



Boycott of Chick-fil-A called for

Proponents of same-sex marriage are calling for a boycott of the national chain restaurant Chick-fil-A after the company's president, Dan Cathy, said he believes marriage is God-ordained between a man and a woman. Cathy's comments were made during an interview by *The Biblical Reporter* and quickly brought censure from mainstream media pundits. Writing for the Huffington Post, Christina Pesoli questioned whether Cathy made a smart business move with his comments. Pesoli asks, "But what does marriage equality have to do with fried chicken sandwiches?"

In the same article Pesoli has no problem with businesses that make "public statements in support of equality," as if that is a smart business move.

Sadly, Pesoli is correct when she says, "But poll after poll shows that with each passing day the number of Americans who support marriage equality grows. And just a few months ago a poll confirmed that more Americans now support marriage equality than oppose it."

The singular byword attached to Cathy and the Chick-fil-A business is "hate." Because the family that founded the successful Chick-fil-A enterprise claim to be devout Christians—Baptists at that—and adhere to the biblical proscription against sodomy and related sins, they are painted with the broad brush of bigotry and hatred as the motive behind their stance.

Prior to Cathy's comments to *The Biblical Recorder* there the family kept its opinion on same-sex marriage to itself. The reason is expressed in their response to the criticism received by the leftist media. In a statement issued to its customers July 19, Chick-fil-A said, "Going forward, our intent is to leave the policy debate over same-sex marriage to the government and political arena." It affirmed that the company's tradition is "to treat every person with honor, dignity and respect—regardless of their belief, race, creed, sexual orientation or gender." It also affirmed that it will continue to apply "biblically-based principles" to business management as it has always done.

But it is not enough that Chick-fil-A treats everyone with equity; how dare its president, the son of founder S. Truett Cathy, express a personal view contrary to the self-professed "liberal" mindset. What is liberal about those who wish to stifle expressions of personally-held beliefs, even if those beliefs are

"controversial" (read, "contrary to the leftist, pinko, commie agenda").

Taking its own "righteous" stance against the "bigotry" and "hatred" of Chick-fil-A's owners. Jim Henson Company announced it would no longer partner with Chick-fil-A in supplying the Creature Shop Puppet Kids Meal toys. Just prior to the Henson Company's announcement, Chick-fil-A issued a recall of the toys due to a possible safety issue.

Jim Henson Company announced on its Facebook page that they do "not wish to partner with [Chick-fil-A] on any future endeavors."

"The Jim Henson Company has celebrated and embraced diversity and inclusiveness for over fifty years and we have notified Chick-Fil-A that we do not wish to partner with them on any future endeavors," the statement read. "Lisa Henson, our CEO is personally a strong supporter of gay marriage and has directed us to donate the payment we received from Chick-Fil-A to GLAAD [Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation]." Boston Mayor Thomas Menino has gone so far as to state that he would try to block a Chick-fil-A from opening in the city.

According to the Boston Herald, Menino said, "Chick-fil-A doesn't belong in Boston. You can't have a business in the city of Boston that discriminates against the population. We're an open city, we're a city that's at the forefront of inclusion.... And we're not going to have a company, Chick-fil-A or whatever the [expletive] the name is, on our Freedom Trail."

The Freedom Trail is a path through the streets of Boston highlighting historic sites from the Revolutionary War.

Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel expressed similar sentiments, and alderman Joe Moreno, angered by Cathy's comments has said he will block Chick-fil-A from building a restaurant in his ward. Moreno wants the company to file a comprehensive anti-discrimination statement with the city.

"They have nothing on the books that says they do not discriminate and they are open to everyone," said Moreno. "I want to see that policy before they go forward."

While Moreno says he does not dispute Cathy's right to free speech, he said, "There are consequences for freedom of speech; in this case the consequences are...you're not going to have your first free-standing restaurant in Chicago."

In response to the calls for boycotts against Chick-fil-A, former presidential contender Mick Huckabee said he is "incensed" at the way Chick-fil-A has been treated. Huckabee has launched a nationwide Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day for Aug. 1, urging people to do business with Chick-fil-A on that day or support it through social media.

