

# Editorial

## California's Proposition 8 stirs hatred

Claims of hatred rang out on both sides of the controversial Proposition 8 passed in November by California voters. Proposition 8 amends the California Constitution to define marriage as a civil union between one man and one woman. It overrode the California Supreme Court's decision that recognized same-sex marriage in that state as a fundamental right.

More than 40 Democrat legislators have filed a friend-of-the-court brief urging the California Supreme Court to overturn the initiative. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has also asked the court to overturn the amendment and has predicted that the 18,000 homosexual and lesbian couples who have already wed would not see their marriages annulled by the initiative.

"It's unfortunate, obviously, but it's not the end," he said in a CNN interview. "I think that we will again maybe undo that, if the court is willing to do that, and then move forward from there and again lead in that area."

Homosexual "rights" advocates accuse those who voted for the amendment of harboring hatred toward homosexuals and lesbians. Those who voted for the amendment accuse homosexuals and their proponents of exhibiting hatred against Christians and others who displayed signs and bumper stickers in support of the amendment.

The media have not fully addressed the actual incidents of vandalism and/or epithets hurled during and after the volatile campaigns for and against Proposition 8. But of what they did report, it appears as if the "love" campaign for homosexual marriage has by far outdone those against it.

Sources from many areas in California report cars vandalized (keyed or smashed)

for displaying "Yes on 8" stickers; destruction of property that displayed "Yes on 8" signs; people roughed up for speaking in favor of Proposition 8.

The culture of "Love" has often proven it is anything but. Those who protest for "Love" are among the most hateful and destructive, just as those who protest for "Peace" are often the most violent in their demonstrations.

Caught in the midst of the battle are the Church of Jesus Christ, Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) and Rick Warren's Saddleback Community Church in Orange County, California. Immediately after Proposition 8 passed, LDS churches and others, most notably Saddleback Community Church, were besieged by picketers protesting the involvement of these churches in the campaign and demanding that their tax-exempt status be removed for having involved themselves in politics.

The culture of "Tolerance" has also proven it is anything but. Leftists who call themselves "liberals" are among the most intolerant people. They can become downright hateful against those who don't buy into their belief system. The leftists are all for the "rights" of homosexuals. They have infiltrated the schools, government, and even the churches to advance their ungodly agendas. Now they call for removal of tax-exempt status for churches that go counter to their agenda in favor of homosexual marriage. Smashing anything in their path, they yell "Intolerance!" against their detractors.

Yet at the same time, they were happy to have leftist pastors promote from their pulpits the defeat of Proposition 8. They don't ask that those churches lose their tax-exempt status. In fact, they use those deluded pastors as evidence that "Christ" is on their side.

Truthfully, I don't care about the tax-exempt status of churches. Nor would I care if the LDS churches disappeared overnight. As far as Rick Warren's Saddleback Community Church goes, our readers know where we stand on Warren's unscriptural and worldly philosophy masquerading as biblical truth. My point is

that believers in Jesus must separate from the world system that seeks to draw us into its controversies and distract us from serving our Lord through the proclamation of the true Gospel.

That doesn't mean believers in Christ aren't free to voice opinions or to even vote on worldly issues. But we must understand that just because someone sees things our way on specific issues doesn't mean they are on God's side.

What is the greater danger—government sanctioning homosexual marriage, or credibility being given to the Mormon religion or even to Rick Warren?

Naturally our preference is none of the above. But the world will go the way it wants to go. God's Word says that the whole world lies in wickedness (1 John 5:19). The world system includes the religions of the world, including Christian churches (as opposed to the Body of Christ). That's not to say some churches are not serving the Lord and remaining faithful, but the prospect of remaining faithful becomes more difficult when the affairs of the world encroach upon them. As a result, true believers will often be found allied with satanic religious elements for a common cause of "good." But "good" does not necessarily equate with "life."

Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; anyone who would come to the Father must come through Me."

Hatred lives in the hearts of most who do not know Jesus as their Savior and Lord regardless on which side of moral issues they stand. The only side to which believers are called is the side of Life.

Just as the Angel of YHWH answered Joshua who mistook Him for a man and asked if He were for Israel or its adversaries, "No, but I have come as the captain of YHWH's army," we do not take any side but that of the true God.

