

Minister's Message – July 2006

Self Regulation

Self regulation is a popular ideology these days. Governments no longer want to regulate anything in society. Years ago the banks were told to self regulate, with extensive branch closures and ever increasing fees being the result. The media was also told to be self regulating. Editors and producers would be sensitive to family and social values – so we were told.

How is it then that we now have pornographic shows on the TV which the prime minister calls 'stupid' and hopes will be taken off the air? How is it that young people are primed, and paid to act with gross indecency, in a TV show for the whole nation to watch? The major audience of this pornographic show called 'Big Brother' is 10-13 year olds we are told. Should we be surprised that self regulating producers come up with a show like this? Will we be surprised when school children start to act in the same way as their heroes on the TV?

If we read the Bible we will not be surprised at all. Those who choose to live by self regulation, rather than God's regulation, will inevitably end up living in lust and corruption. I once saw a bumper sticker – maybe it was on the car of a 'Big Brother' producer – that read 'lust not love'. That is the way of the sinful heart of man. And that is why God gave rules for us to live by. We ignore his rules to our own destruction.

When people turn away from the Creator God and worship created things, including self, the Bible says that God gives them up – Romans 1:24f

Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

It would be hard to write a more fitting review of 'Big Brother'!

The greatest lie perpetrated in our society is that there is no such thing as sin. Do you think we are all inherently good and that left to regulate our own lives we will choose what is upright and good? Then you are deluded and believe a lie. The apostle Paul did not trust his own moral compass. He faced up to the reality that he was a sinner and that no good thing existed within him. Again we read in the Bible (Romans 7:18-19)

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.

The sooner we all realize this truth, that nothing good can be found in us, and that we are sinners from birth, the sooner we will come to repentance, and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for help. Jesus alone can deliver us from the power and the penalty of sin. He has given us rules for life, and also gives his Spirit to those who believe. As a new creation is Christ Jesus we can live lives that are pleasing to God, upright and moral lives.

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