

Pentecost and 'Pride'

I love the fire of Pentecost—the coming of the Holy Spirit in power: exposing idols, commanding allegiance to one Father through the Son, raising up sons and daughters who will endure. One thing is sure amid 'Pride' month—we will burn like torches for chastity and gender clarity amid the fake fires raging around us. Our prayer at DSM this month as we go through many doors to effective ministry: 'consume the sacrifice of our lives, O God.' We draw upon Elijah who in the Spirit's power gave all to expose the folly of Baal's prophets in light of the 'God who answers by fire' (1 K 18:24).

Last weekend in nearby St. Louis, 'Revoice' held its second annual conference, gathering to extol the virtue of being 'gay' and Christian. Brainy millennials love this stuff—literate gender benders who have a form of faith but deny His power to transform them at core. Instead, the whole thing has a kind of whiny white narcissism—'no-one knows the trouble I've seen'--in contrast to the stern and splendid task of actual conversion of gender identity and disordered desire. If Jesus did not die to reclaim for us the powers of life and love from our captivity to the Baals, then I do not understand Calvary. I don't think 'Revoice' does either, if workshops like 'Coming Out as a Gay Pastor' and 'Queer Culture' are any indication.

Sadly, even the elect are drinking the cool-aid. Sexpert Dr. Mark Yarhouse for whom I did have the utmost respect keynoted at Revoice and later extolled his advocacy for this group 'coming to terms with enduring same-sex sexuality' (aka no change possible); in truth, Yarhouse now frames homosexuality as a condition worthy of one's adult identification—'not a problem to be fixed but a people to love and learn from.' A people? Is disordered identification now the basis for a 'people group' in the eyes of progressive evangelicals? We understand secular culture not 'getting' God's take on true personhood—that's why teachers and therapists are so intent on enslaving kids with perverse 'adult' labels. For Christians to do so is diabolical, dangerous to kids and to the integrity of our faith.

Catholics are guided by a marvelous Catechism which details sexual purpose through the virtue of chastity—becoming integrated, whole. That would appear to safeguard the Church from falsehood. (Cheers to the recent Vatican document on gender, which is founded wholly on the inherent complementarity of men and women). Yet the battle for clarity on homosexuality has never been more intense in Rome. One gets the impression that Pope Francis is surrounded by warring factions, some who fight for truth in the sexual arena but tend to do so with a heavy hand that is toxic to the Pope; more comforting to him appear to be 'progressives' like the now disgraced Theodore McCarrick and the ascending Fr. James Martin who alongside 'compassionate' friends is making every effort to alter the Catechism to reframe gender-bending as a morally neutral human variant, not a disorder to be redeemed. Wickedness in high places. Pray for Pope Francis. A battle rages in Rome for what it means to be human, made in God's image. As for evangelicals, this is a war for the integrity of our faith. You cannot alter how God designed us and not undercut orthodoxy.

So we burn. Not with hate but with zeal for His house. If we the Church alter the goal posts due to love for winsome, disordered, and deceived players, we all lose. We win when we the broken—humbled and consumed by holy fire--arise to tell the truth of how His mercy has set us free. Is setting us free. Our ever-increasing chastity frees us to break out of every little box people place us in. We are healed and being healed, saved and becoming saved. We look to the God who answers us with the fire of love and life and who frees us to gather others who have not bent the knee to Baal (1 K 19:18). No other way to live. Pentecost frees us from intimidation, for holy confidence, amid the din of 'Pride.'

Please pray for the annual [Restored Hope Network Conference](#) in the Twin Cities from June 20-22nd, for our Living Waters Trainings in Warsaw, Poland June 22-28th and in [Kansas City July 6-12th](#), and the [International Courage Conference](#) in Chicago, July 18-21st. Registrations still open for all!

Please take time to watch our new video and become '[Chaste Together](#).'