

http://onfaith.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/panelists/willis_e_elliott/2008/05/the_good_news_of_identifying_b.html

The Good News of Identifying Bad Religion

As a pro-choice evangelical, I was saddened by the violent *anti*-choice (spun as “pro-life”) language of “an Evangelical Manifesto” on this culture-war issue: we on the other side are guilty of “assaults” on the unborn. The anti-choice position is *political*, aimed at legislation forbidding abortion.

But the “On Faith” question emphasizes that this group of Evangelicals aims to “depoliticize the term ‘evangelical’”:

Some Christian leaders issued “An Evangelical Manifesto” last week [May 7] to depoliticize the term ‘evangelical.’ “We Evangelicals are defined theologically, and not politically, socially or culturally,” they said. In your mind, what is the definition of an evangelical?

1.....I’m an evangelical theologically, but “not politically, socially or culturally.” In other words, I’m *not* an Evangelical (a capitalization the Manifesto insists on as descriptive of its position). The Manifesto’s subtitle sharpens the drafters’ identity and stance: “The Washington Declaration of Evangelical Identity and Public Commitment.” Their purpose is “to clarify the confusion” about the word “Evangelical” and “to explain where we stand on issues” involving “Evangelicals in public life.”

2.....Admirably, the Manifesto premises, we human beings must learn to live together with “religious differences” that are “ultimate and irreducible” – differences in “personal worldviews” and in “entire ways of life co-existing in the same society.” One implicate should be the mutual granting of equal religious rights of belief, practice, and promotion.

3.....True to its irenic intention, the Manifesto carefully avoids traditional phrases that signal stereotypes inviting rejection by the non-Evangelical (and non-evangelical) public - for example, “born again,” the Bible as “inerrant,” Jesus’ return as “the second coming,” and “the rapture.” The seven markers of evangelicalism are simply stated, with only as much religious terminology as necessary.

4.....The “gospel” (Old English for “good-story”) translates “evangelion,” Greek for “Good News.” Good-News-ers (“evangelicals”) are “to live as Jesus did, reaching out to the poor, sick, and oppressed.” While Jesus, as divine and human, is “the only full and complete revelation of God, and therefore the only Savior,” the gospel is to be promoted by persuasion only, never by any form of coercion. “We assert it not to attack or to exclude, but to remind and to affirm, and so to rally and to reform.”

5.....While the seven markers include some “biblical truth recovered by the Protestant Reformation,” none of the seven is on the Church. And though evangelicalism is a development from fundamentalism, the Manifesto expressly rejects fundamentalism as “world-denying” and “politically disengaged.” “We must be faithful to the freedom, justice, peace, and well-being that are at the heart of the good news of Jesus.”

6.....The gospel is neither to be *privatized* (with loss of its social dimension) nor *politicized* (with loss of its independence). The gospel is betrayed both by atheist secularism’s illiberal “naked public square” (with “animosity toward religion in public life”) and by any theocracy’s “sacred public square.” The American way is a “civil public square,” where no particular religion is privileged over any other, nor are the religious excluded from speaking their faith in the public square. In “the global public square,” equal rights for all will promote “respectful debate” (rather than conflict, which leads to “coercive secularism and religious extremism”).

7.....“Culture warring” is bad news against the good news of the gospel. Religious rhetoric promoting “party, ideology, economic system,” or “nationality” [or race] is an abuse of the gospel and a disgrace to religion. Almost all readers of the Manifesto can agree with this overarching message.

BY WILLIS E. ELLIOTT | MAY 16, 2008; 3:04 PM ET

Comments

Please report offensive comments below.

"The truth hurts." That is your cliché; I knew you would say that; you always do.

Everything you say hurts; that is your style, to hurt other people, and in that, you are a very successful person. So, in your rudeness, it is not necessary for false and insincere manners, so please don't call me "sir" anymore.

Of course, I know you don't get it.

