

PARABLES

Bringing Hidden Things to Light



Psalms 78:2-4

I will open my mouth in a parable, I will utter dark sayings of old... We will not conceal them.

Parables Bookshelf - Series 1.17.6

This Parables Bookshelf Newsletter continues the book *Push Back*.

The Bible has much to say about men choosing temporal pleasures over an imperishable inheritance in the kingdom of God. Esau is the ultimate example of a man who made a bad choice in this area. When he returned from the woods after hunting for days and was hungry, he saw his brother Jacob with a pot full of stew resting over the fire. Esau asked for some of the stew, and Jacob told him he would give him the stew if Esau would give him his birthright. Esau accepted, trading his inheritance as the firstborn son to satisfy the desire of his belly.

Hebrews 12:15-16

See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God... that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal.

Men make many similar choices today. The pleasures of sin are fleeting. They do not last. Many choose temporal sexual pleasures, including homosexuality, over a lasting inheritance in heaven. This is a fool's bargain. Long after the pleasure is forgotten the misery at the discovery of what has been forfeited will result in great bitterness.

I Corinthians 6:9-10

Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of

God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

The good news is that those who formerly engaged in such behaviors will be forgiven if they repent of them and turn from their wicked ways.

I Corinthians 6:11

And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Yahshua Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.

Food for Thought

"Sin wouldn't be so attractive if the wages were paid immediately."

Author Unknown

"Persons manifestly go through more pain and self-denial to gratify a vicious passion than would have been necessary to the conquest of it."

Bishop Joseph Butler

Scripture Memory

Romans 6:19

For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.

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weh's divine design of the creation while producing just the opposite effect. Much has been written about the deleterious effect of vaccines. Injecting humans with viral material, heavy metals, and other toxins, as well as using aborted fetal cells to produce the vaccines, has introduced an array of health problems that far outweigh any claimed benefit that has been derived from the vaccines. Because the world media, and national governments, are controlled by a global corporatocracy, the news about the negative impact of tampering with God's creation order is suppressed, while false claims of great benefit are fed to the populace. The situation is no different when it comes to the promotion of homosexuality.

The image at the top of this post is taken from a publication titled *The Gender Book*. The publication is available online as a PDF file to be read, printed, and shared with others, and will soon be available as a paperback book. It is intended to be used as a primer to educate people on the subject of human gender.

<http://www.thegenderbook.com/>

The author begins his book with the statement:

One of the first things to do was to unpack a lot of inherited beliefs about gender and examine them for myself.

The writer, a man who identifies with the female gender, lists some of these "inherited beliefs," while sharing his views on them. They include the following:

Gender is obvious.

Nope! The only way to be sure you know how a

person identifies is to ask them.

Gender is the same as sex.

No Way! Maybe it matches for you, but not everyone feels that way. The short answer is that sex lives between your legs, while gender lives in between your ears.

Gender is static.

Nope! Gender can change over the course of your life.

There are only two genders.

This misconception is so common, it has its own name - gender binary. Actually, there are at least as many genders as there are cultures, and lots of more helpful ways to think of them than merely masculine and feminine.

The bottom of the page includes the following thought summary.

*So if we throw out those assumptions that don't work, what's left? It seems clear to me that gender isn't biology, it isn't your sexuality, it isn't always obvious, it isn't how you were raised or what surgeries you can afford, it isn't static, and it isn't how others see you. Gender is simply **how you see yourself**.*

These words describe well the philosophy of Satan regarding the sexes. You cannot tell what gender a person is by looking at them. You cannot even tell what a person's gender is if you know their sex, and which reproductive organs they have. A person's gender is not established at birth. It can change throughout their life. Satan would have us to believe that gender is as transitive as the way-

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Yahweh created mankind as male and female. He gave instructions to mankind to guard these gender distinctions. Yahweh commanded His people to not allow confusion to enter into the distinctiveness of the sexes. Yahweh intends for men to behave and appear as men. He intends for women to behave and appear as women.

Deuteronomy 22:5

A woman shall not wear man's clothing, nor shall a man put on a woman's clothing; for whoever does these things is an abomination to Yahweh your God.

