

"The Hijacking of a Good Word"

Ken Chumbley (Deceased)

When I was growing up, there was a perfectly good word that was used regularly. It was used in songs, in plays, and indeed everyday conversation. However, that perfectly good word has been hijacked by those who would engage in an immoral lifestyle. Now, just about every time that the word is used it is used by those engaged in this immoral lifestyle or those *politically correct* individuals who support and promote that lifestyle. Sadly, at times, because of the fact that it has become accepted in many areas, even Christians resort to using that word when describing that immoral lifestyle. That hijacked word is *gay*. It has been in the news again recently following the announcement that the Episcopal Church was *politically correct* and those involved in that lifestyle want to portray the situation. They do not want to call it what it really is.

When one looks to the dictionary to see the primary meaning of the word, it has reference to being merry or bright in appearance and brilliant in color. A third meaning of the word is given as being given to social pleasures or indulgence, hence loose or licentious. However, even that third meaning did not have reference to the homosexual lifestyle.

When I was young, a song having the words, "I'm glad God made me gay" would not have caused a stir as people would have understood that the singer was referring to himself as a merry individual. However, I remember a few years ago hearing this same song being played on the radio and the disc jockey feeling compelled to say that this song was written at a time when the word had a different meaning.

How much this good word has been hijacked and made to mean something that it had never meant is clearly seen in what happened at a Christian camp a few years ago. I was teaching a class of teenagers on the topic of morals and morality. I told the class that I was gay. You should have seen the looks on their faces! To them, because of the way the word has been hijacked, it meant only one thing, thus their shock. However, when I told them to consider my age and that the word's real meaning was something else, then they were able to see that I was referring to myself as a merry individual, but they had been conditioned by society to thinking that the word had reference to one thing, and one thing only.

I refuse to go along with the *politically correct* meaning of the word. I do not believe as Christians we should give any credence to the idea that the homosexual lifestyle is gay. Homosexuality is an abomination before God (Lev. 18:22; 20:13). Furthermore, when one considers the physical consequences of this lifestyle, then it is anything but gay. Indeed, although it has now spread into the heterosexual community as a result of those who would practice both heterosexual and homosexual sex, AIDS, was spread by the homosexual community.

As Christians, may we always be willing to speak out against this abominable lifestyle and call it what it is, sinful and not in any sense gay.

- Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL -

The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible. - Dwight L. Moody

News & Notes

TODAY'S GUEST SPEAKER: Jordan Shields of the WV School of Preaching.
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Tomorrow through Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Weirton Heights Church of Christ. Classes for All ages. Additional information on the bulletin board.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, July 2nd at 8:00 a.m. at EJ's.
COVERED DISH DINNER: Next Sunday, July 3rd about Noon followed by our early afternoon service at 2:00 p.m. (instead of 5:30 p.m.).

SUMMER YOUTH BIBLE CAMP: July 11-18, Tomlinson Run State Park Group Camp. Ages 8 through high school seniors. Information fliers and registration forms on the desk in the foyer.

PANTRY: Macaroni and cheese.

SICK & SHUT-IN: At Home: Gary & Melissa Rosohac (Covid), Scharlotte Jones (Covid), Becky McKitrick (Chemo treatments), Stan Williams, Mike West, Barbara DeLong, David McCoy, Russell Martin, Claudette Miller, Mark Vermillion (neighbor, brain mass surgery recovery), Cheryl Renfro Walker, Nicole Stoffer (aunt of Tamara Sprout), Lori Rowand (niece of John Sprout). **Weston, WV:** Rick Beck.

The Unopened Love Letters

"How do I love thee? Let me count the ways," is perhaps one of the best-known lines of poetry ever written. But do you know the story of the creator of those words?



Elizabeth Barrett was a poet who lived many years with her parents. Her father was bizarre. He had forbidden all 12 of his sons and daughters to wed. Elizabeth met another poet by the name of Robert Browning. They corresponded and met in secret. When Robert approached Edward about marrying Elizabeth, he was denied and ordered out of the house—never to return. Robert's love was strong, so the couple eloped. Edward Barrett disowned his daughter.

Elizabeth loved her parents and did everything she could to be reconciled with them. She wrote beautiful, expressive, endearing letters to them. She did this for ten years without response. Finally, a package came from the Barretts. It was a happy moment for Elizabeth as she opened it. Had her Dad finally forgiven her? — No!

Instead, in the box, she found all of her letters returned and unopened. Elizabeth was broken-hearted!

Elizabeth Barrett Browning was a world-famous poet and her letters of reconciliation have been called "masterpieces of literature." But her parents never read them!

Likewise, Jesus has sent to mankind beautiful letters of reconciliation. He even died so that sinful people could have hope of everlasting life. It must break His heart that so many refuse to even read these letters of love!

Do you read your Bible? Or do you leave God's love letters, unopened? "Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart" (Psalms 119:2).

- Larry Fitzgerald, Woodlawn church of Christ, Abilene, TX (Bulletin Digest) -