

Trends

Consider these sobering statistics concerning the "gay" lifestyle:

- ☛ Lesbians 7X more likely to attempt suicide than heterosexuals.
- ☛ Gay & lesbian youth account for up to 30% of all "completed" suicides.
- ☛ Gay teens 3X more likely to attempt suicide than heterosexual peers.
- ☛ Gay teens 4X more likely to make suicide attempt req. medical attention.
- ☛ Gay men 6X more likely to attempt suicide than heterosexual peers.

- via Trevor Project

Leviticus 18:22: "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination."

Sentence Sermons

"No culture that has ever embraced homosexuality has survived."

—Steve Largent, former NFL player and U.S. Congressman (OK-R)

Romans 1:26-27: "For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due."

News & Notes

Pray for one another: "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (Jas. 5:16)

Please pray for the success of our upcoming gospel meeting with Ron Halbrook (Oct. 1-7). Also, take some flyers and invite relatives, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. Your attendance at every session is IMPORTANT! Support the meeting by being there!

Please pray for one another! "comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Please pray for Ryan & Jennifer and the brethren of the Northern Michigan church of Christ. They are now meeting in their newly purchased building in Roscommon, Michigan.

Please keep sisters Virginia Brown and Wilma Cardwell in your prayers. Their faithfulness sets a great example and gives encouragement to all! Ditto for Al (our Barnabas!).

Pray for all the lost souls, especially those in the greater Bloomington area. Pray that Westside might be an influence for good in this community.

Pray for the all of our students: elementary, secondary and college. Our young people face many trials and temptations at school.

Words of Life is published by the **Westside Church of Christ** meeting at 1301 N. Enterprise, Bloomington, IN 47404

Times of Service: Bible Study, Sunday 9:30 AM and Wednesday 7:00 PM; Worship, Sunday 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM

Editor: Craig Thomas (812-320-9569); craigthomas82000@gmail.com

Please direct questions and comments to the editor.

Words of Life

Westside
church of Christ

Nov. 11,
2018

Vol. 10,
No. 33

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68



What Now?

Richard Ross

(Brother Ross is a retired Attorney who was for many years the County Prosecutor where he lives. In addition, he is an experienced and capable gospel preacher. I asked him to write the following article for us which the reader will find informative and useful. --Maurice Barnett)

On June 26, 2015, five black robed members of the *United States Supreme Court* thought that they were smarter than God: they thought that they could change the components of marriage. They have become the latest to call evil good and good evil (Isaiah 5:20). For those who are followers of Christ, the question is what will happen next?

The followers of evil do not believe that the war was won; they believe that the battle has been won to lead to a crushing victory over righteousness. Their goal is to destroy from public life any vestige of religion. George Washington, an Anglican, said that our nation could not exist without religion and morality. The forces of evil intend to get rid of both.

The immediate consequences of the court decision are continued attacks upon those who will not participate in the "weddings" due to religious beliefs: photographers, bakers, florists, wedding planners, locations which rent to hold weddings. All of these will, and are, being required to accept and participate. In New Mexico, when a photographer was asked to do a lesbian wedding (at a time when New Mexico did not recognize such a thing), the photographer was cited by the state civil rights commission for unlawful discrimination. Judge Richard Besson of the *New Mexico Supreme Court*, in his concurring opinion, stated that the surrendering of the photographers' religious freedom was "the price of citizenship" and they "are now compelled to compromise the very religious beliefs that inspire their lives." Justice Anthony Kennedy in the court's opinion finding a constitutional right to same-sex "marriage" stated that religious people retain the right to "advocate" and "teach" their opposition. However, Chief Justice John Roberts points out in

his dissent that the First Amendment recognizes the “free exercise of religion” which is much more than teaching and advocating.