The Gender Book contains the following pages.



Crossdressers

As a crossdresser, I have a true gender gift, the ability to live and relate comfortably in both the masculine and feminine worlds. That is how I chose my femme name, which means “gift from God.”

Jane

The best word to describe that which is presented here is “confusion.” God does not “gift” any individual to relate to the world as masculine and feminine. He has created some to relate to the world as men, and some to relate to the world as women. In

this sinful world there are men and women who deviate from Yahweh’s design for humanity. Christ came to restore all mankind to Yahweh’s divine order.

I Corinthians 6:10-11

Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals..., shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Yahshua Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.

Last week I was sent a link to an article about a newsman who announced that his gender identity was that of a woman. He began to dress in women’s clothes, wear a woman’s wig, and began hormone therapy. Three months later he claimed to have experienced a bizarre bout of amnesia where he reverted back to his male identity and could no longer even remember living as a woman.

I’m a guy again! ABC newsman who switched genders wants to switch back

By TARA PALMERI

Posted: August 6, 2013

He thought he was a woman trapped in a man’s body — but it turns out he’s “just another boring straight guy.”

ABC News editor Don Ennis strolled into the newsroom in May wearing a little black dress and an auburn wig and announced he was transgender and splitting from his wife. He wanted to be called Dawn.

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But now he says he suffered from a two-day bout of amnesia that has made him realize he wants to live his life again as Don.



Don/Dawn/Don Ennis

“I accused my wife of playing some kind of cruel joke, dressing me up in a wig and bra and making fake ID’s with the name ‘Dawn’ on it. Seriously,” Ennis wrote in a memo he posted to the newsroom bulletin board Friday, explaining his shock after he woke up from what he called a “transient global amnesia” last month...

“It became obvious this was not the case once I took off the bra — and discovered two reasons I was wearing one,” he said, referring to his hormone-induced breasts.

“I thought it was 1999... and I was sure... that I was a man,” Ennis said in the e-mail titled “Not Reportable, Very Confirmed.”

“Fortunately, my memories of the last 14 years have since returned. But what did not return was my identity as Dawn,” said Ennis, who had been wearing lipstick, skirts and heels.

“I am writing to let you know I’m changing my name . . . to Don Ennis. That will be my name again, now and forever. And it appears I’m not transgender after all.

“I have retained the much different mind-set I had in 1999: I am now totally, completely, unabashedly male in my mind, despite my physical attributes,” he said.

“I’m asking all of you who accepted me as a transgender to now understand: I was misdiagnosed.

“I am already using the men’s room and dressing accordingly,” he noted.

“It’s so odd to be experiencing this from the other side; as recently as last Friday, I felt I was indeed a woman, in my mind, body and soul...

“Even though I will not wear the wig or the makeup or the skirts again, I promise to remain a strong straight ally, a supporter of diversity and an advocate for equal rights and other LGBT issues including same-sex marriage.”

Ennis had previously told friends that he suspected his sex mix-up happened because his mother gave him female hormones as a child that made him look and sound young to prolong a bit-part acting career, but he ended up developing breasts and started thinking he was a woman.

He explained he had gone to the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Md., for testing last month to understand why his mind and body changed from male to female. He said he learned it was a hormone imbalance that could be fixed.

A week after he was discharged, his wife rushed him back to the hospital because he thought he was having a seizure and was experiencing a “drastic loss of memory.”

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Don added that he now feels “fantastic” as a man again.

And he said he hopes that with the hormone treatment and surgery, things will only get better.

Despite his short stint as a woman he told colleagues in the letter that he promises to remain “a strong straight ally and a supporter of diversity and an advocate for equal rights and other LGBT issues including same sex marriage.”

He plans to change the gender and name on his driver’s license, work ID and e-mail.

He called his three-month odyssey into the world of women “a tremendous gift...”

[Source:
http://www.nypost.com/p/news/national/guy_again_eKq3Jw6LjgsjpBdmZklrtM]

Does not the word “confusion” trumpet forth as one reads the article above? What is described is bizarre, aberrant, and, if I am not mistaken, Don Ennis’ account is also very disingenuous. I find the account of being stricken with transient global amnesia very convenient. After all, he spent the previous three months sharing the women’s bathroom with his female co-workers. I suspect some of them might have husbands who would not be too thrilled to hear that Don was “mistaken” about being a woman.

