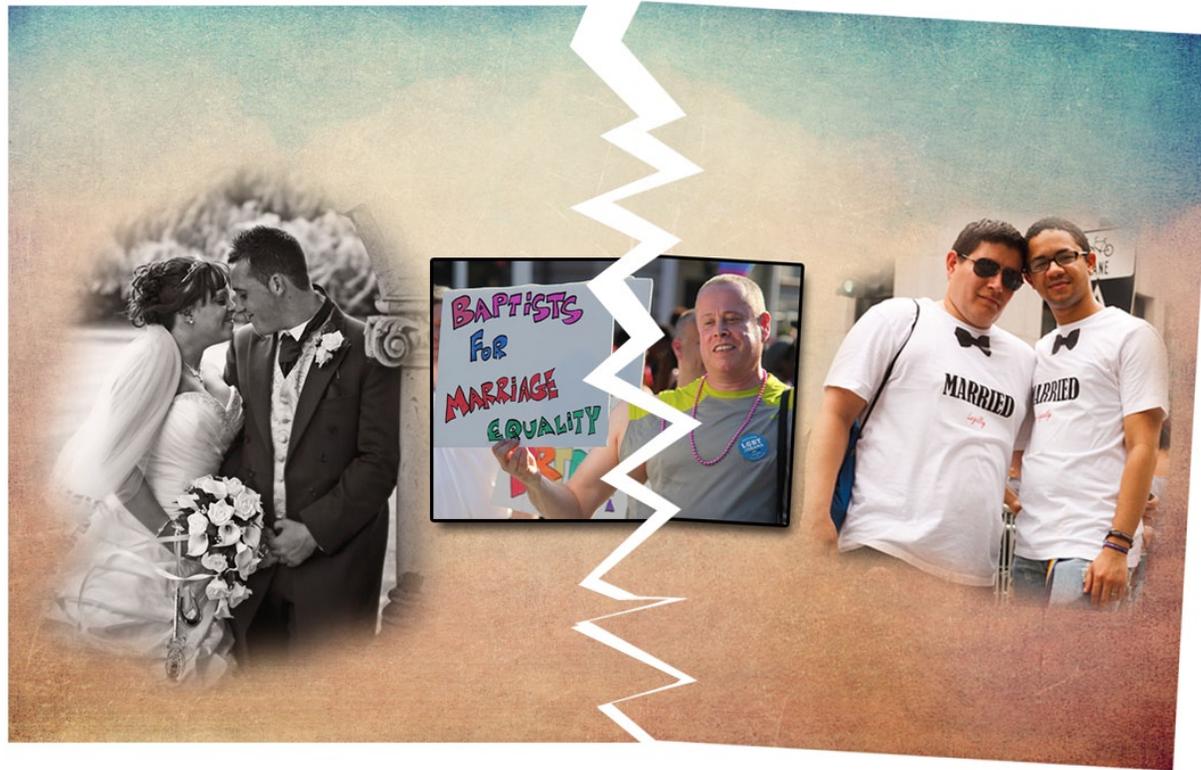


If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!” (which all *refer to things destined to perish with use*)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?

Colossians 2:20-22



A Point of CLARITY

One of Linda's favorite movies is the 1963 John Wayne picture, *Donovan's Reef*. In one scene, Michael Donovan (Wayne) and his love interest, Amelia Dedham, are out in the hills of the South Seas island cutting down a tree for Christmas. Amelia is the adult daughter of Donovan's old navy pal and the island's doctor. Unbeknownst to her, the three young children with them in the selecting of a Christmas tree are her father's younger children from his marriage to the last island princess, Manulani—who died in childbirth. At one point the oldest of the three children, Lelani, pauses to thank “the goddess of the canyon for our tree” in her native tongue. “Goddess?” Amelia asks. “Do you believe in gods and goddesses?”

The young girl answers politely but imperiously, “I believe in the one God, as we all do. But I respect the beliefs and customs of my people.” And she walks away, having serenely put the older woman in her place.

It all sounds very good, and the scene is played to show the maturity and wisdom—and equanimity—of the young girl, who is now the island princess, after her mother. But in point of fact, it is not remotely wise at all.

The world would have us believe that the height of wisdom is to be fair and open to all beliefs. But of course real wisdom reveals that when we believe in everything, we in fact believe in nothing.



Christians in the United States have been suddenly brought to a point of clarity. No more fence-sitting; no more grays. Suddenly there is a bright line of demarcation between good and evil, for it is now law in these United States that people of the same sex can marry.

“He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.”

Matthew 12:30

Every American Christian must now choose; believers can no longer stand astride the two cultures, for they are now, more than ever before in the United States, diametrically opposed to each other. One either stands with God’s word, or one stands against it.

The fictional Lelani cannot believe in “the one God,” and at the same time “respect the beliefs and customs of my people.” It doesn’t work that way. If you believe in “the one God,” then those gods and goddesses do not exist, and praying to them is heresy. You cannot have it both ways.

“You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.”

Leviticus 18:22

Just so, one cannot worship holy God, claim to be one of His children, and at the same time stand against what He declares with unequivocal clarity. The Lord God does not change: What was once an abomination to Him is *still* an abomination to Him.

And God’s stand on marriage has not changed.

And He answered and said, “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’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.”

Matthew 19:4-6



If, before, there were any remaining ambiguities, there are none now. Acquiescence to immoral civic law is acceptance; acceptance is agreement.

Christians must now decide: Will they stand for the bedrock of God’s truth, or will they take their place on the quicksand of a nation that has lost its way?