

BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED by DR. AYODEJI AWE

QUESTION 70- I CAME ACROSS YOUR WRITING ON PROPOSITION 8 OUT OF CALIFORNIA COURTS. THAT WAS QUITE MOVING. PASTOR, WHAT EVENTUALLY BECAME OF THIS CASE AT THE US SUPREME COURT?

ANSWER:

We are not career politicians. Nevertheless, the main reasons I spoke about Proposition 8 is because it is one: a faith topic and two: by the time the case would be decided it may very seriously become not just a California but a national law. The contents of the proposition could be summed in two sentences: 1. The measure shall be known as California Marriage Act. 2. Only a marriage between a man and woman is valid or recognized in California.

Proposition 8 was sponsored by citizens who felt passionately that the norm according to the order set by God the Creator is that marriage is designed for a man and woman. No more, no less. With this affirmation sponsored as an act of voters' induced and executed legislation, the California law that allows for gay and lesbian marriages was challenged. Followed was the legal battle initiated by the then aggrieved parties, the gays who were losing their rights following a judgment in favor of Proposition 8 at the California Supreme court. The title switching forth and back depending on who were the plaintiffs eventually ended up at the US Supreme Court as *Hollingsworth V Perry*.

On June 26, 2013 (referred to by a writer as another sad day in America) the case which had been rigmaroling in between courts of varying jurisdiction eventually came down to the wire. Judgment in favor of the gay and lesbian marriage was handed down by a 5-4 majority decision written by John Roberts, the Chief Justice. Lined up behind him in what I called the 'dark verdict' were Antonin Scalia, Stephen Breyer, Elena Kagan and Ruth Ginsburg. According to their school of judgment, "the plaintiffs suffered no injury and so had no concrete interest in the outcome of the case". This then implied that they had no standing to appeal in the Federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The implication for the Supreme Court is that it had no grounds to adjudicate the case. Therefore their appeal was invalidated and the case sent down to the original decision of the lower Court which was a grant for gay and lesbian marriages to resume.

God bless the minority 4 led by Justice Anthony Kennedy (others being Sonia Sotomayer, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito). Dissenting and standing the ground of eternal decency, He wrote: "the opinion of the California Supreme Court on the proponents stand should have been respected, because the basic premise of the initiative process and the essence of democracy is that the right to make law rests in the people and flows to the government, not the other way around. Says Clarence Thomas

(one of the dissenting judge), "This decision today was not only at odds against our constitution but also against the principles upon which our nation is founded."

One law guru from the SC University law school observed that not to be surprised, the Court in the last 5 yrs having been moving towards an unholy romance with gay marriage. Depressing is the factual trend revealed by this negative verdict. Invariably, the US became the 21st nation to recognize gay marriage. Sad!

One big factor in this whole dilemma is President Obama who since climbing the platform through the right on the matter of gay contention switched allegiance when he reached the top. As a president, he quickly evolved into gay rights supporter and had not hidden his craving for inclusiveness in some matters which to many are hair splitting; no less in this topic: a politico- spiritual correctness of the perversion spelled by God. Many forever would not consider that lesbianism and homosexuality are lesser than what God had called it. To them it is an absurd, abominable chosen lifestyle.

In his own comment as a voice that must weigh in matters of such magnitude being 'the biggest man on campus', the President confessed the unveiling of the reality of changing times. As a nation created on the principle "we are created equal," nothing could be more affirmative. He continued- Slow and steady effort has now been rewarded with justice. The uncertainty for gay people and gay marriage are on the way to extinction. He sees the ruling as a victory for America. In a strange mode of uncanny piety, he urged those of them in favor of the verdict to respect the deeply rooted opinion of others who dissent. He finally pointed out that shifts in the hearts and mind of people are possible.

The comments of Obama in his capacity as president are noteworthy, not only because he is a man well versed in law but principally because his convictions and stands on issues have legacy impact of generational proportions. The ways of presidents and leaders chart the course for the framing of the history of a nation. For instance as a president he is the one who will select a judge should the sitting one pass away in death (as is the case now with Justice Antonin Scalia). Often the presidents who had had such opportunities have allowed their inclinations and preferences bore very heavily on their choices.

