
A REPLY TO SIGMUND

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(July 21, 2015)

On July 20, 2015 we posted the Bible Talk message for the week: ***What does the Bible say about the strange case of Caitlyn Jenner?*** One person wrote the following letter to me in the evening. The letter is as follows:

Hello-

I am an atheist and regularly listen to your Bible Talk message (I drive by your church everyday [sic]). Most of the time I just laugh at your circular logic, fallacies and the willful neglect of Scripture that opposes your personal viewpoint.

However, this week you are out of control and I must say something. You do not know what you are talking about with regard to Caitlyn Jenner. Your views are divisive and hate-filled. You show no understanding of the issues facing humans who have to deal with transgender issues. You hide behind the Bible and quote scriptures to mask your own feelings of insecurity in dealing with very real issues that face our nation and these individual humans every day. Every piece of research shows that people like Caitlyn Jenner are born identifying as a different gender. Everything about them is different from the anatomy they were born with. They don't change their mind or make a decision to be this way. This is simply how they are. You judge them, make them feel insecure, dirty, tell them they are wrong, filthy and not worthy of your god or your heaven. You make me sick.

Approximately 75% of transgender children feel unsafe at school and in society and cannot function due to bullying they face for doing nothing more than being who they are. Humans, especially children, look to their elders and leaders to see how to respond to these situations. They look to you for advice and you scream from your pulpit that TG people are wrong, dirty, liars, and claim you have Knowledge from the creator of the universe to support your claims. In your message, you hide behind god, claiming these are not your words but the words of god. Stand up and say this is what you believe...not what some supposed god says. Take responsibility. How can you live with yourself?

You are not the solution; you are the problem.

I offer the following response for the edification to those interested in this subject. I will not use the actual name of the writer. For the purposes of this review I will call the writer "Sigmund."

WILLFUL NEGLECT OF SCRIPTURE

First, notice the first paragraph concerning "**willful neglect of scripture**." Sigmund writes:

I am an atheist and regularly listen to your Bible Talk message (I drive by your church everyday [sic]). Most of the time I just laugh at your **circular logic, fallacies** and the **willful neglect of Scripture** that opposes your personal viewpoint.

Sigmund claims to be a longtime listener to the Bible Talk program and accuses us of three things in this paragraph:

- Circular logic
- Fallacies
- Willful neglect of Scripture

"Baseless accusations" are accusations with nothing to back them up – in other words, no proof of any kind. I'm sure that, as angry as Sigmund sounds, if he had some solid examples of circular logic, he would have offered an example of how we in the Lord's church are using circular logic. Or, if we were committing fallacies, I'm sure someone as angry as Sigmund would have given an example of fallacies. The fact that he gives no examples, in a diatribe such as this, speaks for itself.

Nor is there any example given of "willful neglect of Scripture." To the contrary, every article we present and post on the website is filled with scripture. As a matter of fact, we have had seven Open Bible Studies wherein the public is invited to listen and participate. In these Open Bible Studies (all posted on this website) we are asking preachers from various denominations to point out to us wherein we are wrong in our use of scripture and/or application of scripture. As a matter of fact, to find preachers to participate in an Open Bible Study is very difficult. We usually have to call 25 to 30 churches before we find one pastor who will agree to defend his opposing views in an Open Bible Study. We are not ashamed of our use of scripture on any subject we espouse. If, however, we are guilty of "wresting scripture," we would appreciate anyone who would point this out to us. We are willing to change, but we must be shown wherein we have erred.

Acts 17:11

¹¹ These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

If we are to be persuaded to believe differently, it must be shown to us from the scriptures that we are interpreting the scriptures incorrectly. The scriptures are our guide. Sigmund uses no scriptures in his letter. He offers no examples of fallacies or circular logic. He is simply wrong about "neglect of scripture." We present scripture for everything we believe and practice.

"HATE"

We move on to the second paragraph concerning hatred. Sigmund writes:

However, this week you are out of control and I must say something. You do not know what you are talking about with regard to Caitlyn Jenner. Your views are divisive and hate-filled.

