

Driving Thought: The colder Christians grow the more sin grows.

1) Endgame of the LGBT agenda?

A. Be wise as serpents: Dump Christian clichés, educate yourself on the issues, and ask God for supernatural wisdom – Matthew 10:16-22

Carl F.H. Henry, “Traditional evangelical hand-me-downs are inadequate for this turning time in history.”

Marriage equality: Anything other than one man and one woman *is not marriage*...call it what you will but don't call it marriage, it is something else altogether.

The effects of sin upon even the ability to reason rationally are devastating. That's why no small number of well-educated people routinely scold Christians, “Be tolerant!” Often these reprimands are followed by legal, economic, and threatening *ad hominem*s without noticing both their own glaring intolerance and the self-referentially absurdity of their position.

Matthew 10:16-22 *Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹ When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰ For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹ Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²² and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.*

B. The endgame is to shut down churches that believe and preach the Gospel and any other politically incorrect voice of opposition.

Denny Burk warns, “Legal gay marriage is not the endgame for the gay-rights movement. It never was. Moral approval is the endgame. The agenda is not tolerance for different beliefs and lifestyles. The agenda is a demand that everyone get on board with the moral revolution or be punished. That means if you or your church won't get with the program, then the revolutionaries will endeavor to close you down. But they aren't going to say, “We'll close you down,” in so many words. They will cover it in propaganda that conceals their real aim. They'll say, as Oppenheimer does, that taxpayers are “subsidizing” churches, that ministers make fat-cat six-figure salaries, and that government should get those rich priests and preachers off the government dole.”¹

Societal benefits of churches

T.M. Luhrmann of the *New York Times* writes, “One of the most striking scientific discoveries about religion in recent years is that going to church weekly is good for you. Religious

attendance — at least, religiosity — boosts the immune system and decreases blood pressure. It may add as much as two to three years to your life. The reason for this is not entirely clear.”²

Andrew R. Lewis reports, “Churches have diverse positive impacts on communities, ranging from increased trust, improved mental and physical health, decreased crime, and enhanced levels of volunteering and community outreach.”³

Why is there such an effort to shut down opposing voices to same-sex marriage?

C. Understand the Sexual Revolution preaches a different Gospel and a different Savior:

Fulfillment is found through fulfilling sexual desires.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ confronts the lies of the Sexual Revolution. Opponents of the Gospel hate the Gospel because it exposes their sin.

John 3:19-21 *And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.*

D. It doesn't end with same-sex marriage: Polygamy/Polyamory/etc.

Cathy Young, writing for *Time*, writes, “Supporters of same-sex marriage have generally dismissed such arguments or mocked them as scaremongering. But there has also been a steady trickle of articles from the left asking what’s so wrong with legalized multi-partner marriages. Some even argue, as writer and academic Fredrik deBoer does in a recent *Politico* essay, that polygamy should be the “next horizon” of social liberalism.”⁴

Glenn Sunshine gives an ominous prediction for the future of American jurisprudence concerning marriage, “The transgender agenda will continue to be promoted and expanded, based on the premise that you are your feelings and desires and that who you are on the inside matters more than biological facts.

If sexual complementarity is not necessary for marriage and family, then there is no logical reason why marriage must be limited to two people. We can expect and are already seeing a call to recognize polyamory as a legitimate form of marriage. After all, it is simply another form of sexual self-expression, and if a group of people want to have sexual relations with each other, society should not impose its arbitrary constraints on sexual behavior by insisting only two can be married to each other at a time. I suspect that this will be the next front in the battle over marriage, and I expect it to be legalized within the next few years.

A more distant implication is the legalization of incestuous marriages. If marriage is fundamentally about the romantic attachments of the couple and not about children, there is no logical reason to prohibit incest. Should a woman in an incestuous relationship become pregnant, prenatal genetic testing and abortion can take care of any problems that might result. The “yuck” factor may delay this for a time, but apart from a change in worldview, we can expect legalization of incest to come some time after polyamory.