Stories such as this reveal the moral confusion that results when mankind departs from an identification of the natural order of God’s creation. Yesterday it was reported that U.S. Army Private Bradley Manning, recently sentenced to 35 years in a military prison for exposing government secrets, has

declared that he is transgender. He wants to serve his time in prison as a woman and has asked to be called Chelsea Manning.

It was reported that Manning experienced gender identity confusion prior to committing his crimes. The media has been publishing a photo of Bradley Manning in a woman’s wig, and wearing women’s clothing.

This announcement has far reaching implications for both the military and civilian prison systems. Manning was assigned to prison at Fort Leavenworth. This is a male only facility. If the government acknowledges the gender he identifies with, he will have to be transferred to the Army’s women’s prison in San Diego. He would likely share a cell, bathroom and shower facilities with women.



Bradley/Chelsea Manning

It is not hard to imagine some alternative motives for his seeking this reassignment. Manning has suffered much abuse at the hands of his military prison guards already, including being forced to stand naked in front of prison staff, and to be kept in a cell with no clothing, or bedding, on the pretense that he might try to injure himself. As he is facing the next 35 years in prison, he may well believe he

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would be better off in a facility that houses women. How many more male prisoners might take the same tack for similar reasons, or even to have contact with female prisoners?

One fact that is revealed in the bizarre story of news editor Don Ellis is that therapists have no way to tell whether a person is truly a transsexual. The only thing they have to go by is the individual's testimony. If a man says they see themselves as female, or a female states that she sees herself as male, the therapist must take the person's word on the matter. Indeed, laws are now being passed that would bar a counselor or therapist from trying to dissuade an individual from such a view.

The entire prison system could soon be filled with added confusion, and increased moral debauchery, as men are assigned to women's prisons and vice versa. California recently passed a law requiring that public school students be permitted to use whatever gender's facilities they identify with. This means boys may go into the girl's restrooms, dressing rooms, and showers, and girls into the boy's. It takes little imagination to perceive that this will soon become the law for all citizens of the state of California, including those in prison. It is, after all, being trumpeted as a human right.

As tragic as it is to see society falling into such debauchery, and to realize that children are going to be subjected to increased sexual confusion and trauma, it is also disheartening to observe so many Christians who are being swept along on this tide of deceit. Many have bought into the lie that Christians are to not judge, but are to love without criticism, and to embrace even the most deviant behaviors as acceptable. For those who are confused about the subject of judging, I recommend the writing titled *The Issue of Judging*.

One of the foundational errors committed by the author of *The Gender Book*, is that gender is determined by you. He states that gender is "how you see yourself." This is a humanistic viewpoint, where the judgment and thoughts of man supercede all others. A correct view of gender is that it is who God declares you to be. Yahweh does not place male souls in female bodies, or vice versa. Yahweh is not the author of confusion. If you were born with a female body, your gender is female. If you were born with a male body, your gender is male.

Romans 3:4

Let God be found true, though every man be found a liar...

Yahweh declared, "Let us create man in our image, after our likeness." Yahweh does not change. He is not male one day, and female the next. When Yahweh took on human form to demonstrate to the world His image and likeness, He appeared in the form of a man. Yahshua is called the SON of God. He was born in a male body, and He lived His life as a man. There was never any deviation from this identity.

Hebrews 13:8-9

Yahshua Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever.

The world has fallen under the influence of the great deceiver. When men say they are women, and women say they are men, they are deceived, rebellious, or both. It is a deceit of the enemy that leads humanity to believe that they can choose their own gender. There is pride evidenced in such words and actions, for men and women are attempting to re-create themselves according to their own thoughts and desires. They are rejecting the identity assigned to them by their Creator, and assigning themselves a new identity.

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When Yahweh created each individual He had a specific plan for them. Our lives know peace when we are in harmony with Yahweh's design for our life. We are most healthy and fruitful when we conform to His design for our lives. To deviate from that design is to resign oneself to confusion. The last thing we read about the men of Sodom before Yahweh destroyed the city with fire, is that they were struck with blindness and confusion.

