



The President's Perspective



Soulforce Riders

On Thursday, April 4, a gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender advocacy group called Soulforce Equality Riders intends to visit a variety of colleges including Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC. Their intent is to engage the campuses in dialogue about the homosexual lifestyle stating their belief that "homosexuality is a sickness, not a sin." I anticipate that the Bob Jones University students and faculty will be nothing other than gracious and kind, but firm and Biblical in how they conduct themselves. One can only hope that the same will be the case for the delegates from Soulforce.

Since this event will, no doubt, make headlines, it is fitting and appropriate that we revisit the Scripture's teachings on this issue. First, the Bible speaks clearly about God's boundaries for sexual expression. Sex is God's gift to a married man and woman, and is to be cherished and appreciated as such. *"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh."* (Gen. 2:24) Sex, itself, is not sinful. It is a gracious gift from a Great God. Sex, of any kind, outside God's boundaries is wrong.

Second, the Bible clearly states that judgment looms for those who disregard and cross God's stated boundaries. *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men (the context here is that of sinful sexual expressions) who hold (suppress) the truth in unrighteousness."* (Romans 1:18) Divine punishment will fall on all forms of condemned sexual expression, not just homosexuality.

Third, the Bible clearly and consistently states that God loves even the vilest of sinners, and longs to be their Savior. *"For God so loved the world (the peoples of this world), that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16) He is a Savior who saves from sin. Though God hates man's sinful conduct, and will judge it, He deeply and dearly loves the sinner himself. While I have never committed a homosexual act, an adulterous act, or the like, I am still just as much a sinner as anyone else. That's right, Dave Kistler, preacher's son, is just as wicked as the next guy. And, I need a Savior just as much, as well.

May we use this critical time as an invaluable teaching tool. May these events serve as a time to thoroughly instruct our children in the Word and ways of our God. May this time motivate us to reach out to a lost and dying world with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ. May we never forget, as Paul stressed to the Corinthians, that *"such*

were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." (I Cor. 6:11)

Dave Kistler
President,

H.O.P.E Ministries International
www.hopeministriesonline.com

Email comments to:
davekistler@hopeministriesonline.com

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