

Teaching Truth in Troubling Times

By

David R. Nicholas, M.S., Th.D.

It was the great Christian apologist/philosopher, Francis Schaeffer, who said: “Our task is not to bend the Bible to fit the culture, but rather to bend the culture to fit the Bible.” Although Dr. Schaeffer spoke those words nearly 30 years ago, they are even more relevant to Bible-believing Christians today than they were then. The cultural pressure to conform to political correctness and the ideals of secular humanism is not only intensifying, but anti-Biblical laws supportive of these societal trends are literally being forced upon us by activist judges who have little or no regard for the will of the people. They evidently disparage America’s Judeo-Christian heritage and the Biblical moral values that have made our nation great.

Recently here in California the Los Angeles Second District Court of Appeal declared it illegal for parents without teaching credentials to home school their children. Now, bear in mind that the idea of parents teaching children is irrefutably Biblical. Moses was taught by his parents so well that he was able to resist all the false teaching he received in Pharaoh’s Court relative to God and creation. As the author of Genesis, he included not one concept or idea that was commonly held by the Egyptians. There is no mention of the Sun God, “Ra,” and his writings reflect none of the ideas about creation that were widely accepted throughout Pharaoh’s Court. Also, Deut. 6:7 indicates that parental instruction in the home was foundational to the Jewish family. However, disregarding all the home-school success stories, three judges based this ruling on charges brought against a single family they considered to be dysfunctional and abusive, implying that the state’s 200,000 home-school students are being harmed by their parents. The court conducted no investigation of home schools, nor did they evaluate home school students, many of whom are being actively pursued by even secular universities because of their respectful attitudes and superior academic abilities. To these biased judges, the facts were apparently irrelevant! When, in response to public outcry, the court decided a week later to review its hasty decision, it called upon six professional organizations and governmental agencies all identified with public school, to present position papers (amicus briefs) on the decision. Neither the Home School Defense Association nor any other home-school organization was asked for an opinion.

Here at Shasta Bible College and Graduate School some of our brightest and most capable students come from home school backgrounds. Most are respectful, mature, serious students who, more often than not, evidence leadership potential. Why? Because most escape the “peer group pressure” that so often causes young people to make decisions contrary to their parents’ wise advice.

A second legal decision requiring that the Bible be bent to fit the culture was handed down by the California Supreme Court. By a vote of 4 to 3, the court overturned the will of 4,618,673 voters, who in 2000 passed Proposition 22 that defined marriage as being between one man and one woman. In fact, Prop. 22 was affirmed in favor of the traditional family by 61 to 39 percent. Do the majority of these Supreme Court judges care what the Bible has to say on the subject? Obviously not! Nevertheless, our creator’s words to Adam and Eve in Gen. 2:24 are clearly echoed in Jesus’ answer to the Pharisees in Matt. 19:4,5 “Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. What therefore God has joined together let no man separate.” Nowhere in the Bible is homosexuality or same-sex marriage ever condoned. In fact, in the Old

Testament it is called “*an abomination to God*” and “*a detestable act*” (Lev. 18:22; 20:13). In the New Testament the Apostle Paul warns that homosexuals, along with fornicators, adulterers, thieves and others in violation of God’s standards “*shall not inherit the Kingdom of God*” (1 Cor. 6:9). Homosexual advocates often argue that statements from the Old Testament “Ceremonial” Law are not binding on us today. However, while any competent Bible student recognizes the category of temporary ceremonial law in the Old Testament (see Heb. 10:1-18); homosexuality is clearly categorized as a violation of moral law because in Israel it was punishable by death. Furthermore, the Bible never changes God’s revealed moral law, but rather strongly reinforces it in the New Testament. Perhaps the most devastating of those reinforcing passages for practicing homosexuals is Rom. 1:24-32. Here the Old Testament prohibition of homosexuality is incontrovertibly supported for the Apostle Paul reveals that men who refuse to acknowledge God are given up to wallow in the pits of moral pollution. Verse 24 tells us that God gives them over to impure lusts and the dishonoring of their bodies. Then in verses 26 and 27, he describes this moral perversion in detail: “*For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions: for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of women and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men, committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.*” (NASB).

Verse 28 then reveals the catastrophic results: “*And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper.*” Romans 1: 24-32 makes it clear that homosexuality is the cultural culmination of rebellion against God. It is a symptom of God’s judgment on a society that has become inwardly corrupted to the point of collapse. Again, the late Francis Schaeffer was prophetic when he spoke and wrote about the importance of thinking Christianly in a Godless culture. He pointed out so often that we can’t do that without a clear understanding of what the Bible teaches on the subject. Let’s look at the glimpse into the future he gave us 45 years ago as he expounded the truth of Hosea 4:13 in his book, *The Church Before the Watching World* (Intervarsity Press, 1971, pp. 50-51). First he reminds us of the relationship between spiritual and physical adultery. He says, “. . . *If God’s people turn away in spiritual adultery, it will not be long until the following generations are engaged in physical adultery, for the two things go hand in hand. . . . Let there be spiritual adultery and it will not be long until physical adultery sprouts like toadstools in the land.*” He then explains that “*In the 1930’s liberalism took over almost all the churches in the United States and in the 1960’s our generation is [was] sick with promiscuous sex. It is the same in Britain and other countries. These things are not unrelated: They are cause and effect.*”

Now, let’s fast forward to June, 2016. Not only have we witnessed the proliferation and magnification of this trend with the help of wealthy liberals and indefatigable homosexual activists in our judiciaries and legislatures, but we have witnessed the Supreme Court’s approval of same-sex marriage and the general acceptance of the entire LGBTQ agenda by government officials from the President on down. While Schaeffer was primarily concerned about heterosexual promiscuity, the continued rejection of God’s precepts has resulted not only in the wide-spread cultural acceptance of promiscuous pre-marital and extramarital sex; it now has led to the acceptance of homosexuality as nothing more than an alternative lifestyle. No longer is it categorized as “deviant behavior” as it was in the 1960’s. Is it any wonder that we have come seen the legalizing same-sex marriage?

To ancient Israel, the prophet Hosea thundered, “*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge*” (Hosea 4:6). That’s exactly why Shasta Bible College & Graduate School is so vitally important. We must produce future Christian leaders who not only know the Word of God, but can accurately interpret and apply it to the cultural compromises of our time. Our mission is to equip Christian culture warriors who can effectively love the sinner, but expose the sin. They must be compassionate but capable of

confronting the culture when it runs counter to the Word of God. They must firmly believe with the Apostle Paul that it is more important to please God than men (Gal. 1:10). Our entire faculty is thoroughly supportive and each of their lives exemplifies a commitment to think and act Christianly in a culture that is increasingly Biblically illiterate and victimized by the new "tolerance" which seeks to marginalize all who oppose the secular progressive mindset. That won't happen at Shasta Bible College & Graduate School because everything we teach or preach and all the positions we hold are sifted through the grid of God's infallible, inerrant Word. If you're looking for a Christian College that stands firm on these issues, why not give serious consideration to Shasta Bible College & Graduate School?