



Censorship

Keith Sharp | Mountain Home, Arkansas, USA

Some social media platforms censor those whose politics they dislike. Our local newspaper refused to publish a Bible passage that condemns homosexuality. Our prominent politicians want to set up a "truth czar" to censor error (an idea common to Catholicism, Nazism, and Communism). Many religious people refuse to hear both sides of an issue. Why?

"And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that he deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God" (John 3:19-21).

Truth has nothing to fear from open investigation. Those who love the truth want to hear all sides of every important issue. When false teachers in Jerusalem demanded that Gentiles be circumcised and keep the law of Moses, the apostles let them have their say before the whole church, answered them before the con-

gregation, and truth prevailed (Acts 15:5-29). Those who hate the truth want to censor the truth (Acts 4:18). The best way to see that truth prevails is to freely, openly present all sides. The light of truth dispels the darkness of error.

Below is the article by brother Keith Sharp that was censored from their local news paper. SF

Advertisement Censored by Our Local Newspaper
The Ad We Sent

Does God Approve Homosexuality?

Keith Sharp

"For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty for their error which was due" (Romans 1:26-27). How does it read to you?

The Paper's Response

Following up with you,
First thank you so much for informing us that your contact info has changed. Below was the email I sent last week, -
I wanted to reach out and confirm we have tried to get this ad approved but the legal department and layout have decided that this specific content cannot be run. I apologize for the late notice but if you have any other ads/content ready to run we are welcome to run as of now we will refund and cancel this run.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you so much for your patience.

My Reply

Thank you for being honest and up front with me about the reason the ad was not run. And thank you for making a sincere effort to get the ad approved. The First Amendment to our Constitution reads in part: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free



exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press..." The same section of our Constitution that guarantees a free press also insures freedom of religion and freedom of speech. How can the staff of the "Baxter Bulletin" claim freedom of the press while denying freedom of speech and of religion? Perhaps they should study how freedom of speech and of the press were denied in the rise of such totalitarian regimes as Nazi Germany and the USSR.

I do not deny anyone the right to defend homosexuality or to be a member of a church that defends it. In fact, I have participated in two public debates over homosexuality in which the opposing speaker was a practicing homosexual and a bishop in the Metropolitan Community Church, a denomination that openly advocates homosexuality. One of those discussions was conducted in the building of a church of Christ. Why should I be denied the right to oppose a practice the Scriptures so plainly condemn that the "Baxter Bulletin" refuses to print the verses?

Christians have been fearful for some time that religious persecution is coming, and the refusal to publish a simple, direct quote of Scripture is a form of such persecution. Christians are not allowed to simply quote without comment in the paper what the Lord in His Word says about homosexuality. Those connected with "Baxter Bulletin" who made this decision should hang their heads in shame for censoring the Word of God.

I hope the staff of the "Baxter Bulletin" will reconsider their terrible decision. It has huge ramifications for the freedom and righteousness of our nation. Until they do so, the Highway 5 South Church of Christ will cancel all advertisement in the paper.

"Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people"
(Proverbs 14:34).

Again, thank you for trying to get the ad approved.

Sincerely and Without Malice, Keith Sharp



GLAD TIDINGS

Note: When I came across the items in these items from brother Sharp I thought it was good to share with everyone. We are facing trials of our faith more and more each day particularly in the public forum. Public proclamation of the truth of God's word is being refused and squelched much more than one would have thought possible.

We cannot become discouraged by the blatant opposition to God's truths for the sake of public acceptance in the media and other forums. God's word will stand. He will be our rock and shelter. Let us ever resolve to be faithful in living out the example of Christ in our lives. **SF**

Psalms 61:1-5

"Hear my cry, O God; Attend to my prayer. From the end of the earth I will cry to You, When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For You have been a shelter for me, And a strong tower from the enemy, I will abide in Your tabernacle forever; I will trust in the shelter of Your wings. Selah For You, O God, have heard my vows; You have given me the heritage of those who fear Your name."

Order of Worship March 21, 2021

Song Leader—AM	Steve Frazier
Song Leader—PM	Michael Young
Lord's Table	Derek Steen
Sermon—AM	Devin Barber
Sermon—PM	Devin Barber

Pray for Donovan while he is away for his training and service, that the Lord will keep him close to Him. Also, continue prayers for those on our list and for the free course of the gospel. *1 John 5:14*

Editor: Steve Frazier

Marietta church of Christ

8150 Driggers St.

Jacksonville, FL 32220

Meeting times of the church

Sunday

09:00 am Bible Classes

10:00 am Worship 05:00 pm Evening Worship

Wednesday

7:00 pm Bible classes

Evangelist: Devin Barber

Phone: 904-210-5036

www.mariettacoc.com

Hebrews 10:24-25