

The Gospel Unashamed

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

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~ All articles are written by Terry Carter unless otherwise stated ~

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Even Pagans Know Better



In the I **Corinthian** letter, Paul addresses a serious moral issue in the Church. This was a kind of immorality that even the pagans knew was wrong. Even worse, the Church was arrogant about it instead of mourning over it as they should have done.

"1 It is actually reported that there is **sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans**, for a man has his father's wife. 2 **And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn?** Let him who has done this be removed from among you." I **Corinthians 5:1-2 (ESV)**

Unfortunately, we have a similar situation in some so-called 'Christian groups' today. Rather than condemning, and mourning over, sexual perversion, they celebrate and encourage it. They are proud of

just how "tolerant" they are on these issues.

The issue of transgenderism has been in the news quite a bit lately. Some are rushing to embrace and defend this while others have been afraid to call it what it really is: perversion, sin, and sexual immorality.

I happened to run across the following discussion of this very issue recently.

This was said by a man named Epictetus. He was a Roman stoic who lived in the late first century and into the early second century A.D.

Some think he may have been familiar with some of the teachings of Christianity, his *Discourses* leaves us with the impression that he never converted. Thus, he qualifies as a "pagan" or "Gentile" as some translations read. Consider what this man said about transgenderism while discussing the proper way to adorn yourself.

"Are you a man or a woman? 'Man.' adorn yourself then as a man, not a woman."

He goes on to discuss what a monstrosity it is when a woman looks like a man, or a man tries to look like a woman as follows:

"...she is a monster and is exhibited at Rome among monsters...in a man it is monstrous not to have hair...he is a monster [who has removed his

body hair to look like a woman]...what shall we do with him?

Where shall we exhibit him and under what name shall we show him? 'I will exhibit to you a man who chooses to be a woman rather than a man.' What a terrible sight!

There is no man who will not wonder at such a notice...Man what fault do you find with your nature? Was it fit that nature should make all human creatures women and what advantage in that case would you have had in being adorned [as a woman]?

For whom would you have adorned yourself, if all human creatures were women? Whom do you wish to please? The women? Please them as a man...Is this your business? Were you born for this purpose, that dissolute women should delight in you?"

He has more to say about this than I have quoted here but you get the idea. He sees this type of a thing as illogical, against your very nature, a monstrosity, and a terrible sight. Even this pagan knew better than the so-called 'enlightened people' of today.

Earlier in this discussion, Epictetus addressed the problem of offending the one to whom he is speaking on this topic. He said, "*And how cruel it is to you to leave you uncorrected.*"

He considered that, "*If at any time afterword you shall acquire sense,*

you will with good reason blame me [for not speaking up in correction of this error]”.

He ends this by claiming that this was a message, not from him, but from God.

“Do not so, I entreat you by the gods [he believed in more than one god], young man: but when you have once heard these words, go away and say to yourself. ‘Epictetus has not said this to me; for how could he? But some propitious god [polytheism again] through him...Come then let us obey God, that we may not be subject to his anger...And now the gods [polytheism once more] say this to you and send the messenger...to warn you not to pervert that which is well arranged, nor to busy yourself about it, but to allow a man to be a man and a woman to be a woman...”

He even refers to Socrates who was also a pagan as giving the following instructions:

“‘How with the body?’ Leave it as it is by nature. Another has looked after these things: Entrust them to him. ‘What then, must a man be uncleaned?’ Certainly not: but what you are and are by nature, cleanse this. A man should be cleanly as a man, a woman as a woman, a child as a child.”

Scripture makes it clear that this is wickedness.

“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, **nor effeminate**, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,” **I Corinthians 6:9 (KJV)**

Note: The English word “homosexual” was not invented until the late 19th century. Thus, older translations do not contain the word.

The KJV renders it “abusers of themselves with mankind” as does the ASV. Interestingly, the RSV renders it “sexual perverts” which is how people used to refer to it before

that was considered politically incorrect.

In **I Corinthians 6:9**, the KJV, ASV, and YLT translate the Greek word, “*malakos*” as “effeminate”.

Darby translates it as, “those who make women of themselves”.

The same word is normally translated “soft” in **Matt. 11:8** and **Luke 7:25** where it refers to those in “soft” or “delicate” clothes.

The Living Oracles translates it “effeminately dressed” in **Matthew** and **Luke** and “catamites” in **I Corinthians**.

Even the pagans understand how wrong this perversion is and how necessary it is to correct those involved in this error.

Even the pagans knew that this would bring God’s wrath upon us. They understood that it was against nature itself.

Can we do any less than to declare God’s truth on this issue and call those involved in it to repentance?

This pagan was not afraid to do so, why should we fear?



“You CANNOT be Serious...”