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## Gays Should Understand the Religious, and Vice Versa

By Michelle A. Vu  
Christian Post Reporter  
Fri, Jul. 11 2008 11:10 AM EDT

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WASHINGTON – The issue of same-sex “marriage” provokes strong emotions and actions on both sides of the debate with little common ground seemingly to be found. But on Thursday the beginning of an unlikely understanding appeared to emerge at a panel discussion that included Christian conservatives and a gay activist.

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All five panelists at the Family Research Council event, with the exception of the gay activist, were against California’s ruling to legalize same-sex “marriage.” At the end of the discussion, no one had changed their position although both sides felt they could better understand the issue from the other’s point of view.

On the traditional marriage side, some panelists listed legal problems, including infringement on religious liberty, which resulted from California’s recent ruling that legalized same-sex “marriage.”

Chief Counsel Benjamin Bull of the Alliance Defense Fund gave examples of California churches that have been sued for refusing to perform same-sex weddings. He also questioned how California’s same-sex “marriage” ruling will affect state clerks that do not want to grant marriage licenses to homosexual couples because of their religious beliefs.

“What is the problem with the California same-sex ‘marriage’ case?” Bull asked. “There are lots of problems with it that are huge and profound.

“One of them is what radical, homosexual-activists will do with the new institution of same-sex ‘marriage’ and use it as a battering ram across America to blast open new areas that ultimately diminish the rights of Christians to express their faith in their lives and how they live.”

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Bull, who has defended the religious freedom of many Christians in gay rights cases, contends that in the end a person’s faith will only be a “personalized, individualized” faith and that you can “think about it but you can’t even talk about it” if the homosexual agenda continues to spread.

Yet he softened after hearing Professor Chai R. Feldblum of Georgetown University Law Center speak about the issue from the other perspective. He had expressed eagerness to talk more with the gay activist after hearing her moderate tone.

Feldblum, who described herself as a practicing lesbian, said she is against the gay community’s lack of respect for religious people’s values. As a former Orthodox Jew and daughter of a rabbi, Feldblum said she understands being religious means engaging in certain conducts.

“My sense of being religious completely intertwined with conduct that I did as a religious Jew,” she said. “If someone had told me that I could be a religiously firm Jew but I couldn’t engage in certain conduct or I had to engage in certain conduct – like I had to turn on the light on Shabbos (weekly Sabbath or day of rest in Judaism) – ‘What is the big deal you are just turning on the light on Shabbos?’

“Ok, let me tell you for a firm Jew if you do not turn on the light for Shabbos. That’s a sin,” she said. “Nor do you facilitate someone else who is Jewish to turn on the light. That’s a sin.”

As a result of her own former religious background, Feldblum said she “can’t stand” those in the gay community that say people of faith should “just get over it” when it comes to performing a legal action that goes against their values, such as a county clerk who believes homosexuality is a sin making a marriage license for a gay couple.

“To say just get over it to me demonstrates a complete lack of respect for what that person is feeling in terms of their sense that they are facilitating sin,” Feldblum said. “You do not say to someone who feels they are facilitating sin ‘Get over it.’”

But on the other hand, she said homosexuals feel humiliated and hurt when a county clerk or a facility refuses to serve them because they are gay.

“Can you imagine if you are a black person and it is like, “Ok, well no, I don’t serve black people but this person will,” Feldblum said.

She called for a discussion involving both sides to find a way to accommodate both parties so that gay people can

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have their rights recognized without the cost of "crushing" the liberty of religious people.

"Gay people should understand religious people and religious people should understand gay people more than they do now," Feldblum states.

And if one's answer to the religious liberty conflict is to stop same-sex "marriage" then it will be hard to have a reasonable conversation, she said, as opposed to saying, "We understand it is hard for you when you're conduct is suppressed because your relationships aren't recognized, but now let's have a conversation about what that will mean to us as religious people."

Several times in her talk, Feldblum emphasized that the views she presented on the issue are her own and not the "norm" in the gay rights movement.

The FRC-hosted event opened with the release of a new poll on the political impact of a state marriage amendment. The national survey, conducted by Wilson Research Strategies, found the majority of voters, 58 percent, indicated they would be more likely to vote for a candidate that supports state marriage amendments that define marriage as the union between one man and one woman.




Others on the panel on Thursday included Kevin J. "Seamus" Hasson, founder, chairman of the Board, and president of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty; Professor Teresa Stanton Collett, University of St. Thomas School of Law; and Nathan J. Diament, director of the Institute for Public Affairs of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America.

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 ifeelfine72 Mon Jul 14, 2008 8:52 pm  0  0 **Flag**

I came back to flag prophets post where he claimed I was not a Christian as CP asks that libelous posts be flagged but I guess someone else beat me to it. I'm sorry that whoever did it flagged all his posts.




