



News and Current Events :: Billy Graham Endorses NC Marriage Amendment Before State Vote

Billy Graham Endorses NC Marriage Amendment Before State Vote - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2012/5/5 0:03

Renowned evangelist Billy Graham issued a statement voicing his support for an amendment that would define marriage as between a man and a woman, just under a week before North Carolina citizens will vote on the issue. Notably, Graham's endorsement is rare given that he typically avoids political issues.

"At 93, I never thought we would have to debate the definition of marriage," Graham said in his statement on Wednesday. "The Bible is clear — God's definition of marriage is between a man and a woman. I want to urge my fellow North Carolinians to vote for the marriage amendment on Tuesday, May 8. God bless you as you vote." ...

read more: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/billy-graham-endorses-nc-marriage-amendment-before-state-vote-74321/>

Re: Billy Graham Endorses NC Marriage Amendment Before State Vote - posted by Lovefirst (), on: 2012/5/5 6:12

Wish there was a like option hehe

Thank you Mr. Graham!

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2012/5/5 6:48

Thank you brother Greg for posting this. I needed to see it. The article goes on to say that Graham usually doesn't get involved in the political arena but as one baptist associate point out that they believe the reason why He did this time was because He saw this as a moral issue and He felt He needed to take a biblical stand for God's standard.

Brother I usually avoid politics and never bring it up in my local church but I believe their comes a time when God's people need to vote for biblical principles when they are being destroyed right before our eyes.

The media fueled by "the haters of God's morals" are always trying to portray christian people as haters because we believe in God's standard of right and wrong. They accuse many God fearing Christians who actually love all people and desire to see them saved and live a holy pleasing life unto the Lord, as hating homosexuals, because we are against their sin. They accuse us of hating them when actually they are really hating us because we strive to honor God in the clear teachings of the bible.

True Christians don't hate homosexuals but desire for them to be saved and experience God's love and holiness. I feel that we must desire to see God's institution of marriage between a man and a woman stay that way, for a society of people, for our children's sake, and most of all for morality sake in honoring our creator who is a holy God.

Blessings...from brother rbanks

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2012/5/5 11:02

Quote:
-----rbanks..Brother I usually avoid politics and never bring it up in my local church.

This is why this Country is in the shape it's in morally, no one wants to get involved anymore. The Gays and the Government has created a snowball effect, that is only going to get larger.

This is not picking on your at all personally, this is just a general statement.

You know there are just some things in the Bible that are supposed to happen according to God's word in the end times,

things that we as Christians condemn. Are we just suppose to let these things happen if there in Gods plan? or, are we s upposed to fight back with prayer, and will prayer even work if these things are in Gods ultimate plan for the end times? I have always wondered if anything is in God's plan for the end times, no matter how much we condemn them, is our Prayers in vain? I know God answers our Prayer, if of course we are walking the correct path in life, but how would he answer a Prayer against something that he has destined for the end times?

Re: - posted by Lovefirst (), on: 2012/5/5 11:29

Quote:

----- This is why this Country is in the shape it's in morally, no one wants to get involved anymore.

I agree however, not with the involvement as far as it goes for your destination. Involvement in what? I think that is of great importance. Your next statement seems to me as it were, well, wrong?

Quote:

----- The Gays and the Government has created a snowball effect, that is only going to get larger.

Can we justly finger point and blame others when I believe it is the believers in Christ who have bowed their knee to the world and because of that God's judgement has come. Do we rightfully judge the world or do we judge one another inside the body?

Quote:

-----You know there are just some things in the Bible that are supposed to happen according to God's word in the end times, things that we as Christians condemn. Are we just suppose to let these things happen if there in Gods plan? or, are we supposed to fight back with prayer, and will prayer even work if these things are in Gods ultimate plan for the end times? I have always wondered if anything is in God's plan for the end times, no matter how much we condemn them, is our Prayers in vain? I know God answers our Prayer, if of course we are walking the correct path in life, but how would he answer a Prayer against something that he has destined for the end times?

