

Liberty Commentary April 28, 2000

A recent article in the World Net Daily gave the account of an Alameda College student, Kandy Kyriacou, who had been threatened with expulsion for praying for her sick college professor. The World Net article reports, "Kandy found the instructor alone in her shared office". "When the instructor indicated she was ill, Kandy offered to pray for her. The instructor bowed her head, and Kandy began to pray – until she was interrupted by another faculty member, Derek Piazza, who walked in and said, “you can't be doing that in here!” Piazza followed Kandy outside and repeated his rebuke. A few days later Kandy received a letter from the college indicating an "intent to suspend" plan for her "disruptive or insulting behavior" and "willful disobedience."

This as well as other accounts from around the country indicates the growing hostilities toward Christians who genuinely try to live out their faith in a relevant manner. All too often if a college student, professor, businessman, politician, parent or even a pastor tries to engage the culture in relevant debate on moral issues from a Biblical perspective, they are impugned and labeled as homophobes, bigots, extremists, hate mongers, intolerant and those who “cling to guns or religion”.

Of course, nothing could be further from the truth. A true Christian is the most loving, compassionate and tolerate person on the face of the earth, yet just because the Christian possesses those attributes does not mean that we embrace lifestyles or cultural trends that we believe contradict Gods prerogatives as stated in the Bible. Living our faith is not something that can be relegated only to a Sunday church service, but rather it is a way of life. It is who we are. We are unable to separate the secular from the sacred because we view all things in Gods world as sacred. We strive to live by the set of standards that are rooted in the Judeo-Christian teachings of the Bible. When the culture changes and adopts values that are contrary to Biblical teaching, the Christians find themselves precariously

balanced between a secular society that on one side wants all elements of Christianity removed from public discourse and on the other side the Christian is compelled to obey Biblical teachings such as that given by the Apostle Paul, “But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them. Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” (II Timothy 3:14/4:2-4).

Whether it is Kandy Kyriacou being threatened with expulsion from college for praying for her ill professor, or Miss USA contestant Carrie Prejean being called a “dumb b----” by pageant judge Perez Hilton, and being denied the Miss USA crown because she answered Perez’ question on gay marriage by saying, "I believe that marriage should be between a man and a woman ... that's how I was raised." Carrie later said, “it's not about being politically correct, for me it was being biblically correct.” Or locally, former ISU professor Guillermo Gonzalez was denied tenure and compelled to leave the university because he believed in “intelligent design” (i.e. God created life). Any expression of faith in our secular culture most assuredly will be met with consternation.

How then do we live in this secular culture that exhibits such vitriol and hostility toward those who believe the Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God? We must bear in mind that since the Garden of Eden we have been engaged in a battle between the forces of good and evil. The Bible tells us that we “wrestle against principalities, against powers (demonic forces), rulers of darkness (wicked governments in the world), against spiritual wickedness.” (Ephesians 6:12). That battle will continue to the bitter end. The Bible tells us in II Timothy two, “endure hardness as a good soldier.

No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”

We would do well to understand that the Christian life of honoring God and following after righteousness does not always gain us accolades, commendations, promotions and praise from the world, but rather it brings persecution, trials and estrangement. The soldier’s number one objective is to be loyal to our commander in Chief-the Lord Jesus Christ. Take orders and execute those orders faithfully irrespective of the current cultural tide.

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