

FROM OUR PASTOR

June 11, 2016

Sabbath and Pentecost Greetings to Everyone!

This Sunday we will be keeping the wonderful Day of Pentecost! God's people will observe the day just as Peter and the rest of the disciples did in 31 AD and every year after. As we thank our Creator for His plan of salvation and importing to us use of the very nature of God the Father and Jesus Christ, the family structure that they ordained and created at the Garden of Eden is under attack constantly.

Next year, Washington school children in Kindergarten, as young as five years old, will have less time for learning shapes, addition, and the alphabet. By state mandate that time will be spent learning about gender fluidity and the differences between gender and sexual identity.

As reported on June 2, the newly-minted health and physical education standards, released by the Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), will be implemented in schools across the state for the 2017-2018 school year.

Reported in *The Daily Caller*, the new standards require students to learn about gender identity and expression beginning in kindergarten.

- **Beginning in Kindergarten**, students will be taught about the many ways to express gender, including cross-dressing as one form of gender expression.
- **Third graders** will be introduced to the concept of gender identity. These children will be taught that they can choose their own gender.
- **Fourth graders** will be expected to "define sexual orientation," which refers to whether a person identifies as heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual. They will also be taught about HIV prevention (sex education?). Children in fourth grade will be told that they can choose their sexual orientation.
- **Fourth and Fifth graders** will learn about the relativity of gender roles and why such roles are social constructs that are not inherent to who we are as male or female human beings.
- **Seventh graders** will be expected to "distinguish between biological sex, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation."
- **High School students** will critically evaluate how culture, media, society, and other people influence our perceptions of gender roles, sexuality, relationships, and sexual orientation.

No wonder so many are choosing Home School over Public Schools for their children!

When the Creator God made Adam and Eve, male and female, He said, "It is good!" The first command he gave them was to "Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth." Ever since then the foundation of society has been the family unit—a man, his wife, and their children. Satan had a plan to torment and damage that first family, and he has been at it ever since. It is easy to understand why Satan hates the family so much when we read Ephesians 5:31-32, "FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. This is a great mystery, **but I speak concerning Christ and the church.**"

Marriage pictures Jesus Christ and His Church. A great marriage teaches us many spiritual principles about God and learning to be like Christ.

For those who thought that "gay marriage" was the ultimate goal for these pushing it, they were wrong. The ultimate goal is the complete destruction of the family that God designed at creation. More of the perversions listed in Leviticus 18 are being promoted every day as normal. As always, those who oppose will be labeled as "bigots" and "haters."

The Apostle Peter gave a profound sermon on the Day of Pentecost recorded for us in Acts 2. We often read the message given on this day as we assemble to keep the Holy Day, also called Firstfruits. One verse in particular has special relevance for us: verse 40.

Acts 2:40 *"And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, 'be saved from this perverse generation.'"*

We must use the power that Jesus promised to overcome the society we live in, to be a light to the world, and to be saved from the evils that beset us on every side. Please pray for the parents who are trying to raise Godly children today. The challenges they face are great. The forces arrayed against them are formidable, however, we can win the battle because, *"...He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."* 1 John 4:4. Remember those words as we keep the Day of Pentecost this year!

*Rex Sexton
Pastor, UCG Portland*