

Upon A Closer Examination –Same-Sex Marriage Blessing

by Rev. Dr. Francis X. Muttoo – retired
(member of St. Philip’s Lutheran-Etobicoke, Ontario).

April, 2005

To our Lutheran Family,

Let’s face it! The CHRISTIAN CHURCH is in JEOPARDY! Yes, OUR CHURCH is in trouble! The crisis before us is a CHALLENGE! How long can we remain unflappable? We must address this matter of SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BLESSING, with dignity and integrity. At the same time, it is incumbent upon us, that we yield to WISDOM that is so necessary for an intelligent decision.

It should be said at this juncture, that Christians have no other choice but to love and pray for Homosexuals, and Lesbians. Many of these are wonderful human beings. But they do have a problem, and it is evident that they do need deliverance, which is possible through their willingness to confess their sins. Jesus is ready to forgive them, and all others who are victims of sin. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1Jn.1: 9.

There is no question about it, the Church is in its defining moment in history. The Church must enunciate unmistakably, its stand on Same-Sex Marriage Blessing, in accordance with the Word of God. This is our RULE OF FAITH!

It is absolutely imperative, that some guidelines be understood, in order to truly understand the nature of this vicious attack upon the Church of Jesus Christ.

The Word Of God

Lutherans believe in the inerrant Word of God. It was upon this infallible, unadulterated, wholly inspired Book – THE HOLY BIBLE, that Dr. Martin Luther, challenged the Roman Catholic Church on its practices and teachings. In his ninety-five theses, he declared his findings on the fallacies of the Church. We dare not do otherwise!

“We believe, teach, and confess that the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testaments are the only rule and norm according to which all doctrines and teachers alike must be appraised and judged, as it is written in Ps. 119:105, ‘Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.’ And St. Paul says in Gal.1: 8, ‘Even if an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we preached to you, let him be accursed.’ -The Book Of Concord, trans, and ed. by Theodore G.Tappert (Philadelphia: Muhlenberg Press, 1959), p 464¹.

Adiaphora

What are ADIAPHORA? - ‘Ceremonies and Church Rites which are neither commanded nor forbidden in the Word of God, but which have been introduced into the Church with good intentions for the sake of good order and decorum or else to preserve Christian discipline.’ ²

¹ The Book Of Concord, trans, and ed. by Theodore G.Tappert (Philadelphia: Muhlenberg Press, 1959), p. 464

² Ibid, p. 610

ADIAPHORA, when capitalized on by Theologians, who introduce practices that are not in conformity with the Word of God (the Gospel), must be quickly nipped in the bud, lest there be misrepresentation and confusion in the Church.

“We should not consider as matters of indifference, and we should avoid as forbidden by God, ceremonies which are basically contrary to the Word of God, even though they go under the name and guise of external Adiaphora and are given a different color from their true one.”³

“We believe, teach, and confess that at a time of confession as when enemies of the Word of God desire to suppress the pure doctrine of the holy Gospel, the entire community of God, yes, every individual Christian, and especially the ministers of the Word as the leaders of the community of God, are obligated to confess openly not only by words, but also through their deeds and actions, the true doctrine and all that pertain to it, according to the Word of God. In such a case we should not yield to adversaries even in matters of indifference, nor should we tolerate the imposition of such ceremonies on us by adversaries in order to undermine the genuine worship of God and to introduce and confirm their idolatry by force or chicanery.”⁴

“The gloss in the decrees says that ‘the church in the larger sense includes both the godly and the wicked.’ And that the wicked are part of the church only in name and not in fact, while the godly are part of the church in fact as well as in name. The Fathers say the same thing in many places. For example, Jerome says, “therefore the sinner who has been defiled by any spot cannot be called part of the church of Christ, nor can he be said to be subject to Christ.”⁵

The above must not be taken lightly. Imparting SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BLESSING, would not only be condoning it, but would certainly swing wide open the doors to Membership in the Church. On the basis of Scriptures, Same-Sex Marriage and or Same-Sex Couples, ought not be members of the Christian Community – the Christian Church.. REPENTANCE must play an important role here. Anyone who repents of his or her sins, will be forgiven by God, and is therefore, eligible for membership. Repentance would mean turning away from any sin or practice, that is contrary to the Will of God.

Not believing this, is tantamount to open rejection of Christ’s Redemptive work on the cross. His coming would have been in vain. What a travesty! AWAKE CHURCH!

Purpose Of The Devil

Remember what is the purpose of the devil: To steal, kill and destroy,” John 10:10. He would do anything to destroy the Church – God’s people!