POSTED BY: DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN | MAY 21, 2008 7:18 AM
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

Mean? sorry you find the truth to be mean. I told Pagan exactly the truth. You can't let the bigots determine whether you will succeed or fail. The same truth holds for you sir.

Do you think success was any easier for the Tuskegee Airman than it is for African-Americans of today? Did they let bigotry pigeonhole them? Of course not. There was vastly more bigotry then than there is now but they succeeded in spite of it. And even won over some of the bigots.

In Pagan's place the story is much the same. 150 years ago he's have been killed likely by his own parents and buried in an unmarked grave. Today the only thing standing in his way is his own paranoia.

POSTED BY: GARYD | MAY 20, 2008 11:02 PM
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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Better CLINTON than McCAINs!
Better CLINTON than McCAINs!
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Better CLINTON than McCAINs!-.....
Better CLINTON's than McCAIN's! Thanks A-M-E-R-I-C-A

POSTED BY: VOTE: HILLARY BY THE: S..E..A..! | MAY 20, 2008 4:30 PM
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

I agree with GaryD that life is not fair. But there is something a little gangster-ish about reciting this platitude, while pummeling someone. I mean, isn't that what gangsters do?

It only has meaning, when you are holding out your strong hand to someone else's weak hand, to help them along. Otherwise, why say it? Just to be mean and hurtful?

Because that is what you are Mr. GaryD, one of the meanest people who ever posts on these On Faith Forum threads. You must have had an awful life because you have become as hard as nails.

There is never anything that comes from your angry keyboard that is not snide, spiteful, mean-hearted, and bitter. So, you win every argument, every time. But what do you actually think you are winning?

So much angst so little time. Pagan if you'll quit feeling so damn sorry for yourself you might actually accomplish something.

Neither you nor I have the time to worry about what someone else thinks of us or our lifestyle.

To tolerate means I don't shoot you on sight or order you beaten on general principles just because you don't believe the same way I do. It doesn't mean I have to like your lifestyle choices or that you have to like my lifestyle choices. It means no more and no less that we choose to live and let live. It means you don't try to shove your lifestyle down my throat and I don't try to shove mine down yours. We keep them to ourselves. You want to buss your significant other on the cheek in public? Be my guest. You want to grope get a room. I'm not voyeur enough to want to watch and I sure as hell don't want to be explaining it to my 3 year old granddaughter.

""Righteously"" hurting someone? Just because you have been hurt by someone that claimed to be a representative of God does not give you the right to categorize everyone as being the same."

I didn't 'characterize everyone,' merely the cloaking of *religious hate* in 'righteousness' then saying 'Life's not fair' while actively persecuting others in the guise of religion.

You're the one characterizing my experiences as having to do with 'one bad apple,' Hardly. That sort of person uses the homophobia and other religious bigotries to create an atmosphere of fear within which their own misdeeds can go hidden.

Like, mobs of kids taught that those who are different are fair game for beatings, like their teachers who are taught that the problem is someone being different, not the fact someone's getting beaten by mobs of kids *they* taught.

And on into life. Pretty much at every turn, there's been *someone* who believed they had a special right to perpetrate injustices for their 'absolute moral superiority,' and while I've pitied my own attackers, I can't be silent when I know how many others it happens to.

"I am sorry that you went through what you did at the hands of a so called "minister of God," that should not have happened, however that does not give you the right to "hate" others that represent or love God. Hate never helps the circumstance and hating others only promote more hate and abusive ways."

See, like that. Blame the victim of the injustice to defend the injustice.

I don't *hate* you, and it wouldn't change a thing if I did. I do have great contempt for the claims to righteousness of those who seek to use the government to oppress others, though, especially when they claim that what they choose to do to others is 'just how it is.'

Promoting and defending such injustices, ...dehumanizations, in fact, is not 'just how life is,' ...It's what *you* choose, even if you think you have perfect justification for it in your religion.

I'm not in your religion. And there's good reasons for that.

"Fix the hate and you may find peace or at least some rest for your hurting heart."

