

**SWEDEN MOVES TO CRIMINALIZE
OPPOSITION TO HOMOSEXUALITY**

Dub Mowery,
August 09, 2002

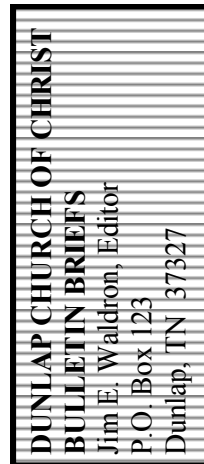
Swedish lawmakers approved a constitutional amendment the first week of June, by 56% of the vote, to criminalize opposition to homosexuality. The amendment must be voted on once more after their elections this September. If passed again, it will become law next January. A lady member of parliament stated: "That means people coming from (the homosexual) lobby group could sit in our churches having a tape recorder and listen to somebody then say, 'What you are saying is now against our constitution.'" She further said that anyone convicted of violating the constitutional amendment could spend six months to four years in jail.

Bob Knight, who heads the Culture and Family Institute at Concerned Women for America, predicts the U. S. will soon have similar laws. He stated: "The Swedish example should be a wake-up call to the rest of the world that the real intent is to criminalize Christianity."

The above comments were recently printed in the McCloud, OK church bulletin (P. O. Box 760, McCloud, OK 74851). Wayne Price, the local preacher stated, "Now, imagine what might happen next year to our missionaries in Sweden, if they dared to preach on this deviant and sinful lifestyle. This amendment would effectively prohibit the preaching of Romans 1:24-28 and I Cor. 6:9-11! In fact, the very publishing of this article would get your editor at least a minimum of six months in jail."

"Human cloning is deeply troubling to me, and to most Americans. Life is a creation, not a commodity. Our children are gifts to be loved and protected, not products to be designed and manufactured. Allowing cloning would be taking a significant step toward a society in which human beings are grown for spare body parts, and children are engineered to custom specification, and that is not acceptable."

President George W. Bush to the U.S. Senate, 4/10/02



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BULLETIN EDITOR/ELDERS

**BULLETIN
BRIEFS**

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**"CATHOLIC LAW LAX ON
MOLESTATION OF MINORS"**

Jim E. Waldron

Under the above heading Richard N. Ostling of the *Associated Press* wrote on April 19, 2002 "The Code of Canon Law," which was issued by Pope John Paul II in 1983, "specifies (1395.2) that sex between priests and minors is an ecclesiastical crime. Yet the 1985 code commentary stated that an initial charge of molesting 'is not viewed as seriously' as 'concubinage' (cohabitating with a woman) or 'attempted marriage' (a priest's civil marriage, which the church does not recognize)" (*Chattanooga Free Press, April 19, '02*).

In other words to the papacy it is more immoral for a priest to marry according to the law of the land than it is for him to sexually molest a minor boy or girl. And this is "The Code of Canon Law" promulgated by the so called, "vicar (earthly representative) of Jesus Christ."

The apostle Paul warned of the impending apostasy in his time, "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry..." (I Tim. 4:1-2).

Canon law as noted above so strongly forbids marriage that those trained as Roman Catholic priests learn that marrying according to the law of the land is more evil than sodomizing an altar boy. Is it any wonder that the Holy Spirit spoke of the rise of the papacy as the rise of "the man of sin" and "the lawless one" (II Thess. 2:3,8)? And to think men like Max Lucado hobknob with representatives of this organization and call them "father" (See *Behold The Pattern*, Goebel Music, 5114 Montclair, Colleyville, TX 76034, p. 117).

PAVING THE WAY FOR APOSTASY

James W. Boyd

The Lord's church in our day is continuing to suffer a tremendous erosion from the faith revealed in the Scriptures. This should be apparent to anyone who stays alert and attentive regarding what has been going on in the brotherhood. Yet, some write, speak, and act as if nothing has gone awry. How can a person keep from knowing the invasion of heresy and liberal digression into the body of Christ over the past few decades unless he does not want to know? Even when those who are producing the apostasy admit and boast of their determination to change the church in the likeness of denominations, some remain gullible, naïve, or for other motives that are not commendable, look the other way as if all is well.