And with the Da Vinci Code, like a Sledge-hammer over the Head of the Christian Church, in a deliberate attempt to totally annihilate once and for all, the Christian Faith – the Canonicity and Inspiration of the Holy Bible, it behooves all Christians to guard relentlessly, our heritage.

³ Ibid., p. 611

⁴ Ibid, p. 612:10

⁵ Ibid, p. 170:10, 11.

“Hypocrites and evil men are indeed associated with the true church as far as outward ceremonies are concerned. But when we come to define the Church, we must define that which is the living Body of Christ and is the Church in fact as well as in name.”⁶

“And now I make one more appeal, my dear brothers and sisters. Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people’s faith by teaching things that are contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them. Such people are not serving Christ our Lord. They are serving their own personal interests. By smooth talk and glowing words they deceive innocent people. But everyone knows that you are obedient to the Lord. This makes me very happy. I want to see clearly what is right and to stay innocent of any wrong. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.” Rom. 16:17-20⁷

Sin

Too many people in the leadership of the Church, and also among the Laity, are disregarding the existence of sin. Making light of sin is a dominant life-style today. It is unfortunate that this must be. However, Homosexuality is very definitely labeled as sin in the Holy Bible. It carries with it a curse. What about Rom. 1: 18-26?

A careful look at Divine judgment poured out on Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen.19), would portray God’s intentions on such a perverted life-style. Also in Lev. 20:13, such behaviour was prohibited by God. Sad to say, some Theologians today, have tried to explain away this abominable act of sin.

“So God let them go ahead and do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other’s bodies. Instead of believing what they knew was the truth about God, they deliberately chose to believe lies. So they worshiped the things God made but not the Creator himself, who is to be praised forever. Amen.”

“That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. And the men, instead of having normal sexual relationships with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men and as a result, suffered within themselves the penalty they so richly deserved.”

“When they refused to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their evil minds and let them do things that should never be done. Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, fighting, deception, malicious behaviour, and gossip.”⁸

“Don’t you know that those who do wrong will have no share in the Kingdom of God? Don’t fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, who are idol worshipers, adulterers, male prostitutes, homosexuals, thieves, greedy people, drunkards, abusers and swindlers – none of these will have a share in the Kingdom of God.”⁹

⁶ Ibid, p. 130:12,13

⁷ Life Application Study Bible (LASB)

⁸ Ibid, Rom. 1:24-29

⁹ Ibid, 1Cor. 6: 9,10

Isaiah 5: 20, declares: “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.”

Upon a closer examination, equating SAME-SEX MARRIAGE with TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE, is an absurdity, and unbiblical, To consider such a union as marriage is a blatant sign of rebellion against God, and one cannot help but openly resist such a request or consideration of SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BLESSING. It is abhorrent to even think about it!

Passivity

“Any ground ever given to evil spirits invites them to work. Of these grounds the most serious is passivity. Passivity reflects the attitude of the will, which in turn represents the total being. Passivity provides the liberty for wicked elements to function, though they habitually do so under cover, trying to deceive the saints. The cause of passivity is the ignorance of the Christian. He misconceives the role of the intellect in spiritual life; He thinks too highly of it but at the same time too lowly of it. Hence he permits his reasoning powers to settle into inertia and welcomes any thought, which issues from that inert state. How very necessary, therefore, to clearly apprehend the way God leads.”¹⁰

Lots can be said of the Conscience, the Mind, the Church, the Family, Society and the future generations, but enough has already been said that conveys the Revulsion against Same-Sex Marriage Blessing.

Urgent Prayers:

It is absolutely necessary for the entire Church to pray without ceasing for Our Leaders and Laity of our Church. Our Bishops and Pastors and other Church Leaders, stand in need of guidance from the Holy Spirit in order to cope with the pressures for Change, that are thrust upon them. It is my sincere prayer, that we rally around them every day and night as we pray incessantly for the Lord to give them the supernatural strength and anointing that they need. **MAY THE HOLY SPIRIT BE NOT PREEMPTED FROM ANY DECISION TO BE MADE BY OUR CHURCH.**

Reference Sources

The Book Of Concord, trans, and ed. by Theodore G. Tappert (Philadelphia: Muhlenberg Press.

Life Application Study Bible (LASB)

The Spiritual Man, Watchman Nee, (Christian Fellowship Publishers Inc., New York, 1977), Vol 3.

¹⁰ The Spiritual Man, Watchman Nee, (Christian Fellowship Publishers Inc., New York, 1977), Vol. 3