

Something to Pray About

By Cindy Sears – March 2009

"DISCERNMENT"

The Pairs and Spares Sunday school class recently has been studying about spiritual gifts. One of those gifts is called "discernment," which involves the ability to tell if something is true and truly follows the Word of God or is deceptive. I picked up a book at the Lenoir library to read titled "The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart" by Peter J. Gomes. It is suppose to be about the Holy Bible and how we still need it today and how to use it.

As I began reading it, I soon began to feel uncomfortable with what was being implied by the author. I noticed several times that the author declared that certain things were either not in the Bible or had been interpreted incorrectly in past eras because of "cultural prejudice" or pre-conceived ideas. But my reading of the Bible told me that this author was the one misreading the Word of God, not me or my predecessors. Halfway through the book, I discovered what the man's true agenda was. Even though he is an ordained minister, he is a practicing homosexual and was attempting to prove that the Bible does not consider that lifestyle sinful.

Let's take a look at a few of his arguments. This will help us as Christians to see how God's Word is being twisted by certain people today, so that they can continue to live in sin that is definitely condemned in God's Word, the Holy Bible.

First, Mr. Gomes claims that, just because the creation story in Genesis only shows a male and female as life partners (in other words, husband and wife), does not mean that no other form of marriage is possible. The author admits that arguing from "silence" is not the best argument, but considers it telling evidence that other sexual partnerships are possible. What this man needs is a basic course in human anatomy. God is not silent about what sexual relationships work for mankind. He designed us. He made us to fit man to woman and woman to man, not man to man or woman to woman. That explains why there is so much disease and injury among those who would defy God's obvious plan for the two—male and female—partners of a valid marriage covenant. People are dying and society is being disrupted and falling into chaos because so many people refuse to stick to God's plan for sexual partnerships—male with female—and only within the marriage covenant. We also have the story of Noah, who took the animals on board the ark, two by two, male and female—and he and his sons entered the ark with their wives.

Second, he claims that the word used for "know" in the story of Sodom and Gomorrah is not the same word used in other parts of the Bible to refer to sexual knowledge or acts. Then he tries to explain why Lot refused to let the messengers of God intermingle with the crowd outside his door. I can't even remember his argument; but Lot lived in the area and knew those people well, and he was frightened of what those men might do to his visitors. And why would Lot offer his daughters to the men if sex was not what they were after?

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I warn you to be careful about everything you read today—even when it is purported to be written by a Christian. Satan and his deceptions are alive and well and infiltrating the church everywhere. That is why you must know what the Bible says and have a strong prayer life. Always ask for God's guidance no matter what you are reading (or watching, for that matter); and don't be afraid to call your pastor or another Christian who has a strong knowledge of God's Word to ask for guidance on something you've read or been told by others—especially when it seems to contradict longstanding Christian doctrine. Pray for discernment and for people of discernment in our churches to counteract Satan's attempts to dilute and pervert the truth of God's Word.