

## ***LEARNING FROM THE MARRIAGE SET BACK***

***“You are the light of the world...let your light shine before men...” Matt. 5 (NIV)***

On December 8, 2006 the Globe and Mail published a piece by John Ibbitson in which he mocked Christians for failing to stop same-sex “marriage”, and challenges them to give it a rest and move on.

It’s not a pretty article, but Ibbitson nonetheless got at least one thing right. There is no doubt that Christians failed in the battle to keep marriage as a union of one man and one woman.

But why did Christians fail? I submit that the church failed their fellow Canadians by largely not showing up to defend truth against a militant secularism. To be sure, some pastors and churches were to some extent involved in the conflict. But, by and large millions of Christians were AWOL during the battle. The reasons for this absence are many. Allow me to mention only two.

Firstly, Christians in general have little stomach for controversy of any kind. They would rather see themselves as peaceful, and loving rather than faithful to contend for truth in the public square. So they opted for the Canadian virtue of niceness and passivity in the face of an onslaught by liberal judges, craven politicians, and a biased media. Thus, a host of believers, fearful of appearing judgmental, withheld their light remaining aloof from the fray.

Churches also kept silent because they were seduced by an unbalanced compassion. For by an overemphasis on the legitimate desire to minister to homosexual people as individuals, countless Christians failed to speak prophetically to the wider issue of contending for the common good of the culture. Tragically, it is possible to have such sympathy with men as to be guilty of red-handed rebellion against God (Oswald Chambers)

Ibbitson seems to have the notion that in the issue of gay “marriage” there was a huge battle between the hordes of secularism on the one hand, and the Christian church on the other. This is sheer nonsense. Yes, secular humanism won a major victory in its imposition of gay “marriage”, but it won, only because the natural opposition never showed up for the battle, but remained sitting in comfortable pews.

That said, I am yet hopeful even in the face of this recent loss. It seems to me that believers are waking to the fact that not only can we speak to the culture, but our calling from God demands we do so.

So let us bravely lift up our candles, and lovingly speak to those blinded by darkness. Courage is needed for those in the dark will not approve. But, the Holy Spirit will undoubtedly help us in our task.

The Light of the world has shone; we too must shine in the blackness of our times. The darkness couldn’t blow out Christ. Can’t blow us out either.

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