I wonder the same exact thing.

edit: Wanting to just express my point and say that I don't want to come off harsh or judgmental. Perhaps I have misunderstood you and in that case please forgive me. It seems that for some of us we look at the judgments of God and place them on unbelievers when it is very clear that He deals with those He has called with consequences, either good or bad, based on the called out one's response to Him.

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2012/5/5 13:16

Brother Bill I disagree and agree with you also brother.

Jesus never got involved with the political systems of this world because His kingdom is not of this world.

I believe God judges each individual according to the light that they reject and also the light they refuse to walk in regardless of the end times prophecy of the scriptures.

Each person in the final analysis will get to decide which side He will choose to remain on whether it is God's or the devil's. The world is going toward hell and destruction along with all the religious systems of the world but the decisions we make is according to the light we receive not according to prophecy of the scripture or someone's understanding of end times prophecy.

Blessings...from brother rbanks

Re: - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2012/5/5 13:39

Quote:

-----Jesus never got involved with the political systems of this world because His kingdom is not of this world.

While it's true that His kingdom is not of this world it is also true that "The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." All the nations are the Lord's and we need to get out of the world's mindset that puts a separation between the sacred and the secular. We need to speak boldly in the public forum and declare the living God as the only solution to man's predicament just like Paul did on Mars' Hill.

We are not of the world but neither must we be indifferent to it. If the "Epicureans and Stoicks" of our day are found in the political public forum then let us declare the "unknown" God unto them in word and deed.

In Christ,

Ron

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2012/5/5 13:46

Amen and Amen brother Ron!

I believe in doing this without being involved in any political system of this world.

We need men and women full of the Holy Ghost, not holding signs or picketing places just be filled with the Holy Ghost and proclaim Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world.

Blessings...from brother rbanks

Re: - posted by Lovefirst (), on: 2012/5/5 14:06

Quote:

-----by rbanks on 2012/5/5 9:46:39

Amen and Amen brother Ron!

I wanna 2nd that AMEN! Awesome stuff Ron :)

Isaiah 9:6

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Now I've asked a few leaders in the church I attend, it was a prayer meeting amongst the ushers, if the government rested on Christ's shoulders and to my amazement they said no, one I think didn't quite answer at all. I believe God Almighty is in full control!

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2012/5/5 15:09

Quote:

-----All the nations are the Lord's and we need to get out of the world's mindset that puts a separation between the sacred and the secular.

Which is what Jesus was saying when he said, "Render to Caesar's the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." We can't divide the sacred from the secular, or separate the church from the state. To do so is a deadly theological trap.

Re: - posted by Lovefirst (), on: 2012/5/5 15:16

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This is hard for me to grasp, and to put into action. Can you explain how this plays out in a Christian's life? Through prayers only or?

Re: Render unto Caesar, on: 2012/5/5 16:45

The 'rendering' which the Lord presented had to do with paying taxes. The Lord's words were an answer to a 'seeking' to test His obedience and therefore His righteous conduct..

Quote:
-----17 Tell us then, what do You think? Is it lawful to give a poll- tax to Caesar, or not? 18 But Jesus perceived their malice, and said, Why are you testing Me, you hypocrites? 19 Show Me the coin used for the poll- tax. And they brought Him a denarius. 20 And He *said to them, Who se likeness and inscription is this? 21 They *said to Him, Caesars. Then He *said to them, Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesars; and to God the things that are Gods. 22 And hearing this, they were amazed, and leaving Him, they went away. Matthew 22 17-22

What is at the back of the provocation or testing which Jesus suffered may have been simply a religious spirit of hypocrisy. A kind of reverse trap. A little like saying:

"we know you are a man of God because of the things you do, but the pharisees and all truly religious men despise the dominion of Caesar over Israel. So should we submit to Caesar?" "Should we meet his tax demands? Is it lawful?"

It clearly was Caesar's law. So what is this 'other law?' The spirit of the question is hypocrisy, but the snare was in seeking to bring the Lord into rebellion. Hence the answer of the Lord, "show me who's head is on the coin," settled the issue.

There is another verse which seems to carry the same root of meaning. "If a man demands your coat, give him your shirt also." Who but a man in authority could demand your coat. If he does "give him your shirt also". In other words submit to all in authority.

