

FORNICATION & ADULTERY PRIDE MONTH?

David Halbrook

“NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me. . . do hereby proclaim June 2011 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month.” (news.yahoo.com 5-31-11). (I’m still waiting for Heterosexual Pride Month!). It is sad that our nation’s most visible leader takes pride in sexual immorality (Jude 7).

But homosexuality is not nearly the most prevalent form of sexual immorality plaguing our nation—without a doubt that “dishonor” belongs to fornication and adultery. So should we have Fornication & Adultery Pride Month? No, because all of this is rebellion against God.

Before engaging in sex or marriage, we must learn to whom God, “by the virtue of the authority vested in” Himself as God, has granted these privileges. **PLEASE READ** Matthew 19:4-6, 9; Hebrews 13:4. The failure to learn from God about sex and marriage is destroying our nation. Will that failure cause you to be eternally lost in hell? Please send your comments and questions to David Halbrook, TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net.

-- *Editor’s Note:* In this, our *Arkansas Weekly* article, I have tried to be no more or less plain on this subject than the Bible is. The purpose is to educate people who are often ignorant and/or rebellious on this sensitive subject and also to make our convictions clear to the community. Our society is increasingly ignorant of the difference between what is clean and unclean. Let us pray that we can have some influence for good in this area. Who can you help?

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The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT BAPTISM

John Gibson

Though forms of the word baptism occur more than 100 times in the New Testament, most people are not convinced of its importance. They do not see it as a vital element in man's obedience to God. In fact, the majority of people would tell you that baptism has nothing whatsoever to do with salvation. But what does the Bible teach? Consider with me a few questions and biblical answers related to baptism.

Can we reject the stated desire of the One possessing all authority and still be saved? "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...' (Matthew 28:18-20).

How could anyone who has refused baptism feel a complete confidence in their salvation when Jesus, the Savior Himself, linked baptism to being saved? "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:15, 16).

Since "for the remission of sins" meant to bring about the forgiveness of sins in Matthew 26:28, doesn't it seem most likely that when Peter used the same expression about fifty days later he intended it to have the same meaning? "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28). "Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'" (Acts 2:38). If baptism for the remission of sins is unnecessary, was the blood of Jesus shed for the remission of sins unnecessary?

Is there an important difference between suggested and commanded? "And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord" (Acts 10:48).

Since Lydia was baptized after her heart was opened by the Lord, does the refusal of baptism not suggest a closed heart? "Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us....The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay'" (Acts 16:14, 15).

If the death, burial and resurrection of Christ are the very core and essence of the gospel (1 Corinthians 2:2; 15:1-4), and baptism is directly tied to all three, what are we to conclude about the importance of baptism? "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:3, 4).

Is it important to be in Christ where all spiritual blessings are found (Ephesians 1:3)? "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:26, 27). When we talk with folks about baptism, in a spirit of love, we need to ask these questions and do all we can to get them to consider God's answers to them. And if you have never been baptized in the name of Jesus, please consider carefully the question asked of Saul of Tarsus three days after the Lord had appeared to him. "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16).

<http://pepperroadchurch.congregateonline.com/2011/05/25/questions-and-answers-about-baptism/>

"THE SUPEREXPOSURE OF NUDITY"

David Halbrook

"Designers explore a risky new strategy: Modesty," is the subtitle of a *Time* article titled "Looks Like a Cover-Up," in which we are told that according to the Paris fall 2006 fashion collections, we could "wave adieu to the . . . navel-bearing sexuality of past seasons." (*Time*, March 5, 2006)

The article ended with a quote from fashion designer Miuccia Prada, who is head of a fashion company which had revenues of 1.9 billion dollars in 2002. "The superexposure of nudity seems not to have given much happiness to women"

The miniskirt was originally designed with the intent of making women happier by allowing them to show off their legs and thus to seduce more men into bed-- so said Mary Quant, who is generally recognized as the one who popularized the miniskirt.

Of course such attire does not bring happiness to women! Oh, it may bring the "passing pleasure of sin" for those women whose bodies are pleasing to the male eye (Heb. 11:25). Yet even for them, the "window of opportunity" is short, for eventually time catches up with them (Ecclesiastes 12:1-7). Then, there are those women who are made to feel as though they have no beauty because their bodies are not the "mini-skirt type." Mrs. Prada is right when she said that women do not find happiness in "the superexposure of nudity."

One other thing that I found interesting is that Mrs. Prada recognizes that you can have clothes on and still be nude/naked/exposed. Her comment is not concerning the happiness of women at nudist beaches but is concerning recent fashion trends. She understands that women following these trends have been nude. More importantly, God demonstrates this truth. Genesis 2-3 shows us two different shades of nakedness--total and partial. In Genesis 2:25, Adam and Eve are "naked and not ashamed." After their sin, they put on loin-coverings and yet, by his own admission, Adam was still naked (3:7,10). Not until coats of skin were given to them by God, do we find that Adam and Eve are clothed (3:21).

The next time that someone argues that their revealing skirt or athletic shorts don't make them "naked," will Mrs. Prada be able to convince them of the truth? No, she won't. They have Moses, Jesus, the apostles, and prophets. If they do not hear them, neither will they be persuaded, though one should rise from the pinnacle of the fashion world and speak the truth.

Evolutionary Speculation Wrong Again! (David Halbrook)

May 20, 2009 **Headline: Scientists Unveil Missing Link In Evolution.** *Subheading:* Scientists have unveiled a 47-million-year-old fossilised skeleton of a monkey hailed as the missing link in human evolution. (sky.com)

October 21, 2009 **Headline: 'Missing link' primate isn't a link after all.** *Subheading:* Expert: Ida is as far from monkey-ape-human ancestry as primate can be. (msn.com)

It only took five months for some scientists to reverse the original claim that a fossilized skeleton was the highly-sought after "missing link" between man & monkey.

America's "missing link" is TRUTH, but it's only "missing" because men choose to ignore, suppress, and deny it (Genesis 1:1; Romans 1:18; 1 Timothy 6:20)