

March 2004: The Cultural War

by Aaron Greenway

A few days ago, Rosie O'Donnell got up before a cheering crowd in San Francisco and announced her marriage to her lesbian lover. She stated that President Bush's statements about amending the constitution on the definition of marriage were hateful. She, along with thousands of homosexuals, have gone to the Bay area "tying the knot", and with the help of authorities there, breaking civil law.

Over the past few years, we have gotten the Ten Commandments removed from public places, gotten prayer thrown out of public schools, legalized abortion on demand, and turned this country over to liberal judges who legislate law from the bench, when it is the responsibility of our legislature to make the law. We saw this in the 2000 Presidential Campaign, until the United States Supreme Court stepped in. We have seen this in Massachusetts, legalizing gay marriage. And now it is happening in San Francisco. We are in a cultural war, my friends.

The question is, what do we do about it? Well, some say, "Jesus is coming back! He will make all things right, so we should let the culture war go where it goes because the Bible said it will get worse anyway." And then there are those who believe that Jesus will not come back until the Christians establish the kingdom of Christ on earth. They would say, "We have to be actively involved in the government, making sure everyone submits not necessarily to Christ, but to the Christian ideal, to Christian 'morals' or 'Christian values'." There are two things wrong here.

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Jesus is interested in that Christians stand up for righteousness, but not without carrying the banner of the Cross, not without proclaiming "Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (I Corinthians 2:2). Because in the end, this is what will change our society. . .

Our focus should be Jesus. For without Him, our cause is only political, and it will never truly change the hearts of men. Only one Person can do that.

First, to say that we should go with the flow, not paying attention to what is going on, is wrong because Jesus Himself said to watch for the signs of His coming. Also, the Bible says that we are “to reprove evil”. This means, that when there is an injustice going on in our country, that we should not remain silent. Slavery was an evil in the history of the United States. What if some had remained silent. Of course the Bible also tells us to obey civil authorities, that they are God’s instruments (Romans 13:1-7).

However, this does not mean that we should sit idly by when something needs to be changed and we have the opportunity to change it. It is true that Jesus is coming back, and that things will get worse anyway. But, as Jesus said, “In this world there will be offenses, but woe to him by which the offense comes” (Luke 17:1). I believe this is not just the person who perpetrates the action, but also those who have the power to stop it and do not. Why do I think this? Because in Romans chapter one, the Apostle Paul condemns not just those who practice homosexuality, but also those who approve it (Romans 1:32). The inaction of standing up for righteousness is also a sin according to Scripture (Romans 14:23).

In this country, we have the right to vote. We have the right to make our voices heard. This is more than what others are able to do in other countries. But even Paul worked the legal system. He used his Roman citizenship to his advantage (Acts 22:26-29). He appealed to Caesar (Acts 25:11). Paul was a political activist. BUT, for what cause? Was it for the cause of establishing “morality” in the Roman Empire for its own sake. This is where the rubber meets the road. No, it was about the known world hearing the good news of Jesus Christ. In this light, we cannot speak out against the evils of our society if we are not pointing people to the One who can change the hearts and the lives of people. Jesus is interested in that Christians stand up for righteousness, but not without carrying the banner of the Cross, not without proclaiming “Jesus Christ and Him crucified” (I Corinthians 2:2). Because in the end, this is what will change our society.

When Jesus challenged the pharisees, He was challenging their institution, their way of doing things. But it was not just because of what they were doing, but what was happening on a

deeper level in their hearts. They were trapped in a web of deceit, so convincingly, that they themselves believed it. The homosexuals need to hear this message. They are deceived. But it is not just about gays getting married. To me our society reaping the penalty of it is only secondary to the fact that these homosexual men and women, having gotten married, are now more deeply entrenched in their sin, more numb to the Gospel, and further from the possibility of being reached. This is tragedy number one. That should be our focus as we stand for righteousness, because we are talking about people here. Our focus should be Jesus. For without Him, our cause is only political, and it will never truly change the hearts of men. Only one Person can do that.