It is a pathetic thing to see. False teachers have arisen from among us, and have gone out from us, with the avowed determination to either change us or destroy us. They contend that the church as we have known it cannot exist in this new and modern society and culture; therefore, the church must change to accommodate what is new. No, the changes they propose are not mere changes of attitude and methods, but of the doctrine which the church is to uphold, if they have any respect for doctrine at all. But their attitude toward the Bible as final authority has changed. They no longer subscribe to Scripture as guide.

These heretics have produced large gatherings to promote their agenda, such as the Tulsa Workshop and Jubilee* in Nashville. They have captured the schools and Bible departments which have now been for some years one of the major sources of digressive thought and teaching. They are not honest enough to go out from us, but remain among us to prey upon the naïve and blind leaders who tolerate their heresy, take over schools they did not build, take over memberships they did not create, but somehow are able to deceive many into following them. How is it they have such success?

There are several reasons why they succeed, such as Biblical ignorance in the pew, rebellion against the Bible, desire for numbers and money, feeding their own bellies, seeking acceptance from the world. But there is another factor, often overlooked, that has paved the way for these workers of iniquity to succeed. That is the weak, cowardly elders and preachers who are content to remain ignorant. Who will not only refuse to mark and avoid false teachers as Scripture commands, but who involve themselves as accomplices with them in their evil deeds. They bid them Godspeed, and provide for them pulpits to advance their influence, and go along in

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order to get along. There are preachers who have taught the truth, part of the truth, the positive side of the truth, who have not preached the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27). They never oppose error, or if they do, never bring themselves to identify those who are propagating error, even though that error is dividing the brotherhood. They evidently prefer their places, positions, salaries, and acceptance more than they love the truth of God that is being stomped under foot. They never have criticism for anybody except those who criticize false doctrine and the teachers of it. I doubt the reliability, even the credibility, of any preacher or eldership that has this digression swirling all about them but play like they do not know about it.

I doubt the courage of men who will not defend the faith and expose error and false teachers. They may have "big names" and be "somewhat," but they are poor servants of Christ. They will enter complicity with those who are tearing the church apart and leading it into liberal digression, and confuse their complicity with being loving and tolerant. In truth, they appear more interested in seeking for themselves, and appear to be afraid to stand. They crawl into the darkness of pretended piety and love, while deliberately refusing to see, and continuing to parade the very enemies of the cross as worthy of support. Some do not personally and openly accept the false doctrines being taught. But they violate the truth (Ephesians 5:11; 1 John 9-11; Romans 16:17,18) by their fellowship of such as Jubilee speakers, and the like. Possibly, as Jesus said of His murderers, "They know not what they do." But the sad truth is, some do know and don't care. If they do not know it, it is because they will not know, and do not seek to know. (2720 South Chancery St., McMinnville, TN 37110)

Editor: * The Nashville "Jubilee" was a wholesale effort to capture the many local churches of Christ in Middle Tennessee. Thanks be to God that it died a well deserved death in 2000, but we should be well aware of the fact that the new digressives (self-styled change agents) are using guerilla tactics to capture individual congregations one by one. Again and again we hear of elderships giving in to the whelms of "youth ministers." JW

Books By James W. Boyd

O GIVE ME A HOME:

Often "they (change agents) brand as 'legalistic' and 'fundamentalist' those who refuse to capitulate to their lax and open attitude toward the 'strait and narrow,'" Dave Miller, Piloting The Strait, p.96, P.O. Box 210667, Bedford, TX 76095.

The debate on co-operation will be continued in October.



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AM I FAITHFUL WITH MY TIME?

Roelf L. Ruffner

A good soldier spends all his waking hours focused upon his duty, whether it be guard duty or combat. Often as Christ's soldiers we are diverted from our duty as disciples of Christ. Do we let such things as ball games, recreation or general laziness keep us from attending the worship of our King? Do we allow the television set to keep us from studying God's word? Our hobbies and even our "work" (a loosely defined term to include the unnecessary) can become an excuse for not visiting the sick or encouraging the spiritually ill. "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier" (2 Tim. 2:4). Time must not become our master, for we have only one Master (Matt. 6:23).

Brethren, when they lower our remains into the grave will the common refrain be "He was a faithful Christian"? When we breathe our last breath the enlistment in the Lord's army will be over. Will we then stand before our Commander and hear these words: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: Thou has been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord" (Matt. 25:21) P.O. Box 278, Chillicothe, TX 79225