

Newsletter April 2015

As worldliness and feminism, which we discussed in some length in our March 2015 newsletter, increasingly invaded the temporal church, a growing tolerance of sexual impurity has also taken place so as not to offend anyone by embarrassing them with their sins of gross immorality. This tolerance has led to the acceptance of various perversions by many of our contemporary churches. While we commonly think of men engaging in the despicable practices of fornication and homosexuality, women are also involved as unwilling victims, willing partners, and sadly even as instigators of these practices. Some of today's feminists practice heterosexual fornication, while still others practice homosexual fornication (lesbianism) in response to their militant animosity toward men and their God-given authority and responsibility over women – which we discussed in last month's newsletter (cf. Ge.3:16b). Many of today's temporal churches desperately seek to avoid all possible conflict between biblical church doctrine and the prevailing neo-pagan world view held by so many of their worldly members, lest they appear to be bigoted and intolerant to secular society and lose financial support. These temporal churches desire to appease the world, which we are clearly warned in Scripture not to love but rather separate ourselves from all of its ungodly influence (cf. 1Jn. 2:15; 2Co. 5:17).

Intolerance of sin and direct confrontation of the lost sinner with a view to their repentance from sin and their ultimate salvation in Christ is the primary mission of the Church – that God's amazing grace may abound. Christians are not immediately taken into Heaven as they are saved, but are left here on earth as ambassadors of Christ to reach others with the Gospel. God's grace, which provides Christian liberty within Christ through bonds of divine love, has been perverted by many of today's temporal churches into an acceptance of worldly forms of lasciviousness as sanctioned doctrine. Through tolerating sin in various forms, today's liberal-minded churches compromise the faith to the point that they have no power to reach out to a fallen society with the true Gospel message. The church's primary purpose and mandate to reach the lost for Christ has thus been abrogated. Rather than remaining a sound Christian witness to the world, these churches have chosen to become more like the world in hopes of winning it over to their delusional form of churchianity.

Scripture equates fornication with other terrible sins including murder and adultery (cf. 2Co. 1:29; Ga.5:19). Adultery differs from fornication only inasmuch as the act takes place in violation of an established marriage relationship rather than between single persons. Marriage is an honorable estate having been established by God with the joining together of Adam and Eve at the time of their creation. Fornication opposes that honorable relationship by displacing it with transitory licentious relationships that have no basis in God's will. Fornication directly opposes biblical marriage and carries with it the dreadful consequences of broken homes and fatherless children. Some churches have established elaborate programs providing care for expectant unmarried women, before and after giving birth to an illegitimate child, as an act of Christian charity to prevent the unborn child from being killed through surgical abortion (cf. *CRC* Book II, page 495). While this rescue effort is commendable, today's more liberal churches consistently fail to stress the serious consequence of the sinful practice of fornication to the mother as they assure her of their unconditional love and support. In failing to do so they tacitly approve of the sin of fornication as an acceptable alternative to marriage (cf. *CRC* Book III, page 541). While some women find themselves in this distressing situation as a consequence of men having forced themselves upon them, still others willingly practice fornication as a way of life – choosing to become the mother of many children who have been serially conceived by various men over time. These unconverted single mothers often remain in liberal churches on the periphery (sometimes even as members) rationalizing that the acceptance of their benefactor's churchianity will relieve them of the unpleasant consequences of their sinful lifestyle financially and emotionally. Not having come to a knowledge of the Truth, they are sadly deluded into thinking that they will be delivered from eternal judgment as well. The notion that sin is universally excusable without need of repentance is perpetuated by many such pseudo-Christians, and it is being reinforced by many false teachers that have made their way into the temporal church – especially so through the recent influx of women counselors and preachers – but increasingly so by many ungodly men who seek favor with the world for personal gain (cf. 2Ti.3:6).

In his epistle to the Romans, Paul states that all men instinctively know that God exists, but they

continually suppress that knowledge so that they may engage in various wicked activities with imagined impunity. Men have no excuse for denying God's authority in all matters of life inasmuch as his existence and power is obvious merely by observing his amazing works of nature all about us (cf. Ro.1:19–22). Suppressing that knowledge ultimately leads to the commission of many vile sins. "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen" (Ro. 1:21-25). Because of their rejection of God, men and women defy his divine laws, and since they do so God gave them over to a reprobate mind to engage in various forms of sexual impurities and the degrading of their bodies one with the other including the personally degrading practices of fornication and homosexuality: "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them" (Ro.1:26-32). Here we find homosexuality and fornication mentioned in the company of many other terrible sins that often follow out of a perverted mind.

