



But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. -

Matthew 15:9

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Family Relations

“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn

“a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—
a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.” (Matthew 10:34-36)

Last week, during our weekly Bible study I lost “control” and pointed out that the Bible condemns the taking of interest (which I called Capitalism) more often than it bans homosexuality. It has long been my contention that when active capitalists, people who put money in interest-bearing accounts, condemn homosexuals on the basis of the Bible’s condemnation they have no real moral standing.

I personally believe homosexuality falls short of God’s ideal for humanity. It isn’t how he created us to work. But there are a lot of things that fall short like that, most of which we don’t ostracize people over. Not being homosexual myself I am not in a position to understand their situation. For that reason I feel it inappropriate for me to think I know better than they do how they should handle the situation they find themselves in.

This did not sit well with my family. My mother said I needed to “come back” to the church, and my sister asked me not to bring politics into Bible study. There’s a sense in which I hear, “Don’t make me uncomfortable by telling me what the Bible says about my lifestyle. Make me feel comfortable by showing me how the Bible condemns other people’s sins.” But these people are my family and while

they live here I need to treat them as I would wish to be treated were I in their shoes. It is not my place to condemn their sins. That's the work of the Holy Spirit, an element of God's grace.

God has, in times past, called prophets to bear a message its recipients would find uncomfortable. John the Baptist called out Herod when he took his brother's wife. The woman held that against John and got him murdered when she had the opportunity. So it can be dangerous business to serve in a prophet's role and those who do so must be very certain God has called them to it.

I sometimes like to think I have the spiritual gift of a prophet, but that's probably only in my less sane moments. The best message I can bear is the message of my life. That requires unselfish service, which is something I often struggle to achieve.

I guess I'm saying that if you want to really do a work for God spend less time preaching and more time serving. The time to preach will come or not come as God calls.

Yes, this is a bit short, but it's what I had to say this week. God bless.

Elkanah

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