For me this principle is the most difficult thing in the world. How easy it is to resist and thereby come into condemnation. Paul said "I hear of your good conduct, in that you rejoice in the taking of your homes". The sermon on the mount carries in parts a similar meaning.

None of this however has anything to do with being part of the state as far as these verses teach. Voting, or involving oneself in politics, encouraging others to do the same, may end up with that one, and ultimately those who follow the injunction, being found an accomplice in perceived unrighteousness, and with it a bearing of ill effects.

Here in the UK it is already a criminal offence to speak against homosexual relations, let alone perverse lawful union. Not a direct law, but "the preaching of hate". Where then for those who now live in the UK and love the Lord does wisdom lie. The separation between state and church is the body of Christ crucified for sin. In this world we cannot possibly resist or avoid the state. We can however lay hold of our part in Christ's death and thereby render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's without involvement in politics. The time is now at hand in the USA for a reaping of this same principle. These laws will be passed and when they are they will bring with them a hatred of Christians hither too unseen in the USA.

In the end it will be an unavoidable reality of life that some in Christ at least, being equipped by God for that purpose, will

have to preach the truth concerning a man's conduct and its consequences before God. This will mean "suffering for the sake of righteousness" and not suffering ill effects by involvement in politics. I truly believe with a growing sadness and concern that saints in the USA have already laid the foundations for this terrible effect. It is the Constitution of the United States of America.

Andrew

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2012/5/5 18:12

Quote:

None of this however has anything to do with being part of the state as far as these verses teach. Voting, or involving oneself in politics,

"Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's" is a more than just Jesus coming up with a clever way to tell people trying to trap him to pay their taxes. Indeed, this instruction was given to a people who were trying so hard to not involve themselves with the government of Rome, that they were considering measures as radical as not paying their taxes. After all, they just wanted to be a holy people of God, and wanted nothing to do with their Roman oppressors, who forced them to use money that paid worship to Caesar upon it.

Far from being a clever saying to get His would be persecutors off His back, Jesus was attempting to give them a new perspective. For their perspective was one that created one common to many of us in America. And it is quite a worldly perspective. It is a perspective that separates the sacred from the secular, and the church from the state. It creates a fragmented world. And such a perspective, when taken to its extremes, creates Amish communities in one hand, and Communist nations in the other.

Re: - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2012/5/5 21:15

Quote:

-----This is hard for me to grasp, and to put into action. Can you explain how this plays out in a Christian's life? Through prayers only or ?

I believe this plays out in very practical ways, say for example in a town meeting, where the Christian can declare that our present problems just might be related to how our society has been insincere in regard to the question of God.

Our society is happy to allow us to have our Sunday meeting and our conferences and such, but when it comes to secular matters, the church is no longer consulted or even considered a valid voice. The sacred and the secular have been separated and the church has capitulated.

We need to present the truth that if God is God then it is better to hope in His solution than to trust in the power of men that historically has ended in disaster. The world's problems are clearly beyond a secular solution and it's time to speak up. Let people scoff but let God's word be heard.

America doesn't have to go the way of European nations if the church will intercede and get her voice again.

should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them. (Isaiah 8:19-20)

In Christ,

Ron

Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiiss (), on: 2012/5/5 21:50

I think that there have been some great points raised. I was discussing the issue of "gay marriage" with a Christian guy that I knew during college. He said, "If it doesn't bother me, why should I care?"

I explained that the state redefining the concept of "marriage" is just one goal of homosexual activists. They also want to outlaw what they would call "discrimination." They define this as speaking against homosexuality, refusing to hire a homosexual or refusing to extend certain benefits to the homosexual or his/her spouse.

While most states offer a "clear conscience" clause to churches, the same would not be extended to other organizations. If you own your own plumbing business, what would happen if a transvestite wanted to work for you? If you didn't hire him -- because you present your business as "Christ-centered" -- you could be sued for discrimination. If a ministry runs a small non-profit Christian bookstore or coffee house, you could be sued for "discrimination" for refusing to hire a homosexual or for refusing to extend benefits to the "spouse" of some person who "came out of the closet" after already being employed there.