Genesis 19:9-11

But [the men of Sodom] said, "Stand back!" And they said, "This fellow came in to live here temporarily, and now he presumes to be our judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them. So they rushed at and pressed violently against Lot and came close to breaking down the door." But the men [the angels] reached out and pulled Lot into the house to them and shut the door after him. And they struck the men who were at the door of the house with blindness [which dazed them with confusion], from the youths to the old men, so that they wearied themselves groping to find the door.

Surely Yahweh does all things by design. In striking the men of Sodom with blindness He was demonstrating that their lust had blinded them. In causing them to be struck with confusion, He was revealing the disorder in their lives that had lowered them to the state of senseless beasts. Homosexuality was then, and is today, a departure from the character and nature of God.

Push Back - Part Twelve

Joseph Herrin (08-26-2013)



Macklemore and Ryan Lewis

Every day there is a new onslaught of propaganda by the advocates of homosexual behavior. This morning the news headlines were hyping the performance of Macklemore and Ryan Lewis at the Video Music Awards that were broadcast last night to tens of millions of viewers. The duo were nominated for six video awards, including *Best Video with a Social Message* for their song *Same Love* which they performed during the broadcast. The power of deception in this song is profound. Having Jennifer Hudson, a singer known for her Christian faith and good-girl persona, join them at the end of the performance was a triumph of wickedness. The song even includes scripture quotations to promote behavior that God abhors.

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Same Love

When I was in the third grade I thought that I was gay,

'Cause I could draw, my uncle was, and I kept my room straight.

I told my mom, tears rushing down my face

She's like "Ben you've loved girls since before pre-k, trippin' "

Yeah, I guess she had a point, didn't she?

Bunch of stereotypes all in my head.

I remember doing the math like, "Yeah, I'm good at little league"

A preconceived idea of what it all meant

For those that liked the same sex

Had the characteristics

The right wing conservatives think it's a decision

And you can be cured with some treatment and religion

Man-made rewiring of a predisposition

Playing God, aw nah here we go

America the brave still fears what we don't know

And God loves all his children, is somehow forgotten

But we paraphrase a book written thirty-five-hundred years ago

I don't know

And I can't change

Even if I tried

Even if I wanted to

And I can't change

Even if I tried

Even if I wanted to

My love

My love

My love

She keeps me warm

She keeps me warm

She keeps me warm

She keeps me warm

If I was gay, I would think hip-hop hates me

Have you read the YouTube comments lately?

"Man, that's gay" gets dropped on the daily

We become so numb to what we're saying

A culture founded from oppression

Yet we don't have acceptance for 'em

Call each other faggots behind the keys of a message board

A word rooted in hate, yet our genre still ignores it

Gay is synonymous with the lesser

It's the same hate that's caused wars from religion

Gender to skin color, the complexion of your pigment

The same fight that led people to walk outs and sit ins

It's human rights for everybody, there is no difference!

Live on and be yourself

When I was at church they taught me something else

If you preach hate at the service those words aren't anointed

That holy water that you soak in has been poisoned

When everyone else is more comfortable remaining voiceless

Rather than fighting for humans that have had their rights stolen

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*I might not be the same, but that's not important
No freedom till we're equal, damn right I support it*

And I can't change

Even if I tried

Even if I wanted to

My love

My love

My love

She keeps me warm

She keeps me warm

She keeps me warm

She keeps me warm

We press play, don't press pause

Progress, march on

With the veil over our eyes

We turn our back on the cause

Till the day that my uncles can be united by law

*When kids are walking 'round the hallway plagued
by pain in their heart*

*A world so hateful some would rather die than be
who they are*

And a certificate on paper isn't gonna solve it all

But it's a damn good place to start

No law is gonna change us

We have to change us

Whatever God you believe in

We come from the same one

Strip away the fear

Underneath it's all the same love

About time that we raised up... sex

And I can't change

Even if I tried

Even if I wanted to

And I can't change

Even if I tried

Even if I wanted to

My love

My love

My love

She keeps me warm

She keeps me warm

She keeps me warm

She keeps me warm

Love is patient

Love is kind

Love is patient

Love is kind

(not crying on Sundays)

