

RELIGION

Taking The Cross Out Of The Church

By Mattie Ann Callier-Spears
In the world, man has standards that he has set for himself; and in these standards, man has deliberately forgotten to include God.

All that one has to do is listen to the news on television and radio and read the newspapers and magazines. There -- you will hear and see that man's standards, for life, have changed drastically. Such as: children divorcing their parents, separation of church and state, fraud, sex and violence among the brethren, homosexuality, drug laws, legally helping a person to commit suicide, sex in the schools among the teachers and students, children killing their parents and adults sodomizing their children and others, serial killers of every conceivable kind -- and more.

One day I watched this documentary that found an entire city that was inhabited by homosexual women. They owned and/or headed many key companies and/or businesses. They were the doctors, the teachers, the city board members, the lawyers, the storekeepers, your next door neighbor and pastor. They had their own church that performed marriages between the same sex (even though this is an abomination before God). These women were fair of face -- yet, some had altered their appearance to make themselves seem and look hard. There was open kissing in public places and restaurants and clubs.

There was a couple that had been

married and they wanted children added to their union. For this phase of life, a man is needed. This couple chose artificial insemination and a beautiful baby boy was born.

I said, "How ironic!"
The other woman, of the two, said that she would then have her child using semen for the same donor so that the children would have like features and the same father.

I, personally, was perplexed by the entire scenario; because, if you are put-out with being a woman, why would you want to have a child?
My elders would say, "Sugah, you want to have your cake and eat it too. The best of both worlds."

One woman said that having a child was fulfilling the primary functions of a woman's body. Well? So is having a husband. Two women cannot produce a child. Neither can two men.

The same God that wiped-out Sodom and Gomorrah is the same God that rules and super-rules -- today. There was a purpose to God's creation of Adam and Eve so that propagation could take place. He did not create Sam and Steve or Anna and Eve -- because his words, "Be fruitful and multiply...", would have all been a horrible joke. That's like telling a fish to go and hatch an elephant or telling a mouse to give birth to a grizzly bear. Everything has its order and its place.

The interviewer asked the

woman, who seemed to be the wife of the couple, had she thought on how this unusual marriage may impact her child. Her response was, "I hope that he will love us as we will love him. And that he will not be ashamed of us." Then the question was asked, "What will you tell him when he asks about his father? And how do you think your different lifestyle will affect him when he enters school and his peers begin to ask questions?"

She lowered her head and her eyes before responding; and then, the women looked at each other as if they were searching for a common response. The female, who had the baby and had a big baby shower which was attended by other women of the same mind, said, "We will tell him that we are his parents. We will give him much love. And -- we can only hope and pray that he will be proud of us as parents."

I thought to myself, as I sat watching this program, "These people can't really think that God approves of this? They just can't!"

This reminded me of a true story from a pastor-friend. He said that a couple came to his office for counseling. The man was married and he and his family went to this pastor's church. The woman, however, was single and also attended this same church. They came to the pastor because they loved each other so much that they felt that

God should bless them in their sinful acts. They even said that they hold hands and pray before having sex. Well! The pastor dismissed them immediately. He was appalled! He sat in wonder. "How could these people come to me thinking that I would condone their sinful actions?"

This only proved that Satan also attends worship services regularly.

However -- evil is a strong persuader. Evil has a strong rap. It's cunning and relentless. If you don't know Christ, then, you become an easy target

Standards!
As I grew, I can recall the words of my parents, "Don't ever lower your standards to accommodate someone else's desires."

The lowering of one's standards has always been an act of accommodation. An attempt to make something fit. Right now, we have a myriad of square pegs that have been forced into round an oblong holes. And this was blindly done with no regard of how it would impact the innocent or the young.

Mankind has truly gone to his and her extremes.

More and more, each day, you can hear and you can see where churches have literally taken the cross out of the church. The parishioners foolishly believe that God really applauds their efforts by saying, "When Christ walked this earth, he did everything he could to help mankind.

All that we are doing is trying to remove some of the restraints and make church more accommodating for those who are different." Wrong!

When God says that it is green, it is green; not magenta.

When I hear words spoken carelessly like these, I immediately rebuke the words and its author. I call upon the holy Spirit for comfort, strength and deliverance for the speaker. Because it troubles me to know that man is hurling himself and herself aimlessly into a path of destruction. My pastor has oft-time said, "The church is a hospital for the sick and the afflicted."

Now -- that's the truth!

So -- if you remove the cross, from whence will the healing come? Not from you and not from me. Healing -- only from the blood of Jesus that was shed on the cross for you and for me.

Yes! We are truly living in the last days. Days when the child is no longer innocent but wise and ruthless as a serpent. Days when women love women and marry each other. Days when men love men and marry each other. Days when drag-queens defame the Gospel of Jesus Christ and preach in drag on national television. Days when truth no longer has a high place on the steps of morality. Days when the church allows all manner of evil to be housed within its walls. Days

when the Holy Spirit is made to weep because of the violence, the crimes, the lies, the cheating, the incest, the broken families...

No matter how feverishly evil works, God Almighty is the victor...already.

If you need proof, go to the end of the book (Holy Bible) and read Revelations. Hallelujah!

In times like these, we need an anchor names Jesus Christ.

Man may make frail attempts to remove the cross from the church in an effort to appease and satisfy the desires of the world; but, God's Word shall stand forever.

"Those false prophets speak about matters of the world, and the world listens to them because they belong to the world." [1 John 4:5 GNB]

To my sisters and brothers in Christ: don't be astounded or amazed by the behavior of the world. You can't expect a cat to act like a horse or a dog to act like a snake; therefore, you can't expect the world to act like nothing else but ... the world. And who is the ruler of the world? Satan.

That's why.....

*I shall cherish
the old rugged cross.
The emblem
of suffering and shame.
I will cling
to the old rugged
cross;
And exchange it someday
for a crown.*



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Rev. and Mrs. G.L. Black I

In Loving Memory Of Gregory Dennis Allen

March 24, 1953 - March 29, 1994

Services Were Held:
Friday, April 8, 1994
Emmanuel Temple Church; 1032 N. Sumner;
Portland, Oregon; Bishop A. A. Wells Officiating

Gregory Dennis Allen was born March 24, 1953 to Millie and Alfreddie Allen, Sr., in Portland, Oregon. He attended Beach Elementary School and Jefferson High School. He continued his education at Portland Community College in General Studies and at Moler Barber College, graduating in July, 1988. He was employed at Golden's House of Style.

In 1976, Greg was Saved and filled with the Holy Ghost at Emmanuel Temple Church. There, he served as President of the Sons of Thunder, an auxiliary for young boys, and sang in the choir. In his later years, he experienced spiritual difficulties in his walk, and was not always successful in enduring with the Lord.

Greg played many sports, loved fishing, singing and spending time with his children. He was also known by his family as having a sense of humor.

Left to cherish his memory are his five children: Sirena Allen Robinson of Aurora, Colorado; De'Asha Allen-Peterson, Sierra Allen, Chelsea Allen and Isaiah Phillips, all of Portland, Oregon; and two grandchildren, LeRoy Morales and Jarves Tryels.

Greg, preceeded in death by his father Alfreddie Allen, Sr., in 1980, is also cherished by his mother, Millie Allen-Pollard; Grandmother, Geneva Allen; brothers, Alfreddie Allen, Jr., Jeffrey Allen-McDavid, Anthony Allen, Kevin Allen and Michael Allen; sisters, Genice Allen, Barrie Allen, and Sherika Allen, all of Portland, Oregon. He also leaves four aunts, three uncles, and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

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