

“IF ANYONE SPEAKS, LET HIM SPEAK AS THE ORACLES OF GOD” (1 Peter 4:11)

Two things were reported this week which all Christians should be concerned about. The Catholic Church hierarchy met in Rome this week to decide upon several issues confronting them. Among them was the question of whether or not to allow homosexuals to have full participation in that religious body. The current Pope, Francis, is advocating that they should, saying that they have talents that can be useful in the church. This provision was voted down by the current legislative body of bishops. After that news was reported, one newsman said that many believe this was so because the more conservative bishops appointed by Francis' more conservative predecessors, and added that if Francis lives long enough to appoint his own bishops who support his agenda, this will become law within the Catholic Church.

The text that provides the title for this article plainly tells us that men are not permitted to speak on spiritual matters based on their own views or opinions, but they are to speak only as God through His word directs them. Jesus said, “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him — the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day” ([John 12:48](#)). When asked which version He will use, my answer is “the original.” We will all be judged by the word of God and not by the decrees of any man, or pope, or church tribunal. God word condemns the practice of homosexuality ([1 Corinthians 6:9-11](#)). [Verse 11](#) of this text proves that they can change their practice and when they do they will be forgiven by God when they are washed in the blood of Christ ([Revelation 1:5](#)).

Though Pope Francis heads up a church that is estimated to have more than a billion members, and in spite of the fact that he is said to be “the Holy Father” and a “vicar” or replacement for Christ on the earth, his word is no greater than any other man or group of men who take it upon themselves to speak for God. No one has the right to add to or to take away from God’s inspired word ([Revelation 22:18-19](#))

The second news story concerns, Annise Parker, the openly lesbian mayor of Houston, TX. She has recently decreed that all “pastors” (preachers) in her city must send her their sermon outlines or send her their CDs or DVDs to see if any negative comments are made about her or about the homosexual lifestyle. Those who fail to do so may be held in contempt of court. This is an infringement upon two rights given to us by our U. S. Constitution. First, freedom of speech, and second freedom of religion. What makes this mayor think she has the right to invalidate two provisions of the Bill of Rights? It is her goal to find fault with their sermons and to remove their tax exempt status. Once again, as I often said, some have made moral issues political issues and then insist that we are taking political positions when we preach or teach against them. They are still moral issues, and where God’s word speaks against them, we must also speak against them. It is my hope that these preachers, regardless of what religious group they are a part of will resist her decree.

When ordered by the Sanhedrin to not “Speak or teach in the name of Jesus,” they said, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard” ([Acts 4:18-20](#)). Later Peter told them, “We must obey God rather than men” ([Acts 5:29](#)). We can do no less.

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