

DISCRIMINATION: Good or Evil?

By

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Whoever dreamed, fifty years ago, that the chief quality that marked a man as a gentleman would, in this decade, mark him as a bigot and a criminal? That quality is the ability to practice discrimination in all things. When I was growing up, it was considered a compliment to say that one had “discriminating tastes,” or to say that he or she was a person of “discrimination”.

It is now taken for granted in the press, and in educational circles, that “discrimination” is one of the worst evils in the world, and anti-discrimination laws are being used to overthrow the free enterprise system as well as moral law and the very foundation of civilization.

The advocates of anti-discrimination — who claim to be lovers of “freedom of choice” — apparently cannot see that discrimination is simply the act of making a choice, which is an essential part of liberty. Every choice is an act of discrimination. When you get married, you have to choose one person, and discriminate against all others. When you hire a person for a job you discriminate against the other applicants. If you make a moral choice, you discriminate against the immoral.

Discrimination is not a crime, but a duty. Everyone has the duty to discriminate between what is good and bad, even between what is good and what is best. All Citizens are duty-bound to discriminate between justice and injustice, and parents and teachers are responsible to teach the children to discriminate between that which will be beneficial to them and that which will cause them harm. There was a time when parents could expect the school teacher to do this very thing, thus reinforcing the parent’s teaching. But when such teaching became “discrimination” it was forbidden, and replaced with “values clarification”. Under this doctrine all values are equal and the student decides for himself which ones he will choose. The teacher cannot tell the children that sex outside of marriage is wrong, and they dare not discriminate against homosexuals, so sodomy is presented as an alternate lifestyle.

This ban on discrimination has resulted in young people who have no capacity to make choices with regard to sex, drugs, and even violence, which often results in murder. The doctrine of anti-discrimination has spawned a generation which has no conscience, which refuses to see a person as evil, and would abolish all laws against his evil doings.

The elimination of discrimination was born of the socialists effort to make all people “equal”. John Stuart Mill, the famous English economist, argued that the federal role in education is nothing more than a “contrivance for molding people to be exactly like one another”. If all are equal, then one person must be no worse or better than another, which means that we must not discriminate against him for his actions. This has already been carried to the point of tolerating gross immorality and criminality, but it is now being carried even further, with the legislating of “hate crime” laws. These laws make it a crime to even *express* your preferences, or for anyone to say that one religion is true and another is false. Such laws are already in place in Canada and have been introduced in various legislatures in the States, and passed by some.¹

Ordinarily when people hear the buzzword, “hate crime”, they think of violent crimes such as destroying property or killing someone. Certainly these are crimes and should be punished regardless of their motivation. But the Government’s definition of a “hate crime” is much more inclusive. Legislation now being introduced makes any form of criticism a hate crime if such *criticism* is based on race, ethnic origin, “sexual preference”, or *religion*.

Here is the danger. According to some lawmakers, the “crime” of criticism is not limited to derogatory remarks, but also covers any claim of superiority, such as one religious belief being better than any other. His idea is expressed by Brian Bruce, one of the promoters of “hate crime” legislation in Canada: “When religion takes the form of a condemnation of those following another religion, this passes well beyond a legitimate freedom of religion.”² And the Canadian Human Rights Commission states, “*The commitment of the international community to eradicate discrimination includes prohibiting the dissemination of ideas based on religious superiority.*”³

Picture the preacher who chooses for his text John 14:6, in which Jesus states “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but by me.” Such a proclamation clearly presents the Christian faith as superior to any other, and makes the preacher guilty of a so-called “hate crime”. Or what if the Sunday School lesson is on the first chapter of Romans, and the teacher exhorts the students with regard to Romans 1:26–27? This is a strong denunciation of homosexual men and women, closing with the judgment that they are “worthy of death”.⁴ Call the thought police!

If you think this is far-fetched and that “it can’t happen here”, then you haven’t been reading the accounts in university newspapers which describe how students are being disciplined and expelled for saying the wrong thing, such as expressing their disapproval of homosexuality or affirmative action policies which work against white students in favor of minorities. Across the land students have been forced to abide by “speech codes” which must agree with the totalitarian mindset.⁵

Allen Brownfeld, after citing cases from UCLA to Harvard, writes, “In Nazi Germany, in Stalinist Russia, in Mao’s China — there were strict codes of political correctness, often enforced by a firing squad. How is it that the trendy American left in the academic world identifies so easily with the totalitarian mindset?”⁶

Is discrimination wrong? What does the Bible say? Jesus said, “Except your righteousness exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of Heaven.”⁷ Paul writes that “evil companionships corrupt good morals.”⁸ Discrimination is required. Jesus clearly commended some and condemned others, and taught discrimination to His disciples, warning them, “Beware of the scribes...”⁹

Jesus said that the majority travel a broad road to destruction and that only a few are found on the narrow road that lead to eternal life.¹⁰ Follow Him, He said, and the world will hate you¹¹ — because you discriminate against its evil. The ungodly will forgive you anything except this, that you condemn them by rejecting their evil deeds.

From the beginning God has required man to distinguish between right and wrong,¹² exhorting us to “discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serves God and him that serves Him not.”¹³ History reveals that the nation which openly denounces evil and upholds righteousness is one where stability and freedom

prevail, but where such discrimination is absent, chaos reigns. This is demonstrated in our own national experience.

For example, since the teaching of Christians morals was outlawed in the schools, education has deteriorated and student conduct is at an all time low. Since laws were enacted to enforce racial equality, racial tension and hostility have greatly increased. Since there has been less preaching against sin and more sermons on self-esteem and how to feel good about oneself, there had been a great decline in Christian influence.

It may be that western man has tired of the responsibility of always having to decide between good and evil, and has simply surrendered to the anti-discrimination forces. The end of that road is a Gulag Archipelago or some other form of slavery.

The right alternative is faith in God, through Jesus His Son. All else is futile and temporal. Great institutions are in decay, money is as unstable as quicksand, world leaders are floundering in confusion, and governments are in disarray. In fact, the whole world will pass away, but the word of Christ will abide.¹⁴ Ultimately God will consummate history in a final act called judgment,¹⁵ in which all mankind will be divided and those who are faithful to Christ will be granted immortality, while all that have rejected Him will suffer destruction.¹⁶ God is the author of discrimination, and requires it of us.

“Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers: for what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity?”¹⁷

“For everyone that does evil hates the light...But he that does the truth comes to the light, that his works may be manifest that they have been wrought in God.”¹⁸

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand.”¹⁹

REFERENCES

1. A hate-crime law recently passed in Texas is limited to the sentencing phase — so far.
2. From Verbum, as quoted in Christian News 2/24/1992
3. Ibid.
4. Romans 1:32
5. See Campus Report, Oct. 1991, Mar. 1992; Education Reporter, Jan. 1991, Sept. 1992; Human Events 5/29/1993
6. Accuracy in Academia, 5/1991
7. Matthew 5:20
8. I Corinthians 15:33
9. Luke 20:46
10. Matthew 7:13–14
11. John 15:19
12. Genesis 2:16, 17
13. Malachi 3:18
14. Matthew 24:35
15. Acts 17:31
16. John 5:28, 29
II Thessalonians 1:7–10
17. I Corinthians 15:51–54
18. II Corinthians 6:14
19. John 3:20, 21

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