

THE SOUTHEAST SOWER

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“ACCORDING TO MY GOD”

L. A. STAUFFER

We modern folks view idolatry as a thing of the past. We reflect on Greek or Roman mythology purely for historical reasons and do not for a moment attach any reality to the “gods” they worshipped. Does anyone today really believe in the deity of Zeus, Diana, or Bacchus? Can this even be viewed as a serious question?

Surely we, to a person, see these gods as the creation of fertile minds to meet some felt need of man in ancient times or to explain mysterious phenomenon in the universe. We today smile in disbelief that men would make gods out of gold or silver or stone or wood and then bow before them as though they possessed wisdom, power, and supernatural ability to control nature or man’s life and destiny.

And yet, men still create gods. How often have we heard both prominent and ordinary citizens rationalize some behavior in the name of “their god”? Several years ago, a news anchor for a local TV channel in St. Louis turned to God to justify an immoral belief she held. She affirmed that God is not “homophobic,” which we understand to mean that He does not oppose the so-called “alternative lifestyle” of homosexuals. The anchor stated first that God is not homophobic, then added—at least “my god” is not.

Now, what is that supposed to mean? Is there a “god” out there other than the God who created the universe and revealed the scriptures? She, of course, was by implication attacking all those Bible-believing religious fundamentalists who oppose

homosexuality and homosexual marriages as immoral. Her word “homophobic: charged them with being either fearful or unloving toward men and women who engage in unnatural lusts. If this was her point, she is dead wrong.

Religious fundamentalists, who are Bible believers, love homosexuals. They must because God so loved that He sent Jesus to die for them. On the other hand, they oppose homosexuality because God condemned it both in the Old and New Testaments. God sent fire from heaven, if you believe the Bible, to destroy an entire region dominated by homosexuals. God described them as “wicked” and their behavior as “iniquity” (Gen. 19:7, 15). In the New Testament, God described such behavior as a perversion of

The Southeast Church of Christ meets at:

35 Walnut Ct.

Mogadore, OH 44260

Phone:

330.628.7432

SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study:

10:00 am

Worship:

10:50 am

6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:

7:30 pm

what is natural and judged it as a vile passion that will ultimately receive from Him a recompense of condemnation and death (Rom. 1:26-32; see also Rom. 6:23; Rev. 2:18).

Jesus Christ came to earth, lived a perfect life, and performed miracles to demonstrate that He is the Son of God and that His message is from God. He also empowered apostles to heal the sick and raise the dead to confirm that their message was also from God (see Mark 16:17-20; Heb. 2:3-4). If men believe these God-given signs, then they must also believe the teaching these men revealed in scripture. It was they who declared that homosexuality is a sin, that they that practice it cannot inherit God's eternal kingdom, and that God demands that men forsake it and be washed, sanctified, and justified (1 Cor. 6:9-11).

Our question to this reporter, to all other media spokesmen, and any other person who seeks to justify the practice of homosexuality: "What is the evidence that God has spoken to you and assured you that homosexuality is an acceptable lifestyle?" Our local reporter, of course, does not stand alone in proclaiming the innocence of immoral behavior— "according," as she said, "to my god." It is far from unusual to hear people affirm in the name of God that, contrary to Bible teaching, it is all right to "live together" in what the

Bible calls fornication, to enter a homosexual marriage, and to divorce one's mate for any reason and remarry.

Each of these persons has created his/her own god, ascribed to that god a set of ethical and moral values, and from that god rationalized as acceptable what the Bible clearly condemns as immoral. This is nothing short of "idolatry" -- creating in one's mind a god that approves of behavior that he himself in his own heart has judged right and good. If any man made a god out of gold, silver, stone, or wood, and engraved or carved these principles onto a statue of their god, we would laugh them to scorn if they bowed before this image in honor and obeisance. But let any man baldly and boldly affirm the purity of immoral conduct "according to my god" and many people believe and accept it.

"I DON'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP"

David Tant

The Manhattan Church . . .

of Christ is certainly "on the march" for innovations. A while back they had a "Fashion Extravaganza," with women from American Designs and Dame Diop and others hosting a DINNER AND FASHION SHOW. Tickets a measly \$15. — This goes right along with a "church of Christ" advertising a "Coon Huntin' for Christ" one Saturday in an effort to drum up interest in the community.

The "Rev" Sun Myung Moon . . .

the supreme mogul of the Unification Church, was given a banquet honoring him in the Senate Office Building (hard to believe that our lawmakers are that nutty) March 23, 2004. On that occasion, Moon proclaimed himself "Savior, Returning Lord and True Parent." He further claimed that Hitler and Stalin have found strength in my teachings, mended their ways and been reborn as new persons (Atlanta Journal, 6/26/04)

... My personal view is that he is "moonstruck" and delusional. You may remember some years ago that he was convicted of fraud. In court he claimed that Jesus had spoken to him in person. Asked how he knew it was Jesus, he replied, "I recognized him because I have seen his holy picture."

The Gospel Plan of Salvation:

HEAR (Rom. 10:17)

BELIEVE (Jn. 3:16)

REPENT (Acts 3:19)

CONFESS (Rom. 10:9)

BAPTISM (Acts 2:38)

LIVE FAITHFULLY (2 Tim. 3:7-8)

Don't Forget Our Shut-Ins:

Delores Otto

Pat Shane