

May 2003

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Demolishing Arguments

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:5

The flap over recent comments made by Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA) regarding a Texas sodomy law currently under review by the high court continues. The senator voiced concerns that should the Court grant special dispensation for sodomy, provided it is consensual and performed in the privacy of a home, then it would follow that bigamy, polygamy, incest, and adultery would also find safe harbor behind closed doors.

While homosexual activists were calling Santorum's comments "hurtful" and demanding that he step down from senate leadership, the White House was silent. Only House Majority Leader Tom DeLay stepped forward to say "I think Senator Santorum took a very courageous and moral position based upon his principles and moral view."

When later pressed by reporters, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer responded "The President has confidence in the senator and believes he's doing a good job as senator." His follow-up added, [the President] "believes the senator is an inclusive man."

Terribly disappointed by the tepid response, family issues activist Gary Bauer observed, "...I can tell you, without fear of contradiction, that Fleischer's 'endorsement' was 'written by committee' and had as its first goal a desire to not offend anyone. That's not the way you win a debate. It is the way to lose the war over America's culture."

Some experts, however, think the war is already over—at least in the arena of homosexuality. Polls suggest that gay sex is no longer a moral issue in the minds of most Americans. Though few approve of same-sex marriage, homosexual sex is not regarded as necessarily immoral because "truth is always relative to the person and situation."

Pollster George Barna reports that "substantial numbers of Christians believe that activities such as abortion, gay sex, sexual fantasies, cohabitation, drunkenness and viewing pornography are morally acceptable."¹ He says that less than one out of three born again Christians—including just one-in-ten Christian teens—adopts the notion of absolute moral truth. "The alarmingly fast decline of moral foundations among our young people," Barna warns, "has culminated in a one-word worldview: whatever." (Ibid.)

Dr. James Dobson frequently reminds his listeners that we are engaged in a great civil war of values. He believes that "Two sides of vastly differing and incompatible worldviews are locked in a bitter conflict that permeates every level of society...the struggle now is for the hearts and minds of the people. It is a war over ideas."²

Dobson's close friend Dr. David Noebel of Summit [worldview] Ministries defines a worldview as "any ideology, philosophy, theology, movement, or religion that provides an overarching approach to understanding God, the world, and man's relations to God and the world." He has written and lectured extensively for more than 40 years on the range of ideas that contribute to the dominant worldviews of our day.

Noebel contends that the worldview of young Americans is being shaped by the ideology, philosophy and theology of secular humanism—a belief system centered on *naturalism* (only nature exists). Biblical Christianity, on the other hand, embraces both the natural world and *supernaturalism* (a supernatural God).

The high priests of secular humanism, Noebel argues, are Freud, Foucault, Nietzsche, Darwin, Sanger, Huxley, Dewey, Kinsey and a host of others who preach on college campuses—from the grave. He warns that our young are being trained up in the **theology** of *atheism*, the **philosophy** of *naturalism*, the **ethics** of *moral relativism*, and the **biology** of *Darwinian evolution*.

In **psychology**, they are steeped in *monistic self-actualization*, in **sociology**, *radical feminism* and *homosexuality*, in **political science**, *globalism*, in **economics**, *socialism*, in **history**, *historical evolution*, and in **law**, humanism promotes only *positive law* (evolving man-made law).

Colossians 2:8 says...*See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of the world rather than on Christ.* According to Dr. Noebel, Christians are further exhorted to wage war on ideas, ideologies, and philosophies that come against the knowledge of God. He says we are to utterly overthrow or demolish the arguments of the enemy as Paul, the Apostle, teaches in 2 Corinthians 10:5.

The *Bible Believer's Commentary* notes: "Paul saw himself as a soldier warring against the proud reasonings of scientists, evolutionists, philosophers, and religionists who have no room for God in their scheme of things. The apostle was in no mood to sign a truce with these."

Neither was William Carey, the famous 19th century missionary to India, who likewise, understood that element of the Christian faith. He loathed the false teachings of Hindu polytheism, especially the belief that the husband is *patidev*—a woman's god—and must die (*sati*) when her husband dies. Recognizing this social evil was a spiritual battle against religious darkness, Carey fasted and prayed and recruited others to do the same. But, he also knew he must come against the very idea that men were gods over women, by educating the people. After extensive research, he wrote an article in his newspaper, *Friend of India*, which eventually became the central document for debate on *sati* in the British Parliament and throughout India.

The argument or type of *sati* now before the American people is this: All sex is equivalent and deserves the imprimatur of the state. Senator Santorum disagrees with that argument, is determined to overthrow or demolish that argument, and sees no reason to appease its makers.

What Gary Bauer wishes the White House had said, was, "The President believes Senator Santorum was raising a valid concern about the future of marriage and children in our country. The President supports the senator and agrees with him that we should reject same-sex marriage and the other demands of a small, radical movement that wants to repeal 2,000 years of Judeo-Christian morality."

"What will we have gained, asks Bauer, "if we defeat the 'axis of evil' abroad and lower our taxes, but at home abandon our Founders' conviction that only a virtuous people can remain free?"

Rick Forcier

Executive Director

¹ *Americans Are Most Likely to Base Truth on Feelings*, Barna Research Group of Ventura, CA., 2/12/2002

² Noebel, David A., *Understanding The Times*, 1991, Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, OR., *Dr. Dobson comments*, pg. 7