Love is patient

(not crying on Sundays)

Love is kind

(I'm not crying on Sundays)

Love is patient

(not crying on Sundays)

Love is kind

(I'm not crying on Sundays)

Love is patient

(not crying on Sundays)

Love is kind

(I'm not crying on Sundays)

Love is patient

Love is kind

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It should not surprise the Christian that Satan will quote Scripture to advocate behavior that is detestable to God. He did so when he tempted the Son of God in the wilderness. Yahshua never fell for these deceptions, but the same cannot be said for many Christians today. Christ answered Satan's quotations of Scriptures with other words from the Bible that demonstrated that the behavior Satan was advocating was contrary to the will of God. This is a good tack for the disciples of Christ to take today. If a homosexual advocate tells you that love is patient and kind, suggesting that it is unloving to condemn homosexual behavior, you might remind them that in the same passage the apostle Paul also wrote "Love... does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth" (I Corinthians 13:6).

Furthermore, the Bible describes homosexuality as unrighteousness.

I Corinthians 6:9-10

Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals... shall inherit the kingdom of God.

All of these verses come from the same book in the New Testament that Macklemore and Lewis cite in their homosexual advocacy song, which Jennifer Hudson assisted in proclaiming at the VMA awards. All of these individuals are guilty of practicing deception to justify a behavior that God condemns. Yet, they have the temerity to say,

And God loves all his children, is somehow forgotten

But we paraphrase a book written thirty-five-hundred years ago

Here is a literal (non-paraphrased) rendering of the words of the Bible.

Leviticus 18:22

You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.



The subtle message of the line *I'm not crying on Sundays* is a defiant proclamation that the person choosing the homosexual lifestyle will not be deterred, or disturbed, by the preaching of the Bible by people in church. Tragically, many will believe, and even sing along with, the words of this song, confessing that:

And I can't change

Even if I tried

Even if I wanted to

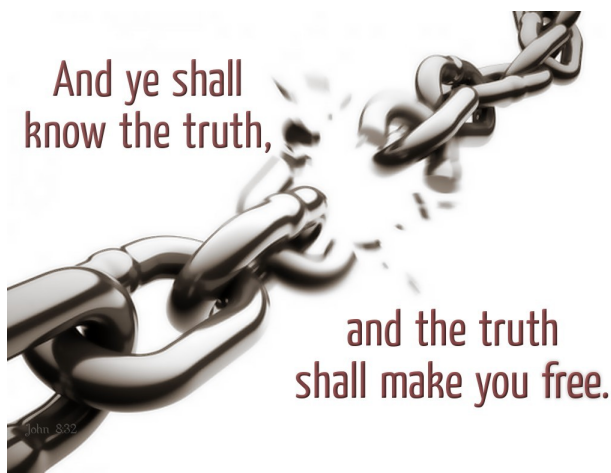
And I can't change

Even if I tried

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Even if I wanted to

Life and death are in the power of the tongue. Satan knows his craft well, and he is wrapping millions in chains of bondage that they cannot break. All the while he has fooled them into thinking that they are fighting for their “freedom.” In their spiritual blindness, they are actually fighting to remain prisoners of their sinful passions. Christ came to set men free: free from the shackles of sin - not freedom to sin.



I have not enjoyed writing this series, and I am eager to bring it to a close. Yet, there are things that needed to be expressed, and some things that must yet be set down, before I can conclude. I want to turn at this time to the spiritual significance of homosexuality. I believe that every sin of the flesh has a corresponding sin in the spiritual realm. The Bible reveals many of these parallel transgressions. Not surprisingly, sexual sins of the flesh are frequently linked to spiritual transgressions. Throughout the Bible we find that God relates spiritual idolatry to the physical sin of adultery.

Ezekiel 23:37

Thus they have committed adultery with their idols...

Ezekiel 16:30-32

“How languishing is your heart,” declares the Yahweh God, “while you do all these things, the actions of a bold-faced harlot. When you built your shrine at the beginning of every street and made your high place in every square, in disdain for money, you were not like a harlot. You adulteress wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband!”