Adam was created male and Eve was created female, and no other gender was created nor is it possible through some misfortune of birth; there are no "gay" or "lesbian" genders. Nevertheless, homosexuality is often excused by saying that men and women were naturally born that way – thus attempting to pass off the blame for human sinfulness onto God. The practice of Homosexuality is specifically defined by God in his Word as being sinful. "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination" (Le. 18:22). God considers the practice of homosexuality as loathsome and disgusting, and He abhors it. Since the fall of Adam, man has been born into the world with a strong appetite for sin, and that sin is expressed in many ways in the human race. Only in that sense can we say that one is born a homosexual; we could as easily say that one is born a liar, a thief, or a murderer. One is a thief because he gives in to his sinful desire and steals; he is a murderer because he kills his fellow man to satisfy his sinful desire. Some men develop an unhealthy lust for women through lascivious thoughts aided by various forms of pornography. Outside the bounds of legitimate marriage that God has set, uncontrollable sexual desire leads to the sins of fornication and adultery.

Likewise, homosexuality is an acquired practice arising from reprobate thinking, not from a compelling state of mind inherited at birth. However, it can become habitual because it is extremely addictive to men as well as women. As a result, it becomes extremely difficult to expunge such perversions from the human mind by an act of the human will. Even the redeemed in Christ are often nagged by their earlier sins of various kinds that can so easily beset them once again if they are not constantly on guard against them – even sins of which they have repented and have come to abhor. Moreover, some sins leave permanent scars in our bodies and in our minds even after we have received full forgiveness in Christ. The sins of fornication and homosexuality are certainly no exception inasmuch as they spread various venereal diseases including AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). Some Christians who were once practicing homosexuals are wondrously blessed and are able to move on by engaging in legitimate marriage relationships once the Holy Spirit cleanses their thoughts and attitudes. Other believers who were more deeply infected by this sin over longer periods of time may have lost all their natural affection for the opposite sex such that they find that they must remain single – taking on a lifetime of sexual chastity to remain in close fellowship with Christ.

As with most who advocate any sinful practice, there is a great amount of militancy associated with today's homosexual movement. We see their sinful arrogance being openly flaunted in various so-called "gay pride"

parades and demonstrations. Only 1% to at the very most 5% of the United States population erroneously claim to have been born homosexual. The numbers that engage in homosexual activities out of youthful ignorance are probably greater, but most of these leave that practice behind as they mature – unless they are subverted by the false teachings of the homosexual crusade. A great majority of those who have joined the homosexual movement are not homosexuals, but are atheistic libertarians who act out of a false sense of compassion for those whom they see as being persecuted by a bigoted Christian community. Today, the sin of homosexuality is being condoned by many as a personal choice of a lifestyle that should be protected by civil law. It is being put forth as a civil rights issue as homosexual activists have attempted to append their agenda onto the earlier civil rights movement in the United States. There is nothing sinful about variations in skin pigmentation with which a person is born. Any supposed stigma associated with it is irrational as well as being totally unbiblical and must be rejected by all true Christians on rational as well as Scriptural grounds. However, to suggest that speaking out against the chosen practice of the sin of homosexuality, as a basic civil right that is on a par with racial oppression, is without merit.

Many atheists and neo-pagans who view Christianity as a dogmatic and arrogant faith, which is highly offensive to the beliefs and activities of everyone outside their immediate circle, have sought to widen existing hate-crime laws (cf. *CRC Book III*, pages 417, 466-468) to prohibit any Christian speech that could remotely be viewed as being offensive to anyone. This is a determined effort to prevent any moral or religious outcry being made through growing Christian activism concerning the depraved activities of an increasingly neo-pagan citizenry – specifically members of the highly vocal homosexual community and their attempt to normalize their depravity as an accepted legal standard. The very fact that the First Amendment of the *U.S. Constitution* sought to protect free speech certifies that necessary speech could at times be objectionable to someone or it obviously would not need to be protected at all. Furthermore, the placement of this clause within the First Amendment makes it quite clear that the protected speech being referred to is political and/or religious in nature – the very kind of speech that overzealous hate-speech laws would seek to prohibit (cf. *CRC Book III*, pages 321, 452).