Ah, attempting to disqualify me from speaking on the hurt some folks do, *on the basis I was hurt?*

Interesting.

I can't 'fix' other people's hate, but society can say *no* to it.

Maybe your religion can, one day, too, instead of cloaking it in, 'We don't hate, we just hate the sin, which 'sin' is all we see when we look at you, you sin.'

POSTED BY: PAGANPLACE | MAY 19, 2008 10:43 AM
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

The Respected Senator John McCain would “Never,” even consider such an absurdity “the MAN is a US War Veteran,” and Senator Obama you could learn a thing or two from John McCain.

Citizens living in Hawai'i are having fits “absolutely outraged,” writing endless letters and commentaries (Comments) to both the Honolulu Advertiser and Honolulu Star Bulletin since they printed that the appointed junior Senator is coming to Hawai'i possibly giving a speaking engagement inside Punchbowl National Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii. It's a Veteran's National Cemetery not Obama's personal “Soap Box,” to stand on and rant; it's a place for those resting in peace. The people of Hawaii are angry at the thought of this and have every right to be at the report he's planning this – it's a disgrace. Punchbowl would NOT be a “wonderful backdrop.” Talk about crass -- speechifying in a national cemetery during a political campaign. Imagine this: thousands of enthralled Obama supporters rushing around the cemetery to get close to the man, trampling over the graves of men and women who've given their lives in service to their country. The reactions posted in Comments still, when the idea of a Punchbowl speech was first floated are from angry families whose loved ones rest in peace. National cemeteries are no place for political speeches. Makes you wonder about the maturity and integrity of the people who proposed such a preposterous idea in the first place.

Senator sell your socialism opinions on Capitol Hill, Hawaii's questioning and lost respect for the “so-called,” junior appointed Senator who's turned into another Washington D.C. *Wanna-bee* just allot of talk nothing more. You'd make a great car salesman NOT A PRESIDENT you seem to sell plenty of B.S. to those not wise enough to read between the lines of a script written performance; every word out of your mouth is written by a paid staff member whose worked the D.C. circuit for years like the well known Mr. Rove,” Yes, he too, could write a good speech and America bought it; just look at our current sitting “Bobble head,” in the oval office.

Webster's Fourth Edition describes Barack Obama as a “HYPOCRITE,” His own Pastor taught Trinity Church words of hate and racism while the Senator and his air-head-of-a-wife passed the tithe platter not giving even as 20 year members. He doesn't support any causes really, not even his own Church “just the views of Reverend Wright's anti-White; anti-Israel; anti-American points of view. A “greedy,” Senator is described in the Bible as a “HYPOCRITE,” as well. He's a Racist Elitist Marxist or the Antichrist reading his well written speeches. the *Wanna-bee* Washington Politician has in less then 12 months become a disgrace to Christianity– He's not a Christian man of his word; a poor excuse for one.

The Punchbowl National Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii is a sacred place for the many lying in Peace, Those US Military young and old, Men and Woman who gave their lives to this country will turn over in their graves at the sound of Obama's political performance if he speaks there. Punchbowl Cemetery it's not a place for a campaign rally “The Senator should keep his political performances with its Washington Socialism undertones to an area more suiting for “HYPOCRITES,” Senator your always welcomed to rant at Neil Abercrombie's headquarters, but Punchbowl Cemetery is a resting place of peace and should remain so for those who rest there, - not an arena for your personal political agenda; Show some decency and class moron.

POSTED BY: PINEAPPLE1 | MAY 19, 2008 2:06 AM
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

Come to think about it, sex is the problem. No sex means no people. People are the problem thus sex is the reason we're suffering global warming. But I heard somewhere that at least "Some Like it Hot" so maybe global warming is a blessing? Antarctica is a large land mass that like most of Alaska is presently being wasted. Usually saying, "things are heating up" means good and not bad is happening. When you're hot you're hot and when you're not you're not--hot.

