

Painting Eden

Inconvenient Truth



February 10, 2004

Nancy Alfaro
San Francisco County Clerk
City Hall, Room 168
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Ms. Alfaro,

Upon taking the Oath of Office, becoming the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, I swore to uphold the Constitution of the State of California. Article I, Section 7, subdivision (a) of the California Constitution provides that "[a] person may not be...denied equal protection of the laws." The California courts have interpreted the equal protection clause of the California Constitution to apply to lesbians and gay men and have suggested that laws that treat homosexuals differently from heterosexuals are suspect. The California courts have also stated that discrimination against gay men and lesbians is invidious. The California courts have held that gender discrimination is suspect and invidious as well. The Supreme Courts in other states have held that equal protection provisions in their state constitutions prohibit discrimination against gay men and lesbians with respect to the rights and obligations flowing from marriage. It is my belief that these decisions are persuasive and that the California Constitution similarly prohibits such discrimination.

Pursuant to my sworn duty to uphold the California Constitution, including specifically its equal protection clause, I request that you determine what changes should be made to the forms and documents used to apply for and issue marriage licenses in order to provide marriage licenses on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to gender or sexual orientation.

Respectfully,
Mayor Gavin Newsom

Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

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 the woman 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.

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 1:24-28)

the Journey
a scrapbook of life in Christ

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For thirteen years, since we purchased our house, the front entryway, the stairs leading from there up to the next floor, and the central hall of that floor have been wallpapered. Recently Linda decided that she had had enough of that, and began stripping off the wall covering. That was the easy part. What remained was a coating of dried glue that required no small effort to soften and wash from the walls. But she did it. Then it was my turn to come in and make repairs with plaster. Now the walls await a coat of primer, and a few coats of colored paint—and soon those fresh layers of new paint will have forever expunged the memory of the original wallpaper.

A Foundation of Sand

Boiling down all the subtleties to the basics, individuals subscribe to one of only two philosophical positions today:

1) man is essentially good, and indications to the contrary are simply aberrations; or, 2) man, since Eden, is essentially depraved, and indications to the contrary only bespeak the influence of a gracious God. Stated another way, one subscribes either to the position that man is in charge, or one subscribes to the position that God is in charge. Those who adhere to the former, answer to no higher, absolute authority; those who adhere to the latter answer to the absolute authority of God.

To those who do not answer to God, changing the rules is a piece of cake. Nothing could be easier. When a precept becomes inconvenient or uncomfortable, it is simply discarded. It is determined to be “discriminatory,” or at least “outdated.” Thus, today, we have same-sex couples queuing up before the San Francisco City Hall, waiting their turn to be “married.” God’s precepts, government’s laws, and thousands of years of heritage are discarded because a few people consider them to be, suddenly, inconvenient.

And, thus, right and wrong become moving targets—and no one can keep up.

And soon we *all* will be living on a foundation of sand.

Changing the Rules

Today for many the truth of what happened in Eden has become inconvenient. The truth that man, since Eden, is a fallen, sinful being has become too hard for some to bear. So they just paint over that truth, creating a *new* truth more to their liking. But, of course, they are cunning enough not to splash on their garish final coat all at once. They begin with more subtle shades, almost imperceptibly building up layer after layer of colors, working their way gradually to the true colors of their intent.

Thus, for example, not so terribly long ago homosexuality was a practice of shame, kept hidden from the rest of society. Then



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the shame was challenged, and gradually society allowed itself to be convinced that homosexuality was no longer a shameful practice. Society agreed to “accept” the practice as just another part of normal—*different*, but normal. Then those who were once ashamed, decided that being normal but different wasn’t good enough, and they began to demand “rights.” Soon in places of business, in insurance policies, and in city halls across the land it was considered discriminatory not to extend to homosexuals the same rights as others—not based on

race (something over which the person has no control), but based on their choice of bed-partner.

Now we have the Massachusetts Supreme Court declaring that forthwith the definition of marriage is to include homosexual couples. And in San Francisco, Mayor Gavin Newsom has decided on his own to change the forms for civil marriages to include everyone “without regard to gender or sexual orientation.” And, to date, thousands of same-sex “marriages” have been performed in that city.

Painting Over the Truth

The contemporary acceptance of homosexuality as something perfectly normal is just one example of how we have painted over the truth of Eden. Heterosexuals have done much the same thing with divorce and carnality; the church has done it by loosening the standards by which leaders and elders are selected; society as a whole has done it by so easily winking at deceit and corruption. When our sins become too burdensome, instead of repenting we just change the definition of sin. Soon their will be no sin left; we will all have evolved—by mutual acclimation—into perfect little angels.

For those who do not know God, there can be no absolute standard. Civil laws and constitutions can always be changed. But for those who do know God—and, more critically, accept His written word as absolute truth—there is no excuse.

God’s holy word is our unchanging standard. It defines who we are and how we are to live. It speaks the truth boldly, without compromise. It cares nothing about contemporary standards, or what is currently “politically correct.” It is time that we began living by the standards in which we claim to believe. It is time that we stopped making excuses.

And it is time that we put away our cans of paint.