

Keeping Bloomington Legally and Morally Responsible

John Isaac Edwards

Below is a letter sent to the editor of the Bloomington, Indiana Herald-Times newspaper:

As a Hoosier, I watched with pride as our mayor appeared on Fox Business News on “Mayor Monday” and our city was held forth as an example of being fiscally responsible. Bloomington balanced its 2010 budget without having to make any drastic cuts to city services. Mayor Kruzan spoke to Fox Business News on the importance of municipal fiscal responsibility.

I was appalled when I read the report from 13 WTHR today, “Bloomington mayor planning same-sex wedding ceremony.” Mayor Kruzan announced his plans in a news release that he will conduct a wedding ceremony for more than a dozen same-sex couples this week (in opposition to the proposed constitutional amendment banning gay marriage in the state). The ceremony will reportedly take place Thursday, January 31 at 10:00 pm following the opening night of the PRIDE LGTBQ Film Festival at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater.

Now, someone needs to speak to our elected officials on the importance of municipal legal and moral responsibility.

IC 31-11-1-1 Same sex marriages prohibited Sec. 1. (a) Only a female may marry a male. Only a male may marry a female. (b) A marriage between persons of the same gender is void in In-

diana even if the marriage is lawful in the place where it is solemnized.

IC 31-11-11-7 Solemnization of marriage between persons prohibited from marrying Sec. 7. A person who knowingly solemnizes a marriage of individuals who are prohibited from marrying by IC 31-11-1 commits a Class B misdemeanor.

IC 35-50-3-3 Class B misdemeanor Sec. 3. A person who commits a Class B misdemeanor shall be imprisoned for a fixed term of not more than one hundred eighty (180) days; in addition, he may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

Yet, there is a higher law to which we are subject – “the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2) - by which we will be judged (John 12:48). “Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder” (Matthew 19:4-6).

How can we expect citizens of our city to respect and abide by the law, when elected officials engage in, and show their support for, that which is clearly prohibited by the law? Such examples can only lead to more lawlessness. We expect better. Bloomington has been a family-oriented city. Please, keep Bloomington livable.

Expressions of Personal Evangelism

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The concept of personal evangelism is expressed in the lives of many New Testament people. Consider some examples:

“She Spoke of Him to All Them That Looked for Redemption.” Luke 2:36-38 gives the biography of Anna. This remarkable woman “spoke of him (Jesus, v. 27) to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem” (v. 38). No doubt, there are those looking for redemption in our area. Redemption is in Christ (Romans 3:24). Are we speaking of the Redeemer as Anna?

“And He Brought Him to Jesus.” John 1:35-42 finds Andrew becoming a follower of Jesus. The record says, “He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus” (vv. 41-42). Did you observe the first thing Andrew did? “He first findeth his own brother...” (v. 41). Personal evangelism is a matter of top priority! This story also shows a great place to begin in personal evangelism - within one’s own family. We need to find our brother and bring him to Jesus!

“Come See a Man.” When a woman of Samaria found Christ at Jacob’s well, “The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?” (John 4:28-29). Personal evangelism is as easy as saying, “Come!” The power of an invitation is seen as “they went out of the city, and came unto him” (John 4:29-30). Verse 39 records, “And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman...” Suppose she hadn’t said anything? What if we keep quiet?

“They Went Every Where Preaching the Word.” Upon the stoning of Stephen, scattered saints “went every where preaching the word” (Acts 8:4). Acts 11:19-21 tells the rest of the story: “And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord” (v. 21). Would you like to see a great number believe and turn unto the Lord? “Go ye...and preach the gospel” (Mark 16:15). Disciples are made when folks like you and me go and preach the gospel.

Is evangelism being expressed in your life?

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Is Our
Only Guide!***