

Are we who they think we are?
by Michael McCall

The date: Monday, October 16, 2006

The stage: The University of Phoenix Stadium. The Arizona Cardinals host the Chicago Bears on Monday Night Football. At half time the Cardinals, coached by Dennis Green, lead 20-0. By the end of the 4th quarter, Arizona lost 23-24. During the after game interview Coach Green is asked if his team took the Bears for granted. His ensuing tyrant led Green to say,

“They are who we thought they were!”

In the landscape that we as Christians find ourselves in today, September 2013, I often find myself asking, “Are we who they think we are?” The scary reality is...maybe we are.

With the ever growing “popularity” for homosexuality to be the norm in society, especially here in the U.S., there have been many accusations said of us who stand for what God stands for, that Homosexuality is a Sin. It seems that taking this stance is one of taboo, a stance that they want us to be ashamed to take. They go so far as to call us by the names of Bigot, Homophobe, and many others.

Let’s analyze the names they call us – and ask ourselves, “Are we who they think we are?”

Bigot – a person who is obstinately (adherent) or intolerantly devoted to his or her own opinions and prejudices; especially: one who regards or treats the members of a group (as a racial or ethnic group) with hatred and intolerance.

Webster’s 1828 Dictionary tells us that a bigot is “a person who is obstinately and unreasonably wedded to a particular religious creed, opinion, practice or ritual. The word is sometimes used in an enlarged sense, for a person who is illiberally attached to any opinion, or system of belief.”

Homophobe(ia) – Homophobia encompasses a range of negative attitudes and feelings toward homosexuality or people who are identified or perceived as being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT). It can be expressed as antipathy, contempt, prejudice, aversion, or hatred, may be based on irrational fear, and is sometimes related to religious beliefs.

On our drive home last weekend, I received a very real dose of reality when it comes to the meaning of these words, and the answer to our question.

The stage: New Mexico. A commercial photographer, Elaine Huguenin, was approached by a same-sex couple to take pictures of their commitment ceremony. Elaine respectfully refused, citing her stance on same-sex marriage, and a conflict of interest due to her Religious beliefs. The couple sued Elaine, and New Mexico's highest state court ruled unanimously that "a commercial photography business that offers its services to the public, thereby increasing its visibility to potential clients is bound by the New Mexico Human Rights Act, and must serve same-sex couples on the same basis that it serves opposite-sex couples."

The stage: Oregon. Sweet Cakes, a commercial bakery was approached by a same-sex couple to make their wedding cake. Melissa and Aaron Klein, owners of Sweet Cakes, respectfully refused citing their stance on same-sex marriage, and a conflict of interest due to their Religious beliefs. The rejected couple filed a complaint with the state, and due to the growing public criticism, Sweet Cakes closed their doors.

What is wrong in these two instances, and the many more that have happened and will happen as people stand for what they believe? Everything! But, have we become who they said we are?

By now many of you are screaming at your screen, "No! We must stand for the truth. We must continue to take the stance that homosexuality is wrong. We are not bigots, we are not homophobes."

Are you sure? "Yes!" you say.

Let's analyze...Is homosexuality wrong? Of course the answer is yes, we turn to such passages as Romans 1 : 24 – 27, "...for even their women exchanged the natural use...likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the women, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful..." (NKJV). There are times that we turn back to Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19).

With such passages, who can argue that homosexuality isn't wrong? According to God it is wrong, sinful, and an abomination in His sight. Therefor we as Christians must take the same stance that God has.

However, let me ask you this question: "Is adultery wrong?"

pausing waiting for the answer

Of course it is! There are many passages which state the fact. Even under the old law we see God's stance on adultery toward His own people as they commit adultery on Him with idols. Now, I can speak for neither Elaine nor the Klien's, but I would assume that they believe that adultery is wrong as well.

So, have we become who they said we are? Here is the proof test. I'd like to see both of these companies clientele lists especially looking for clients who have been married then divorced unscriptural, and are marrying their adulterer to wonder if they took the same stance that "Adultery is wrong, and we will not be a part of it."

Has the light come on yet?

If we as Christians stand against Homosexuality (which we should) and not stand against Adultery, then YES we have become who they say we are! If we walk through a mall or gas station or wherever, and we are disgusted at seeing two men or two women holding hands or kissing (which we should be), and then turn around to see John with Janet (his adulterer whom he married after leaving his wife) and are not disgusted, then YES we are bigots toward homosexuals. Because God views both as sin, and both parties will go to hell. Go back to the definition – we are intolerant of one (homosexuality) because it is sin, yet have become tolerant of the other (adultery) even though it is also sin – thereby making us bigots.

So why is, one sin acceptable to us and another isn't? Because unlike homosexuality, adultery has become the norm in our society and we as Christians have stopped fighting this fight because we have grown so accustomed to it we do not see it as sin anymore. Or we look at it as a "littler sin".

I know of people who have disowned family, friends, co-workers, etc. because they have come out and are living the homosexual lifestyle, yet if John and Janet want to have dinner tonight – well that's alright with them, "Where do you want to go?". For shame.

Have we become who they think we are? Unfortunately yes. How? Because we treat homosexuals different than we treat other people in sin, and adultery is the perfect example of this. Don't get me wrong, I applaud the stance that each of the two owners made by standing up for what marriage is, One Man and One Woman. But we must also realize, that the stance truly is, One Man and One Woman for Life. What God has joined let no man put asunder. We cannot take a stance half way, marriage is honorable, and when that honor has been broken, whether it was broken over adultery or homosexuality, we cannot stand for it.

I was compelled to write to encourage the Brethren to continue to fight the good fight. However, I feel we are only fighting the battles we want to fight and have given up on ones that due to "popularity" have become 'old hat'. This is unacceptable to God. Take the stance that homosexuality is wrong. Take the stance that marriage was defined by God from the beginning. In doing so, you will find yourselves taking a stance against some of those we know and love who are in adultery. And when we take that stance, then and only then have we not become who they think we are.