

Cause of God & Truth



THE APOSTASY

By Pastor Jeff Alexander

The Bible clearly teaches that the days will come when many will drift away from the truth in order to accommodate their personal desires. In this process they will "heap" to themselves "teachers" who will support their desertion of biblical standards (2 Timothy 4:1-3). This is why Paul charged Timothy to "preach the Word" (2 Timothy 4:1). In the last days apostasy will set in (v.3). People will love themselves rather than love the Lord (2 Timothy 3:2, 4).

This apostasy is clearly illustrated by the recent abandonment of traditional and biblical morals in the Episcopalian denomination's ordaining of an openly homosexual bishop. The opposition to his ordination is countered by the usual liberal verbiage that "Christians must be tolerant and compassionate." Sadly, those who insist on obeying the truth will not receive with the same consideration and tolerance that is expected of them.

The argument to maintain *unity* is then raised to fend off all who would disagree in the name of holiness and truth. This is but an effort to control the conscience of the objector. Appeals to the Scripture are brushed off with the dogmatic but groundless claim that "there are various and differing interpretations to be considered." It is amazing how clear the Bible reads to those who believe it; yet, how obscure it becomes to those who seek to justify themselves.

Of course, we must be loving and respectful, but a believer's relationship to Jesus Christ must supersede all personal relationships, even family relationships. Jesus said, "*He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me*" (Matthew 10:37, NKJV). One proves his love for Christ by obeying His commandments (John 14:15). Again, Jesus said, "*He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him*" (John 14:21 NKJV). Jesus does not, in the name of love, change His rules to accommodate the iniquity of professing followers.

Our Lord is clear that any sex practiced outside of marriage is sinful, whether that sex is heterosexual or homosexual (1 Thessalonians 4:3). Jesus also defined marriage as a union of a male and a female. He said, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female, for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh" (Matthew 19:4, 5, NKJV). In order to be "married," a couple must consummate a "one-flesh" union. That will never be possible for homosexuals. No homosexual union fits the criteria of Christ's definition of a marriage, no matter how many laws are passed to the contrary. Therefore, any sex practiced in a homosexual relationship is fornication and sin. Besides, the primary purpose for marriage is to produce offspring, which an unnatural "union" cannot do.

Sadly, great confusion reigns in our day with “churches” declaring that homosexual unions are acceptable in spite of these clear passages. Jesus warned the church at Thyatira, “*I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit fornication*” (Revelation 2:20). One cannot imagine a clearer warning to churches that support the sex-is-okay-outside-of-marriage agenda (including homosexuality).

Homosexual sins are not simply products of the thinking that “We are all sinners; some have this problem, and others have that problem.” Paul taught that because they “*exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator . . . God gave them up to vile passions*,” which passions he describes as homosexual practices (Romans 1:25-27). In other words, homosexual practices are the result of God’s giving people over to their own depravity. It is *judgment* already poured out. “Churches” that make homosexual status normal for leadership positions have demonstrated that God has abandoned them to the consequences of their rejection of His authority. True believers must heed the Lord’s warning: “*Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues*” (Revelation 18:4, NKJV).

It will become increasingly difficult for true churches to operate in our godless culture, but take heart, for Jesus will never leave nor forsake His own. Indeed, when He has judged the sins of the apostates, He said to the church at Thyatira, “*All the churches shall know that I am he which searches the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works*” (Revelation 2:23).

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