

Hays Mill church of Christ

21705 Hays Mill Road Elkmont, AL 35620

By Dave Miller CHRISTOPHOBIA... The PC inaccurate. (politically correct) crowd regularly and incessantly levels charges of "phobia" against all those who disagree with them on any number of moral issues. If you believe the Bible teaches that homosexuality is sinful, you are declared "homophobic" or "lesbophobic"; if you believe Islam is a false religion that endangers the American way of life, you are deemed fear "Islamophobic"; if you are concerned about the moral and spiritual impact on the nation of those who enter America illegally, you are labeled "xenophobic"; if you believe in the God of the Bible and consider atheism to be false, you are "atheophobic"; if you believe transgenderism is a mental illness, you are demeaned as "transphobic"; and the list goes on.

These charges are unfounded,

and untrue. True Christians are not irrationally afraid of such things. Rather, they have given considered analysis to each issue, including a careful assessment of what the Bible teaches (and, generally, what once characterized American civilization), and concluded that these behaviors are immoral and harmful to society. Neither do they murderers, thieves. or fornicators. Rather they recognize such behaviors as sinful in God's sight, unhealthy and detrimental to civil society, and actions that will ultimately cost the practitioner his soul for all eternity, Gal 5:19-21; Rev 21:8. True Christians love such people and experience genuine sorrow over their self-destructive condition, Mt 5:44; 23:37; Ezek 18:32.

Number 3

Yet, error is always inconsistent,

hypocritical, and actually guilty of the malady it decries. The same people who fill the airways with their cries of "intolerance!" and "judgmental!" are the very ones who are extremely intolerant, judgmental, and fearful (phobic) of anything or anyone who believes in the Bible and Christianity. Indeed, they are Christophobic irrationally afraid of and bitterly opposed to the precepts of Christ and the biblical principles on which America was founded.

Satan has always been "slick" in his ability to divert attention away from spiritual reality and generate opposition against the truth—like the Wizard of Oz who said, "Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain." Sinful, wicked behaviors as defined by Deity are damaging to people physically and spiritually. They cannot be justified or dismissed as trivial simply because those who champion them mischaracterize the righteous as "phobic" or "hateful." Those who speak against moral, godly principles—and those who defend them—are truly guilty of "hate speech."

"Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness," Isa 5:20. "But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, and will receive the wages of unrighteousness," 2 Peter 2:12,13.

"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness..., evilmindedness; they are... haters of God..., inventors of evil things..., who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them," Rom 1:28-32.

What's In It For Me?

By Steve Klein

The Lord described one of the shortcomings of the ancient Israelites as follows: "Everyone loves bribes, and follows after rewards. They do not defend the fatherless, nor does the cause of the widow come before them," Isa 1:23. Like many today, the people of Israel were not much interested in helping those who could not help them in return. The prevailing way of determining whether or not to be charitable and kind was apparently to ask oneself, "What's in it for me?" and "What am I going to get out of it?" And so it is today. Unless there is some prospect of being rewarded with pleasure, financial gain or praise, few will show much concern for the welfare of the needy and lowly.

It has been said that you can learn a lot about a man's character by observing how he treats someone who can do nothing for him. A person of quality will be kind to those who are in positions "lower" than his (e.g. waiters, cashiers, clerks, employees at work, underclassmen at school, etc.). He will go out of his way to be helpful to those who cannot pay him back.

Jesus expects His disciples to "condescend to men of low estate," Rom 12:16. He explicitly commands us to do good to those who cannot or will not repay us. In Luke 14:13,14 Jesus said, "When you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just." And in Luke 6:35 He commands us to love our "enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High."

Note that in both of the preceding passages, the reward for doing good to others is not material, financial, or even emotional—it's spiritual and eternal. Let not our love and kindness be sold cheaply for the temporary rewards of this life. Rather, store up eternal treasures in heaven by showing courtesy and compassion to all. Make it your task today to do something for someone who cannot pay you back.



There is no true benefit to society found in **legalizing sin** (including **the lottery**, any other form of **gambling**, or **recreational drug use**); you can tax it to bring in some income, but it ultimately brings in **more sin and corruption**—it always has, always will, Isa 5:20.

✤ Remember in Prayer ♣

Buddy continues to suffer from excess fluid retention; and it has been difficult to control **Betty's** sugar levels. Please continue to pray for Madelene Britnell, Carolyn Dennis, Tim and Dot Hice, and Joyce Smith.