

Preacher's Pen Points

Metro Law and Homosexuality



Pending Legislation in the Metropolitan Area

A controversy brews in Nashville about a proposed amendment to the Metropolitan Code of Laws. The code currently prohibits employers and labor organizations from discrimination in refusing to hire or house a person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex. The proposed amendment seeks to change the word “sex” to “gender” and then to prohibit discrimination based on “disabilities” or “sexual orientation”. Clearly, the chief aim of the alteration of the code is to give special protected status to those of homosexual orientation.

The homosexual community has worked tenaciously to achieve societal acceptance and legitimization for their immoral lifestyle. Some churches have buckled under the social pressure to sanction homosexual relationships. And now we see proposed legislation that will lead to granting homosexual relationships the same rights and privileges that belong to heterosexual relationships.

The Christian View of Homosexuality

It is clear from Scripture that the practice of homosexuality is sinful. Jesus affirmed the integrity of the Law of Moses which included prohibition of homosexual acts (Lev. 18:22) and prescribed severe penalties for its practice in ancient Israel (Lev. 20:13). Moreover, the apostle Paul, who was called by the Lord Jesus Christ and who received his revelation from Him, clearly revealed that homosexuality is sinful in this age as well (Rom. 1:24-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 1 Tim. 1:10). The Christian has no choice but to speak out against this sin, like all others, with the hope that homosexuals will repent and be saved from its eternal consequences (Eph. 5:11-12).

God's will for governments

Paul clearly shows that the divinely-authorized role of civil government is to be a “minister of God for good” and “an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil” (Rom. 13:3-4). It is obvious that our government has failed in many ways to fulfill this divinely-sanctioned purpose. Our founding fathers' views about government were shaped in part by the background of religious intolerance and persecution. Consequently, they sought to protect the right of each person to speak and practice his faith. Yet, it is also clear that they understood that governments must be, to some degree, intolerant of morally-evil influences in society. Thus, while granting the right of free religious expression, a code of conduct based on the Judeo-Christian heritage was forged that forbade many moral evils. However, little by little this code has been weakened and increasing freedom to do evil has replaced it to the injury of our society.

We can still influence our society

As Americans we still have the right to participate in the political process and to help forge the law that determines the common good. Just as some will use a perceived set of moral principles to argue for toleration of homosexuality, we too may use a set of moral principles to advocate intolerance of it, in just the same way that other immoral sins like prostitution, suicide, and drug abuse are not tolerated. Though advocated in the name of “justice”, giving legal protection to homosexuals legitimizes the practice and weakens further the moral foundation of this great country. —Johnny Felker