Hosea 3:1

Then Yahweh said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by her husband, yet an adulteress, even as Yahweh loves the sons of Israel, though they turn to other gods...”

We should not be surprised to find that sexual sins are symbolic of spiritual transgressions that pertain to the relationship between God and man. Yahweh has created this physical universe to reveal the hidden things of the spiritual realm. The relationship between a husband and wife, and the act of procreation that brings forth offspring, offer profound parables of the relationship between humanity and the Creator. The apostle Paul wrote of the divine mystery contained in the intimate union of a man and his wife.

Ephesians 5:25-33

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. For this cause a

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man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband.

Paul declares that we are members of Christ's body. Eve was formed from a remnant portion of Adam's body that was removed while he slept. Adam declared, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Adam had to be cast into a deep sleep in

The book of Genesis reveals the origins of the sexual union...

order for Yahweh to remove a portion of his body to form the woman. Similarly, we find that the Son of God, the Last Adam, had to sleep in the dust of the earth in order for a bride to come forth. Christ surrendered His flesh and His blood in order to purchase a people for His own possession. He can now say, "This is flesh of My flesh, and bone of My bone."

The book of Genesis reveals the origins of the sexual union, and the process of bringing forth offspring. After the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, Yahweh pronounced His judgment. This judgment is often referred to as "the curse," but the word "curse" does not accurately describe God's words. What He spoke was actually the salvation and hope of mankind. There would be a long season of toil, and the man and woman would both know pain and sorrow, but the ultimate end of their experiences would be life.

Genesis 3:16-19

To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth, in pain you shall bring forth children; Yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you shall eat the plants of the field; By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; For you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Paul said the mystery of the man and the woman is great. In it is contained a revelation of the relationship between Christ and His church. As we look at the words above in light of the relationship between Christ and His church, some profound insight comes forth. The only way in which the church can bring forth mature sons is through pain. Suffering has become a necessary component of birthing spiritual offspring.

Philippians 1:29

For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake...

I Peter 5:10

And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His

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eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

Despite the fact that the church can only bring forth children through experiences of pain, she must still choose for Christ to rule over her. We find that there remains a remnant to this day whose desire is toward their heavenly Bridegroom. These ones choose for Yahshua to rule over them that He might obtain the sons that He desires. Yet, many eschew the pain and suffering. Many in the church do not share the Son of God's desire to have mature sons in His image. Therefore, they eschew suffering, choosing pleasure without pain.

In the natural realm, there are various ways in which men and women choose the pleasure of sexual intimacy without the pain that is incurred in bringing forth offspring. Many women enjoy the pleasures of sexual intercourse and then abort the baby in their womb. This has occurred more than 50 million times in America in the last 40 years. More babies have been aborted in America than there are people in Canada, and more than twice the population of Australia.

Many women who do have babies are opting to escape the pain of childbirth by having medical procedures such as C-sections, or epidurals (spinal blocks). Science is only now coming to understand the changes that take place in a woman's body as she undergoes the stress and pains of childbirth. There are chemicals produced, and an interchange with the baby, that effects its future growth and well-being. Babies who are born through natural childbirth are on average healthier, and even have a greater bond

to the mother, than those born by C-section or with the use of pain drugs. As you read through the following, I invite you to be alert to the spiritual parallels within the church.

Natural childbirth, also known as un-medicated birth, has many hidden benefits that more women of childbearing age should be aware of. In our society, giving pain medication for labor is so normal that most doctors assume a laboring woman will want it, and most mothers-to-be expect it. In fact, depending upon the hospital and region, pain medication rates are as high as 90 percent, with the vast majority of women choosing an epidural.

Generally, if there is a way around it, most women try and avoid the pain. Why be a martyr and suffer needlessly they ask? And that is exactly how I used to think right up until I got pregnant with my son. I always assumed I would just get an epidural. Like other women, I was terrified of the pain and I never even considered delivering naturally until a friend, who had given birth naturally, began listing its virtues.

most women forget birthing is a natural experience

Despite being in the natural health field, I had not really heard much discussion regarding the benefits of avoiding medication during labor. In retrospect, I should have made the connection since an epidural is a drug, and most drugs have side effects. However, the fear of labor pain was simply too strong to allow me to entertain any other thoughts. Yet, when I started

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to do some research on my own, which included reading books on midwifery and talking to women who had chosen natural childbirth, I started to realize there was another side to the story.