POSTED BY: BGONE | MAY 18, 2008 12:35 PM
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

Mrs. Laura Merriott:

The world would be just like heaven if everyone was just like you. All that work and self sacrifice you do working with youth getting them to wait until they are married to do sex. Maybe if you worked a little harder, got them to put off sex until they're dead you could save the environment.

The polar ice caps are melting and will continue to melt until they're all gone. That's happening because the average temperature on earth is rising. The average temperature on earth is rising because of people. Stopping people from happening will stop the temperature from rising, the ice caps from melting and save the polar bears. Otherwise we'll must to catch all the remaining polar bears and put them in the homes of ecologists guaranteed to cool both of them off a bit.

On the other front and in line with that sure-fire solution to a problem we can stop abortion and you can have all those babies to raise at your expense. That will give you all you need to stop sex altogether between sinful people who shouldn't reproduce anyhow. Think of it. You can stop poverty, crime, disease and end the need for abortion.

Come on gang! Let me hear you shout!!

Mrs. Laura Merriott for president!!!!

I can't hear you!!

POSTED BY: BGONE | MAY 18, 2008 12:25 PM
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

Paganplace:

" Garyd:

""And you think life is supposed to be fair precisely why? Sorry Pagan life isn't fair and never has been.""

Ah, the plaintive whine of the self-righteous who get caught winding up their baseball bats.

So much for your Jesus.

Say, 'Life's not fair' when you're 'righteously' hurting someone.

spit.

Pathetic.

""Righteously"" hurting someone? Just because you have been hurt by someone that claimed to be a representative of God does not give you the right to categorize everyone as being the same.

I am sorry that you went through what you did at the hands of a so called "minister of God," that should not have happened, however that does not give you the right to "hate" others that represent or love God. Hate never helps the circumstance and hating others only promote more hate and abusive ways.

Fix the hate and you may find peace or at least some rest for your hurting heart.

POSTED BY: ANONYMOUS | MAY 18, 2008 12:13 PM
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

Dear Dr. Elliott and ALL of those who call yourself Christian--but who condone SEXUAL SINS--PLEASE read and respond to the following open letter to Senator Obama--because we want the BEST for ALL of God's people--it is immoral behavior that creates social ills and conservatives that follow Biblical standards have the solutions!

Here is a copy of the letter:

Dear Senator Obama,

I have been blessed for the last 10 years to direct youth to the healthy, responsible MORAL directive of abstinence education-which has only been funded under Title V since 1996-- which is now being attacked by SIECUS and others who want to continue the FAILED low expectation of comprehensive sex-ed which is LARGELY how to continue the HARMFUL behavior of sexual behavior outside of the committed union of MARRIAGE, -as long as they use condoms/birth control.

I have done much research as a nurse practitioner and an abstinence educator for the last 10 years, and was honored to write a chapter in a social ethics text which details the HIGH disparities in social ills like rates of poverty, rates of STD's, abortion rates, as well as the devastation to youth in fatherless homes-with increased rates of criminal behavior, drug and alcohol abuse, school drop out rates, and other devastation like emotional rates of depression and suicide rates, I hope you agree that directing ALL American youth to the HIGH expectation of abstinence education is the conservative IDEAL that would greatly reduce all of these ills --teaching ALL youth to abstain from not only drugs, alcohol and smoking, but especially sexual activity-- as there are MANY more negative consequences related to that ONE behavioral choice!

I believe it is time for ALL citizens who believe these statistics are UNACCEPTABLE, and begin to intervene to see how we can GREATLY reduce the rates of these sad statistics particularly for blacks and minorities which suffer with higher rates as a percentage of the population:

Sadly, blacks have higher rates as a percentage of the population-13%--of ALL of these social ills, BUT other statistics from the CDC state that they engage in these behaviors in higher rates--THUS more devastation. But, we have seen GREAT reductions-25% in teen pregnancy, and related 30% drop in child poverty, since we began funding Title V abstinence education in 1997,-BUT have not seen that GREAT news in the media-! Also, if we KNOW that so many social ills are linked to ONE behavior-- why wouldn't we invest MANY more dollars to be spent for that healthy, responsible directives?

