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Bracing for Marriage-plus

And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left...? --Jonah 4:11

Adolescents do what adolescents do. Who doesn't know that poorly supervised youngsters are more likely to wind up in trouble than those who are well-instructed and closely monitored by adults? And lawmakers do what lawmakers do. But their unchecked actions can do more than just get them unelected. The sinful inclinations of rulers can destroy a city—think *Sodom*—or an entire generation. Think *Roe v Wade*.

Also think tax subsidies for “pretend relationships” that are assuredly contrary to the laws of nature and nature's [G]od, not to mention Darwin's pet theory—natural selection. State lawmakers are poised to retrofit marriage and family to their own liking. Various iterations of legalized homosexual “marriage” are breezing through committee hearings, and, short of Divine intervention, could be under the Governor's eager pen in a matter of days.

Although sponsors say their measures are not “marriage” bills but rather about equal benefits for “domestic partners,” everyone knows from past court rulings there is no such thing as “separate but equal.” Only equal is equal.

At a recent hearing before the House Judiciary Committee, several “family” organizations testified that HB 1727 creates a social equivalency that will require schools and other institutions to mainstream homosexual behavior. No Democrat on the committee seemed troubled at the prospect. But a minister from Port Orchard warned that thousands of God-fearing parents will be forced to pull their children from public schools—leading to even further decline of the already troubled state education system.

Democrat redirect? None. Democrat reaction? Condescending smiles.

The “family” groups cited a litany of studies suggesting the obvious: Children with a father and a mother in the home fare significantly better in all measurable areas of social well-being than children raised in non-traditional settings. More smiles, some smirks.

Next at bat—a conservative attorney from the Scottsdale, Arizona-based *Alliance Defense Fund* who warned that elevation of same-sex relationships inevitably results in attacks against religious beliefs. It happened to *Catholic Charities* in Boston. Established in 1903 to primarily serve Catholic children left by parents who died or abandoned them, the charity became the state's largest private adoption agency for the next 103 years—until Massachusetts enacted a domestic partners law. Told they must adopt out children to “gay” couples or close their doors, the charity was forced to choose the latter.”

The attorney also told of Jon and Elaine Huguenin, a Christian couple in Albuquerque who own a small photography business. For refusing to photograph a lesbian “commitment ceremony,” the New Mexico Human Rights Commission found them guilty of discrimination under state anti-discrimination laws, and ordered them to pay \$6,600 in fines.

In New Jersey, the Christian-based Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association underwent a year-long investigation by the state's Civil Rights Division following a complaint of discrimination. A lesbian "couple" had intended to hold a civil union ceremony at the private Boardwalk Pavilion owned by the Camp Meeting Association, but were turned away. The New Jersey Attorney General quickly moved to revoke the association's charitable organization status.

In Georgia, Marcia Walden, a licensed associate counselor, was fired from a government contract for following her profession's code of ethics. Sensing a personal conflict between her religious convictions and an individual seeking same-sex relationship counseling, Walden referred the client to another counselor in her office who did not share her religious beliefs. Although the lesbian client admitted the second counselor was superb, it didn't change the outcome.

In recent years, the *Christian Coalition of Washington* has submitted dozens of similar cases to legislative committees including attacks against the moral beliefs and policies of The Boy Scouts of America and the Salvation Army. We know the smirks and condescending smiles.

But our vote for show-stopper at the hearing goes to an obviously naive pastor who should know better than to invoke the name of *Gauddd* (a Limbaugh-ism) in a highly-charged partisan setting. It tends to make lawmakers mad. It also embarrasses other Christians in the hearing room who don't want to be marginalized by a "religious kook."

When called forward, the somber young pastor thanked the legislative panel for their service and acknowledged that they are God's representatives—appointed to constrain evil and reward good. He told them that the Bible speaks to nations that turn a blind eye to sin, and then flirt with it, and finally embrace its pleasant ways. Chairman Jamie Peterson (D-Seattle), himself openly gay, interrupted to advise the pastor to speak to the bill. The pastor politely responded that he was speaking to the inevitable consequences of HB 1727 should it become law.

The pastor spoke of passages in the Book of Genesis and the communities of Sodom and Gomorrah and how God was forced to destroy the twin cities and their inhabitants when homosexuality swept the gates of the cities (the authority structures). He cautioned that we will all one day stand before the judgment seat of Christ to answer for things done in the flesh. "You," he nervously added, "will be held personally accountable for what you do here today..."

Another interruption—this time from Rep. Dennis Flannigan (D-Tacoma) who warned right back that it is inappropriate to lecture [in this venue]. Flannigan added, "...And I understand the issue of sin. I was raised in a church **filled with sin** (his emphasis) and they told me every day there was even more coming." (*Laughter*).

Family policy organizations discourage, of course, "Bible-thumping," in order to avoid such confrontation or ridicule. They endeavor to use persuasive arguments based on empirical evidence and logic in order to build bridges of good will and cooperation. They do well. But, there is a time when heathens too, must be clearly warned; otherwise, we owe *Jonah* a big apology!

Jonah, the reluctant prophet, was commanded to bring a severe warning to the great but wicked city of Nineveh, capital of the mighty Assyrian empire. Frankly, he thought the city should be destroyed. Assyrian kings were cruel and the people ruthless. So *Jonah* fled from his assignment, not considering the Word can awaken a dead heart. Was he surprised when he finally obeyed.

Do we closely monitor our own representatives? Do they profess Christ but vote with the wicked? If so, could they perish if someone does not confront them? What...don't want to be a religious wack-job? Well, you are! Besides, why waste any more time in the belly of a whale?

Rick Forcier

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