that this will never be a popular stand
 3. Be a Daniel, not a Peter. Daniel and the lion's den vs Peter denying Christ; from one extreme to the other
 - a. Warnings: 1Tim. 6:3-5; 2Tim. 4:3-4; 2Cor. 1:8-12
 4. Hope will bring endurance - Gal. 6:9
 - a. Christians have faced greater hardships in the past; we are not promised any better in this life, only persistent faith will save in the end - Heb. 11:32-40
 5. We are not unique in suffering a godless generation; the judgment of this generation is in God's hands - 1Peter 4:4-5
 6. Our goal - 1Tim. 1:12; 1Cor. 15:58