Blacks account for 12-13% of the U.S. population--yet they have higher numbers as a percentage of their race in ALL of the following social ills:

POVERTY-The #1 group trapped in poverty are single female -headed households--NO marriage--blacks have a 70% out--of-wedlock birth rate--THUS MORE POVERTY--CHOOSING to engage in sex before marriage is the causal factor!

STD's --Blacks have higher numbers of ALL STD's -not just HIV/AIDS--which in some areas they account for 50% of the new cases--but also for Herpes, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea..and others,-we KNOW that STD's are LARGELY spread by CHOICES to engage in sex outside of MARRIAGE!

CRIME--WE KNOW that blacks have higher rates of criminal behavior AND on more black victims--we also know that 70% of the men in prison came from homes with NO fathers--NO marriage--thus NO positive role model--people CHOOSING to engage in sex outside of MARRIAGE-and then abandon their responsibility!

ABORTION--We know that since 1973-Roe v. Wade that 45 million unborn babies have been KILLED in legal abortion--BUT 1/3rd of those-15 million-- were black and Planned Parenthood-et.al. sets up more inner city abortion clinics targeting blacks--that is GENOCIDE ! that citizens SADLY ignore!

My research from the CDC states that black youth engage in sex at younger ages and with more partners than

their peers--THUS-more of ALL of these devastating numbers!

NOW for the solution--conservatives have funded and want to expand abstinence until MARRIAGE funding so that ALL youth will understand the consequences of that behavior -teach them how NOT to get STD's -or end up in poverty as a single mom or have to CHOOSE to KILL her baby in abortion. Also we would like to teach young men-why they need to exercise self-control and wait, and commit to the mom in MARRIAGE-that it is healthy for the child to grow up with a father and a mother and have a better chance of NOT engaging in criminal behavior and other negative behaviors!

I have a tape of some politicians from C-Span who say it is "unrealistic" to teach some youth abstinence--isn't that soft bigotry of LOW expectation--that blacks CANNOT be taught self-control like their white peers-- I believe that IT IS RACIST to not teach them the HIGH standard of abstinence AND we have studies which state black youth do abstain after this healthy, responsible, MORAL directive of abstinence education!

I also would like to remind you that IF you follow Christian Biblical standards in your personal life, and agree that you and your wife have the authority to pass those IDEALS on to your children--that CHOOSING to engage in sex outside of the "protective" boundary of MARRIAGE is a CHOICE to engage in sexual SINS_-those of fornication, sodomy, mutual masturbation, and those who stray from their marital vows--adultery--GOD's directives are TRULY about love and protection!

SO--I hope we will begin to challenge those who say they want less poverty, less crime, less STD's, less abortion -to join with conservatives and DEMAND abstinence education for ALL youth--so that we can GREATLY reduce these sad statistics-especially for blacks!

I also want to include the devastation from emotional effects of pre-marital sex like increased rates of depression and suicide, loss of self-esteem and MANY other emotional crisis that we spend MILLIONS on counseling!

***I am personally volunteering to come anywhere in the U.S. to show you a summary of the 2 hour presentation that we give to our students, and I KNOW that you will agree that ALL American youth are entitled to this HEALTHY, RESPONSBLE, MORAL directive, instead of the irresponsible, unhealthy, 30 year-old failed directive of "Just use your condom education" which has as described in Chapter 3 of our Catholic Social Ethics text has HARMED so many!

Lastly, I am sending you correspondence with the Dep. Sec of O.P.A. and many other state and federal authorities concerning Title X federally-funded family planning clinics which are NOT reporting under-aged statutory rape victims, and are instead handing them condoms/birth control with OUR tax dollars allowing these ILLEGAL relationships to be subsidized--this is a CRIME and these are victims of crime and should be reported so that their rapist partners can be jailed--PLEASE read the letters and imagine if this was your child that did not get reported--PLEASE assemble a Senate panel to examine this policy and put an end to under-aged minors not being protected.

