Willis/Loree Elliott

From: "Willis/Loree Elliott" <elliottwl@comcast.net>
To: <confessingchrist@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2004 5:59 AM
Subject: Fw: UCC leaders & same-sex "marriage"

On SAME-SEX "MARRIAGE":

1 It's an instance of the ***idolatrous substitution*** of a trendy ideal (viz., equality) for a biblical principle (viz., normativity [here, "basar echad" {"one flesh"}]). The Bible balances individual/community: equality sacrifices (1) community to individuality & (2) divinity to humanity (according to the snake [Gn.3.5: "you will be like God, knowing good and evil"], in decision-making humanity doesn't need divinity, so theism violates the law of parsimony). Humanism's latest triumph is the destruction of the biblical principle of normativity by declaring the word "marriage" to be inclusive of same-sex unions.

A wisdom parable of our Lord has it that a king is foolish who doesn't calculate the costs & consequences of a military preemptive strike. Christian leaders who "me too" the world on same-sex "marriage" have failed to see that this is an instance of fatal world-conformity (vs. Ro.12.2): implicitly, it is full entry into the humanist-individualist-hedonist paradigm. The folk sense this tragic betrayal, & their leaders should help them articulate it--but our UCC leaders, instead, have gone over to the enemy.

2 Instead of going over to the enemy & canceling the Bible, our UCC leaders could briefly inform our people of the particulars & costs of various positions on issues, telling us not WHAT but ***HOW to think*** (& thus helping us to think as Christian persons-in-community, the Body of Christ). They should be (religious) teachers, not (political) advocates. Exceptions? Of course, on unambiguous issues (e.g., UCBHM's paying Andy Young's SCLC salary to MLKingJr [at Martin's request]). Same-sex "marriage" most certainly is not, to the Christian mind, in the "unambiguous" category. (The civil-rights movement was embattled, but not ambiguous. By contrast, the gay movement is manifoldly ambiguous.)

This "minister and teacher" roll of pastor & ecclesiarchs should

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include pro/con readings. E.g., on the same-sex "marriage" issue, a PRO item could be EFRogersJr's "Sanctified Unions" (XnC 6.15.04, pp26-27)--outrageous distortions of the Lore, & patent special pleadings [e.g., that God intends sanctification through hetero-homo "diversity"--without even mentioning male/female diversity as having sanctification potential!]). A CON item could be RScruton's "Perversion" (NATIONAL REVIEW, 6.14.04, pp 36-37--sent me by a friend): "In no sense is marriage...merely the rubber-stamping of a sexual contract. It marks an existential transition, a move away from the concerns of one generation towards a concern for the next. It is not an act of gratification but an act of renunciation, the beneficiaries of which are not the spouses themselves, but their future children. Without marriage [e.g., in Italy today]..., societies do not reproduce themselves. Hence to treat marriage as a human toy, that can be redesigned at will..., is to jeopardize the rightful hopes of those unborn. Even if gay marriage does not involve perversion, therefore, to defend it is surely perverse."

Grace and peace--
Willis

This post went today, 6.11.04, by email to the Confessing Christ email group & by mail to the UCC executives, state (Nancy Taylor) & national (John Thomas)--these two letters including this:

The gravamen, as I see it, is the sqweaky-wheel syndrome: Christian leaders at all ecclesial levels are tempted to attend to pleas on the audio-scale, giving the most attention to the loudest. (I'm not just accusing: I'm remembering my own decade on the national UCC staff.)

Instance SAME-SEX "MARRIAGE":
The gay lobby pressures church and state, and both are tempted to concede the redefinition of "marriage" to include same-sex unions. Quiet, in opposition, are great authorities like Don Browning (U.Chicago, 25 vols. on the American family) and Max Stackhouse.

Grace and peace-- Willis Elliott

encl #3212, #3213, #3214

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