Another result will be the normalization of pedophilia, which is also being advocated by some today. If children are sexual beings by nature, we can expect continuing downward pressure on the age of consent. Further, the argument is already being promoted that pedophilia

is nothing more than a different sexual orientation. There will be resistance to this based on the well-known harm that comes to children from sexual abuse, but sooner or later that will begin to be de-emphasized or swept under the rug, much like the many medical problems associated with homosexuality have been. Ultimately, we can expect that the combination of reducing the age of consent and the redefinition of pedophilia as a sexual orientation will eventually lead to its normalization.

Beyond these, it is possible that other sexual activities will be normalized as well. Wesleyan University already has on-campus housing for a wide range of sexual preferences, including sado-masochism. Bestiality is another candidate for recognition. These may be more distant prospects than some of the others, though with the success of *50 Shades of Grey* normalization of sado-masochism may come sooner than we would expect.”⁵

Benjamin Domenech and Robert Tracinski report, “The polls indicate social liberalism and libertarianism is triumphant in every arena; even acceptance of polygamy has doubled in the past 15 years, according to Gallup.”⁶

Katherine Timpf reports that Yale University hosted a workshop teaching sensitivity to bestiality wherein, “Yale hosted a “sensitivity training” in which students were asked to consider topics such as bestiality, incest, and accepting money for sex... Event director Guilianna Berry ’14... “What the goal is is to increase compassion for people who may engage in activities that are not what you would personally consider normal.” McDevitt referred to the range of activities discussed in the workshop as “sexual diversity.””⁷

2) Implications: what are the implications for churches and Christ-followers?

A. We will be attacked: persecution is historically normative for Christ-followers.

John 15:18-19 *If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*

John 16:33b *“In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”*

2 Timothy 3:12-13 *Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.*

David French of *The National Review*, reports that a major insurance provider for over 8,400 churches may not provide coverage for churches who refuse to offer same-sex weddings.⁸

Benjamin Domenech writes for *The Federalist*, “Now *they* have become the blue-nosed, Puritanical establishment. Once they began to achieve their goals and saw the culture moving their way, they moved from making a plea for tolerance and freedom to demanding persecution of anyone who dissents against the new orthodoxy in even the smallest way.”⁹

State of Oregon who fined then issued a gag order for Christian bakers who refused to bake wedding cakes for same-sex marriages. “On Friday the state ordered owners Aaron and Melissa Klein to pay \$135,000 in damages to a lesbian couple they turned away in 2013. The state also

slapped a gag order on the evangelical Christian bakers – banning them from speaking publicly about their refusal to participate in or bake wedding cakes for same-sex unions... “The goal is never to shut down a business. The goal is to rehabilitate.”¹⁰

B. We will stand: courage is historically normative for genuine Christ-followers.

Menno Simons, *“It is better to incur the disfavor, scorn and slander of man and remain in the truth, than to be the favorite of man and sin against God.”*

Revelation 12:11 *And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.*

Luther’s statement at the Diet of Worms, “I consider myself convicted by the testimony of Holy Scripture, which is my basis; my conscience is captive to the Word of God. Thus I cannot and will not recant, because acting against one’s conscience is neither safe nor sound. Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God. Amen.”

C. Be a missional prophet rather than a misguided patriot. Don’t allow a misguided sense of patriotism to destroy your chance to speak the truth in love.

Those who love God make the best patriots because they will do what’s right for their country even if their country doesn’t recognize it. Christian martyrs were the best of the best in what they could offer their countries. They taught husbands to love their wives and tenderly discipline their children rather than abuse them by neglect or anger. They taught workers to do whatever they do as if God Himself called in the order. These persecuted ones preached against corruption and elevated Jesus so that people would become like Jesus. The character of Christ is what makes the best citizen in every country. A culture that persecutes Christians is a symptom of cultural suicide because it is an attempt to eradicate its only source of preservation.

3) Engaging in dialogue: How should we engage in the dialogue while being both loving and faithful to the truth especially with friends and family who identify with the LGBT lifestyle?

