

The following is the exact wording of a letter to the editor by (*name not to be mentioned here*) a local resident.

Title given by the editors: **Talk about gay marriage maddening**

Dear Editor:

I'm aghast at the audacity of recent letters regarding opposition to gay marriage. Yes, it's a small town newspaper and only "opinions" of certain readers fixated on a minority they see fit to use as scapegoats, but words can be very powerful.

It is frustrating, sad...maddening...in a world where there are so many real problems to be solved that there are those brainwashed by outdate dogma and superstition or misguided by fear and ill will enough to spew such negativity.

Thankfully, due to the evolution of our collective understanding, the ridiculous comparison of love between two consenting same-sex adults to bestiality, child molestation and other perversities is now considered a tired rant of the right-wing fringes. Nonetheless, rather than let the letters go unchallenged, I feel obligated to provide rebuttal in the hopes that it clarify, inspire or help at least one person coping with despair.

To deny equality on the federal level is simply un-American. Nearly every developed country has legalized gay marriage, with many of those countries rating higher on health and happiness scores. States here which have it are those with a more educated populace and lower crime and divorce rates than the "red", Bible-belt states.

America is to be a country where freedom from religious persecution is a given, let us not forget the Salem witch trials. There is a good reason church and state are to be kept separate. We're comprised of agnostics, atheists and a wide variety of religious subscribers. Plus, there are many denominations and interpretations. Nobody's religious beliefs should be used to affect the civil liberties of others.

Besides, there's nothing "moral" about trying to keep a minority from enjoying the same privileges as its majority. Murder, theft and adultery, for example, have direct, negative consequences and involve cruelty, impingement upon another's property and deceit. Having married gays among us does not represent a threat. If anything, it would help build a more stable society and lessen the negative consequences of living from the "closet".

*(She went on to mention one of HBO's documentaries on this subject which is not included here for the sake of space and inadvertently advertising for such an immoral film.)*

Lastly, I didn't see the Jeers/Cheers column, but from what I've gathered, the gist was overlooked. It sounds as if the writer was simply pointing out the ludicrous nature of using religious text as a reason to deny equal rights. The Bible contains many inconsistencies and scriptures which are downright loony and violent by today's standards. Knock, knock, it was used by some to deny interracial marriage not that long ago in our nation's history. Besides, whether you believe in Jesus as a man, myth or God, he never even mentioned homosexuality.

If someone is going to believe in God, should it not be a loving, awe-inspiring God...rather than one who condemns all but the spoon-fed flock to eternal hellfire? *(End of editorial)*

Besides the response given here, you can go to the sermon topics section to read a more in-depth retort that was preached on this subject. *Charli Yana*

My response.

Dear editor,

It is not audacious to speak truth. The reason many of us “brainwashed”, “superstitious” and “misguided” folk are so “fixated” on the homosexual agenda lately is because we wish not to sit idly by while the proponents of same-gender-matrimony covertly attempt to make it the law of the land in Pennsylvania (*which it did not long after this editorial was published*). And using such labels is a form of name-calling liberals employ as their weapons of last resort when there’s no real substance to their dispute. You can’t humiliate a true Christian into silence using such tactics. And no, the Bible does not oppose interracial marriage. Obviously, this is in response to a letter published in July.

Failing to convince, they try refocusing attention away from this subject by stating “in the world there are so many real problems”. They may claim enlightenment but in fact their credibility falters when giving “statistics” without revealing their sources. Funny thing about statistics; you can find any given statistic for any given agenda. But for every statistic that “proves” something there exist others that disprove.

And no, we are not “spoon fed” because as a matter of fact we prefer to voluntarily consume the word of God. They might do themselves good to every once in a while try dining on some of it before involuntarily equating their distaste of Biblical truth to a food critic who never tasted the food they critique.

To say “the Bible contains many inconsistencies”, one reveals their inability to convince a true Christian of their, supposed extensive, Biblical understanding. Especially when stating that Jesus “never even mentioned homosexuality”. In Mat 16 Jesus remarked of a red sky but never is it recorded that He made mention of a blue sky. Does that mean Jesus never saw a blue sky?

Before returning to Heaven, Jesus instructed His apostles to wait for the Comforter (Holy Spirit). He would reveal things they hadn’t received personally from Jesus and aid them in remembering everything Jesus taught while in His earthly ministry (Jn 14:26). John went on to write of the “many other things” that “if they should be written every one” that “even the world could not contain the books that should be written” (Jn 21:25).

So when Jesus personally appointed Paul to be the “apostle to the Gentiles” (Rom 11:13) and sent him into the Arabian desert (Gal 1:17) to instruct him as His apostle, it must be understood that Paul revealed, in his writings, what Jesus told him to reveal (Gal 1:12). What he didn’t receive from Christ personally was revealed to him via Holy Spirit (1 Cor 7:12). As a “holy man of God”, “moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Pet 1:21) Paul then had “the mind of Christ” (1 Cor 2:16) and was thus led to preach the truth. Hence the writings of Rom 1:26-27 on the subject at hand.

Charli Yana

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