

The So-Called “Equality Act”

This article begins with a Disclaimer. Its author does not dislike homosexuals, lesbians, bisexuals, or transgenders. Nor does he dislike liars, fornicators, alcoholics, and drug addicts. The plain truth is this: Regardless of people’s sexual orientation, or life style, we must strive to love **God** with all our heart, mind, and soul, and our **neighbor** as ourselves, Matt. 22:35-40. Because of His abounding love, God sent Jesus into the world, John 3:16, and because of His great love, Jesus “*by the grace of God*” tasted “*death for every man*,” Heb. 2:9. God is not willing that any should perish, but that “*all should come to repentance*,” 2 Peter 3:9. Included in the church at Corinth were some who **had been** fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, sodomites, thieves, covetous, drunkards and extortioners, but they heard and obeyed the truth of the gospel and were thus “*washed..., sanctified..., and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God*,” I Cor. 6:9-11. The Bible clearly teaches that “*all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*,” Rom. 3:23. Jesus came “*to seek and to save that which was lost*,” Luke 19:10, but He came to save people **from** their sins — not **in** their sins! Regardless of the sin — whether it be gossip, lying, adultery, homosexual acts, etc., — the sinner must either “*repent or perish*,” Luke 13:3,5. Repentance is preceded by “*godly sorrow*,” which prompts a person to turn **from** his, or her sinful thoughts, ways, and acts, and **turning to** that which is right before God, 2 Cor. 7:9-11. For example, a person who formerly stole for a living (if he is truly penitent) will instead “*labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give to him who has need*,” Eph. 4:28. Those who were formerly caught up in “*ungodliness and worldly lusts*,” if truly penitent, will endeavor to “*live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present world*,” Titus 2:12.

The Bible clearly states that “*righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people*,” Prov. 14:34. And that includes any and every “*nation*.” God is no more a respecter of “*nations*” than he is “*a respecter of persons*” (Acts 10:35). A study of both biblical and secular history reveals that many formerly strong nations fell once their cup of iniquity became so full that God could tolerate them no longer. And an awareness of this fact should serve as a wake up call to America!

A nation’s leaders (for good or bad) affect the well-being of the nation. For example, we note 2 Chron. 28:19 which says, “*For the Lord brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had **encouraged moral decline** in Judah and had been continually unfaithful to the Lord*.” Ahaz began reigning at age twenty, and “*reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem*,” 2 Chron. 28:1. Sadly, however, “*he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and made molded images for the Baals*,” “*He burned incense in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, and burned his children in the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel*,” 2 Chron. 28:2-3. And even “*in the time of his distress King Ahaz became increasingly unfaithful to the Lord*,” 2 Chron. 28:22. “*Moral decline*” figured significantly in the down fall of Judah and ultimately led to Judah’s 70-year captivity in Babylon.

When a nation’s leaders openly embrace, and even pass legislation that encourages “*moral decline*,” that nation is in trouble. That being the case, our nation **is** in trouble! Much of that trouble began in the 1960’s when God was increasingly forced out of public education and when sex education was forced in. Then came the Supreme Court decision in 1973 legalizing abortion, or the murder of unborn children — which has resulted in over 60,000,000 babies aborted (murdered!) since that evil decision! And now we come to the year 2019. On Friday, May 17, the U.S. House of Representatives, by a vote of 236-173 passed the so-called “Equality

Act,” which is intended to “modify the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to add sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes in federal anti-discrimination law.” This has been referred to as “one of Nancy Pelosi’s signature pieces of legislation.” Of course, this piece of legislation will not be considered a “done deal” until (and unless) it is also ultimately agreed upon by the U.S. Senate. But it reflects how far we have traveled (in the wrong direction!) as a nation, and it is conceivable that it will eventually become established law in the U.S.!

The “Equality Act” (known as “H.R. 5”) pushes for anything but equality! Note some of the effects of this bill, if it eventually becomes established law. According to those who have studied its effects, “*H.R. 5 would force schools (both public and private), churches, hospitals, businesses to recognize an individual’s ‘chosen gender’ instead of their ‘biological sex.’*” This means that “*more women and girls would be forced to share bathrooms, locker rooms, showers, and sleeping facilities with biological men who ‘identify’ as women.*” The “Equality Act” would “*crowd women out of female athletics by forcing them to compete against biological males who identify as female.*” It will affect the way parents are able to make decisions regarding their children. For example “*if a parent chooses against allowing their son or daughter to receive life-altering hormonal treatments, they could lose custody.*” Already organizations such as The Human Rights Campaign and Planned Parenthood are “*introducing students to transgender theory and sexual preferences in numerous ways.*” They claim pre-K students “*can determine they were ‘born in the wrong body,’ that parents should begin social transition at age 4, followed by hormonal intervention at age 8 and surgical intervention.*” “*In the name of ‘gender-affirming care,’ 13 year-old girls have been given double mastectomies.*” H.R. 5 has been described as “*a blanket piece of legislation that classifies biological males and females in the same category and threatens Americans from all walks of life who choose not to comply with unorthodox gender terminology.*” Yes, as already stated, the “Equality Act” calls for anything but “equality,” and it is designed to make all citizens submit to the will of LGBT activists!

I recognize the danger inherent in such an article as this. Already I can mentally envision some responding by saying “you are not supposed to mix religion with politics.” And to that statement, I fully agree. However, though politics are involved, what we are discussing is not a matter of politics but of **morality**! While we should love all people, including those who are caught up in the LGBTQ movement, we must not condone their manner of life, nor go along with their attempts to run rough shod over the consciences of sincere people. There comes a time when God-fearing people should say “enough is enough,” and resolve that, come what may, they are going to stand up and speak up for what is right and refuse to compromise their convictions in order to accommodate the depraved demands of those whose “*conscience*” has been “*seared*” as if by “*a hot iron*,” I Tim. 4:2.

Please do not get me wrong! I am not (and could not either conscientiously or scripturally) recommending that this congregation become caught up in some sort of a political movement. However, this congregation (like any other local church) is composed of **people**, and God-fearing people must have genuine convictions. We must give voice to our convictions by the way we live our lives, by the way we rear our children, by the way we interact with others, and, yes, by the way we vote. By “the way we vote,” I am not referring to “party” affiliation, but to the known character and moral views of those “running for public office.”

In the first century Christians were immensely persecuted by numerous foes, including false religion and the Roman government. They were not to become anarchists; to the contrary God’s people were exhorted to “*be subject to the governing authorities*,” Rom. 13:1, to pray “*for kings and all who are in authority*,” I Tim. 2:2, and to “*honor the king*,” I Pet. 2:17. Unless I am mistaken, immensely wicked Nero was then “*the king*” over the Roman Empire, and he was an avowed foe of the religion of Jesus Christ. Countless Christians became martyrs for the cause of

Christ, but the first century church did not form party or political movements to overthrow the government, nor should we. But they were commanded to shine as lights “*in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation,*” Phil. 2:15. They were commanded to “*speak as the oracles of God,*” I Pet. 4:11, and they were expected to suffer as Christians in the “*fiery*” trials to which they were subjected, I Pet. 4:12-16. At no time were they permitted to compromise their convictions, nor mute their voices in either the declaration or the defense of the truth.

We are living in “*perilous times,*” cf. 2 Tim. 3:1. Evil men and imposters are waxing worse and worse “*deceiving and being deceived,*” 2 Tim. 3:13. The so-called “equality act” is but the latest example of political leaders encouraging “**moral decline**” in our society. If there was ever a time when God-fearing people should stand up and speak up for what is right and oppose what is wrong, now is that time! Beloved, can we count on **you**? —Bobby Witherington
