

Is Morality and Christianity Connected?

This past week a couple of headlines got my attention. The first headline "Ashlyn Harris Says Jaclene Hinkle Left USWNT Because of Homophobia, not Christianity" dated July 15, 2019. Ashlyn Harris is the goal keeper for the United States Women's Soccer Team. She is openly "gay" are other players on the team. Jaclene Hinkle is a very good soccer player who decided to not be on the USWNT due to the rainbow-colored jersey the team wore in support of the LGBTQ community during "Pride Month." Hinkle explained that she is a Christian and could not in all good conscience support something condemned in the Bible.

In response, Ashlyn Harris said, "Your religion was never a problem...THE PROBLEM IS YOUR INTOLERANCE and you are homophobic. You don't belong in a sport that aims to united and bring people together." Going on in the article it quoted a brother of one of the openly gay players saying the team has an "inclusive Bible study" and is "open to whatever faith you follow."

Normally I am a supporter of the good old U.S.A. in whatever international sport being played. I noticed this team had a few outspoken homosexual members who had no problem calling out those who disagreed with them. The term "inclusive Bible study" is intriguing to me. I don't think they want to study Romans 1, "26 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. 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over

to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting." I also doubt them being "inclusive" when it came to 1 Corinthians 6, "9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God." (Emphasis mine D.T.) I am for "inclusive" Bible studies and believe everyone should be encouraged to study their Bible. They need to learn what is and is not proper before God.

They were open to different faiths but that does not seem to apply to a Christian such as Jaclene Hinkle. In her case, she is labeled as being a homophobe and homophobic. Which means she dislikes and is prejudice against homosexuals. What if the Bible condemns this activity and she simply stands up for her faith? Then she is no longer being inclusive and a good team mate.

Standing upon the Bible on this subject is going to become less and less acceptable to our culture.

The second headline "The Bachelorette Star Send Contestant Home After Sex Before Marriage Spat, Feud Spilt into Twitter" Fox News, July 16, 2019. A disclaimer is necessary here because it has been many years since watching this show. According to the article, Hannah Brown is the "Bachelorette" and Luke Parker is one of her pursuers. Both claim to be followers of Christ, i.e. Christians. Hannah in earlier interviews admitted to having sex with a contestant on the show. She also is quoted as saying "I have sex and, like, Jesus still loves me." Luke Parker believes sex should be in marriage and was wanting Hannah to abstain from premarital sex. She promptly kicked Luke off the show as she believes Luke was being prideful, which is a sin, and too demanding of her.

There is a difference in acknowledging the need for God's grace because we have all sinned and using God's grace as an excuse to sin. "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" (Romans 6:1-2) God is not OK with our sins! He does not give the Christian His permission to sin because Jesus died for us. The Christian is not baptized into Christ so as to walk in sinfulness but in righteousness. That is a big part of Romans 6 as Paul talks about us living to God in Christ and putting to death sin. "Likewise, you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts." (Romans 6:11-12). However, many seem to think morality and Christianity are not linked together. Resulting in immoral folks who claim to be following Christ but are really just living in sin. -- Dennis Tucker