



Preparing Souls To Serve The Lord

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Homosexuality Can Not Be Wrong Can It?

Moral and spiritual responsibility is often denied. The human mind and will have the capacity to deny or mask truth in a number of ways. In doing so the person or persons may think they have resolved the problem while in reality they have compounded it for themselves and most times for others as well.

The newspaper, especially the editorial section and even the comic section, is a very effective tool in promoting moral and/or immoral lifestyles. It is often the means in which some people form their opinions and moral values. This is easily seen in the issues of morals and social responsibility. Political cartoonists are very effective in their skill.

One recent moral cartoon caught my attention. It appeared in the Sunday edition of our local paper, August 15, 1993. The cartoonist is Garry Trudeau and his cartoon is "Doonesbury." The subject as you will observe is homosexuality. The

end result is to cause readers to think that homosexuality is not to be considered as making a moral choice. I can not reproduce the pictures but I will present the comment. The scene pictures Doonesbury as a radio or TV talk show host. The scene begins with a caller making a comment and then Doonesbury makes reply by asking a question.

Caller: "Here's the thing, Mark—Why do we have to give these people special rights just because they **choose** (emphasis in original) to be gay?"
Doonesbury: "Well, you raise an interesting point, caller. Like you, fully half the country believes that gays 'choose' to be gay. Before we cut away, let me ask you this...(ellipsis are in the original and are at each picture brake) Embracing a gay lifestyle means family trauma, discrimination, public scorn, religious condemnation and enhanced likelihood of acquiring a fatal disease...If being gay is a choice why on **earth** (emphasis in

original) would anyone choose it?" Doonesbury is seen awaiting a response finally the caller responds. Caller: "The food? I heard the food's better."
Doonesbury: "Gay cuisine—is it tops? We'll be back!"

Reflections

May I suggest that without a moral standard there can be no rational or sensible response to such questions and issues as those raised by Mr. Trudeau. May it also be understood that there is a need for an objective standard, if the issue is resolved in the minds of people and in the morals standards of social order. Let it also be recognized that the Bible is either that moral standard or it is not. Likewise, if the Bible is not that objective and authoritative standard then there is none. If there is none then whatever anyone does is of no ultimate consequence. All that can be written or said on any issue is like what Mr. Trudeau has written. He may

raise questions and doubts in the minds but he will not dare take a position of labeling it right or wrong. The great wrong in the mind of advocates of amorality is that you would label any action wrong. Of course do not ask them to follow their system. They reserve to themselves alone the right to impute moral wrong to individuals who differ with them.

Choices?

Mr. Trudeau, in advocating moral freedom or "rights" to homosexuals, would have us think of sexual orientation and decisions as not real choices but are a part of our makeup. He does not explicitly state it; it is implied by the questions he poses. Asking questions frees him from having to take a position on the issue. This frees him to criticize those that hold that human sex acts are moral choices but with no basis (objective standard) to do so.

May I ask our readers to consider some questions? Are human beings born having sex? Is human sexuality an instinct like it is in animals? Is human sexuality uncontrollable? If sexual conduct is nonmoral then are we to affirm that anything goes? Who has a right to say this is acceptable but that is not, and why? Is the only way any sex act can be controlled is to segregate the sexes? In homosexuality this will not solve the problem. Will our Cartoon Philosopher go this far? We doubt it. When sexual actions against his person or family members are such that they are distasteful to him, we expect he

would be calling for moral right to be recognized. But, if there is no moral choice involved all that can result is a clanging symbol, or a cartoon character asking questions.

Consequences

In the above comments Mr. Trudeau places in the mouth of Doonesbury the implied foundation for an argument—no one would choose a homosexual life because the consequences of such a choice would be "absurd." In his words it would "mean a family trauma, discrimination, public scorn, religious condemnation and enhanced likelihood of acquiring a fatal disease..."

Are we to accept this as "justification" for labeling any action or "choice" as being the basis for making it nonmoral and socially acceptable? If a person acts in such a way as to create family trauma, results in some discrimination, public scorn, religious condemnation and enhances the likelihood of acquiring a fatal disease, then, this is grounds for acceptance? Who can swallow such absurdities?

Application

Let us evaluate the philosophy of Mr. Trudeau.

Prostitution results in "a family trauma, discrimination, public scorn, religious condemnation and enhanced likelihood of acquiring a fatal disease...", therefore no one ever chooses prostitution.

Alcoholism results in "a family trauma, discrimination,

public scorn, religious condemnation and enhanced likelihood of acquiring a fatal disease...", therefore no one ever chooses alcohol. The liquor industry should understand this. It would save them millions of dollars in advertising in trying to persuade you to choose to consume alcohol. Mothers Against Drunk Drivers should give up their quest, for to drink and drive is not a moral choice, the consequences are of such a nature that no one would choose an action that would result in such consequences!!!