COMMENTARY

Individuals who disagree with Chick-fil-A's policy on same-sex marriage have every right to boycott the company and to criticize its position. But when government officials actively work to deny the company the ability to operate, it is thought control by government.

Alderman Joe Moreno says he's acting because Chick-fil-A has not yet provided a comprehensive anti-discrimination policy. Has Moreno required this of every business? If not, he is selectively forcing his morality on others.

Chick-fil-A's president, Dan Cathy, was not proactive in his statement that he believes in traditional family values; he was responding to a question by a reporter for a Christian publication. Should he be denied his freedom of speech or conscience for stating his position? May Christians no longer discuss these things among themselves or in their own media without suffering sanctions by government? What other ideas might the government feel free to restrict?

This is not yet the USSA. The ideological conflicts among philosophical and religious differences should be allowed to exist without the government taking sides and selectively punishing people for what they think or say. I believe even liberals would (or should) agree with that.

Things are heating up over this whole issue of same-sex "marriage." If the mayor of an American city can successfully prevent a private business from opening its doors simply on the basis that the owners of that business hold personal views contrary to those of the mayor, or even to the vast majority of the city's citizens, then we will truly be under a police state.

Orwell will have missed the mark by a scant thirty years should such a vituperative attitude expand from Boston and Chicago to other cities nationwide; it will establish a precedent not only for local government, but could easily be embraced by the states and the federal government.

It will be interesting to see what happens at the end of the coming collegiate football season. Since 1994, Chick-fil-A, based in College Park, Georgia, has been the title sponsor of the Peach Bowl, played in Atlanta. In 2006, the Peach Bowl became the Chick-fil-A Bowl. Chick-fil-A is also a major sponsor of the SEC, ACC, and Big 12 conferences of college athletics.

Will Chick-fil-A be allowed to continue its sponsorships? We'll see.

A line has been drawn in the sand. And it's time for Christians to get their heads out of that sand and realize that we have no place in this world system. Virtually all major corporations have jumped on the sodomy bandwagon; a vast majority of government and social institutions are in the camp. Just as Jesus said, "Because iniquity will abound, the love of many will grow cold" (Matt. 24:12). The love of many cannot grow cold unless those many held love in the first place. Jesus was speaking of those who at one time may love Him.

It is now fashionable to bash Christians just for believing in the Bible as the Word of God, even without reference to sodomy. If one bases one's life choices on biblical teachings one is automatically labeled a hater.

By whom? By the ungodly who are the true haters.

But we need not be in distress over this situation. Scripture prophesied of this day, warning us of the world's hatred of Jesus and those who love Him.

These are perilous times for God's people, but they are also joyful times because we know they point to the Lord's return.

Until He does return, all the hoopla we hear in the Christian media about the "transformation" of society through Christian activism is hot air. There will be no transformation of society until the Lord returns. Those who believe otherwise are in for a rude awakening. We can't even transform the churches, let alone secular society. The same sins that plague society plague the churches, including sodomy. As things are now, and as they are progressing (or, more accurately, regressing), any hoped-for transformation of society would take eons to accomplish. And that, only if man were to miraculously shed his sin nature.

That isn't going to happen—ever—apart from the resurrection.

Only individuals who surrender to Christ Jesus receive the new nature, and even then we are prone to wander, as the song says.

Christians who are hoping for a better world don't realize what they are hoping for—at best untold centuries of growing misery, sin, hatred, warfare, and every ungodly plague of unrighteousness that is only increasing daily—no, minute-by-minute.

Far better to return to the biblical hope for the Lord's return. Sooner than later. ❖

The *HuffPost Gay Voices* blog lists the following national companies that support same-sex "marriage" and other sodomite causes:

American Apparel	Microsoft
Betty Crocker	Oreo Cookies
Cheerios	Old Navy
Crest Toothpaste	Pampers
Ford Automobiles	Pepsi Cola
GAP	Pillsbury
Girl Scouts of America	Safeway
Green Giant	Starbucks
Home Depot	Target Stores
JCP (J.C. Penny)	Tide
Levis	Walgreen Drugstores
Macy's	Walt Disney World
	Wheaties



**Everybody wants to be treated like royalty,
But few want to act as royalty should act.**

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