With all due respect, I ask who is the one with a hate problem here. Listen to and read the notes which we posted on the Caitlyn Jenner topic and find any example of hate. It is not hateful to point out to someone when they have violated scripture. If pointing out to someone they are wrong constitutes "divisive and hate-filled" views, then what about Sigmund and his letter right here? Does Sigmund get a free-pass? Is he allowed to be divisive and hate-filled in his views by saying to us, "You are wrong"?

I'm going to do something which Sigmund did not do. Sigmund accused us of "using circular logic, fallacies and willful neglect of scripture" and he offered no proof. Then Sigmund accuses us of being "divisive" and "hate-filled" in our views. I am now going to turn the tables on Sigmund and I'm going to say Sigmund himself is divisive and hate-filled in his views and, unlike Sigmund, I'm going to offer some examples of why I'm accusing him of such. Observe the following statements in his letter:

- "Most of the time I just laugh at your circular logic."
- "Most of the time I just laugh at your ... fallacies."
- "Most of the time I just laugh at your ... willful neglect of Scripture."
- "This week you are out of control."
- "You do not know what you are talking about."
- "You hide behind the Bible and quote scriptures to mask your own feelings of insecurity."
- "You make me sick."
- "You hide behind god."
- "You are the problem."

I would invite Sigmund to find similar language in the Bible Talk presentation about Caitlyn Jenner or any other topic. We have never written nor spoken like this in any of our Bible Talk messages or articles posted on this website.

"RESEARCH"

Examine now the statements about research and transgender people. Sigmund writes:

Every piece of research shows that people like Caitlyn Jenner are born identifying as a different gender. Everything about them is different from the anatomy they were born with. They don't change their mind or make a decision to be this way. This is simply how they are.

"Every piece of research" Sigmund? Have you not overstated your case a little here? I notice that Sigmund actually presents no evidence again to substantiate his claims. Sigmund likes to accuse, but he doesn't like to prove. He likes to refer to "research" but never names a single piece of research. He makes sweeping, broad claims about "every piece of research" and I'm sure that if such a claim were true, he would have offered at least one example of research for our consideration.

Sigmund assures us that people like Bruce Jenner were born different from the rest of us. Sigmund says Bruce Jenner is different even in his anatomy. Again, I ask the obvious question: Have you not overstated your case a little? In what way is Bruce Jenner's anatomy different from other males? I pointed out in the Bible Talk message the following:

Everyone falls into one of two categories according to the Bible – male or female. Bruce Jenner was born a male. His birth certificate says he was born a male. He was born with male reproductive organs. Every chromosome in his body are male chromosomes. The only thing feminine in his entire body are the female hormones which have been injected by medical doctors.

Bible Talk, 7/20/15; <http://www.willofthelord.com/2015/07/20/what-does-the-bible-say-about-the-strange-case-of-caitlyn-jenner/> (accessed 7/21/15).

If Bruce Jenner is different in his anatomy today, it was not because he was born that way. If he's different today, it's because of surgery and/or feminine hormone injections from outside his anatomy.

Furthermore, what if it is true someone is born with a propensity to behave in a certain way. Suppose "little Billy" is born with the inclination to be rough and tough and hurt other people. Suppose that's just how he was born. Do we excuse "little Billy" when he hurts other children? Do we just say, "*Oh, that's just the way little Billy is. He was just born that way*"? Responsible parents will see "little Billy's" character and try to teach "little Billy" self-control.

Self-control is a dirty word to many Americans these days. Young teenagers are not to practice self-control according to our schools and society. Teenagers who feel like having sex should simply be allowed to have sex! After all, they were born as sexual beings, and we shouldn't make them feel "*insecure, dirty, or tell them they're wrong.*" You see, the problem with Sigmund is: **He has bought into the American idea that people should not control their thoughts or behavior. They should not be required to exercise self-control.** But contrary to what Sigmund writes, the Bible teaches we should master our fleshly desires and control ourselves.

Galatians 5:22-23

²² But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

²³ gentleness, **self-control**. Against such there is no law.

