

The Whole Life of a Candidate, Not Just a Part

by Sherry L. Kirton
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after viewing, "YouTube - Pro-LGBT Ordination Vote Press Conference."

The only way we can say a sin is not a sin is to pick and choose which parts of the Bible we are going to accept or believe.

If we accept the Bible as the authoritative and infallible word of God we cannot accept any aspect of any lifestyle as pleasing to God if He has already stated in His word that it isn't.

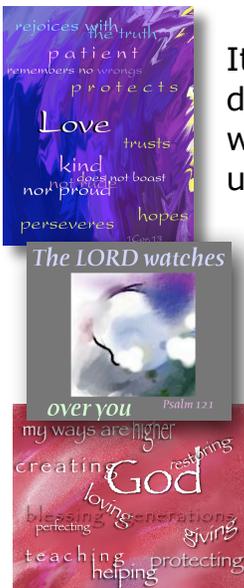
A recurring statement is, "take the whole life of a leadership candidate into account instead of just one aspect of it." What is meant is, "disregard one aspect of it in favor of the others."

While this way of judging the latest push to accept sin has been centered around sex, look at it from another perspective:

"Let's take the whole life of this upcoming pastoral candidate into account, instead of just one aspect of it... we disregard this candidate's stealing change from the offering each week, because that is the way God made him/her, and we wholeheartedly elect this person to the trusted position of pastor."

or
"we disregard this candidate's lying and trust him/her to preach and teach us,"

or
"we disregard this candidate's belief that there are many ways to God (what Jesus did on the cross is not sufficient so other ways are acceptable) and have them preach and teach any of our congregations,"



It is true that we are all sinners. Therefore, we, sinners, cannot change the definition of sin as declared by God, since sin is not what we determine, but is what He says is not acceptable in His presence. Sin is an obstacle that keeps us from His presence. And since leaders are servants of us all, they should be obedient to Him, their Master, recognizing their obstacles as such, instead of pretending that the obstacle doesn't exist or is something else, altogether.

Some are claiming that the Holy Spirit, Himself, is the one who leads them to conclude that some sin is not really sin, or at least is no longer sin. This is nonsense to a reformed thinker, because we adhere to the Scriptures which define sin from God-pleasing, destructive from edifying. To say that the Holy Spirit says anything else other than what is already in the Scriptures comes back to why we reformed in the first place, to follow the Word in the Bible and not any man's word, pastor or pope. If God cannot lie, nor



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change, then His word stands forever, unchangeable.

But again, it comes back to whether you know that the Bible is trustworthy, and if you'll accept it as what it says, "*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.*" **2 Tim. 3:16-17** ESV.

2 Pet. 1:20-21 *knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. the sovereign Lord who bought them - bringing swift destruction on themselves.*

Even in the press conference you hear the old argument about how not long ago women weren't accepted as clergy until recently. The problem with that statement is that it was never sinful to be born female, and,

"They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

"Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

"Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul." **1 Peter 2:8-11**

This is much evidence in Scripture that women serving God as leaders is pleasing to Him.

We are being told, by others, to accept the whole candidate and disregard a part of that person so that we can be served.

2 Pet. 3:9 *The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

How about accepting the whole Book and not disregarding a part?

Lift this ministry up to God in your prayer time and let us know how we can serve you.

Sherry L. Kirton creates study, worship and outreach materials for free and teaches how to use art effectively in outreach through fun AO Weekend Workshops to christian organizations of all sizes at your campus for free. At this posting she is an orthodox member of the PC-USA.

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