HOMOPHOBIA: THE SCARLET “H” (Part 1)
By Eric Holmberg

In our brave, new, politically-correct world it now seems to be official. Anyone who dares to have the slightest moral objection to homosexual behavior is to be labeled a *homophobe*.

This circle of shame has grown from calling someone a gay epithet (which is wrong, even sinful for any number of reasons) to now simply believing that heterosexuality is in any way better than and should be preferred to homosexuality. Not only are you a homophobe (and an idiot) for holding to such “stone-age nonsense,” you are also guilty of the new sins of “heterosexism” and spewing “heteronormative” propaganda if you dare speak your mind on the subject.

And a new “H” is becoming increasingly popular: *Hater*.

How far down the 1984 rabbit-hole we’ve crawled as a culture can be seen in a recent official memorandum that was emailed to managers within the Department of Justice in anticipation of the raft of pro-LGBTQ events that occur during the “Gay-Pride” month of June. Reading *LGBT Inclusion at Work: The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Managers* one can almost hear our Founding Fathers spinning in their graves. Said managers are encouraged to jettison gender-specific terms such as “husband” and “wife” in favor of the more inclusive “partner” or “significant other.” Most chilling of all, for the heteronormative DOJ employee, simply taking a pass on this homosexual agitprop by remaining silent is not even an option. According to directive #7: “Silence will be interpreted as disapproval.”
In other words, if you don’t bow the knee and offer up at least a brief homage to the idol of sexual and gender perversion\(^1\) you aren’t a good manager. Worse, you could be passed over for promotion, demoted - even fired. Why?

*Because you’re a stinking homophobe.*

*Homophobia.* If words mean anything today (and I’m not sure they do for many people) the term technically should be restricted to a person with an *irrational fear* (phobia) of homosexual persons and/or behavior.

Now to be sure homophobes, though rare, do exist. Examples would be people who think that simply being near a homosexual will make them gay or expose them to HIV or some other sexually-transmitted infection.

But it is semantically correct or fair to use the term to describe heteronormative\(^2\) people like me? After all, I don’t hate, dislike or am in any way phobic about gay people (truthfully I often find them more interesting, thoughtful and pleasant than many “straight” people I know). I have wept with compassion watching the ravages brought by AIDS to the LGBTQ community. Back in the day when scientists didn’t understand HIV very well and thought it was more communicable than it is, my wife and I brought a fellow parishioner into our home (with three children present) to care for him as he was dying of AIDS. I could go on.

With that said, I do believe with all my heart that homosexuality, bisexuality, transgenderism and all the other gender and sexual permutations that flow in and around the LGBTQ sub-culture are profound manifestations of the fall, of human brokenness. If acted upon they are sinful and like all sins are freighted with the virus of death. (Rom. 6:23) This death can manifest in the individual practitioner’s life through disease, emotional problems and broken relationships, among other things. And most

\(^1\) Pervert: “to turn away from the right course” (Dictionary.com)

\(^2\) Actually I prefer “bibliocentric” in regard to gender and sexual standards. “Normal” is a decidedly humanistic term and thus lacks transcendence and immutability. The sad fact is that “gay” has all but become the new normal.
tragic of all, if never repented of, it will cut them off permanently from having any
inheritance in God’s final and eternal kingdom. (1 Cor. 6:9)

The virus of death can spread and also have profound negative consequences for the
culture that embraces and normalizes homosexual behavior.³

Furthermore that the proper Christian response towards people caught up in this sin is
precisely the same as it would be for anyone in the thrall of heterosexual fornication,
alcoholism, co-dependency and a thousand-and-one other manifestations of the fall that
flesh is heir to: prayer; compassion; presenting the Gospel; loving appeals to God’s
Word and His standards to help the person understand the danger they are in; doing
our best to root up any hypocrisy in our own lives and to model to the person the pattern
for Kingdom living as manifested in Christ; etc.

Well, make no mistake about it. Believing all this now makes me a raging homophobe,
even a hater, in our modern lexicon. It certifies me as being unfit to speak on any
subject on many university campuses.⁴ It disqualifies me from working in a managerial
position (soon, if the trend continues, in any position) at the DOJ and likely many other
arms of the Federal Government. It could get me fired from any number of
corporations.⁵ It can result in me being arrested, fined, forced to attend seminars to help
me get “my mind right,” even tossed in jail.⁶ And the most common and in some
respects the most egregious blowback of all: it can be used to flippantly disregard, mock
and negate my opinions or positions concerning matters of family, gender and human
sexuality. Branded with the scarlet “H,” I and millions like me are being progressively
banished from the arena of civil and political discourse.

³ Rom. 1: 32. There isn’t time in this brief essay to develop this point. Stay tuned for further writings as
well as the video When the Levee Breaks: The Consequences of Normalizing Homosexuality.

⁴ A group of homosexual activists armed with bullhorns and tripping the fire alarm once prevented me
from speaking at the University of Sydney (Australia). My topic for the evening was music and culture. It
had absolutely nothing to do with homosexuality. But because I was, in their minds, a homophobe and a
hater, I was not to speak...on any subject.

⁵ My friend Matt Barber (Liberty Council) was fired from his job at a Fortune 50 company for daring to
express his Christian beliefs about homosexuality in a blog written on his own time from his home.

⁶ All these things have happened to Christians in this country. A florist in Washington state was recently
fined for gently turning down her services for a gay couple’s “wedding.” Educators have been required to
attend sensitivity training classes or lose their job or not be allowed to graduate. And a father in
Massachusetts who went to his children’s school to complain about them being subjected to pro-
homosexual curricula ended up being arrested and put in jail.
That “H” is starting to remind me more and more of another mark that first-century Christians were warned about by Jesus. The earthly “powers that be” were going to require that they take the mark (while in our case we’re to do what we can to avoid it) if they wanted to get along, conduct their business in peace, and have a voice in Imperial Rome.

Of course to do so meant that they had to deny Christ and their call to be salt and light amidst a wicked and perverse generation. Some did. But history records that thousands refused, many joining the ranks of the martyrs. Several generations later, that same Empire would bow its knee - symbolically and often even substantively - to the King of Kings.

Thankfully no one today is seriously threatening to make lion food or human candles out of people marked with the scarlet “H” (though I have seen signs at “gay-pride” parades to the contrary). All we’re likely to be asked to do is suffer some persecution, endure some “hate speech” (ironic, isn’t it?), see our face Photoshopped onto someone engaged in a homosexual act, take a pie in the face, perhaps lose a job, pay (or refuse to pay) a fine, or take an unpaid vacation in jail. Pretty light-weight stuff by comparison.

But the gazillion-dollar question nevertheless remains: How will history treat our response to this cultural crisis; to our little run-in with tribulation?

END OF PART ONE

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7 I think it is very important that Christians avoid hyperbole and broad-brushing concerning the so-called “homosexual agenda.” (There is one of sorts, though it is diverse, chaotic and free-flowing...kind of like the “Christian agenda.”) The vast majority of LGBTQ people would roundly condemn any acts of violence against people they disagree with. But it’s fair to point out that at least one gay “activist” was willing to pull a “Caesar Nero” and kill Christians for wearing the “H.” (Google “Floyd Corkins, Family Research Council”)

8 Definition of a nightmare for most contemporary Christians: Sitting down for dinner in the New Creation with a true martyr for the faith and being asked by him or her what they did for the Lord during their “tour of duty.”