In other words, these things WILL affect all people living in this world. Some people -- particular those on the political Left -- constantly argue against any religious or spiritual influence in government. Yet most of those same individuals are either silent or encourage other views or morality to be pushed upon society.

Like it or not, we live in the earthly land where we dwell. While we maintain a citizenship in Heaven that takes preeminence over an earthly "natural" citizenship, we still live in this land until the time for which we pass to the realm of Eternity. Until the last few centuries, individuals did not have an opportunity to choose those who would govern or have any say in the laws of the land. Yet, even those who practice "physical and spiritual separatism" like the Pilgrims, Amish and others have a form of community government in which the people either form or consent to the laws/rules. That consent is demonstrated by remaining in the community to which the governance is accepted.

None of us are hermits in a spiritual or physical sense. We live in a nation on this fallen world. Most modern nations are governed by "consent" or the collective voice of the people. Voting in elections or in regard to "propositions" is merely an indication of that "voice." When Jimmy spoke of an inability to refrain from "participation" in a different thread, I think that at this is what he might have meant. Silence is a form of participation in a society that is governed by "consent." It is literally "consenting" to the status quo by simply refusing to get "involved." Yet, involvement is not necessarily "political" (in the modern connotation of the term). It is simply sharing what you think in an official capacity.

In this instance, I agree with what Billy Graham said. I never thought that homosexual activists would become such a vocal movement that they would be able to impose their view of morality upon society and force society to not only recognize their depravity -- but to accept it legally. There are individuals who would love nothing more than to impose their sexuality on churches and treat believers as if they are the "radical" ones. This is why many of them also hope that those who disagree with them -- especially Christians -- refrain from sharing that voice in elections and when laws (such as propositions or amendments) are put up to an official vote.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2012/5/5 21:53

Well said Ron. If we are to truly go into the nations and teach them to observe all that Christ has commanded, then that means we need to stand up and tell them what thus saith the Lord. And we should expect them to respond. And they should respond and govern in light of what is said.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2012/5/5 22:05

Exactly Chris. We are a society whose government consists of the consent of the people. And where we deliberately refuse to participate in voicing our perspective as Christians, our lack of participation is participation, even if by means of passivity and omission.

And even in countries that are totalitarian and communist, the church still has a responsibility to speak up, and declare God's will to the rulers of her land. I mean, look at the apostle Paul. When he was a prisoner on board of a prison ship, he spoke up on several occasions, and told the captain of the ship how he ought to direct his ship. And he did that as a prisoner!!! He didn't do it as somebody who even had the right to voice his opinion on that ship.

Re: Who is the King? Who is Caesar?, on: 2012/5/6 4:29

Quote:
-----14 They *came and *said to Him, Teacher, we know that You are truthful and defer to no one; for You are not partial to any, but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to pay a poll- tax to Caesar, or not? 15 Shall we pay or shall we not pay? But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, Why are you testing Me? Bring Me a denarius to look at. 16 They brought one. And He *said to them, Whose likeness and inscription is this? And they said to Him, Caesars. 17 And Jesus said to them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesars, and to God the things that are Gods. And they were amazed at Him. Mark 12 14-17.

Quote:
-----Tribute to Caesar

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted together how they might trap Him in what He said. 16 And they *sent their disciples to Him, along with the Herodians, saying, Teacher, we know that You are truthful and teach the way of God in truth, and defer to no one; for You are not partial to any. 17 Tell us then, what do You think? Is it lawful to give a poll- tax to Caesar, or not? 18 But Jesus perceived their malice, and said, Why are you testing Me, you hypocrites? 19 Show Me the coin used for the poll- tax. And they brought Him a denarius. 20 And He *said to them, Whose likeness and inscription is this? 21 They *said to Him, Caesars. Then He *said to them, Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesars; and to God the things that are Gods. 22 And hearing this, they were amazed, and leaving Him, they went away. Matthew 22 15-22.

