

Tuesday, June 2, 2015 - A "Hero" No More

The year 1976 was a very interesting time to be a young boy in this country. The United States Bicentennial, where from coast to coast, the United States celebrated the 200th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, was at the forefront of a year which saw a presidential election, the Viking program, that sent a pair of American space probes to Mars, and both winter and summer Olympic games. The Summer Olympics featured U.S. track and field athlete Bruce Jenner who won the gold medal for the decathlon event, setting a world record of 8,634 points. Hailed as a "hero" for his athletic accomplishments, Jenner is now nothing more than a freak in the immorality side show the majority of this world has come to embrace.

The situation involving Jenner is not surprising considering his family's "notoriety" started with a pornographic video tape involving one of his step-daughters. The media frenzy which has surrounded the situation of Jenner CHOOSING to alter his sexual identity has led many to ask, "What's next for this family?" That answer is easy: I know thy path and it leads to Hell. Judgmental? Yes, from a sense that no one, with an understanding of God's commands, can point to scripture and show where, aside from complete repentance and obedience to Jehovah, that this family can ever be on the correct side of that great gulf which is fixed between those CHOOSING torture for all eternity and those who will rejoice in the presence of God.

Westley Hazel, in his 2007 sermon from the Freed Hardeman lectures, correctly reasoned:

"In the not too distant past of our society, a discussion of sexual identity would have been unheard of. Men were men and women were women. Those who questioned such fundamental ideas were regulated to the fringes of society. Their practices were viewed as being sinful, sick, and in many cases illegal. With the AIDS outbreak that swept our nation in the 1980's, homosexuality was thrust into the public discussion in ways that it never had been before. People began to talk about homosexuality as it relates to almost every facet of our society: the military, schools, sports, television, and even the church. Suddenly and sadly, we had an epidemic on our hands of men and women struggling with their sexual identity. People began talking about being born male but being female on the inside, or being born female but being male on the inside. This confusion of sexual identity has led to homosexuality, bisexuality, transexuality, sex changes, and a wide assortment of activities once considered taboo. In our society these activities have made their way from the dark back alleys all the way to the set of the Oprah Winfrey show for millions to see and accept.

Ever since the 1970's, most psychotherapists have been telling the American public that homosexuality is a genetic condition, like being right-handed or left-handed. This is a baseless lie told in order to justify sinful sexual identities. (If any one doubts this statement I can point you to multiple studies affirming this fact. - CD)

We can have confidence that the Bible provides answers and hope for those individuals and societies who are struggling with their sexual identity. God defined the parameters of a human sexual relationship from the beginning of creation. In Mark 10:6-9 Jesus said, "But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and the two shall become one flesh; consequently they are no longer two but one flesh, what therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

Our Lord affirms two truths in this passage: 1) God, through His Providence, determines our gender. This is NOT determined by feelings, experiences or any other factors. 2) Only

heterosexual relationships, between a man and woman, are intended by God. These sexual relationships are limited further to only married men and women. This has been God's intention "from the beginning."

I am NOT diminishing those who struggle with issues of sexual identity, but we CAN'T look to the world for answers. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death." (Prov. 14:12)

Our identity is found in Jesus Christ as we strive to live for him all the days of our life. Two, of many, passages drive this point home:

Col. 2:6-15 - 6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. 8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces[a] of this world rather than on Christ. 9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. 11 In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh[b] was put off when you were circumcised by[c] Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you[d] alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Romans 6:3-10 - Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him through baptism unto death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection; 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away, that so we should no longer be in bondage to sin; 7 for he that hath died is justified from sin. 8 But if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him; 9 knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death no more hath dominion over him. 10 For the death that he died, he died unto sin once: but the life that he liveth, he liveth unto God.