I PRAY that you will prayerfully consider looking at the UNBELIEVABLE individual and societal costs to enabling our youth to continue to engage in the one behavioral CHOICE that causes all of these social ills--AND challenge them with the FACTS and with the solution--which is to direct ALL American youth to the healthy, responsible, directive of abstinence until MARRIAGE! I hope that after reading the correspondence on the issue of Title X clinics handing condoms/birth control to under-aged minors, that you agree that under-aged minors who visit clinics should be reported and their ILLEGAL relationships ended - and the rapist partner should be put in jail and you will cut off funding for Title X if these violations continue.

I know you are busy, but IF you read this material, I think as you head into this presidential race, you can use this information to inform ALL Americans that you see the GREAT benefit to joining the PRO-LIFE, PRO-ABSTINENCE and PRO-TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE agenda--and that these conservative ideals are the

solution to greatly reduce poverty, rates of STD's and many other social ills, that intact families with concerned mothers and fathers make healthy societies. I will PRAY for you and your family daily!

GOD BLESS-US-EVERYONE! Ret. Major Laura Merriott C.R. N. P.
and PROUD abstinence educator
814 835-0249
5235 Wolf Rd. Erie, Pa. 16505

I would be honored for you to call me
@ 814 835-0249 so that I may mail you the data!

POSTED BY: MRS. LAURA MERRIOTT | MAY 18, 2008 10:49 AM
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

Dear Rev Dr Elliot

As a Christian first and a Catholic denomination, I wish you a Happy Holy Trinity Day! The Catholics devote the day to reflecting on the mystery of the Holy Trinity (for me best expressed in John 14-17).

Soja John Thaikattil
Sydney, Australia

POSTED BY: SOJA JOHN THAIKATTIL, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA | MAY 18, 2008 7:39 AM
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

" Garyd:

"And you think life is supposed to be fair precisely why? Sorry Pagan life isn't fair and never has been."

Ah, the plaintive whine of the self-righteous who get caught winding up their baseball bats.

So much for your Jesus.

Say, 'Life's not fair' when you're 'righteously' hurting someone.

spit.

Pathetic.

POSTED BY: PAGANPLACE | MAY 18, 2008 12:22 AM
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

Mathew was one of Jesus Disciples so was John Mark was dictated by Peter to Mark somewhat before Peter was Crucified. Luke was basically serving as a Newspaper reporter and interviewed many eye witnesses. So yes the people who wrote the Gospels were there at the Crucifixion in three of four cases.

POSTED BY: GARYD | MAY 17, 2008 4:39 PM
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

mo:

I'm not arguing that God didn't create Adam. But what are the details? Do you know them?

God made a statue. Yeah, a statue. Then God breathed life into that statue -kinda like a statue of the Virgin Mary coming to life -- in the form of a knot on an old tree.

That nonsense comes from ancient science and not ancient religion. Ancient scientists attempted to determine, not define life. A thing was alive if it had a spirit. More specific, if the object was capable of self motion. Did you notice that a statue of a man is a man that can't move, anything, even mouth to speak?

Adam had the spirit of God installed by God no less -- beginning as a statue. Ancient scientists did not say that. It comes from ignorant people who did not know science. They understood that ignorant people will buy the flimsiest notions and pay them to hear them told over and over until they become facts.

Silly questions: Was the person who wrote Genesis there when God created Adam? Was any one of the dozen or more writers of Gospels there when Jesus was crucified? Since we know absolutely that no one was there when God said, "let there be light" and the many Gospels tells us they were written second hand, where did those original stories come from?

The hoax buster has that info but saying there might be a little something wrong with God's word, the Bible isn't allowed -- by order of his majesty George I guess -- too politically incorrect and contrary to faith no doubt.

Not to worry. The polar ice caps are melting fast. Soon hell complete with fire will be brought to earth removing the necessity to die to go there.