Due to the medical institutionalization of birth in North America, most women forget birthing is a natural experience that, in most cases, does not need medical intervention. Women have been delivering babies naturally for millennia. It is what our bodies were designed to do. Of course the reality that pain is involved in the process cannot be ignored. For this reason, the vast majority of women choose pain medication...

Let's look at the main reasons many women choose to have a natural childbirth.

Labor is Often Shorter

Epidurals and other pain relieving medications often lead to a slower delivery. Pain medications often interfere with the body's natural way of laboring and can slow down contractions. This increases total laboring periods. In addition, women often do not feel their contractions and do not know when to push. By not pushing at key times, or with adequate strength, they are not able to facilitate the laboring process. They miss important opportunities to work with the rhythms of their bodies.

Epidurals Often Increase Use of Medical Interventions

Because epidurals disconnect women from the natural pushing action and prolong labor, doc-

tors are prone to intervene in the slowed birthing process and may give a pitocin drip (a uterine stimulant) or use a vacuum or forceps to move the fetus through the birth canal. In addition, fetal monitoring may be necessary to study the fetus's heart rate. This usually requires an instrument to be attached to the baby's scalp. If there are issues related to the heart beat or other complications, a Cesarean-section may be done.

Although epidural use doesn't always cause these complications, it does increase the likelihood that interventions will be used.

Breastfeeding is Facilitated

Research shows babies born through natural childbirth are more alert and show more interest in breastfeeding once delivered. Many women don't realize the pain medication they receive is also passed on to their baby. Because of this, many babies are born slightly "drugged" from the pain medication. This can interfere with their innate suckling behavior that normally expresses itself shortly after birth. It is not unusual for babies, exposed to an epidural, to have difficulty with latching on and an uncoordinated suck/swallow response for hours, or even days.

When videotaped studies of newborn babies have been done, there has been a marked difference between those born to mothers who received pain medication and those who didn't. The fact that neither mom, nor baby, is medicated means natural instincts can emerge and the bonding that normally manifests between a mother and her baby can take place.

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Natural Childbirth is Often Healthier for Mom and Baby

Because an epidural slows down labor, a woman is much more likely to be given a pitocin drip (uterine stimulant) to speed up contractions. The resulting contractions begin to come on so strong and fast that a woman has very little time to recover between them, leaving less oxygen to reach the fetus. This could damage the fetus's brain cells and possibly lead to neurological problems.

Epidurals in birthing women also increase the chance of fever which increases the likelihood antibiotics will be prescribed.

Faster Recovery Time

Women who planned natural childbirths often feel great for a short while after delivering their babies. Because no numbing drugs were used, and no tubes or needles were stuck into their body parts, naturally birthing moms can get up shortly after labor if they desire, and walk around or take a shower.

The euphoric feeling in which many naturally birthing moms experience is caused by the release of endorphins in the body during labor. Endorphins are calming and pain-relieving hormones the body naturally produces when dealing with pain. Tests have shown a woman's body will not release nearly as many endorphins if a pain medication is utilized.

[Source: <http://naturallysavvy.com/Nest/the-benefits-of-natural-childbirth>]

Like women in America, more than 90% of the

church is seeking to avoid the necessary pain that accompanies the birthing of new life. Whether the life is a newborn baby, or a spiritual son or daughter of God, pain is both normal and necessary. The avoidance of pain ALWAYS results in negative consequences. One consequence is that the delivery takes longer. The mother, by choosing to ease her own discomfort and pain, actually prolongs the time that the baby within her womb must struggle through the process of birth. There is certainly a spiritual parable here. It takes much longer to produce spiritual offspring in the image of Christ when pain is avoided.

A second consequence is that unnatural medical procedures are often called upon to facilitate the birth process. In the spiritual realm the doctors are often the ministers. Even as the use of forceps, or pitocin drips, can result in harm to the baby, so too do the efforts of ministers who seek to bring forth offspring without the church having to suffer.



