

Various Thoughts: College of The Ozarks, Lawlessness, Learning from Animals, and Memorial Day

Earlier this year, I wrote about “The Equality Act” passed by Congress in January. While the aim of treating people fairly and with equity is a Biblical principle, it can mean different things to different people. Part of “The Equality Act” deals with homosexuality and transgender people with public restrooms and housing. We can now see its application in the area of college dorms.

In April the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued a directive requiring religious schools to have dorms where males can be in female dorms and vice versa, this includes places such as showers and restrooms. The College of the Ozarks is a “Christian based Liberal Arts College” see Wikipedia. Its enrollment is over 1400 students but charges no tuition as students pay for their education with work study programs and private donations. *“The college said it has long assigned dormitories and separated “intimate spaces” such as showers and bathrooms based on “biological sex.”* The Biden Administration filed suit against the college, according to the suit, the change bans the college from continuing that practice, setting policy in accordance with that practice or even “telling students that they only qualify for access to dormitory and dormitory room placements based on their biological sex.” <https://www.news-leader.com/story/news/local/2021/04/15/college-of-the-ozarks-sues-joe-biden-executive-order-gender-identity-discrimination-lgbtq/7240499002/>

This seems to be a fairly easy matter to resolve, males are allowed in male dorms and females are to be housed in female dorms. The matter has nothing to do with sexual preference or being transgender. The Bible passage which comes to mind is Romans 1.22, “Professing to be wise, they became fools.” It doesn’t take a genius to figure out which bathroom males should go to and which for females.

This past week the college of the Ozarks lost their lawsuit against the Administration. In response the college issued the following statement. *“While we are disappointed in today’s ruling, we expect to appeal so that schools are not forced to open women’s dorm rooms to males and violate their religious*

beliefs,” said College President Jerry C. Davis. “For more than 100 years, College of the Ozarks has provided a distinctly Christian education to students with financial need. We will not abandon our mission. The fight to protect our religious freedom has just begun.”

<https://www.cofo.edu/News/moduleId/1421/Id/207/controller/PressRelease/action/Details>

Another thought from this past week is how lawful and lawfulness is viewed by our nation. Why is it ok for one group to protest and riot while another group is labeled as being a threat to democracy? We have become like the nation of Israel in the days of the Judges, “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” (Judges 21.25). The cause of their problems is stated in Judges 2.10, “When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.” When man rejects God and His word he is left to his own devices and standards resulting in situation ethics which means there is no such thing as right and wrong. Everything becomes right in the proper situation. This can be seen in our society as one group can justify itself and then condemn those who are just as lawless as themselves.

Another thought came to mind while watching a video. This video dealt with animals separated from their owners for a long time. The question posed was would the animals remember their masters and if so, how they would react. In one particular case a man was away from his dog for a long time and reunited his dog. At first the dog was hesitant but once he figured out who this man was, he went crazy with joy. He was jumping up and down, wagging his tail, and running around the place.

I thought of a passage in Isaiah. “The ox knows its owner And the donkey its master's crib; But Israel does not know, My people do not consider.” (Isaiah 1:3) Sometimes an animal shows more intelligence than people. A dumb animal knows the voice and commands of its master. A number of years ago, a group of preachers (including me) were in Russia and heard the man speak to his dog. The dog came to its master, at that point we turned each other and the comment was made, “that dog knows more Russian than we do.” A dumb animal knows to protect its offspring, to obey its master, to seek help in time of need. Many folks today seem to want to kill their babies, to disobey God,

and not seek God's help.

Finally, Memorial Day is a day of remembrance. Many have sacrificed their lives for our freedom as they left home to never return. Many a mother and father hugged their child for the last time as they departed for the service. Other received back their love one with the scars of war. Some scars could be easily seen while others were hidden but real. As was stated, "We do not know them all, but we owe them all." For those who have served we owe you are gratitude and love. – Dennis Tucker

If you are still reading this, thanks. Hope you have a good day. -- Dennis Tucker