Brendon Eich was the CEO and co-founder of *Mozilla Corporation*, but was forced out of his job when it became public that he had donated \$1,000 in favor of marriage in the Proposition 8 campaign in California. Kelvin Cochran, fire chief of Atlanta, Georgia, was fired because he wrote a book for his Baptist Bible study class which enumerated several sexual sins, including homosexuality. There is absolutely no evidence that Eich or Cochran ever showed any discrimination on the job.

It does not take a prophet to see the future. There will be attempts to take away the tax-exempt status of any institution that does not celebrate homosexuality. Churches, colleges, schools, hospitals, and social service organizations will have to pay real estate and sales taxes that were not paid previously due to their recognition as charities. Colleges will be required to open their married couples housing to same-sex couples. Adoption agencies with religious principles have already been forced out of existence because they would not place children with same-sex couples. Any religious bodies that have weddings on the property will be sued if they do not also disobey the scripture. Any contract with government will contain a clause that will prevent those who recognize marriage for what it is from participating. Student loans will not be available to any students going to “religious” schools or colleges that teach the truth on marriage.

*“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;
Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;
Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!
21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes,
And prudent in their own sight!”*

Isaiah 5:20

Graduate schools are already denying counseling degrees to students who will not counsel homosexuals positively about their life style.

Several years ago the *Ohio Supreme Court* floated a proposition that it should be a disciplinary offense against anyone with a law license to say that homosexuality was wrong. I wrote a letter opposing that. I do not know if I was influential, but it did not happen. However, I can see that’s being attempted again against anyone seeking to obtain any type of licensing from a government agency.

A baker in Colorado and a florist in Washington (state) were told that the goal was not to close their businesses, but to “re-educate” them. To those of us old enough to remember the Cold War, that sounds like the Communists sending people to Siberia.

Friendship with the world is enmity with God (James 4:4). We must remember that “we ought to obey God rather than men.” (Acts 5:29).

“But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15). Edmond Burke said that “the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” We sing “Stand Up For Jesus.” Will we?

Five Steps Into the Church and Seven Steps to Heaven

The beloved Marshall Keeble often preached in his Gospel meetings a sermon titled “Five Steps into the Church and Seven Steps to Heaven.” It is one of the lessons preserved in the album and cd collection produced by the *Gospel Advocate* in memory of this great servant of God. The sermon was based, quite simply, on the plan of salvation, which entails five specific steps: (1) Hearing the Gospel (Romans 10:17); (2) Believing in Christ (John 3:16); (3) Repenting of one’s sins (2 Peter 3:9); (4) Confessing Christ (Acts 8:37); and then (5) Being Baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). That places one then in the Church (Acts 2:47), which is the Body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18). One does not join the Lord’s church; rather one is added by the Lord to the church when he or she obeys the Gospel plan of salvation.

The seven steps from there to heaven are the addition of the Christian graces of 2 Peter 1:5-7 to the starting point of one’s personal faith in Christ as a Christian. Peter writes: *“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.”* Peter teaches that we must: (1) add to our faith virtue (or moral courage); (2) add to virtue greater knowledge of God’s Word; (3) add to this knowledge self-control (or temperance); (4) add to self-control perseverance (or steadfastness, patient endurance); (5) add to perseverance godliness (or piety); (6) add to godliness brotherly kindness (or brotherly love, which emphasizes the relationship believers have to one another in God’s family); and finally (7) add to brotherly kindness love (i.e., the kind of love that takes the best interest of others into consideration in our thoughts and actions).

Peter says: *“For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ...”* (2 Peter 1:8-9). Further, these will make it possible for us to “make” our “calling and election sure” so that we “will never stumble” (2 Peter 1:10), and they will enable us to enter “abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:11). Such a masterful lesson by brother Keeble, because it is so powerful in its beauty and simplicity! It is powerful because it is rooted in, founded upon, and filled with the saving truth of God’s Word. The pristine message in short is for one to become a Christian, a child of the living God, and then be faithful (Revelation 2:10). God’s truth will guide you home where you belong (John 8:31- 32). (Unknown author)