The homosexual movement also attempts to force legitimacy for their lifestyle through homosexual unions, which they adamantly insist on calling marriage. Numerous passages of Scripture beginning in Genesis make it clear that marriage is a state that can exist only between one man and one woman. God's definition of marriage stands firm regardless of man's attempts at circumvention. Any deviation from God's standard is sinful inasmuch as it violates his holy mandate for the perpetuation and stability of mankind. God sanctioned marriage not only for intimate companionship but also for the begetting of children in order to perpetuate the human race. Those who engage in homosexual unions ultimately condemn themselves to death inasmuch as they cannot procreate. Any attempt to evade that fact through adoption or other more devious means only magnifies their sin by involving innocent children in their folly in whom they strive to perpetuate their sin through example. Many churches have an "open door" policy wherein they accept anyone into their fellowship regardless of their sinful lifestyles – which they continue to practice and demand its acceptance by the church. Due to today's liberal churchianity, homosexuals hold membership in many of today's temporal churches. Recently the ultra-liberal *Presbyterian Church USA* changed the wording in their Book of Order to redefine marriage as a "unique commitment between two people" thus making "homosexual marriage" an officially accepted doctrine of their church. Many homosexual men and women already occupy the pulpits of many of our liberal churches where they seek to further their unholy agenda to the complete detriment of God's Word.

As with the feminist movement within the temporal church through which neutral-gender bibles were specifically published to support their campaign, the homosexual movement likewise has its own bible that has been altered from the *Authorized King James* version into a *Lesbian Gay Bible Translation* commonly referred to as the *Queen James Bible*. Any verses that condemn homosexual activity as sin have been deliberately twisted to allow for the practice. For instance, the verse in Leviticus 18:22 is altered to read, "Thou shalt not lie with mankind as with womankind *in the temple of Molech*: it is an abomination." Of course, such malicious tinkering with translations of the Bible does not change anything. God's Word stands inviolable as it is written in the original autographs of Hebrew Aramaic, and Greek.

First Corinthians chapter 6 verses 9 and 10 are verses that the homosexual attempts to twist to mean that only "morally weak, or promiscuous people" will be excluded from Heaven. To them, the morally weak would likely

be those who are inhibited from exploring moral limits, and those who are promiscuous are those who do not hold to their own personal standard of conduct. However, this text clearly states that those who disobey God's rigid moral standards of conduct must forfeit all hope of gaining Heaven. "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (1Co. 6:9,10). Fortunately, there is no sin that man can commit that cannot be washed away in the blood of Christ. Immediately after writing the words of the text above, the Apostle Paul wrote of a sure redemption from such immoral practices, which were taking place in Corinth in his day, with these words, "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." (1Co 6:11). All sinners who desire to repent of their perversions can find sure hope of redemption in this verse.

Therefore, as Christians who have been washed and sanctified from many sins in our own lives, we cannot harbor hatred for those who have been caught up in these particularly degrading lifestyles and practices as some falsely accuse us of doing. Quite the contrary, we must sincerely speak the truth to them in hopes of saving their immortal souls from eternal torment in the depths of Hell – which is the ultimate destination of all unredeemed sinners. Therefore, to keep silent regarding the terrible consequences of continuing on in a sinful lifestyle would be truly unsympathetic, hardhearted, and relentlessly unmerciful. Only accepting the Truth that is found in God's Word can set men and women free of their depraved sin nature and its eternal consequences (cf. Jn.8:31,32). Love without truth is not love but only a mushy deceitful counterfeit; pathos without pointing the way to salvation is not compassion but an abject disregard for immortal souls.

While it is imperative that the true Church openly warn against fornication, adultery, and homosexuality as well as other sinful acts of a decaying society, militant Christian political activism is not the solution for the rampant moral decline of a nation. It can only have an adverse effect upon the purity of the church as it contaminates itself by establishing worldly political alliances and by engaging in open warfare with the more depraved elements of society. (cf. *CRC Book III*, page 465). The conversion of individual men and women one-by-one through their acceptance of the Gospel into the body of Christ is the only sure hope of slowing the current mad rush of this nation and the world at large toward a downward spiral ending in the inevitable fiery judgments of the last days. © *Arthur J. Smith April 2015*