

## Longing for the Good Old Days!

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In the winter, Dad took us to school in the 1929 Ford Model A. We covered up with wool blankets and bearskins to stay warm. In the evenings, he would go to the shed where we kept the cream separator and the batteries for the radio. He had to hand-crank the generator to charge the batteries so we could listen to the news (in the shed). Mom always admonished us to save the water after boiling the potatoes. Then she used the water to make bread. Why? To avoid making a trip to the hand water pump on the porch. In winter Dad cut ice on the “slough in the bottoms” and packed it in straw in the ice house so we could have cool milk and homemade ice cream... even in summer! These are the reminiscences of my mother who was a teenager, er..., rather a “young folk,” in the 1930s depression. “We were poor and didn’t know it. We lived on the farm and had all the food we needed.” Hard life? She is now 85 and boldly states that she grew up in the best of times... the best time in history. How could she even think that in the age of iPods, PCs, furnace thermostats, refrigerators, automatic everything (percolators, washers, dryers) air conditioners and even heated cars? Yea, in this era of such advanced technology in farming, medicine, communications, transportation, and science? Why, Mom? Because for all that has been accomplished to improve our comfort and ease our environment, we have almost sunk into the lowest depths of the moral cesspool.

Mother and her rural society grew up in a pristine Bible-believing community where dealings were honest and honorable, neighbors were neighborly, and parents parented—sponsored and controlled what the children did, knew what the children did, and controlled what they were taught in school. Indeed, they understood the parental responsibility of “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6), and “...bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). Although many, if not most, will deny it, today we have moral anarchy! Parents seem to have given up or, at least, are not aware of what has happened to our society. We’ve become a nation plagued with abortion, alcohol, drugs, gambling, sexual immorality, and now there is an all-out push to give legitimacy to homosexuality via marriage.

Even six years ago after preaching on homosexuality, several mothers in the congregation chastised me—"I don't want my kids to hear about this!" "We don't have that problem in our county!" In reality, a year later, I attended a debate between a homosexual and a heterosexual in at the university in our town and attended four seminars (open to the public) in which the Evangelical Lutheran church was considering ordaining homosexual ministers. Homosexuality was actually in our face!

My mother said she had not even heard of homosexuality until she was over 30—that was in the mid -1950s. Obviously she did not have a full understanding of Sodom and Gomorrah. What has happened to us? How did it happen so fast?

The last half of the 1960s was especially tumultuous with the civil rights movement, anti-war demonstrations, and the counterculture highlighted by drugs and hippies and marked by the popular lyric, "the times, they are a-changin'." These influences, along with the very amoral environment of Greenwich Village, served as catalysts for the Stonewall riots in 1969. Before 1961, in every state except for Illinois, homosexual activity was a crime with prison terms up to 20 years. This was reflected in the frequent police raids of bars in New York. The raid and ensuing riot at the Stonewall Inn in 1969 was the spark that lit the homosexual rights movement over the next several weeks. To mark that infamous date, one year later the first Gay Pride parades were held in New York and Los Angeles.

By 1972, the National Coalition of Gay Organizations had established the Gay Rights Platform, the goals of which included legalizing all homosexual activity. To this end homosexual marriage, even with more than two mates, was a goal. In 2006 Paula Ettelbrick, the former legal director of the pro-homosexual Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, stated, "Being queer means pushing the parameters of sex, sexuality, and family; ...transforming the very fabric of society...of providing true alternatives to marriage and of radically reordering society's view of reality." In 2000, President Clinton gave homosexuals federal governmental recognition, thus promoting legitimacy, in his proclamation that June would be Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. The Obama transition team had seven openly homosexual people.

So changing homosexuality from an abomination to a celebration happened quickly—in only 30 years—but how did it happen so that society not only hardly noticed, but also now considers this grave sin as "normal"? Although, TV programming and movies have

propagandized folks into accepting homosexuality as a normal alternative, the real catalyst is the public education system. Certainly secular humanism, promoting its “there is no right and wrong” amoral community standard, has played a major role. No, we will not allow our seven year olds to watch a homosexual TV program, but we will send them to second grade, where they read *Heather has Two Mommies* or *King and King*.

Once homosexual marriage is legal, then the floodgates are open for homosexual teachers to promote it in the classroom—at any age! In 2003 Massachusetts passed the homosexual marriage law. One eighth-grade teacher declared in an interview that she now discusses gay sex with her students as explicitly as she desires. A year later, the kindergarten material promoted, “Same-sex couples are just another kind of family, like your own parents.” Another year passed and a father was jailed for insisting that he be notified when such material was being taught to his kindergarten son! The ensuing federal lawsuit was dismissed with the judge asserting that the school system has the duty to “normalize homosexual relationships to children.” And parents can not opt their children out of such class teaching. This clearly violates the parents’ Biblical obligation to rear the child according to the Bible. Further, the federal court set aside the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution in preference to a state law.

What is the effect on our children? A friend, whose 14-year-old grandson (from Louisiana) was visiting him in 2006, was told that the cool thing in school was to be bi-sexual!

Perhaps most distressing is the blasphemous attitude that those who claim religious leadership in the land have toward God and the Bible. In the Lutheran seminar in 2004, I witnessed the worst twisting of God’s Word in decades. The clergy/theologian asserted that the condemnation in the Old Testament was not for homosexuality, but homosexual rape. His example was the depraved characters at Sodom. He did not mention God’s carte blanche condemnation and subsequent eternal damnation in Jude 7. Of course not when there is no respect for God’s Word.

Now comes Edwin Bacon, an Episcopalian priest, who recently had the blasphemous audacity to declare on national TV, "Being gay is a gift from God, but our culture doesn't understand that." So! Our secular humanist culture is really the religious non-standard that has been the fertile hotbed for homosexuality, even homosexual marriage. Parents, it is past time to take back your God-given and obligated rights. For God still says, “For this reason God gave

them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due...who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death..." (Romans 1:27-28, 32).

Oh, for the return of the Model A!