Look at that. There is no law against controlling one's self. Furthermore, "self" control means a person can do this themselves. They do not need a miracle from God. They do not need extra strengthening power from the Holy Spirit. It's called "self-control" for a reason.

Romans 7:12-16

¹² Therefore **the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good**.

¹³ Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.

¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.

¹⁵ For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.

¹⁶ If, then, I do what I will not to do, **I agree with the law that it is good**.

Here the apostle Paul is describing his life before he became a Christian. While he was a sinner he was tempted by the flesh to do things which the law of God forbade. Paul did not excuse himself and simply say, "I was born with certain desires and I don't care what the law of God says." Paul did not choose to become an atheist and deny the obvious fact that there is an intelligent Creator before whom we must one day stand in judgment. Psalm 14:1 says only a "fool" would deny the existence of the Creator.

Question: Who is making Paul feel guilty? Sigmund would say members of the church of Christ are making Paul feel ashamed. But this would not be true. Paul said it was God's law making him feel guilty.

Romans 7 is the story of all sinners. If a sinner has not "*seared his conscience*" (1 Tim 4:2), he will admit the law of God is "holy, just and good." The sinner will have a guilty conscience and seek some way of cleansing his conscience. How to cleanse the conscience is explained in the next few verses:

Romans 7:18-25

¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.

¹⁹ For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.

²⁰ Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

²¹ I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good.

²² For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.

²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

²⁵ I thank God — through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

The Devil is telling people in the world who struggle with fleshly desires:

- Don't choose self-control.
- Don't stop sinning.
- Simply change your views of what is descent and right.
- Erase God out of your thinking and pretend He doesn't exist.

In contrast to the Devil, the Lord is teaching us to "deny ourselves, take up a cross, and follow after Him" (Mt 16:24). The Lord is teaching self-control (Gal 5:23). The Lord Himself is the only avenue of escape from guilt and shame. This is the purpose of baptism.

1 Peter 3:21

²¹ There is also an antitype which now saves us — **baptism** (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but **the answer of a good conscience toward God**), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Baptism, according to this verse, is not for the cleansing of the physical body. Rather, it is to cleanse the conscience. Baptism is the occasion when God takes the blood of the Lord Jesus and washes away the sins of the sinner (Acts 2:38; 22:16).

"JUDGING"

We must move on. We come to Sigmund's statements about judging. Sigmund writes:

You judge [people like Caitlyn], make them feel insecure, dirty, tell them they are wrong, filthy and not worthy of your god or your heaven. You make me sick.

Actually Sigmund, we're only pointing out what God Himself said in scripture. The title of our program is "*Bible Talk*." In other words, our program is concerned with what the Bible says about various issues. I'm not surprised when an atheist, like Sigmund, writes and is outraged by what the Bible says because atheists by their very definition do not believe in God nor in God's inspired book – the Bible. For those interested in what the Bible says, we offer the scripture. Contrary to what Sigmund said, we are not "willfully neglecting scripture." On the contrary, we are investigating carefully what the Bible says and attempting to follow its holy precepts.

But Sigmund is concerned with judging. Judging is a dirty word for many Americans. We're not supposed to judge anyone for anything. "You cannot legislate morals" we are constantly being told.

For those interested, we have a Bible Talk posting on that very subject:
<http://www.willofthelord.com/2013/06/24/can-moral-values-be-legislated/>.

Unfortunately for Sigmund, he is judging those of us who are opposed to transgender behavior. What right does Sigmund have to judge others for judging?

Romans 2:21

²¹ You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal?

The Bible does talk about an unlawful judging:

Matthew 7:1

¹ "Judge not, that you be not judged.

If someone reads Mt 7:1 and stops, it has the appearance of forbidding all judging of any kind. But the Lord continues to describe the kind of judging which is unlawful:

Matthew 7:1-5

¹ "Judge not, that you be not judged.

² For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

³ And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?

⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye?

⁵ Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

The kind of judging forbidden by the Lord is hypocritical judging. It would be sinful for a practicing homosexual to condemn heterosexual adultery or vice versa. The Lord commanded removing the plank from your own eye first. Furthermore, the Lord did not say, "Simply leave your brother with the speck alone. Don't bother him. Don't judge him concerning the speck." On the contrary, the Lord commanded that we remove the speck from our brother's eye after we have cleared up our own eyesight.

