

The Advance of Evil

By Allen Dvorak

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Amos lived in the village of Tekoa in the wilderness of Judah, south of Jerusalem. Although he was a citizen of the southern kingdom of Judah, God sent him to the northern kingdom of Israel to preach against the sins being committed there during the reigns of Uzziah and Jeroboam II. Amos' message was that divine punishment for the sins of immorality and social injustice was definitely coming and it would involve terrible suffering (Amos 2:6-3:2).

It took courage for Amos to preach as he did. One can easily imagine that there were those of the northern kingdom who didn't much appreciate the preaching of Amos – neither the condemnation of their behavior nor the prediction of terrible temporal judgment to come. Amaziah, the priest of Bethel (site of calf idolatry), complained to king Jeroboam about Amos (7:10-11) and warned God's prophet, "Go, you seer! Flee to the land of Judah. There eat bread and there prophesy. But never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is the royal residence" (7:12-13).

It requires courage to stand up to evil and to identify it for what it is. We aren't told what happened to Amos as a result of his preaching in the northern kingdom, but another prophet would essentially bear the same message to the southern kingdom of Judah some years later. Jeremiah would definitely suffer physically because of his relentless preaching against the evils practiced by the rulers and people of Judah (Jeremiah 18:18-23; 20:1-6; 38:1-13). Yet he would not, could not remain silent - "Then I said, 'I will not make mention of Him, nor speak anymore in His name.' But *His word* was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding *it* back, and I could not" (Jeremiah 20:9).

There is definitely a concerted effort by some special-interest groups to radically transform the moral landscape of this nation, an effort apparently supported at the highest levels of our federal government. Recently it was reported that Department of Justice (DOJ) employees were emailed a brochure prepared by DOJ Pride, an association of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender employees of the DOJ.¹ The brochure was entitled "LGBT Inclusion at Work: The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Managers."

The brochure encouraged all employees to vocally affirm homosexuality. "Don't judge or remain silent. Silence will be interpreted as disapproval." Employees were also instructed to post "DOJ Pride" stickers in their workplaces as an indication "that it is a safe place." The brochure discouraged the use of traditional terms such as "husband" and "wife" in favor of "inclusive" descriptions like "partner" or "significant other." Phrases such as "gay lifestyle" or "sexual preference" were also to be avoided because they are "considered by many as offensive."

Let that sink in. "Silence will be interpreted as disapproval." I personally can remember a time, years ago, when homosexuals were often "closeted," i.e., they hid their behavior/sexual preference from the public and even close associates, unwilling or afraid to face the general disapproval of such immorality. But we gradually became "liberated" as a people, largely due to the incessant programming of television, and homosexuals were encouraged to "come out of the closet," to publicly acknowledge their behavior. The next step for the homosexual lobby was to defend homosexuality as genetically determined rather than a choice made by the individual. No one can be held responsible for conduct that

¹ The information regarding the brochure and responses to it was gathered from an article authored by Todd Starnes and published by Fox News & Commentary (5/28/13). The URL to the article is: <http://radio.foxnews.com/toddstarnes/top-stories/doj-tells-employees-to-verbally-affirm-homosexuality.html>

is the result of genetics! Opposition to homosexuality was then equated to racial prejudice. “A person can’t determine his sexual orientation any more than he can choose the color of his skin.”

The defense of homosexuality as morally neutral was followed by charges that opposition to homosexuality was *inherently* motivated by hate, fear and/or bigotry. It is certainly true that some opposition to homosexuality is the result of base or prejudicial motivations, but all opponents to homosexual practices were “painted with the same brush.” Such charges were extremely effective in the effort to curry the sympathy of the general public. “Religious people are mean-spirited and judgmental toward anyone who is different from them.”

Silencing any and all groups or individuals who speak against homosexual practices as sexual immorality is not, however, adequate in the view of the homosexual lobby. “Silence will be interpreted as disapproval” and disapproval of homosexuality is not tolerated in some cultural contexts. Rather it is to be punished. There are constant examples of individuals/groups who have been singled out for some form of punishment because they spoke out against homosexuality. Cancelled public invitations, compulsory “sensitivity training” in the workplace and lawsuits are merely a few of the ways that opposition is punished. One wonders if any person working in the Department of Justice and who doesn’t “vocally affirm homosexuality” can be promoted very high in the current environment. When government officials control the funding for organizations, it is easy to “encourage the right kind of behavior.”

Mat Staver, founder of Liberty Counsel, characterized the Department of Justice’s actions: “This administration is pushing the most radical, immoral agenda on the American people. Christians are not merely required to ‘shut up,’ but now they are being coerced to embrace immorality that goes against their sincerely held religious beliefs.”

We may be inclined to think that this battle doesn’t concern us because we are not specifically involved or affected, but such is incorrect thinking. If we are not yet specifically affected by the advance of this evil, we will be in the near future. As laid out in this article, our society is being fundamentally changed...and not for the better.

As the lives of Amos and Jeremiah (and countless other saints) demonstrate, it requires courage to take a stand for right behavior. It also will most definitely exact a cost. Those who want to engage in homosexual practices are not content with the freedom to do so; they want to silence and even punish any who are not vocally supportive of their behavior. Are we willing and ready to pay the price for affirming our convictions?