POSTED BY: BGONE | MAY 17, 2008 4:25 PM
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

And you think life is supposed to be fair precisely why? Sorry Pagan life isn't fair and never has been.

Redefining things to suit yourself is a game for people who are totalitarians at heart. Frankly I have no problem with civil unions but Marriage is a religious term affecting certain religions and telling them they need to change their views is silly when you can get essentially the same advantages without going to the trouble. Frankly if you and your significant other think marriage is going to give you a tax advantage you are kidding yourself. Especially if you both make significant amounts of money.

POSTED BY: GARYD | MAY 17, 2008 4:09 PM
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

Besides, Gary, even if you're as straight as June Cleaver's curtain rods, it's not 'freedom' if you are only allowed one thing.

So many evangelicals try to claim I'm 'redefining marriage.'

Actually, I know exactly what marriage is. And I'm not even religiously married to my sweetie cause I won't have her swear an oath before the Gods that the state, at your behest and coercion, might prevent her from keeping.

POSTED BY: PAGANPLACE | MAY 17, 2008 11:54 AM
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

Ridiculous, Gary. That's saying, 'Everyone has the 'right' to do what I say and nothing else!'

If straight people can marry who they choose and enjoy 2400 legal rights and protections from a Vegas wedding chapel as long as you like the combination of genitalia involved, where is this 'equal rights' for gay people?

POSTED BY: PAGANPLACE | MAY 17, 2008 11:26 AM
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

All in how you look at it pagan. In my view you're asking for an entirely different right not the same rights as everyone else. You already had the same right to marry some one of the opposite sex as everyone else.

POSTED BY: GARYD | MAY 17, 2008 10:50 AM
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

I guess, as regards this manifesto, the proof will be in the pudding: Will Evangelicals have the courage of these stated convictions to *not* take the easy way out and politicize some abuse of LBGT peoples' civil rights in trying to counteract a recent ruling in California, or let it be and focus on what they claim to want to focus on?

Plenty of people will use this ruling to try and scare people into voting for greed, warmongering, theocracy, and injustice, while the poor go unfed, our childrens' futures are literally poisoned, and our future is sold out to the shortsighted, extremely-wealthy Bible-beaters.

Hey, Evangelicals, here's your chance to show us you mean it.

All you gotta do is *not* go after the equal rights of others, and do something else, instead. :)

POSTED BY: PAGANPLACE | MAY 17, 2008 10:34 AM
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

origin of the species and manifesto of life.

the human species belong to adam and eve, and adam was created from the mud of this earth, the soul was breathed in adam by the creator of adam.

the origin of adam and the manifesto that was bestowed upon adam (by the creator of adam) goes parallel to each other, it does not fit the wisdom of the creator of adam to create adam and just throw adam on this planet earth without giving adam and his offspring a life manifesto.

the manifesto of the creator god is the manifesto, the good news to mankind is the criteria between what is right and what is wrong, what is good and what is bad, what is rational and what is irrational, what is real and what is false.

deviation from the manifesto of the creator god is what caused all this world delusionism, all world hallucinationism, all world confusion, all world troubles.

please know your creator.

POSTED BY: MO | MAY 17, 2008 2:24 AM
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

I'm not anti-choice I just think the choice should have been made earlier than the point at which someone found it necessary to take the life of a child still in the womb.

Playing games with words is fun isn't it? I'm against abortion. However abortion is but a symptom of a much bigger problem as are runaway STD rates nearly world wide.

POSTED BY: GARYD | MAY 16, 2008 10:13 PM
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

An evangelical is one who believes in angels. Isn't that the proper definition of the word? Therefore, all Jews, Christians and Muslims are evangelicals.

Those who believe the pope, their minister -- Rabbi, Television preacher, Ayatollah -- should run the world? I see. Those evangelicals. There are a lot of more colorful words than evangelical to call them.

POSTED BY: BGONE | MAY 16, 2008 5:16 PM
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

Indeed

POSTED BY: AQUARIUS | MAY 14, 2008 5:13 PM
[REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT](#)

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