

# PTLA\*

by Sis. Connie Hinen  
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Have you ever been so troubled  
That your life became a drag...  
Have you ever felt like Satan's  
Favorite personal punching-bag?  
Have you felt unduly tested?  
Have you felt unjustly tried? --  
Till you find you're even questioning  
If the Lord is on your side?

If you're nodding in agreement,  
Then this poem's meant for you...  
It contains a pearl of wisdom  
If you'll only read it through.  
There's a reason for your troubles,  
There's a purpose in each test...

Though you may not see it now,  
Your Heavenly Father does know best!

When we die and get to Heaven  
God will make us understand  
That each single trial and testing  
Was direct from His own hand!  
God must teach us we can trust Him  
So He gives His children trials,  
And ol' Satan goes bananas  
If we face those tests with smiles!

So when God sends you a problem  
That's hand tailored just for you,  
Don't bemoan your situation,

Don't be angry, don't be blue.  
Don't 'Why-me-Lord',  
don't go bonkers,  
Don't go wishing you were dead --  
Raise your voice and yell out loudly  
One big "*Praise The Lord* " instead!

For each test that's sent is only meant  
To teach you how to praise,  
Mark my words, you'll thank God later  
For His wise, unfathomable ways!

\*Praise The Lord Anyway

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Live Simply, Love Generously,  
Care Deeply, Speak Kindly, and  
Leave the Rest To God. Amen

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# *Rights Cannot Be Wrongs! Wrongs Cannot Be Rights!*

by Bro. Brooks Strickland  
Quitman, Georgia

Many people in America today confuse rights with privileges. We have some Americans demanding that others, whether it be government or society as a whole, "give them their rights". This concept that some have is very backwards for several reasons. First, no man owes another man rights, because no man's rights ever came from another man. They came from the Creator of man. Every right you will ever have has already been given to you. The founding fathers spoke often of the natural rights of man. This was a name they used for our rights because they understood that the God who created nature was the same God who created man and gave him his rights.

Homosexuals are some of the main ones who are demanding these "rights" here in this land that was founded by our forefathers for the God-given natural rights of man. Let's look at a couple of things and you tell me if homosexuals actually have such rights. If God is the one who created nature and the rights of man, would the same God who proclaims that homosexuality is against nature acknowledge homosexuality as a right? Would He ever? It is ever apparent to me that homosexuals and those who support ungodly lifestyle are not only confusing rights with privileges, but more importantly confusing rights with wrongs! If the Author, Creator, and original founding Father of our rights say homosexuality is wrong, would He also consider it a right? And is the idea of "gay rights"

anything short of oxymoronic?

Should we find the homosexual use of the rainbow as a symbol anything short of ironic? The rainbow is a reminder of a covenant between God and man that He will never destroy the earth with a flood. Could there be a more unfit symbol for something that's called AGAINST nature (Romans 1:26-27)? Then again, what do homosexuals know about covenants? The One who gave the first woman to the first man is also the One who created the covenant of marriage between.....you guessed it, MAN and WOMAN. And if God is the God of this world and of this universe, could a "gay marriage" ever even be possible in this world? In this universe?

We also know that God is love. If the God of love calls it wrong and unnatural, can love ever actually exist between two homosexuals? Isn't it obvious that the Creator of love made love for the relationships He created to go together? At all wedding ceremonies, it is always proclaimed, "What the Lord hath joined together, let no man put asunder." The Creator of marriage never put two men together and He never put two women together in some ungodly union. I believe God would also say the opposite in these cases: "What God hath NOT joined together, let man put asunder." Men and women have a right to marry because the One who gave them that right is the One who made marriage what it is, between a man and a woman. Search

the Scriptures, and you will never find marriage even close to being meant for something other than between a man and a woman. Therefore, there has never been and never will be a "right" to a same-sex marriage. God only gave a right to get married His way!

Therefore, were the founding fathers homophobic when they only considered marriage the way the Creator of their rights considered it? Or were they being perfectly consistent in acknowledging the right of marriage was only in the way God intended it! Marriage is just like every other God-given right they believed they had. For 238 years, Americans have been just as consistent in celebrating the rights of free men, and still not acknowledging these self-promoting "gay rights"!

If homosexuality is ever acknowledged as a right in America, or if gay marriage is ever made legal, know this, it will not be because we as a nation have embraced freedom and rights! It will be because we have further embraced our own ignorance of what rights of free men are, and from whence they came. Recognizing the "rights" of a union God definitely says is wrong would be open rebellion against God, His word, and His ways. Rights cannot be wrongs, and wrongs cannot be rights!

**"THE WICKED SHALL  
BE TURNED INTO HELL,  
AND ALL THE NATIONS  
THAT FORGET GOD!" (Psalm 9:17).**

*A blind person asked someone:  
"Can there be anything worse than losing eye-sight?"  
He replied, "Yes, losing your vision!"*