

My Thoughts for Sunday, 30 August 2015

“Be Very Careful When Pointing Fingers”

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

James 2:10

There is a huge controversy going on today regarding gay marriage. The government, however, has now taken the right to decide this issue out of the hands of individual state legislatures. So where do we go from here? Where do we put our feelings and opinions regarding this issue? Very simply put, we don't. We are under the present form of government that makes decisions and ends most discussion. We all seem to feel that the government should control the morality of individuals but when it makes a decision we do not agree with all sorts of bickering and angry lopsided arguments arise. When are we going to realize that our government or any other earthly body can and will never be able to make the proper decisions based on morality. Whose morality should decisions be made upon? Every religion, sect or group of individuals have their own set of moral decrees. Most are not absolute, only vague and changing with the wind at best. We, as Christians, know and believe in the one true and Triune God, ruler of the universe and all things. As Christians we are denounced as being “phobic” whenever we attempt to speak the truth of God's Word on any moral issues.

When the church or individuals speak against the LGBT agenda we are called ‘homophobic, this in itself is a misnomer. ‘Phobic’ means to be in fear of. We are not in fear of the gay lifestyle. However we have great concern for those practicing such lifestyles in light of the clearly stated Word of God. *“On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud. You do this even to your brethren. Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.”* 1 Corinthians 6:8-10 Fear for their everlasting life should be on the top of the list for those not seeking the freely given forgiveness of God, through Christ's redemption.

Gay marriage seems to be, according to some, just the tip of a very large iceberg. The LGBT which stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual & Transgender is in name alone a hodgepodge of sinful alternate views of what is “normal” and even less about what is right in the eyes of God. Proponents of the LGBT profess that just because these desires exist legitimizes these desires. Some go so far as to say that God made them this way. Does this reasoning legitimize the acts of rape? Murder? Theft? Drug abuse? Alcoholism? Is God the cause and instigator of all these unnatural and sinful acts? Not hardly.

As Christians, where do we draw the line? Again, my answer is, we don't. This is the decision of God and the work of the Holy Spirit to bring healing to the hearts of these people to bring them into line with God's demands. Where do we draw the line on other sinners? 1 Corinthians also spoke of these other sinners who would not gain the Kingdom of Heaven; *“thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers.”* It is not our place to draw a line on who we will share the precious Word of God with. Jesus made no discrimination against sinners of any type. John 3:16 says; *“God so loved the world”* He did not say except sinners. No God loved the world. If His Word was only for the righteous there would be no one to hear the word. *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”* Romans 3:23

We must always remember these words of Paul to the Romans. He, under the divine inspiration of God, said *“for all have sinned.”* So how do we receive these sinners into the house of God? Just the same as we were welcomed into God's house of worship. We were and are still sinners but were welcomed to come into the presence of God to hear His precious, saving Word. How can we do anything other than to share that same fellowship and Word of His love with all other sinners wishing to hear it.

I recently read that many heterosexuals feel that gay marriage is a threat to straight marriages. This seems very farfetched to me, I am enjoying a straight marriage and do not feel in the least bit threatened. I can see no way in which someone else's marriage could have any effect on mine. I do, however, see some very serious threats to straight marriages in general, but those threats come from the so called 'straight' community. We see men living with women, not bothering to get married. How can we point the finger of guilt at gays when we have men who feel that just sleeping around is their right, even if it is with a consenting married woman? Or what do we have to say about those married individuals who like to live on the sly as if they were not married. These, to me, seem to be the greater threat to normal, God ordained heterosexual marriages between ONE man and ONE woman.

Friends, if you are married, stay true to the vows you took when you were joined by God into one flesh. If you presently are not married but living as if you were, do some soul searching and get with God about rectifying your issues before it is too late. If you fall into the other category where you feel justified in just sleeping around, beware, disease is just outside your door and above all, God states you cannot gain His glorious Kingdom of Heaven in this lifestyle. Married life by God's design and with His blessing is an ongoing miracle of life with endless joys when shared with a godly spouse.

I was warned, a long time ago by a friend, that finger pointing can be very dangerous. He said "look at your hand while pointing your finger at someone else and you will see at least three fingers on your hand pointing right back at you." Perhaps it's a good time to look at where those other three fingers are pointing. Have we ever entertained any thoughts that were less than those holy thoughts that our Lord would have us dwell upon? *"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things."*Philippians 4:8.

I strongly urge us all to begin looking inward at our own lives, redeemed by Christ out of this sin-filled world. Recognize where we were and where we have come from by the saving grace of our Lord. With this introspection I feel we might come to a more Christian solution for dealing with those still trapped in their worldly lives of sin, those desperately in need of the Good News of the grace of God so freely given and so undeserved. Share this Good News with others rather than ostracizing them and possibly driving them deeper into their alternate lifestyles where they are readily accepted. Don't become a tool of the devil by telling these lost souls that they are not deserving of the life-giving waters that were so readily poured out on you. Instead give them the redemptive hope they can receive in the knowledge of the salvation we have all received through Jesus.

I must stress again, whether your sin is adultery, fornication, lesbianism, alcoholism, drug use, thievery, homosexuality, covetousness, bigotry, gluttony or whatever name you want to put on it, sin is sin. There are no different levels of sin and God said very plainly "the soul that sins will die" Ezekiel 18:4. Rest assured that as Jesus died on the cross for us, this Scripture should give us great consolation. *"He himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls."* Pass this on to those friends and neighbors still suffering, looking for something better. This Scripture is for all, not just a select few.

Look back to the opening text, the warning from James; *"For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all."* James 2:10. We all, always, need the salvation and forgiveness from Jesus. Finally, if you must draw a line, please make it a straight line to the front door of your house of worship and be there to greet those many lost souls thirsting for the water of life. Remember, once you were thirsting in their midst.