

8-4-2012, COTR Texarkana

Title: Eat Mor Chickin

Purpose: Provoke Christians to love people and boldly stand for truth when addressing cultural issues.

Spiritual Truth: Speak the truth in love.

Text: 2 Tim 2:24-26, Mk 6:17-18

Topic: America, Boldness, Homosexuality, Truth

Eat Mor Chickin

I. Introduction...pictures of Tyler, Tx Chick-fil-A

A. I ate lunch Wednesday at Chick-fil-A in Tyler on Chick-fil-A appreciation day. When I arrived there were about one hundred people in line. When I left there were one hundred and fifty. Nobody was angry at the long wait; people laughed as they shared French fries. There was no hatred for those on the other side of the marriage debate but rather a sense that our country is headed in the wrong direction. It felt like a historic day. Many are bold to attack the Christian view of marriage but they may have awakened a sleeping giant.

1. Not everybody feels this way: You-Tube Adam Smith, Chick-Fil-A drive through
2. The uproar over chicken started when the President of Chick-fil-A said *"I'm guilty as charged for backing the Biblical definition of family."*
 - a. This was a personal opinion, not company policy. Official company policy says they treat every person with honor, dignity and respect –regardless of their belief, race, creed, sexual orientation or gender."
3. After Cathy's comments feathers began to fly. Mayors and Councilmen in several big cities attacked Chick-fil-A. Legal scholars said their remarks were discriminatory. Governor Huckabee said their remarks were vicious hate speech and intolerant bigotry from the left. The ACLU came out in support of Cathy's free speech rights. Gay groups called for gays to kiss at Chick-fil-A's on Friday. Sales on Wednesday were a world record but the mainstream media ignored it.

B. Today I'd like to talk to you about Christians, culture and chicken.

1. Last week we talked about how we know right from wrong.
 - a. 2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT) All Scripture is inspired by God...**It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.**
 - b. What is being played out in Chick-fil-A restaurants is a war for America's soul between those who believe the Bible and those who don't.
 - c. Today I will to tell you how to treat people who disagree with the Bible.

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D. Purpose: Provoke Christians to love people and boldly stand for truth when addressing cultural issues.

E. Spiritual Truth: Speak the truth in love.

II. Review: the Biblical view of marriage...Sermon "Who Makes the Rules", 5-19-12

A. Genesis 2:24 (NIV) [On marriage the Bible is clear]

²⁴ For this reason **a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.**

B. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (NIV) [on sexual sin the Bible is clear]

⁹ Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: **Neither the sexually immoral...nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders** ¹⁰ **...will inherit the kingdom of God.**

III. How should Christians treat people who disagree with the Bible?

A. Speak the truth in love.

1. 2 Timothy 2:24-26 (NLT)

²⁴ A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be **kind** to everyone, be able to teach, and be **patient** with difficult people. ²⁵ **Gently** instruct those who oppose the truth. **Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth.** ²⁶ Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants.

- a. Issue, Vs. 25: same sex marriage opposes the truth as taught in God's Word.
 - b. The Bible says the devil has deceived people. They're trapped by a lie and used as a pawn to further satan's agenda.
 - c. Our goal as Christians is to see God change their heart so they will love the truth and not fight against it. We're not trying to win an argument; we're trying to turn people's hearts to God.
 - d. Our attitude is crucial. Our motivation must be to love the person not to condemn in a self righteousness or argumentative way.
2. According to the Bible, same sex marriage is a sin but it's no more sinful than the sexual sins of heterosexuals, i.e. adultery, fornication, pornography...
 3. Testimony of Baptist pastor in Fla.: outreach to prostitutes. "We knew where your church was. We just didn't know that you loved whores like us".
 4. It's the love of God, not facts about God that draw people to him.
 5. Are homosexuals welcome at COTR?
 - a. Absolutely! You'll fit right in with people struggling with adultery and fornication. Church is a hospital for sinners to recover.
 - b. However, you can't be a leader or serve if you're living in open sexual sin. You can't openly flaunt your sin whatever it is.
 6. How our church treats gay people: Ron Halter testimony

B. Speak the truth in love.

1. Mark 6:17-18 (NIV)

¹⁷ For Herod himself had given orders to have John (*the Baptist*) arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. ¹⁸ For John had been saying to Herod, "**It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.**"

- a. King Herod and Herodias divorced their spouse and married each other. John told them the truth; their adulterous affair was wrong.
2. That's exactly what the President of Chick-fil-A did; he was attacked, too.
 3. Christians are afraid to speak out for many reasons:
 - a. We don't know what's right because we don't know what the Bible says.
 - b. Language used against us intimidates us...homophobic, hate speech, bigot
 4. Gazette picture, "Patrons...waited close to an hour before getting their food in a show of support of... Cathy's comments **in opposition to the gay community.**
 - a. He wasn't opposing the gay community. He was supporting God's Word. He wasn't anti-gay; he was pro-Bible/ pro-God.
 5. Acts 5:27-32 (ESV) [Peter and John were arrested for preaching Jesus]
²⁷ ...they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching..." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "**We must obey God rather than men.**" ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised Jesus,

whom you killed by hanging him on a tree.³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior...³² And we are witnesses to these things...

- a. We're called to be Christ's witnesses, too. We have the truth that can save their eternal soul.
6. Then as now there was a cultural pressure to silence the voice of the church. It's like a line is being drawn in the sand. Will we stand with Biblical truth, will we be silent or will we echo the values of our culture?
7. Chick-fil-A's President had the courage to speak the truth: *"I think we're inviting God's judgment on our nation when we shake our fist at Him and say "we know better than you as to what constitutes a marriage."*
 - a. Some people will get mad but others may hear the warning and save their eternal soul.

IV. Conclusion

A. Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV)

¹⁴ **"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.** ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, **let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.**

1. Light dispels darkness. It shows the way to go. The lights in America are getting dim. We all need to turn our lights on.
2. This is what Chick-fil-A appreciation day was about. Christians are tired of being bullied for our beliefs. Thousands of Christians came out to show their support of a brother in Christ who is being attacked for believing the Bible.
3. Let's continue to "Eat Mor Chickin" and speak the truth in love.

V. Response: What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

A. Prayer for boldness to speak the truth in love; repent of sexual sin, attitudes...Souls