Quote:
-----1 Then the whole body of them got up and brought Him before Pilate. 2 And they began to accuse Him, saying, We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, and saying that He Himself is Christ, a King. 3 So Pilate asked Him, saying, Are You the King of the Jews? And He answered him and said, It is as you say. 4 Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, I find no guilt in this man. 5 But they kept on insisting, saying, He stirs up the people, teaching all over Judea, starting from Galilee even as far as this place. 6 When Pilate heard it, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. 7 And when he learned that He belonged to Herods jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who himself also was in Jerusalem at that time.

Jesus before Herod

8 Now Herod was very glad when he saw Jesus; for he had wanted to see Him for a long time, because he had been hearing about Him and was hoping to see some sign performed by Him. 9 And he questioned Him at some length; but He answered him nothing. 10 And the chief priests and the scribes were standing there, accusing Him vehemently. 11 And Herod with his soldiers, after treating Him with contempt and mocking Him, dressed Him in a gorgeous robe and sent Him back to Pilate. 12 Now Herod and Pilate became friends with one another that very day; for before they had been enemies with each other. Luke 23 1-12

Quote:
-----13 Pilate summoned the chief priests and the rulers and the people, 14 and said to them, You brought this man to me as one who incites the people to rebellion, and behold, having examined Him before you, I have found no guilt in this man regarding the charges which you make against Him. 15 No, nor has Herod, for he sent Him back to us; and behold, nothing deserving death has been done by Him. 16 Therefore I will punish Him and release Him. 17 18 But they cried out all together, saying, Away with this man, and release for us Barabbas! 19 (He was one who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection made in the city, and for murder.) 20 Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again, 21 but they kept on calling out, saying, Crucify, crucify Him! 22 And he said to them the third time, Why, what evil has this man done? I have found in Him no guilt demanding death; therefore I will punish Him and release Him. 23 But they were insistent, with loud voices asking that He be crucified. And their voices began to prevail. 24 And Pilate pronounced sentence that their demand be granted. 25 And he released the man they were asking for who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, but he delivered Jesus to their will. Luke 23 13-25

Re: thats a good one., on: 2012/5/6 8:40

POST ADD LATER: please forgive me, my words were rash, and i meant NO ill will towards ANYONE...i did not wipe my whole post, but as i sit and listen to a word from Michael Brown, he's saying something better, so i'll post that above. END POST NOTE ADD-----

in all this handwringing about homosexual marriage and "culture wars" and sharia law coming to a mall near you, how does the Constitution fit into all this?

just curious.

two guys getting "married", is that God's Best? absolutely not....but this is not a theocracy. i know some dominionists want a theocracy, but would to God, those who say Jesus is Lord, clean up their own marriages.

i thought the Constitution provides guarantees of freedom to EVERY American, and freedom is messy.

You could say, the homosexual lobby would file suit if a pastor gets up in the pulpit and denounces "gay" marriage...i say good. let them file suit....have at it! They get to march in "gay pride parades", we have the right to call sin, SIN, and if there are "hate" laws enacted preventing pastors from speaking Biblically, do it anyway....go to jail! That would be an honor, dont you think?

(NOTE- i WIPED major sections of my post, because they were NOT written in the Love of Jesus, please forgive me, i'll try harder and salted with MORE GRACE.)

Re: , on: 2012/5/6 9:00

A brother(who I otherwise agree with on many things) who will remain nameless because this is about playing the ball and not the man said:

"I believe there comes a time when God's people need to vote for biblical principles when they are being destroyed right before our eyes."

What then? The biblical principles of helping the poor, the immigrants on our own soil, seeking peace with all men (instead of unjust wars), and not making unbelievers pretend to be Christians have surely been attacked by the Christian right, tea party, and religious conservatives in general. Perhaps it is time to start voting democrat so that my voice can be counted for righteousness in this generation?