BTW, prophet, I went back and read the analogy you wrote about embezzlement - clearly my response to you didn't come across as I intended. My response was agreeing with your post and taking it a step further - your follow up comment to that indicated you thought I was being rascally - which I wasn't. I was finding some common ground. Anyway, God bless.

 wbmoore Mon Jul 14, 2008 8:42 pm  0  0 **Flag**




Yes, Prophet and star2 flagged a couple of abusive and offensive posts of ccccccc (who switched to dddd who switched to eeee). He promised to flag all their posts. Looks like he's making good on the threat.

 igh Mon Jul 14, 2008 5:51 pm  0  0 **Flag**

\*Does his happy dance\*

 igh Mon Jul 14, 2008 5:49 pm  0  0 **Flag**

Jesus rocks Jesus rocks Jesus rocks!

 igh Mon Jul 14, 2008 5:48 pm  0  0 **Flag**




sorry lina but GOD IS SCIENCE!! God created all the particles of matter, put them in place and motion, all the explanations we have of there make-up and properties God has placed there. We in our finite capacity to understand all that is made by God, cant be Prideful enough to boast we are all that because we have some understanding of our world and us? could we be that vain?

Humble yourself before God lina and let him teach you all kinds of wonderful things!! Many millions have and were never disappointed, and what price peace or hope or Love? Faith does all that and more!! Its all free from the Father ! If you want to excell at whatever you put your hands to Trust in Jesus! And it shall come to pass. Amen.




Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Jeremiah 29:12 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

Jeremiah 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

 ShuckCreations Mon Jul 14, 2008 10:08 am  0  0 **Flag**

Wow Prophet, what did you say? Apparently you've made someone really mad. To the person that flagged all of his posts: please refer to the rules about flagging. Please explain how every one of Prophet's posts were Abusive, Spam, Offensive, Illegal, Racist or Libellous Posts. Thanx!

 Prophet Mon Jul 14, 2008 2:56 am  0  0 **Flag**

Flagged as inappropriate.



lina

Mon Jul 14, 2008 12:20 am 0 0 1 Flag

There's really nothing new to understand here. It's religion vs. science. The former always loses in the end because religion is a lie and science is truth. Period.



igh

Sun Jul 13, 2008 9:18 pm 0 0 0 Flag

Repent baby!

Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. "



igh

Sun Jul 13, 2008 9:13 pm 0 0 0 Flag

The Holy Spirit cannot inhabit an unrepentive sinner.

1Co 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

1Co 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Joh 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

Joh 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)



igh

Sun Jul 13, 2008 9:06 pm 0 0 0 Flag

Psa 34:13 Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.

Psa 34:14 Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

Psa 34:15 The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

Psa 34:16 The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

Psa 34:17 The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

Psa 34:18 The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Psa 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

Psa 34:20 He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.

Psa 34:21 Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.



igh

Sun Jul 13, 2008 9:04 pm 0 0 0 Flag

Has to be a turning toward God and repentive heart, not just abstaining from Sex! Cant be Gay and a Servant of the Lord Jesus!

Psa 36:1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David the servant of the LORD. The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes.

Psa 36:2 For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful.

Psa 36:3 The words of his mouth are iniquity and deceit: he hath left off to be wise, and to do good.

Psa 36:4 He deviseth mischief upon his bed; he setteth himself in a way that is not good; he abhorreth not evil.

Psa 36:5 Thy mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds.

Psa 36:6 Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep: O LORD, thou preservest man and beast.

Psa 36:7 How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

Psa 36:8 They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.

Psa 36:9 For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

Psa 36:10 O continue thy lovingkindness unto them that know thee; and thy righteousness to the upright in heart.

Psa 36:11 Let not the foot of pride come against me, and let not the hand of the wicked remove me.

Psa 36:12 There are the workers of iniquity fallen: they are cast down, and shall not be able to rise.



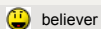
igh

Sun Jul 13, 2008 9:02 pm 0 0 0 Flag

Mar 1:14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

Mar 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

have to repent or your not Saved, celebrate or not.



believer

Sun Jul 13, 2008 8:14 pm 0 0 0 Flag

daniel, as I thought more about your question I also think what complicates this issue even more is the issue of how a person becomes a homosexual. Are they born a homosexual, do they choose to be a homosexual, or are they born with a bent toward homosexuality and as a result of life experiences choose to move toward that lifestyle. If the answer is the latter two then another option is for them to move from being a homosexual to being a heterosexual. That is not to say that would be an easy choice in fact just the opposite but with the help of God it can and does happen.

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