

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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(by: Jerry Fite)

Many moral issues confront our country today. Is abortion right or wrong? Is euthanasia right or wrong? Is murdering a CEO of an insurance company you have grievance with right or wrong? Some in our country do not want to answer these questions, but want to take a tolerant approach. In the name of tolerance, laws have legalized abortion, and same sex marriages. How long will it be before it will be legal to commit suicide? Time will tell.

From the viewpoint of a mere citizen of the United States, desiring to live in a free society might move one to be impressed with the tolerant approach. Live and let live. I want to be free to exercise my free will, just as long as such exercise of freedom does not step on your rights. Therefore, I will be tolerant of how you live your personal life. But is tolerance in moral issues a characteristic of the New Testament Christian?

If it is not, what picture is presented as an alternative? People have killed the abortionist doctor in the name of God. Is murdering in the name of the Lord characteristic of the New Testament Christian? Neither

tolerating moral issues, or any murderous activism characterize the follower of Christ.

Christians, putting the kingdom of God first in their lives, approach the social issues of our day by first examining the will of God revealed in God's inspired word. For example, the deliberate taking of innocent life is murder and clearly condemned by God (*1 Timothy 19-11*). Therefore, innocent life in the womb or innocent life in old age must not be taken. Practicing the sexual act of homosexuality is condemned as sin (*Romans 1:24-28*). Therefore, sexual intimacy between two males or two females must not be condoned.

With convictions of right and wrong firmly placed, the Christian goes about teaching, not destroying property or taking human life. “And the things which thou hast heard from me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (*2 Timothy 2:2*). The Christian understands that he or she is in a war, but the war is not conducted by fleshly means. “For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the casting down of strongholds, casting down imaginations and

every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (*2 Corinthians 10:4-5*).

The Christian does not take the law into his or her own hand, but understands God has established government as His minister of vengeance upon the evil doer (*Romans 13:1-7*). In America, we have the opportunity to help change the laws by changing hearts through teaching the truth, and voting for representatives in our government who will honor Godly principles.

In advocating tolerance as the best way to live in America today, many fail to see what lies ahead for America.

“Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people” (*Proverbs 14:34*). Sodom was finally destroyed because there were not enough “righteous” people – living according to God's will – to save it (*Genesis 18:22-33*).

The Christian must stand for right, and never tolerate wrong. While many do not know it, the true Christian is America's salvation.