"YOU HAVE NO IDEA"

Sigmund is upset because we do not know what we're talking about. He writes:

You do not know what you are talking about with regard to Caitlyn Jenner. ... You show no understanding of the issues facing humans who have to deal with transgender issues. ...

I wonder who Sigmund is and what Sigmund's standards of right and wrong are based on. Inasmuch as Sigmund claims he is an atheist, and inasmuch as atheism offers no moral standards whatsoever, what right does Sigmund have to judge others as competent or incompetent?

- Adolph Hitler, a Darwinian evolutionist, did not believe in God. His atheism drove him to slaughter over six-million Jews and Gypsies in the name of "survival of the fittest."
- Joseph Stalin, a Darwinian evolutionist, did not believe in God. His atheism drove him to slaughter over fifty-million Russians.
- Pol Pot, an atheist, slaughtered 1,700,000 Cambodians in his killing-fields.

The atheist has no standards whatsoever. If Sigmund claims to be an atheist, on what grounds does he object to anyone having standards? Where is the atheist's standards of right and wrong.

However, Sigmund imagines he has some correct understanding of what is right and wrong. He claims to know for certain the Bible is not that standard and he objects to the standards pointed out regarding homosexuality. And since our standards are based on the Bible, Sigmund writes:

You do not know what you are talking about with regard to Caitlyn Jenner. ... You show no understanding of the issues facing humans who have to deal with transgender issues. ...

What if it is possible for us to know what we're talking about regarding Caitlyn Jenner? What if we do have understanding of issues facing humans who have to deal with transgender issues? What if Bruce Jenner simply chose of his own freewill to stop practicing self-control (assuming he practiced self-control at one point in his life)? Is it lack of understanding on our part to say Mr. Jenner should return to practicing self-control?

When Sigmund wrote, "You show no understanding," he probably meant, "You show no tolerance." In other words, for people like Sigmund, the height of "understanding" moral issues is to "tolerate" all immoral behavior under the guise of "tolerance" and "understanding" and "non-judgementalism." I wonder though:

- Does Sigmund "understand, tolerate, and practice non-judgementalism" when Catholic priests molest little boys? After all, for all Sigmund knows, some Catholic priests were born pedophiles and are different even in their anatomy than others.
- Does Sigmund "understand, tolerate, and practice non-judgementalism" when a sadomasochist tortures and murders innocent victims?

Where will this reasoning end? Atheism has no standards to stop any moral atrocities. For those who would argue otherwise, I remind you of Hitler, Stalin, Mao and Pol Pot.

"HIDING BEHIND GOD"

Finally, Sigmund is angry because we hide behind God. He writes:

In your message, you hide behind god, claiming these are not your words but the words of god. Stand up and say this is what you believe...not what some supposed god says. Take responsibility. How can you live with yourself?

To this we plead "guilty as charged."

Colossians 3:1-3

¹ If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

³ For you died, and **your life is hidden with Christ in God.**

However, just in case Sigmund missed exactly what was recorded on Bible Talk, here is what I said at the end of the message:

Again, this is not a message to slander anyone. This is merely an investigation into a question: **What does the Bible say about the strange case of Caitlyn Jenner?** If you did not want to know what the Bible says about this, you should not have called. If you did want to know what the Bible says, then we have discovered what the Bible says. The Bible says such cases are sinful and shameful. That's not George Battey saying this. That's what the Bible says. As for me personally, I believe the Bible is the true and authoritative voice of God Himself.

Members of the church of Christ believe what the Bible teaches. The Bible teaches transgenderism is sinful and must be repented of like all other sins. On the other hand, there is a passage in the Bible which describes Sigmund and his philosophy of life:

Judges 21:25

²⁵ In those days there was no king in Israel; **everyone did what was right in his own eyes.**

When atheists choose for themselves what is right and wrong, they should not condemn others who choose for themselves to follow after the Holy God of the Bible. It is hypocritical to condemn in others what one allows for himself.