

SO YOU WANT TO GO UNDERGROUND

BY PHILLIP PATTON

The latest talk and media hype regarding homosexuality and marriage has drawn a line in the sand and seemingly there are equal numbers of parties standing on both sides. Some that do not practice this sin have crossed the line to defend what they see as an atrocity. Speaking boldly, and many times HATEFULLY and vulgarly to those on the other side of that line. We, on the other side of the line, are being met with hate speech that, if we were using to aim at the other side, would be most likely have us “jailed” or persecuted in some other fashion. There seems to be a major misunderstanding by those on the other side of the line. We do not “hate” those who choose to live in a fashion that God says is sinful. We love their souls and with desire beyond words would have them to come to a knowledge of and believe the truth (Rom 10:17, 2Tim 3:7, John 8:24) repent of those choices (Acts 17:30-31) confess the name of Christ before men (Matt 10:32-33) contact the precious blood of Christ in the grave of baptism (Rom 6:3-6, 1Pet 3:21).

But, Lately many who show their support on this side of the line have begun calling the lovers of truth, haters of men. Saying things like “Jesus never hated anyone, He accepted them where they were,” or “Jesus ate with sinners and chose His followers out of the publicans and sailors, men who were sinful.” The finale of these thoughts is that we should just love everyone where they are and hope they change by the example of our lives. Friend, that cannot be further from the truth. A young preacher named Timothy was told by the apostle Paul to, “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” There is no room here to go into a full exploration of these words, other than to say reprove rebuke exhort are all emphatic commands. Howbeit, this is to be done in love. Love is the single driving factor behind these commands. The kind of love that says, “I want to see you in heaven.” It is not judgmental, it is a command.

The problem with the thought about Jesus accepting people where they were is obtrusively inaccurate. John recorded the Master’s, John 4, encounter with a Samaritan woman at the well. He POINTED out the sin of her people. He POINTED out the sin of her marriage(s). In doing so He met her where she WAS and brought her where she

needed to be and she accepted it. The rich young ruler on the other hand chose another route. He had kept the commandments from his youth but lacked in one area. The Master POINTED out his short coming, and he left Him. That is what Jesus did. He FOUND them where they were and THEY either accepted or rejected Him. He never compromised. If you should doubt then answer this. Why did He overturn the tables of the money changers who were charging usury to their brethren (SIN that was pointed out under the Law of Moses)? To say that we on this side of the line hate those on the other is a FALSE accusation. To say we all should just fellowship together and just "get along" is in DIRECT violation of 2 Corinthians 6. There Paul was telling Christians not have fellowship, or be unequally yoked, together with the unbeliever, the pagan idol worshipper. But, then, the common thought today is just bring it all in, accept, and love everyone. We do not have that ease of luxury.

Here I shall pause and encourage you to read the word of another. The following letter, this author did not pen nor contribute one thought to the progression of the love that is expressed through reproof, rebuking, and exhorting This is all that we on this side of the line desire to do and all that we, under free speech and free religion in a free society, deserve.

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they

know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever. And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage. But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit. But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.” (Jude 3-25)

The one that should still desire to **HIDE IN THE CELLAR OR STICK HIS/HER HEAD IN THE SAND** might recall Ephesians 6:14-16, “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.” Notice in the armor of a Christian there is not plate to cover the back similar to the Roman army in the time of this writing. There is no room for cowardice in the Lord's army. In the words of Christ as John recorded Revelation 21:8 “But the **FEARFUL**, (Emp. P2) and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all

liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

If a difference is to be made it is not in hiding from the enemy. It is standing up to him face to face and toe to toe. Since I am sure this article will draw fire then know this, I'm your Huckleberry, and if you desire to be obedient to the Creator then start now, or be like the rich man who opened his eyes in torment and begged Lazarus to send a messenger to his brothers that they might not be tormented in the flame with him (Luke 16).