

God's Unchanging Purpose

By

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Writing in The Dallas Morning News of Dec.12, 2003, Steve Blow says that he believes that eventually the verses condemning homosexuality will be “put in historical context.” This means that they would no longer apply in modern times.

If this were the case, if God changes His mind along with changing times, then we could not rely on anything that God has revealed in the Bible. We would not know for sure what His purpose is or what He expects of us. But God doesn't change; and the purpose He had in the beginning will be carried out perfectly.

Consider the creative intent as stated in Genesis: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth” (Gen. 1:26). In this statement God encompasses the whole creative purpose. There is to be a God-like creature to inhabit the earth, and to enjoy its fruits and have power and control over it.

God, the designer and creator of all, states exactly what His intention is in creating. Man is to be like God, even “in His image,” with Godly characteristics, in harmony with God and carrying out His intended purpose in relation to the rest of the creation. Since God is an intelligent being, man is also created with intelligence, so that there might be an intelligent relationship between the two, a mind-to-mind relationship between creator and created, God and man.

Think of this creature, walking along with his Creator in perfect harmony with Him. Originally there was no desire on man's part to distort the image and altar the design, but rather a perfect working relationship. On the part of God it was a relationship of love and provision: on man's part it was responding love and reception. As long as man continued to walk in faith and obedience to God” he was able to receive all that the Creator intended – life in a perfect environment. It was not until man turned his trusting mind from God to Satan and tried to attain his goal in opposition to God's desire that the system was ruined.

Once he had rejected the “image,” man had spoiled the entire operation. He was no longer in harmony with the Designer and Creator. He was no longer fit to be in charge over the earth, and have dominion over it and the lower creatures. Hence he was deprived of his deathless quality, and the earth began to produce things contrary to his desire (Gen. 3:17-19).

The process has been going on so long now that we take it for granted that it is natural: natural for man to sin; natural for the ground to produce thorns; natural for the droughts, famines and floods to devastate the earth; and natural to die. None of these are a natural part of God's original plan, but are contrary to His purpose. They exist because man rejected God's purpose and by his own God-given power of will abdicated his noble position in God's scheme.

The results of this rejection is witnessed in the chaos of today's violence and immorality, which are rooted in humanism, the doctrine that man is the basis of his own being and that he is the source and authority of his purpose" This doctrine denies that there is a divine and ultimate law outside of man. It denies that economics and politics are to be governed by the creator of the universe. The modern view of society is that man makes his own laws and creates his own destiny according to his own desires.

But God's purpose is unchanged. The Bible teaches that God still desires to have man in His own image, and that someday there will once again be a Paradise, where man shall dwell. There will be no thorns to infest the ground, no sorrow, no obstacles in man's way, no sickness nor death, and where man and God will dwell together in a mind-to-mind relationship. According to God's word we (Christians) are to become like Christ (1 John 3:2), changed into his own glorious image (Phil. 3:20-21), and shall live in the new earth where righteousness is fully restored (2 Pet.3:13; Rev. 21:1-4, 22:1-5).

So our hope is not an ambiguous mystery, but a definite expectation of the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose "that the creation itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the liberty of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and travaills in pain together until now. And not only so, but ourselves also, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for our adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body" (Rom. 8:21-23).

Even now we are being "transformed into the same image from glory to glory..." (2 Cor. 3:18). The process begins when we retrace Adam's steps backwards, put our trust in God through Christ the savior, and become Christians. Paul wrote, "My little children" of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you" (Gal 4:19). In the words of Owen Blakely, "The objective of God for those in Christ is not realized until Christ is 'formed' within them. His purpose for us involves more than just getting rid of our sin. That is essential to the realization of His purpose, but is not the purpose itself. Neither, indeed, is the Lord's goal for His children to simply find them keeping a set of finely defined rules. [In God's kingdom, character – participating in the Divine nature – can produce rule keeping; but rule keeping can never produce character, or result in conformity to the Divine image" (.The Word of Truth, 2003).

The transformation takes place gradually as we hold His image and purpose before us, as we deny self and take up our cross daily to follow him, seeking first God's kingdom and His righteousness. Thus we are "to grow up in all things into him...even Christ" (Eph. 4:15)

The Bible consistently gives a picture of this purpose: In Creation, man in fellowship with God in the Garden; in the discipline of man through a special nation for the production of a Savior; In the life of that savior as a demonstration of the “effulgence of His glory, and the very image of His substance” (Heb. 1:3); In the atoning death of Jesus to restore the relationship of man with God; in the resurrection to show what immortality is (Tim. 1:10); In the word picture in revelation of the final and eternal purpose fulfilled in the immortal man and the perfect earth (Rev.21:1-4, 22:1-5). The return of Christ to complete this purpose has been the prospect of Christians from the first.

To look at the general picture which churches of our day present to the world, it is hard to imagine that such a purpose exists. The church is supposed to be “God’s workmanship,” the “pillar purpose. But this is almost never apparent on the surface, and seldom apparent even upon close scrutiny. While the great organizations of Churchianity may represent an affluent society, good management and skillful social engineering, they say little or nothing about the original and final purpose of the Creator. Even the “programs” of the churches, while seeking to attract people and occupy their time, hardly give more than a hint as to the mind of God and what He is ultimately after.

It is true, indeed, that times change, for time is a movement upon the line of eternity. But the eternal God doesn’t change. His purpose is unchanging. He will have man in His own image! The men who today are changing the rules to suit themselves are not doing anything new. Adam did it, and men have been trying it ever since, to their own destruction. For only the Creator can make man immortal and eternal, and He will do this ONLY for those who desire the life that He desires to give. “And we know that to them that love God all things work together for good, even to them that are called according to his purpose” (Rom. 8:28).

Perhaps one of the greatest difficulties of a Christian these days is to resist the temptation to go along with the times. As even greater and more drastic changes take place in society, with greater lawlessness, with sexual immorality become acceptable, and all the changes wrought by the switch from a God-ordered society to a system of humanism, Christians need to remember intensely that our God is One who “changes not” and that if we want to be salvaged from the destruction of this world we must align ourselves with His unchanging purpose

If you have chosen to comply with His purpose, then you are among the few in these mixed up times who are un-harried and unworried. Whatever your circumstances, you may be optimistic and filled with “peace and joy in believing.” You have a purpose that transcends all immediate obstacles and hardships, “For our light affliction, which is for the moment, works for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory” (2 Cor.4:17).

“And the world passes away, and the lust thereof: but he that does the will of God abides for ever.” (1 John 2:17).

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