This is a difficult thing for most Christians to receive. Many have been infected by dominion theology to believe that our battle is a religious or moral one rather than one of faith.

Faith is a gift from God; whatever is not of faith is sin; to join with the ungodly for a "good" cause is not acting in faith. More often than not it is acting in fear. We can see how, in the interest of "good," we may find ourselves acting in fear, often in union with the ungodly.

Of course, there will sometimes be issues that appeal to believers and non-believers alike simply because they are pragmatic ones that do not touch upon morality or religion. But sometimes there are issues such as Proposition 8 which involve a moral decision. We are not to support or defend ungodly institutions such as Mormonism just because they see things our way on moral issues.

Another difficult thing for believers in Christ to accept is the inevitability of evil overtaking the world. But Jesus warned us of this:

“And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it also be in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

“Likewise also, as it was in the days of Lot, they ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built. But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from the heavens, and destroyed them all.” (Luke 17:26-29)

Mankind in Noah’s day was so wicked that God determined to destroy all life on earth. We have not yet reached that stage, but those conditions must manifest again.

As surely as God’s Word is true, such attempts to stem the homosexual agenda, such as Proposition 8, will ultimately fail. If the current California Supreme Court doesn’t overturn it, then another court will, perhaps even the U.S. Supreme Court, which would nullify all states’ rights to determine such issues.

Believers in Jesus know that God established marriage as a union between men and women. His Word states that sexual relations between people of the same gender are hateful to Him (Leviticus 20:13).

But in most cases the world does not see things God’s way. Those in favor of homosexuality recite many things from Scripture that God calls “abominations” in order to protest being singled out. But those who engage in those other abominations do not have strong PACs or media-relations organizations working on their behalf to normalize their acts.

Some protest that Leviticus 20:13 refers to promiscuous homosexual acts, not to

committed relationships. They have received support for this idea from quisling pastors who are wolves in sheep’s clothing. But let’s consider their claim.

First, there is no qualification given by God to this prohibition. It merely states:

If a man also lies with mankind, as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.

Lacking any qualification that would allow for “committed relationships” in this verse, we must look elsewhere:

For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who withhold the truth in unrighteousness, because that which may be known about God is revealed in them, for God has shown it to them. For His invisible things from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made—even His eternal power and Godhead—so that they are without excuse. Because when they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, neither were they thankful, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.

Therefore, God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves, who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

Because of this, God gave them up to vile affections, for even their women changed the natural use into that which is against nature. And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust toward one another—men with men, performing that which is shameful, and receiving in themselves the compensation of their error which was suitable.

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind to do those things which are not fit. (Romans 1:18-28)

Where in all this is the qualification for “committed relationships”?

Homosexuality has nothing to do with faith in Jesus; it has everything to do with paganism. Scripture is clear that relations between a man and a woman are “natural.” And it doesn’t qualify that for marriage alone. Even fornication between a man and a woman is natural, if sinful. But homosexual and lesbian relationships are unnatural, just as are relations between humans and animals. They are both classified as unnatural by God because He did not create man for such acts. There are no qualifications to these pronouncements.

Those who promote the homosexual agenda do not wish to accept God’s Word as their authority. But they will convolute His Word to make it fit their ungodly agenda. If they find a Scripture that may be taken out of context to support their agenda, they will use it. In the process they attempt to turn the tables and accuse those who oppose them of plotting evil. God’s Word speaks to them:

“Sorrow to those who call evil ‘good’ and good ‘evil’—who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! (Isaiah 5:20)

The deceivers called “pastors” who support and even preach evil are all the more answerable to God for their hatred of God’s truth. There is no fear of God in them. Their consciences are seared.

But do not think that all those on the side of morality are on safe ground. Satan often uses “morality” and “goodness” to propagate his lies. They may be found in many churches whose pastors are deceivers of another kind. At best many are hirelings who will abandon the sheep when persecution arises.

There is only one place in which we may place our trust: YHWH God and His only-begotten Son, Jesus. And the only place we may learn the truth about them is in God’s Word—the Bible, properly understood through the working of the Holy Spirit in our minds and hearts.

All else is quicksand. ❖