A third consequence is difficulty in breastfeeding. Like babies born to mothers who took pain drugs, many new Christians are born “dazed,” not fully alert. They are disoriented, and have trouble finding their way spiritually in life.

Push Back

They may lack a healthy appetite for the life sustaining milk of the word of God. They may look for sustenance in inferior manmade sources even as many parents supply their newborns with infant formula rather than the mother's breast milk.

Will not a spiritual child that is birthed in pain have a greater love for the church who labored to bring it forth? Will there not be a greater affinity between the new convert and the church who laid down their life, and embraced suffering, to secure its new birth? When the church avoids the pain of the cross it also lessens the bond of love between members.

One of the primary losses to the church when it seeks to avoid suffering, is that it cheats itself out of the "euphoria" that results after one has passed through a difficult trial. The Scriptures state that "for the joy (euphoria) set before Him, Christ endured the cross." There is great joy that results, both in this age, and in the ages to come, for those who have endured suffering in obedience to Christ. Those who strive to avoid this suffering are casting away an immense joy that far surpasses the pain of these momentary and light afflictions.



I found it interesting that the article above contained the following line:

Why be a martyr and suffer needlessly they ask?

The word "martyr" is a Biblical one. Those who are called to be disciples of Christ are called "martyrs."

Acts 1:8

"And you shall be My witnesses [Greek - martus, martyrs] both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Yahweh told the woman that bringing forth new life would be accompanied by pain. Can a woman cheat God and there be no consequences? There are always consequences to our decisions. In relation to natural birth and its associated pains, more consequences are being discovered all the time. The following quotation reveals a couple more benefits of natural childbirth.

Experts generally agree that most healthy, risk-free women should deliver their babies vaginally rather than by cesarean section, as it has benefits for both the mother and baby, like shorter hospital stays and fewer infant respiratory problems.

Now, Yale researchers said they've found another potential benefit of vaginal birth, claiming it triggers the production of a protein in ba-

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bies' brains that may improve brain development.

Giving birth via c-section, on the other hand, may impair its expression...

Other recent studies on the impact of different birthing methods have focused on immune system function.

A 2010 study in the journal PNAS suggested that as babies travel through the vagina during birth, they may pick up certain bacteria that could help protect them from future diseases.

[Source:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/08/08/natural-birth-protein_n_1756911.html]

With these words I am seeking to establish in the reader's mind the significant parallels between this natural creation and the spiritual realm. Yahweh has designed the entire male/female relationship and reproductive process to show forth profound spiritual truths.

Men and women in the church show little differentiation from those in the world. A pleasure seeking, pain eschewing people are demonstrating physically what is occurring unseen in realms of the spirit. Abortion, adultery, homosexuality, all have their parallels in the spirit. In the next post, I will begin to examine the spiritual significance of homosexual behavior and what it reveals about the church today.

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PARABLES PRECEPT—

153

The number 153 is found in the Gospel account of Christ appearing to His disciples a third time after His resurrection from the dead. On this occasion the disciples have been out all night fishing in a boat on the Sea of Galilee. They have caught nothing. As they return to the shore they see Yahshua with a fire laid and some fish over the fire. The disciples do not immediately recognize Christ, but recognition dawns on them after a miracle occurs. The Son of God tells them to cast their nets on the

right side of the boat, and when they do they encompass a large number of fish.

John 21:10-11

Yahshua said to them, “Bring some of the fish which you have just caught.” So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net to land, full of large fish, **153** of them; and though there were so many of them, the net was not torn.

The 153 fish represent men, for Christ told His disciples that He would make them “fishers of men.” The 153 are not just any men, however, they represent those who belong to Christ (none were lost as the nets did not break).

John 6:39

“And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.”

These are also those who are refined in the fire, for Christ had a fire already prepared and He instructed His disciples to bring some of the fish to Him so that He could place them in the fire. This is what Christ does with all those who come to Him. He has many fiery trials prepared for them that they might be purged, purified, and refined.

Luke 12:49

“I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and how I wish it were already kindled!”