Rape often results in "a family trauma, discrimination, public scorn, religious condemnation and enhanced likelihood of acquiring a fatal disease...", therefore no one ever chooses to rape another because the consequences of their action are such that this could not be. Will Mr. Trudeau accept his "logic" or will he be willing to morally philosophize about rape as he does about homosexuality? Would he apply his "standard" to those who would violate his person or that of his family? Is a philosophy or moral code of value if it can not be applied? If a moral code or value system being advocated or implied results in great harm to persons and society should it be

The Harvesters

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TRAINING PREACHERS SINCE 1969

honored?

Murder and robbery often results in "a family trauma, discrimination, public scorn, religious condemnation and enhanced likelihood of acquiring a fatal disease...", therefore no one ever chooses to murder or rob for the consequences of his actions are such that no one would ever make such a foolish choice? Who believes it? Should we advocate closing the prisons and freeing the "guilty?"

Conclusion

Asking questions is nice, but having answers is better. If it is the case that people make moral choices all the time which result in "a family trauma, discrimination, public scorn, religious condemnation and enhanced likelihood of acquiring a fatal disease...", then, because there are such consequences does not mean that homosexuality is not a choice.

If God made us, and He did; if His Word the Bible teaches that homosexuality is a moral choice, and it does, and if the Bible teaches that homosexuality is sinful, and it does, then to be guilty of homosexual conduct is a choice and it is wrong.

God says: "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. 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" (I Cor. 6:9-11).

August 24, 1993

Dear Jackie,

Just a short note to thank you again for your fellowship in helping out while I was in Ghana.

This year I was accompanied by Bob Bauer. He is a faithful brother and now preaching for the church in Port Charlotte. I understand that he will be driving up and taking some of the classes at FSOP this semester. I know this will be a blessing to him and to the local church.

We had a great trip. Thirty-one (31) souls were baptized into Christ, a few were restored, we started a new congregation in Abaam, Eastern Region and worked with established congregations in Pramkese, Boadua, Kade, Okumaning, Tema, Ashaiman and Kpone.

Everywhere we went we saw spiritual and numerical growth in the churches. Renee and I worked with the church in Ashaiman during the time that we lived there. In 1984 there were about 40 of us meeting in a schoolroom. In 1989 when we left attendance was over 200, 7 acres of property purchased and work started on a permanent meeting place. On July 25th when I worshiped with them in their nearly completed building

(some plastering and painting left to do) and there were 373 in attendance of which 145 were children.

The church in Kpone, numbering around 40 is located in a small seaside fishing town. We have been assisting them in putting up their own meeting place. On August 3, we had a work day and nearly completed the building. On August 8, we worshiped with them for the first time in the building.

We also visited National Bible Institute (the preacher training school where I taught) located and supported by the Nswan Road Church of Christ in Accra and left them the complete set of FSOP's 1993 lectureship tapes. Lord willing I will be able to raise some funds and next summer we will be able to take over a supply of lectureship books for preachers and church leaders.

Thanks again. Hope to see you some during this school year.

In Christ who Saves,

/s/ Ted Wheeler

Venice Church of Christ

FSP BEGINS 25TH YEAR

Monday, August 23, 1993 marked the beginning of another school year for the Florida School of Preaching. Orientation was on Friday, August 20, at 7:00 p.m. You may register late through September 1, however, this will make it difficult in language classes for to miss one class is the same as missing an entire

week.

At this date (8/30/93) we have 13 full time students and 22 more who are taking classes on a part time basis.

In addition to our normal routine of classes we have students being given credit by Souther Christian University while enrolled with us. There are three of these who are taking classes to meet graduation requirements there. This year we are offering a second year Greek class for students who have completed the first year Greek course. The class meets on Monday evenings.

There is also a night class taught by brother J.H. Blackman. They are studying Psalms.

You can be of help to us by directing us to men that may be persuaded to preach. The Lord said to his disciples: "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of harvest, that he will send laborers into his harvest" (Matt. 9:37-38). The situation has not changed. His work still requires faithful and informed servants.

As our number of students increases this requires

us to seek funds to operate. Please help these men as they train to take the message of Christ to a confused and lost world. Please keep the school in mind by helping us secure funds to assist full time men preparing to preach.

Revelation Classes At Area Congregations

We have a regular class during the school day to study the Book of Revelation. This class meets on Wednesday mornings.

The same subject is being taught in Lakeland at the Florida Avenue Congregation on Wednesday evenings and on Sunday evening at the North Lakeland Congregation.

We are happy to be of service to both of these congregations in this capacity.

In teaching Revelation at the school I have developed study notes to be used in the class. These have recently been placed in a booklet format and are being made available to those who wish to pay the three dollar cost (\$3) for the notes and any additional charge for postage and handling. See the next item.

Stearnsman Study Notes Available

Over the years I have developed notes on the classes I have taught while doing local work with congregations and have expanded these for use in the Florida School of Preaching. Students reading this will know of these notes and others have become aware of them and some asked that they be made available to them. This is now being done. I have a number that are available for immediate purchase and as time permits will be placing more of them in permanent form.

Most of these notes are in outline form. They are on the Biblical texts of the Bible or special topics (such as The Occult, Sermon on the Mount, Christian Evidences, et al).

If you are interested in these we will send you a listing for them at your request. They are priced from \$2 to \$3 each. Postage and shipping will be according to cost per shipment.

Write me at the school:

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