

March 2003

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Adam and Eve or Adam and Steve?

Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. --Romans 1:22

Court watchers are calling it the first ruling of its kind. A Clearwater, Florida circuit court judge recently awarded custody of two children in a divorce case to the “husband” even though “he” was formerly a she. His/her estranged mate had argued that while her “husband” had undergone a sex change procedure, “he” was neither the biological father nor biologically or legally a man. Therefore, their 11-year “marriage” was really a same-sex union—which is illegal in Florida. Whew!!

After five years of legal wrangling, Judge Gerard O’Brien ruled that if the former Margot Kantaras wants to be “Michael” Kantaras—that is good enough for the court. Karen Doering, one of the lawyers for “Michael” and a staff attorney for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said, “The court was really able, for the first time ever, to make a full and fair assessment of when is a man a man and when is a woman a woman...”

Ever wading into controversial social issues, Governor Gary Locke has requested several pieces of legislation that support the concept of the Clearwater finding and challenge long established notions of the two genders, male and female. The measures are, of course, endorsed by the state’s four openly gay legislators.

First at bat is a bill that would expand the jurisdiction of the Human Rights Commission by adding provisions to the state’s nondiscrimination code pertaining to “sexual orientation.” House Bill 1809 codifies the term “sexual orientation,” and defines it as including: *heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, and gender expression or identity.*

Robert Knight, Director for the Culture and Family Institute, warns that adding “sexual orientation” to a nondiscrimination code leads to only one certainty—discrimination against people who disapprove of sexual deviancy. Knight insists that “sexual orientation” laws hijack civil rights, ensuring the kind of persecution experienced of late by the Boy Scouts of America and the Salvation Army.¹

He also argues that the underlying concept of “sexual orientation” is that all sexual behavior is equally valid. “While other human activities, such as buying and selling, remain subject to moral judgments,” Knight says, “the concept of ‘sexual orientation’ places sex outside morality. No other human behavior with such sweeping consequences has received such a stamp of neutrality.” (Ibid)

While most have been conditioned to think “homosexuality” when hearing the term “sexual orientation,” plainly, “sexual orientation” is an umbrella term for numerous sexual disorders.

According to Knight, the therapeutic manual of the American Psychiatric Association lists at least 20 or more distinctive sexual variations of “sexual orientation.” Some of them include: Homosexuality, bisexuality, pedophilia, transsexuality, transvestitism, transvestic fetishism, autogynephilia, necrophilia, klismaphilia, urophilia, and gender identity disorder, etc., etc.²

While the ordinary person understands that people who have disordered sexual appetites or gender confusion need help, many lawmakers just don't get it. For instance, a footnote to the Cambridge, Massachusetts "sexual orientation" ordinance says:

"...a person born with a penis but identifying as a woman may be possessed of an appearance which is "unmistakably male," such as coarse facial features, facial and body hair, broad shoulders. . . . When such a person identifies as a woman, and makes obvious attempts to be perceived as such, however ineffective, it is generally hurtful to categorize such a person as other than a woman, whereas categorizing this person as a woman does not in and of itself hurt others. Rather than traumatize the individual by exclusion, it is intended that we honor their obvious visible attempts to be womanly, and their self-identity as a woman, despite our expectations of how a woman should appear."

The "sexual orientation" umbrella has also opened doors for normalizing pedophilia. Gerald Jones, a gender-issues scholar at the University of Southern California, says that pedophilia cannot be classified as "child sexual abuse." Jones claims that studies do not always show that "intergenerational intimacy" produces negative results. He adds, "Intergenerational attraction on the part of some adults could constitute a lifestyle [sexual] 'orientation' rather than a pathological maladjustment."³

Bruce Rind of Temple University supports the Jones study. In 1998, he and two colleagues called for replacing the term "child sexual abuse" with a more "values-neutral" phrase like "adult-child sex" or "age-discrepant sexual relationships." Their study, which was published in the prestigious *Psychological Bulletin* of the American Psychological Association, suggested that "some boys benefit from having sex with men." (Ibid)

While the public outcry against Rind's "scientific" paper caused the US House of Representatives to issue a condemning resolution by a vote of 355-0, several members and numerous professional organizations took no position. Congressman Brian Baird (WA-3) was one of them. Although he is a trained clinical psychologist, he said he didn't have enough information to make an informed vote. That is scary. Really scary!

Michael Medved, a syndicated talk show host and columnist, is amazed that otherwise well educated people are so confused about gender and sexual issues that they must ask lawyers to sort it out. He says, "...the simplest DNA analysis on Kantaras or any other transsexual will confirm the fact that the very idea of a medical 'sex change' is a cruel fraud.

If you are born female, every cell in your body will remain genetically stamped female—no matter how inventively the surgeons rearrange your urinary tract...No, you can't change your sex...you can only mutilate your private equipment."⁴

Issues of gender and sex were never intended to be confusing, unhealthy, or deadly. The BOOK says God created male and female (Gen 1:27). It also says He made human sexuality for a man and his wife to procreate (v.28), to promote a bond of love between a man and his wife (Heb 13:4), and to protect a man and his wife from the lustful desires of fornication and adultery (1 Cor 7:2).

But then, maybe Judge O'Brien and Governor Locke haven't read the BOOK?

Rick Forcier

Executive Director

¹ Knight, Robert, "Why Nashville Should Reject the 'Sexual Orientation' Law," 3/4/2003

² "Paraphilias," *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, Fourth Edition, 2000, pp.566-582

³ Dial, Karla, "Molesters Inc.," *Citizen Magazine*, March 2002

⁴ Medved, Michael, "No such thing as a sex change," *WorldNetDaily.com*, 2/11/2002