..but ..but pastor said (actually he only implied because his precious 501c status would be at stake if he actually said) it is only righteous to vote against abortion and homosexuality. It's funny how we pick and choose our so-called righteous causes. It's always those other people's sins we care about, not our own. I want to also add how much inter-faith idolatry the causes of abortion and homosexuality have led to. Believers striking hands with the catholics and mormon churches - all for a righteous cause of course (defending biblical principals in the US). Will we wait until judgment day to find out that we have lost our purpose, message, and way church?

in Christ -Jim

Re: , on: 2012/5/6 9:42

in regards to my below post, i was mightily convicted of what i wrote, seemed rash, harsh, and while i do dishes, or house chores, i love to hook the laptop to the TV, so i can listen to Len Ravenhill, or Michael Brown, or Duncan Campbell..... and i was listening to this from Michael Brown, "What To Do", and as God led, i thought it appropo to the thread of discussion

<http://askdrbrown.org/media/albums/ICN/SpiritualGrowth/What%20to%20Do.mp3>

Re: , on: 2012/5/6 11:09

Jim writes.....

" I want to also add how much inter-faith idolatry the causes of abortion and homosexuality have led to. Believers striking hands with the catholics and mormon churches- all for a righteous cause of course (defending biblical principals in the U S). Will we wait until judgment day to find out that we have lost our purpose, message, and way church?"

Excellent point brother. There is a continual straw man argued that one is either involved in politics or one is indifferent. Those who have radically encountered Jesus and He is their grand obsession are the least indifferent people I have met bro Frank

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiss (), on: 2012/5/6 13:09

Hi Jim,

I don't think that it has anything to do with "striking hands with the catholics and mormon churches" any more than saying that it is "striking hands" with them to go fellowship with a congregation (since they believe this as well). The Catholic and Mormon "churches" are in gross error and it has nothing to do with their opposition to homosexuality and abortion. Those are authentic BIBLICAL principles that two cults happen to share.

Remember: It is those cults who happen to embrace only certain portions of Biblical truth...and not the other way around . Thus, there is nothing ecumenical on the part of believers when those cults agree with the Bible on certain issues.

As for the issues of "helping the poor," immigrants on our own soil and seeking peace with all men:

I think that the problem with this statement is twofold. First, it implies that there are some (particularly "Conservatives") who don't believe in helping the poor, proper immigration or living in peace. And, it implies that it is an elected government's responsibility to take the money of taxpayers and disperse it to the "poor" in America. Those are assumptions that just aren't true.

I don't know anyone -- conservative or liberal -- who doesn't believe in helping the truly needy as a moral prerogative. It is the broad extent of that help which is often in question...and the idea about how just it is for the government (often rather than fathers) to raise children. There is a direct correlation between families with fathers and a much lower reliance upon government assistance. And, there are "need-based" organizations who operate under devilish means (like Planned Parenthood and other abortion groups).

I saw a young woman standing outside of our local Walmart asking for donations. Usually, there is a local Church standing there seven days a week asking for donations. However, the woman stated that her organization is trying to "increase access to birth control and abortion" for the poor and needy. So, any question about the proper way to help those in "need" or the extent of an elected government's role is legitimate.

The same is true about immigration. My wife is an immigrant to the United States. However, she did it legally. She worked as a migrant worker for much of her childhood. The issue about secular governments waging "unjust war" is moot in the sense that no one votes for individuals based upon promises of going to war. Moreover, I don't know anyone who believes in an "unjust war." They all think that the war is "just" before they get involved in such a situation.

Still, this is an interesting question. I have noticed that those who are often the loudest against government involvement are often quite vocal about government grievances. Many of those who don't want believers to "participate" in government are often either quick to enjoy the benefits of living in that country (invoking "rights," collecting tax returns, driving on government-built roads, using government-regulated internet, using the post office, etc...) or they argue that the government of consenting people should be responsible for a Biblical mandate to take care of the poor.

Many of these "secular" decisions are simply decisions about what is right, wrong or a better choice for a particular position. Like I said, the push for "homosexual marriage" will have an effect upon the Church. As pointed out, there are legal requirements that are tied to it. A Church -- including one that doesn't enjoy tax-exempt status -- could face legal scenarios that could be extremely costly in terms of money, time and concentration.

The same lawsuit scenario is true for small businesses owned or run by Christians who don't want to hire a homosexual, transvestite, etc... who might get angry if you don't offer them a job. There have been situations in which Christian book stores have been sued because they did not hire homosexuals in a state where "sexual preference" was added as a fact or in "discrimination." There have been "hate speech" laws in some states that have restricted the content of tracts and religious literature.

While it is certainly plausible to do this if the scenario arises, it could be averted or prevented if believers simply said what they thought about this issue during a statewide proposition or amendment comes to a vote.

I apologize for digressing from your post. However, I do think that we sometimes incorrectly associate voting "yes" on an amendment that retains the traditional definition of marriage as the same as "striking hands with Catholics and Mormons." In this case, it is supporting an ancient Biblical and moral definition of marriage as being between one man and one woman.

The Book of Esther is an interesting anecdote in this case. She was a Jewish woman married to a pagan king (who chose her, oddly enough, because of her physical beauty). Haman hated the Jews and wanted them destroyed (one of Satan's long-time plots...next to killing children). This was the political concept of "genocide." Esther faced a choice: She could have just left it into God's hands or risk her life by taking the step to voice her concerns with her pagan husband. Esther chose to share her voice to the king. By the grace of God (because the heart of the king is in the hand of God - Proverbs 21:1), the king acted on behalf of the people of God.

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2012/5/6 15:14

Brethren I don't mind stating my belief. I believe in the whole counsel of God. I believe in the church being separate from the State because the Kingdom of God is not of this world. I do not and will not try to get things done through politics but only by the Spirit of God.

I have been bought with a price and am not my own. I strive to stay filled with the Holy Spirit to minister to others by the Spirit and also to influence others to the Lord and His ways by the Holy Spirit. I don't look to see what any moment of this world is doing or not doing to see which way I'm going to go and do. I pray and listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit and strive to act accordingly.

Marriage is a holy institution given by the divine wisdom and kindness of God who said it is not good for man to be alone so he made a help mate for him called woman. Male and female he created them and God never said that this was best for a man and a woman to be united in holy matrimony called marriage but he actually also said that uniting in any of ways like men with men or women with women was an abomination in his sight.

Now you guys on here that seem to be more spiritual on here as in finding fault with everything else, well the end does not justify the means. Now if there comes an opportunity in the region where you live to vote for God's holy institution that he set up for the good of society and all people, and you want to stay home and talk about all the other problems in the so-called church and do nothing with your vote for God's Word then that is up to you. Then you can answer to God for all your complaining and doing nothing concerning God's holy institution but as for me I will cast my vote for God's Word on marriage. I may can't stop a society from going to hell, but I am not going to sit by on my hands and let a society go to hell quicker, because I didn't want to get involved. The Bible says that if the foundations be destroyed what can the righteous do. How do you think that it will be better for society and the little children if people who believe in God's institution of marriage sit home and let all those who hate God's standard of marriage go to the polls and eventually change God's holy institution for society? Do you not think that more innocent children will be violated and more ungodliness will abound? Do you not think that God sets up laws in the land to protect society? Do you want little children to be taught to grow up and marry either John or Jane? Brethren if I didn't vote for God's standard of marriage having the opportunity to do so, then it would be the same as "to him who knows to do good and does it not, to him it is sin."

Blessings...from brother rbanks

Re: Abominations, on: 2012/5/6 16:40

Quote:

-----uniting in any of way like men with men or women with women was an abomination in his sight.

Brother it certainly is an abomination in God's sight when men or women exchange their natural affections for unnatural affections. It is important to realise however that there are many things which God finds abominable. If saints ever go back to writing the law we will all end up in a truly shocking place. Much condemnation and accusation from the world has arisen because of what the church has done in the past. I hate homosexuality with all my being. I expect one day to go to prison for standing against it in the inevitability of preaching the gospel and seeking to keep the flock of God. Especially the little children. Can we seek to pass laws on everything which is an abomination to our God. If so we will have to include the following.

Quote:

-----There are six things which Jehovah hateth; Yea, seven which are an abomination unto him: 17 Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood; 18 A heart that deviseth wicked purposes, Feet that are swift in running to mischief, 19 A false witness that uttereth lies, And he that soweth discord among brethren. Proverbs 6 16-19

How will we make a distinction between these things.

It is good to say what one really means. Fault finding is not a reasonable ambition. But plain speech is a better thing. In the end we all have to act according to our understanding and conscience of obedience. If a brother said to me "give me a lift to the polling booth" I would give him a lift. But I wouldn't hold the pen for him!

Andrew

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2012/5/6 16:52

Andrew so you are saying that you would encourage christian people not to vote and just let people change a godly institution.

Just wondering...blessings from brother rbanks

Re: , on: 2012/5/6 18:35

That's a fair question Brother and to be completely honest on this subject I wouldn't discourage any one from voting. It would be foolish to answer the inference that doing the opposite would be equal to just letting people change a godly institution. I nearly replied, but I won't because it's simply not that simple. This isn't the place. But bless you. For a moment I nearly became a fool.

Andrew

Re: , on: 2012/5/6 21:33

Andrew writes.....

"But bless you. For a moment I nearly became a fool"

One of the wisest replies I have seen on SI.....bro Frank (who has been a fool too many times to mention)

Re: Billy Graham Endorses NC Marriage Amendment Before State Vote - posted by Trekker, on: 2012/5/7 7:52

I don't have a clue why this is considered newsworthy. Billy Graham the little idol of the evangelicals endorses a marriage amendment bill, big whoop. So does Mitt Romney, so does the Pope. So do many other apostates.

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2012/5/7 8:14

Bless you too brother Andrew!

Trekker don't you ever have anything edifying to say!

Trekker do you know how to be a blessing to people or do you just like to be contentious. I really find it hard to post with continually negative people who have nothing edifying to say. It seems you enjoy being miserable and love to make others miserable but brother I have joy unspeakable and refuse to receive such a depressing kind of spirit. I pray that you will stop being negative and I pray that God will change you to be more edifying to people.

Blessings...from brother rbanks

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2012/5/7 9:54

Quote:

-----Trekker....I don't have a clue why this is considered newsworthy...

Guess we all here could say the same about your post. You get up on the wrong side of the bed this morning, or is the coffee pot broken? :)

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2012/5/7 22:38

Trekker,

Not all people you don't like are totally wrong in all things.

I was active in the pro-life movement for fifteen years. It used to disturb me that it was the Catholics who led the fight against abortion before the evangelicals and others ever woke up that there is a problem here. Considering what was done in secret by Catholic priests and nuns it does seem as a contradiction in morals, nevertheless, people did benefit from their activism in spearheading the public's awareness of the evil inherent in the AB industry.

Do you know that when I got involved 25 years ago there were people in our church that knew little or nothing about abortion? I, a woman, had to educate them about the seriousness of this procedure. So, then, I am grateful for those who do sound the alarm even though I may not agree with them theologically. Truth is truth regardless who says it.

Just my two cents...not worth much - won't even buy a piece of candy! SIGH

Re: , on: 2012/5/9 11:02

Quote:

-----I don't have a clue why this is considered newsworthy. Billy Graham the little idol of the evangelicals endorses a marriage amendment bill, big whoop. So does Mitt Romney, so does the Pope. So do many other apostates.

This is not helpful, brother. While there are things about Billy Graham's ministry that I take issue with... to call the man an apostate is foolish. Do you know him? Have you ever sat down and talked to him? I live less than a half hour from him a

nd I have never met him or talked to him, so I doubt you have. (My two younger boys were born in the same hospital they take Billy to whenever he's sick... Mission Hospital in Asheville, NC... that's where I was when I had my heart attack too . You walk thru the Ruth & Billy Graham wing to get to maternity)

We can look at the pope and draw conclusions about him based on his teachings and heresies. Same for Mitt Romney.

But Billy Graham preaches Biblical salvation. I may not agree with his methods or his ecumenism... but he claims Christ as his savior, and I find no error in his salvation message.

Have you done as much as he has attempted to do to reach the world with the gospel? Doubtful.

Disagree with some of his methods, that's ok. I do! But you have no right to sit in judgement over him as a man and as a believer.

And if he is an "evangelical" idol that's not his fault. That's the fault of the idolatrous people who make him an idol. He's never encouraged anyone to make him an idol.

Krispy

PS: I voted FOR the marriage amendment.