Invariably every right leaning citizen who is appalled by a judicial regard for this abnormality written as law must protest by polling for a party that respects the mind of God on any matters of importance. The expediency in this mode can only be amplified by the reality of how time extended could opportune the wrong man on the throne to issue wayward policies. A case in point is the recent controversy concerning transgender law. Once again the current power that be, led by Obama administration had issued a directive following a ruling on the matter that transgender students should be allowed to use restrooms and lockers that are consistent with their chosen gender identity. Please note the gaffe: man doesn't determine his/her gender; that is God's doing.

Scripture reminds us that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female..(Matt.19:4, Gen.1:27 & 5:2).

Thank God for some rightly gutted and placed, who from time to time had rose to challenge these rulings. One of such is the US District Judge Reed O'Connor who declared that the Federal Education Law known as Title IX is not ambiguous about sex being defined as the biological and anatomic difference between female and male students as determined at their birth. As for the ruling he adds, it was not a law to be challenged by the wave of hand. I love the tone as it serves the President and his cronies a notice of "beware". Judge O'Conner further pointed out that the case presents the difficult issue of balancing the protection of students' right and that of personal privacy while ensuring that no student is unnecessarily marginalized while attending school.

Worthy of attention also is the Supreme Court ruling earlier this month (Aug 16 2016) that a Virginia (State) School board can block for now, a transgender male from using the boys' restroom while justices decide whether to fully intervene. This becomes a second recent blow to Obama and transgender advocates.

It is appealing to the right hearted people to know that their voice of reason cannot be silenced. The only acceptable way to challenge the wrongs perpetuated at the top is to keep up the monitoring and speak whenever there is a need to. To date Texas and twelve other states have challenged Obama's order as being unconstitutional. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has argued that halting this order before school starts in fall was very necessary because the timing was a ploy to expose to the risk of losing Federal education dollars schools that won't comply. With Texas eligible for about \$10b this must not see the light of the day.

One unique thing about America is that it is a country built on the values of God. This has been the bane of the success we have enjoyed as a nation. Progressively, the ungodly left leaning have been chipping off the divine modicum and it would appear that the center has been passed. Now evil is no longer hidden but have with unusual boldness come out of the closet.

All God leaning and trusting citizens cannot fold their hands. We must be knowledgeable of the scheme of Satan and his lovers and stand up against them. The Lord encourages: "resist the devil and he shall flee from thee" (James 4:7). He further educates, "righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34). Let's appreciate the fact that righteousness is not a phantom; it is the open acts of the godly as can be displayed, seen and felt by the polity. No one will spearhead but the believers. Let's rise up whenever we can and take charge and make evil and its compatriots uncomfortable!

I close with this true saying, the only way for evil to continue to infest is for the righteous to keep silent. Flagrantly interposing ungodliness upon the nation is a scheme often perpetuated by those opposed to the God of creation. Believing citizens are

labeled as and are indeed light of the world and cities on the hill. While we are seated in high places where we are conspicuous, our light must shine so distinctly that evil will have no hiding place and as unbelievers see our good standing, words and professions all would come and glorify our Father who is in heaven (cf. Matt. 5:14-16).

The Last on Proposition 8.

Following the verdict of June 26 in which the gay and lesbian marriages were brought back to life, the proponents launched a few legal challenges to dislodge the restoration of same sex marriages but unfortunately all were subtly punctured. An instance was on June 29, 2013 when Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, responsible for overseeing the Ninth Circuit denied a motion to the contrary without comment. He was a sworn ally you would have thought, having led the dissent opinion at the ruling coming off the US Supreme Court. My suspicion is that he became weary of the fight. As believers on a mission against evil, we cannot grow weary.

Final word:

And so the beat goes on. The battle for matters of faith continues. The powers that be on earth could prop a cause that antagonizes the provisions of God, but they can only do so for a season and to their ruin. The Word of God encourages the righteous to not be envious of the ungodly when they prosper or appears to have an upper hand on matters. Why? Because they will soon be cut down like grass and wither as green herb (Psa.37:2). But on the contrary, the righteous shall continue to occupy the land after the unrighteous have fizzled out. Be encouraged, I say; for the man and woman, boy and girl who follow the way of the Lord, their end is peace (Psa.37:37, KJV).

For counseling, prayer or to have your questioned, contact us at:

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