A. Understand there is already a stereotype waiting for you.

Let our acts of Christian love be the backup for our words of truth.

Objection: You Christians are unloving!

Rebuttal: If we truly believe that God exists and created sexuality as nature and Scripture reveal, to claim that we’re unloving is irrational. The most potent charge you can level is that we’re confused about the facts of sexuality, not that we’re unloving (although many Christians have certainly acted unloving). The only way you can charge us with being unloving is if we believed God’s view of sexuality and *didn’t* speak up about it. To see our friends and family heading towards destruction and not try to do something about it is the apex of callousness.

B. Be willing to say, “Your actions are wrong but I still love you.”

C. Know your stuff but answer with gentleness & respect.

1 Peter 3:14-17 *But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,*¹⁵ *but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,*¹⁶ *having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.*¹⁷ *For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.*

4) Family preparation: how should we prepare our children and students for a world in which most everything is tolerated except the Christian view?

A. Teach them the creation story as it relates to gender roles & sexuality.

B. Talk about Bible heroes who stood for God when no one else did.

C. Read Proverbs to them: Learn godly wisdom & obedience.

D. Read the Bible to them: Talk about sin and the Savior.

E. Learn Christian history together: *Read Foxe's Book of Martyrs* and visit the website www.vom.com (Voice of the Martyrs) so they can learn of people whose faith in Christ has cost them something.

Christians who never suffered governmental or cultural persecution can be almost exclusively found in North America during the past 200 years.

F. Model biblical marriage: Dad takes the lead in admitting mistakes and asking forgiveness, praying and reading the Bible together as a family.

¹ Denny Burk, "Ending Tax Exemptions Means Ending Churches: *A call for ending tax exemptions for churches and religious institutions is a call to close them down—or at least to plunder them of their property,*" *The Federalist*, June 29, 2015, <http://thefederalist.com/2015/06/29/ending-tax-exemptions-means-ending-churches/>

² T.M. Luhrmann, "Why Going to Church is Good for You," *The New York Times*, April 20, 2013, http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/21/opinion/sunday/luhrmann-why-going-to-church-is-good-for-you.html?_r=0

³ Andrew R. Lewis, "Some Positive Benefits Churches Bring to Communities," *The Ethics and Religious Liberties Commission*, March 13, 2008, <https://erlc.com/article/some-positive-benefits-churches-bring-to-communities>

⁴ Cathy Young, "Polygamy is Not Next," *Time*, June 30, 2015, <http://time.com/3942139/polygamy-is-not-next/>

⁵ Glenn Sunshine, "The Roots of the SCOTUS Decision on Same-Sex 'Marriage,'" *The Stream*, July 6, 2015, <https://stream.org/roots-scotus-decision-sex-marriage/>

⁶ Benjamin Domenech and Robert Tracinski, “Welcome To Culture War 4.0: The Coming Overreach: *Let’s turn the culture war into a culture competition*,” *The Federalist*, July 6, 2015, <http://thefederalist.com/2015/07/06/welcome-to-culture-war-4-0-the-coming-overreach/>

⁷ Katherine Timpf, “Yale hosts workshop teaching sensitivity to bestiality,” March 5, 2013, *Campus Reform*, <http://www.campusreform.org/?ID=4646>

⁸ David French, “For Churches That Won’t Perform Same-Sex Weddings, Insurance Begins to Look Iffy,” July 8, 2015, *National Review*, <http://www.nationalreview.com/article/420928/churches-gay-marriage-insurance?tsrvqUZ2WLkiLuwX.01>

⁹ *Ibid.*, Benjamin Domenech and Robert Tracinski, “Welcome To Culture War 4.0: The Coming Overreach.”

¹⁰ Todd Starnes, “Oregon silences bakers who refused to make cake for gay wedding,” July 6, 2015, *Fox News*, <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2015/07/06/state-silences-bakers-who-refused-to-bake-cake-for-lesbians.html>