

Isaiah 5:16-24

“But the LORD Almighty will be exalted by his justice, and the holy God will show himself holy by his righteousness. Then sheep will graze as in their own pasture; lambs will feed among the ruins of the rich. Woe to those who draw sin along with cords of deceit, and wickedness as with cart ropes, to those who say, “Let God hurry, let him hasten his work so that we may see it. Let it approach, let the plan of the Holy One of Israel come, so that we may know it.” Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight. Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine and champions at mixing drinks, who acquit the guilty for a bribe, but deny justice to the innocent. Therefore, as tongues of fire lick up straw and as dry grass sinks down in the flames, so their roots will decay and their flowers blow away like dust; for they have rejected the law of the LORD Almighty and spurned the word of the Holy One of Israel.”

PLEASE, PLEASE GOD!

A fable: An elderly man was travelling with a boy and a donkey, the man was leading the donkey and the boy was walking behind. The townspeople said the old man was a fool for not riding, so to please them he climbed up on the animal's back. When they came to the next village, the people said the old man was cruel to let the child walk while he enjoyed the ride. So, to please them, he got off and set the boy on the animal's back and continued on his way. In the third village, people accused the child of being lazy for making the old man walk, and the suggestion was made that they both ride. So the man climbed on and they set off again. In the fourth village, the townspeople were indignant at the cruelty to the donkey because he was made to carry two people. The frustrated man was last seen carrying the donkey down the road.

The decision of our supreme court to grant equal rights to same sex partners reminds me of that old man, attempting to please everyone within a values-divided society. Wiser it would be to recognize that the values of God outweigh the values of man, and pleasing God has far greater rewards (2 Chronicles 7:14) than pleasing man (Proverbs 14:12).

It matters not whether man dismisses or denies the Word of God, His truth still stands; although He loves the sinner (so much so that He sent His Son to pay the penalty for man's sin), God's assessment is clear, as with other government or court decisions such as legalized gambling and abortion on demand, homosexuality is sin: "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination" (Leviticus 18:22 see Romans 1:27-31 for the New Testament denouncement).

As those who should hold greater importance to pleasing God than man, and who's final authority should be God's Holy Word, Christians are not called to be militant with such decisions, but are rather to be ministering agents of God's grace and truth, first in prayer: "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. (1 Timothy 2:1-2 NIV), second, in sharing: "that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us... Be reconciled to God" (2 Corinthians 5:19-20 NIV).

Perhaps with prayer and purposeful sharing of God's gift of reconciliation in Christ, believer's will have a measurable impact upon the decision makers of society. Nevertheless, the Christian path is clear: "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8 NIV).

What is my response:
