

**T r u t h M a t t e r s****THE “UP” SIDE OF HERESY**

by Rev. Robert S. Lichow

Presbyterian Church Leaders Declare Gay Marriage Is Christian

DETROIT — The top legislative body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) voted by large margins Thursday to recognize same-sex marriage as Christian in the church constitution, adding language that marriage can be the union of "two people," not just "a man and a woman."

The amendment approved by the Presbyterian General Assembly requires approval from a majority of the 172 regional presbyteries, which will vote on the change over the next year. But in a separate policy change that takes effect at the end of this week's meeting, delegates voted to allow ministers to preside at gay weddings in states where the unions are legal and local congregational leaders approve. Nineteen states and the District of Columbia recognize same-sex marriage.

This News is GREAT News for Christians!

An obvious and correct response is that the Presbyterian Church USA has departed from the clear teaching of scripture regarding what marriage is before our holy God as well as His universal condemnation of homosexuality. This departure is both shameful as well as sinful. The Presbyterians are not the only mainline denomination to compromise their biblical stance for the culture of our time. In the spirit of full-disclosure I must add that the United Methodists, Episcopalians and ELCA Lutherans and others have embraced the spirit of the age as the chart on the following page indicates:

Where Major Religions Stand on Same-Sex Marriage

Sanctions Same-Sex Marriage	Sanctions Blessing of Same-Sex Unions	Prohibits Same-Sex Marriage	No Clear Position
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservative Jewish Movement Reform Jewish Movement Society of Friends (Quaker) Unitarian Universalist Association of Churches United Church of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Episcopal Church Presbyterian Church (USA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> American Baptist Churches Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) Islam Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Orthodox Jewish Movement Roman Catholic Church Southern Baptist Convention United Methodist Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buddhism Hinduism

Note: *The Evangelical Lutheran Church allows each congregation's minister to determine whether or not to marry same-sex couples.

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We are living in the midst of history in the making and we are seeing the mass defection of historic denominations from many orthodox Christian doctrines and practices (The Church of Rome is no better off, but that is for another article). As grieving as this is, there is a *positive* and exciting side to what is taking place also that we would do well to consider.

Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse. For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it. **For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you. I Cor. 11:17-19**

The Apostle Paul's context is concerning the abuses around Holy Communion and that instead of the blessedness that comes from Christian unity when the Corinthians gathered it was a cause for strife and division. However, I see a principle in what Paul is writing as well ---- that of the beneficial nature of heresies.

The Church has witnessed over the last few years a huge falling away from the orthodox teaching regarding marriage and sexuality (a very "bad" thing) however, by taking such an obvious and egregious anti-scriptural position these denominations have given their members a **very clear and unmistakable sign** as to the LACK of fidelity their group has to the Word of the God they proclaim to love and obey.

The **public** declaration of support (as voiced by the majority of voters in each denomination) for sodomy by these religious organizations is tantamount to *joyfully* shouting aloud "Ichabod" ("*the glory has departed,*" see **1 Samuel 3:1**) in their voter's assemblies and in that *shout* there is an **UNMISTAKBLE** clarion call from the Lord of Sabaoth crying out "**FLEE**" these apostate assemblies.

(maybe the boy from Texas has similar thoughts)?

Personally, I believe Copeland "zigged" when he should have "zagged" meaning he has miscalculated in uniting with the RCC. Initially he stands to lose a large portion of his financial donor base as well as viewership due to his rank-n-file members stance towards the RCC. Here are just a few comments from KCM's FB page as of 06-29-14 (these are unedited):

Brother Copeland, take time and commune with God on this...I know He will show you the truth about Pope Francis and his desired "One World Religion"...which is a lie of Satan. There can be NO One World Religion, not without compromising the truths that we know to be evident as Christians.

Brother Copeland, I have watched your program for years and I believe that you have explicit knowledge of the bible. I am devastated that you would actually fall for the deception of the false prophet, Pope Francis. He is truly a wolf in sheeps clothing. Please, take time to pray and seek the face of the Lord about this, before you are led down the garden path.....This Pope is not of God.

I have listened to you for a long time Brother Copeland; and I'm having trouble believing you could be so easily deceived. Matthew 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." Pope Francis is a FALSE PROPHET. Matthew 24: 4-5, 24 "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive man." "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch, that if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."

I CAME OUT OF ROMAN CATHOLIC 25YEARS AGO, after I gave my life to Christ, because their doctorines does not agree with the word of God. their believe of Mary as the mediator contradicts the bible declaration of Jesus as the only mediator between God and man.....their praying through the dead saints....I can go on and on to mention what made me renounce my membership of that sect 25years ago.....Brother Copeland, i have been in partnership with your ministry for years.....BUT IF JOINING WITH THE POPE AND CATHOLICS IS THE INTERPRETATION OF JOHN 17:21.....I really dont agree to this....

I believe we are living in the times where we are clearly seeing the final forming of a one world religion before our very eyes. Positions once considered unthinkable (sodomy, abortion, infanticide) are widely embraced. Doctrines saints have fought and died for lie trampled in the dung while FALSE doctrine and practices are embraced by the multitudes of *professing* Christians.

In keeping with the philosophy of the first article the "up side" of this sad morass of spiritual darkness and death is that now perhaps both Roman Catholics and followers of the cultic Kenny can see that they have been following *Blind Guides* (the Pope & Copeland) and will leave both cults and be brought to repentance and faith in the biblical Jesus Christ and become a part of His genuine Body. One can only hope and pray --- which I strongly advise. Let us pray that our merciful Lord opens the eyes of all people entangled in deception, blinded by lies and wandering far from secure anchor of their souls.

It was around 1978 when I was “filled” with the Spirit and spoke in tongues via the Word of God Community in Ann Arbor. This community was started directly due to the Roman Catholic charismatic renewal which spread around many college campuses. However, the community demanded that all their members be a part of various local congregations (spread the *fire* that way). I happened to join a Pentecostal Church of God. Upon hearing I was associating with the community aka tongue-talking Roman Catholics in their minds, they urged me quite strongly to leave them folk alone! Which I did and instead of ending up on the “discipleship” end of the sign-gift spectrum, due to my association with the pastor’s son I ended up in the Word of Faith camp. All of the various types of Pentecostals I associated with were united in their abhorrence of the Church of Rome.

Another large support based for KCM is comprised of ex-Roman Catholics. If anyone has encountered an ex-Roman Catholic then you know how uniformly bitter they seem to be towards the Roman system, and rightly so.

Suddenly, Mr. Copeland is making “nice” with the system that is globally known for its child molestation scandals! Now we see Kenny meeting personally with the Pope and taking photos with him, what gives? Has the Pope stopped praying to Mary? Has he declared there is no purgatory? Has he stopped offering indulgences? Has Poppa stopped proclaiming the sinless birth of Mary and her ascent bodily into heaven? NO, he has not and nor shall he. The Pentecostal devotees and ex-Rome devotees of Mr. Copeland have a legitimate concern over Rome’s doctrines (and they should be equally outraged over Copeland’s false **CON**cepts) and Copeland has gambled big time in drawing near to Rome.

There is no “shock-and-awe” that this Pope is a tongue-talker; after all in 1967 the Holy Spirit “fell” on the priests and students at Notre Dame, IN. The Roman Catholic Church (RCC) played a major role in the spreading of the ecumenical charismatic renewal in the 1960’s. The RCC has a long history of recording stories of flying monks, weeping statues, visionaries and all manner of mystical flakes. To them they view Mr. Copeland and his several million enthusiastic devotees merely as “lapsed” Roman Catholics who need to be brought back into the fold. It makes sense on the Pope’s part to accept Mr. Copeland’s overture, he has nothing to lose and his overt support shows his followers that he/The Church support “charismatic” ministry.

Some may ask themselves “why Kenneth Copeland ministries” and not someone else? The best I can offer is my opinion here. Copeland is heard or viewed by someone globally 24 hours per day 7 days per week, in short 24/7. I suppose if the Pope had something he really wanted a lot of charismatically inclined people to hear he might use Copeland. It could be that the Pope actually “likes” Copeland’s preaching, being a *sign-gifter* himself. Perhaps the old Jesuit has some intricate *Machiavellian* plan and Copeland is just a pawn

D.M.I. has not written specifically about homosexuality, the sanctity of marriage or abortion/pro-life issues for two reasons: (1) DMI sees these issues as **self-evident**, one does not even have to be a Christian to know that homosexuality and abortion are wrong, but all Christians should know simply by virtue of being a child of God that these things are evil. If readers do not know that sodomy and abortion are great evils, then *Truth Matters* is simply too advanced for them. (2) There are tons of other groups that deal in nothing but “hot button” social issues, so the information is out there if people are interested in those specific topics.

Now allow me to give a very brief biblical overview regarding homosexuality. From Genesis to the Revelation of Jesus Christ homosexuality and all sexual activity outside of the covenant of marriage is sinful, end of story. In **Genesis 19:1-11** we read of the denizens of Sodom demanding to have homosexual sex with the “visitors.” We all know the end result of Sodom and her sister city Gomorrah. This catastrophic event should be sufficient proof of our Lord’s hatred of their sin. Not convinced yet? How about **Leviticus 18:22** which says: “*Do not practice homosexuality, having sex with another man as with a woman. It is a detestable sin.*” A bit later on in this same book we have --- **Leviticus 20:13** “*If a man practices homosexuality, having sex with another man as with a woman, both men have committed a detestable act. They must both be put to death, for they are guilty of a capital offense.*” A tad bit too “O.T” for some? Then, perhaps consider meditating long and hard concerning what the Apostle Paul says in Romans:

But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness.... Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles. So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. **They traded the truth about God for a lie**. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen. **That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires**. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved. Since they thought it foolish to

acknowledge God, **he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done.** Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy. They know God's justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too. **Romans 1:18-32**

In these words I see a pattern of regression from knowing God, to willfully casting aside what was truly known of Him for their own fallen beliefs about Him. In other words these people have gone from what is sure and certain about God (His Word) into speculation about Him based on their fallen reason (the cultural zeitgeist) and the current societal mores.

The end result of such folly according to Romans is that God ABANDONS them (Ichabod) to their basest desires. Folks, nothing has changed since the Holy Spirit led Paul to pen these eternal words. Homosexuality seems to be about the last stage of a society filling up the cup of the wrath of God which is coming upon all the disobedient:

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; **fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness**, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: **Col. 3:5-6**

Historically when any civilization/culture embraces and normalizes homosexuality it is slated for destruction and soon falls.

Those who have been partners with DMI from its beginning over 17 years ago know that we have never supported the belief in a huge end-time worldwide soul winning revival prior to the return of Jesus Christ. In fact, from our research of the Bible we have come to the opposite opinion, as the next article will demonstrate.

From the very beginning of our history as a people our God has always chosen the “least” and never the most obvious. Israel was the least of all peoples and God chose them. He chose Jacob over Esau, Joseph the youngest over his brothers, even as He chose David (a shepherd) over Saul (a keeper of asses) and many other examples could be cited (Gideon, etc). Thus, when I read about these huge shakings taking place in the midst of the major denominations (I am not forgetting the Church of Rome or other organizations, they too are being shaken by other compromises) I see the “hidden hand of God” moving just like the eagle stirring her nest (see **Deut.**

Copeland Rolls the “Dice” With Rome

by Rev. Bob Liichow

I am so Blessed! What Jesus asked the Father for in John 17:21, “that we may all be one in Him”, is finally coming to pass. Pope Francis is a man filled with the love of Jesus. All eight of us in our meeting together with him were moved by the strong presence of the Holy Spirit, and our love for one another was strengthened beyond measure. Like I said, I am so BLESSED! What a time to be a believer! - Kenneth Copeland---- http://kennethcopelandministries.org/2014/06/kenneth-copeland-reports-in-about-his-meeting-with-pope-francis/#.U7CFR_ldV8F



There are two major forces within the Church today; that of the Roman Catholic Church (1.2 billion members) and the Sign-gift/charismatic movement (584+ million members). The Pope himself is a sign-gift enthusiast as well as being a member of the Jesuit order. These two groups comprise the majority of the visible Church.

Discernment Ministries International covered the original outreach that KCM and the Vatican had and the video they shared with one another. Remember Mr. Copeland leading the 1,000's gathered at his meeting to “pray” in other tongues for El Pappa? That initial overture sent a few nervous ripples through the ranks of the sign-seekers because of the obvious rapprochement between these two men and the organizations they represent.

Kenneth Copeland Ministries (KCM ask Kenneth Copeland **SINistries**) is comprised basically of millions of people who have no “love” for the Roman Catholic “church.” A major people “block” are his classic Pentecostal support base. These folks have always taught that Rome and its Pope(s) are a cult and are not Christians. Pentecostals, like Lutherans in this respect, have always viewed the office of the Pope as the seat of the “antichrist.”

In the first article we learned of the Presbyterian Church (USA aka PCUSA) endorsing homosexuality. This stance alone is anti-life in that homosexual unions do not produce any children. Now we also see that this same apostate denomination, and make no mistake about it they are apostates, that they are willing to support the murder of children already living outside of the womb! On the one hand they endorse those who cannot produce any seed and on the other hand they accept the killing of the living seed from male/female relationships. Both are completely anti-life stances. It stands to reason that if someone put forth the measure to approve suicide (which is all they have left) it too would be heartily approved.

We have before us a cautionary tale of what happens when a people **abandon** the Word of God to become “culturally” relevant. The little leaven of compromise enters in and is left unchecked and the end result is that you will murder your own children and I believe eventually yourself. Satan comes with a singular purpose as our Master taught us when He said:

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

John 10:10

These sad souls have been taken captive by our enemy and through them he is destroying life behind signs that read “Welcome.” If their agreement with the sodomites was not enough to convince people to leave, then perhaps their willingness to allow living babies to be murdered outside of the womb (**murdering them inside the womb is horrid enough**) should be enough to get multitudes to leave in abject disgust. One will have to work very hard to convince me that those who remain are genuine Christians. I cannot see how anyone who bears the name of Jesus can side with death. Selah.



32:11).

God uses the social pressures, stresses and forces swirling around us to purify His people even as silver is melted and heated to a high degree to remove the dross (see **Prov. 25:4**). The cauldron of culture is burbling away and the true foundations of many denominations are being exposed for what they are ---- built on shifting sand:

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. **And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.” Matthew 7:24-27**

Every denomination and congregation faces the **SAME** cultural storms of life. The only determining factor as to who remains standing when the storm passes is whether or not they heard the Word of God and acted upon what they have heard.

The Presbyterians, United Methodists, Anglicans, the ELCA, Quakers and Church of Christ *ALL know* what God has said, they have willfully chosen to *do* the opposite. Apart from repentance (which currently does not seem likely) nothing remains for them but the sure judgment of God.

Flee From the Wrath to Come

My best counsel on this matter is that any congregation who names the name of Jesus Christ as their Lord is they depart their apostate denomination. Not every congregation in the Presbytery supported this ungodly measure. Those that did not support the sodomite agenda **should leave** because if they stay then they are tacitly agreeing with the decision. Those who say “God wants us to stay and change things” are deluded. What if Noah had taken that “pious” stance? Sweet mother-of-pearl people! Martin Luther tried to stay and change the Church of Rome, he had no success. Are these pseudo-reformers going to be more effective than a Luther? I think not.

If I were a member of a congregation which voted in favor of this sin I would leave immediately and never darken their door again. Naturally, I would write a nice letter to all the members I knew telling them exactly why our family left. **The time of separation is upon us brothers and sisters and it will become even more evident in the days ahead as to who loves Jesus Christ “more than” (see Matthew 10:37) all else, possibly at the cost of even our very lives.**

And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that

believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. **2 Co 6:15-18**

Dear friends by the time an entire denomination is brought to endorse homosexuality by a “large majority” of their voters one can rest assured that many other orthodox doctrinal “mooring stones” have been hacked away and their denominational ship is adrift from the secure anchor of their souls, Jesus Christ (**Hebrews 6:19**) and are being tossed by every wave of human and demonic doctrine (**Eph. 4:14**).

The endorsing of homosexuality is simply the last of the poison vomited out by an already moribund patient. Many other errors preceded this latest abomination. Long before this decision, all of these denominations had embraced women as pastors, changed their stances on Holy Communion, altar fellowship and most assuredly the inerrancy of the Bible.

See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more *shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven*: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this *word*, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God *is* a consuming fire. **Hebrews 12:25-29**

The author of Hebrews is writing to believers. He begs them to LISTEN to God and to remember what happened to those that REFUSED to listen (hear and obey His Word). The writer says “*hey Christians don’t think you will escape*” His judgment *if we turn away from Him that speaketh* from heaven.

There is a tremendous spiritual “shaking” going on throughout the world

directed specifically at the Church. I believe that this shaking is revealing what we really believe. The call is going out “who is on the Lord’s side?” (**Exodus 32:26**). Those who compromise with this wicked and fallen world are not, they have chosen to become His enemies (**Phil. 3:19**). Those who stay the course, regardless of the human consequences are those who are on His side.

We are living in very perilous (and somewhat exhilarating) times my brothers and sisters. It behooves each one of us not think more highly of ourselves than we ought (**Romans 12:3**) and to take heed lest ye fall (**1 Cor. 10:12**). We must strive to be sure we are building our spiritual lives on the solid rock of Gospel of Jesus Christ and His work and not the sand of human wisdom and our works.

In the days ahead we will be reading about more examples of defection from the true Christian faith and when we do remember that Paul warned us that there must be these divisions to prove what is genuine. God always preserves for Himself a remnant of believers whom He uses to banish the gathering darkness. Pray for those who must make very difficult decisions and ask that our Lord grant them the courage to trust Him and His Word. May they hear the voice of the Good Shepherd and allow Him to lead them out of religious “Babylon” to green pastures and still fresh waters that will nourish their souls.

Presbyterian Church (USA) voted down measure to condemn ‘abortion’ of babies born alive

By Rev. Robert Liichow

DETROIT, MI – The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) overwhelmingly rejected a motion suggesting the church publicly condemn the killing of babies born alive after botched abortions.

The proposal, offered by the Presbytery of South Alabama at the denomination's 221st General Assembly in Detroit last week, also suggested the PCUSA take two years to reconsider its support for abortion-on-demand.

Fully 78 percent of delegates of the 1.8 million-member PCUSA voted against a “two year season of reflection on the plight of unwanted children,” which called on church leaders to “issue statements that denounce the practice of killing babies born live following an abortion procedure, such as was revealed in the Dr. Kermit Gosnell clinic in Philadelphia.”

Obtained from <http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/presbyterian-church-usa-voted-down-measure-to-condemn-abortion-of-babies-bo>.

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