

Difficult Issues

Taken from Today's Headlines



*Bible Answers to
Issues Confronting
Christians & the Church*

DIFFICULT ISSUE

Source: *Screen It*, Entertainment Reviews for Parents
Available on the Internet: <http://www.screenit.com>

The Movie Titanic: A Review

Of any real life event that seems perfect for dramatizing, the sinking of the luxury cruiser *H.M.S. Titanic* in 1912 certainly rates among the best. There's the tragic and still not completely resolved sequence of errors that led to the impact with the iceberg, and the delay of nearby ships to come to the rescue. The arrogance of the builders, and society in general, to proclaim the ship unsinkable – and thus not have enough lifeboats for everyone on board – is also a good dramatic element. Finally, there's the sinking of the ship itself. Taking several hours to finally disappear under the icy cold North Atlantic waters – where fifteen hundred people perished – you can't



match that for a tragic ending, especially considering this was her maiden voyage. Being a film about a sinking ship, there are obviously many tense and suspenseful moments that may be too intense for younger viewers. There are two scenes with sexually related material – one that's more sensual with bare breasts, the other is where Rose and Jack have sex. Apart from the ship sinking and people dying, there is some human generated violence and even more bad attitudes of the rich toward the poor. Since many teens will probably want to see this film, we suggest that you examine the content to determine how appropriate it is for them, you, or other members of your family.

Titanic is rated PG-13.

Questions & Answers

1. Should Christians go to movies or watch TV? Why or why not? What famous OT character was enticed by a woman's nudity? Who was at fault, the man or the woman? Why?
2. Given the review of *Titanic* above, is this a movie that Christians should go to see? Why or why not? Find at least 3 Bible verses that would give us some guidance on whether we should or should not see it.
3. When viewing a movie or watching TV, what should be a Christian's response if something comes on that is *not* fit to see?
4. What do the following movie ratings mean (G, PG, PG-13, R, X)? Which of these types of movies would it be okay for a Christian to watch? What verse in Psalm 101 would apply?
5. Would you want your children to see the movie *Titanic* after having read the review? yes no
List 3 guidelines you would give your children about watching any movie or TV show:
Guideline #1: _____
Guideline #2: _____
Guideline #3: _____

DIFFICULT ISSUE

Source: CNN Interactive, U.S. News Story Page,
October 2, 1996 Web posted at: 6:15 a.m. EDT

Proposed adoption change angers gay parents

SAN FRANCISCO (CNN) – Lesbian and gay activists are up in arms about a proposal by California Gov. Pete Wilson to restrict adoption by couples to those who are legally married.

Politically active gay-rights supporters like Kate Kendell say the proposed change to California's adoption regulations are nothing short of an attack on the concept of homosexual marriage.

"These regulations will not effect in any way the ability of single people, regardless of their sexual orientation, to adopt," said Kendell. "It will only affect the ability of committed lesbian and gay couples to adopt."

Wilson's initiative appears to be an indirect attempt to join the ranks of Florida and New Hampshire, which specifically outlaw homosexual adoptions.

"The governor believes it's in the best interests of the child to have a mother and a father in the household," a spokesman told CNN.

An estimated 17,000 children wait in California foster homes for adoption. Agencies working to place

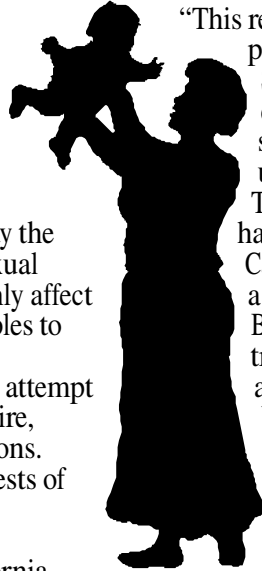
the youngsters say the proposed rule change could make it tougher to find adoptive parents.

"This regulation would really drastically reduce the pool," said Harriet Finck of the agency Adopt a Special Kid. "Over the last two years, of the children that AASK has placed in homes, I'd say 50 percent were single parents or couples unmarried."

Thana Christian is one person who might not have qualified as an adoptive parent under California's proposed change. She is single and a lesbian.

But after spending \$35,000 over four years trying to become a mother – first through artificial insemination, then adoption – she brought home a 10-month-old girl, Patty, in July.

"It's wonderful. She needed me as much as I needed her," Christian said. "And the birth parents needed me as much as I needed them. It's wonderful, even better than I imagined."



– From Correspondent Don Knapp

Questions & Answers

1. What does the Bible have to say about homosexuality? Is it approved or disapproved by God? Find at least 3 verses to support your answer.

2. How should a Christian treat a homosexual? In other words, what should be our response if we were to learn that a friend was a homosexual? Consider James 2 in this light.

3. Should a homosexual be allowed to adopt children? Why or why not?

4. Are homosexual marriages approved or disapproved by God? Indicate verses to support your answer.

5. There are 17,000 children awaiting adoption, should this cause the state to reconsider the proposal, or should the standards for adoption be tightened to exclude homosexuals? Why?

6. Do you think Patty (the little girl adopted by the lesbian woman) will be brought "up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?" (Eph. 6:4)? For whom is Patty's adoption "wonderful"? Her or her mother?

DIFFICULT ISSUE

Source: 09/09/97- Updated 05:33 PM ET USA TODAY Online.

Lawsuit Resolved, Abortion Pill on Track

A legal dispute that threatened to delay U.S. introduction of the abortion pill RU-486 has been resolved, the drug's backers announced Wednesday.

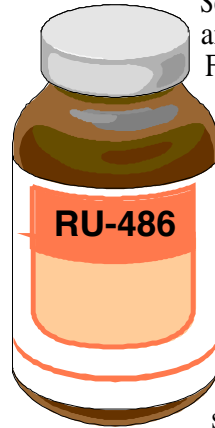
If the Food and Drug Administration approves the drug, as is widely expected, it should be available before the end of 1997, the backers say.

"We're going to move ahead," says Margaret Catley-Carlson, president of the Population Council, New York.

The council, a nonprofit research group that holds U.S. rights to the drug, has settled a lawsuit with Joseph D. Pike, a San Diego lawyer it had chosen to handle fund-raising, manufacturing and distribution.

The council demanded Pike sell controlling interest in the for-profit project - which he has now done - after learning he was disbarred and pled guilty to forgery in a North Carolina real estate case.

The cloud over Pike would undermine the venture, the council argued in its suit.



Now, a new company, Advances for Choice, has been formed to market the drug. The council shepherded the drug through the FDA process and, in September, learned the agency had found it safe and effective for ending early pregnancies. But the FDA asked for more information on labeling and manufacturing before approval. That information should be ready by June, says Jack Van Hulst, chief executive of the new company.

Abortion opponents are unsympathetic about the venture's woes. "The whole problem reflected the fact that there is big money here," says Wanda Franz of the National Right to Life Committee. "This is not about choice or women's health or compassion or any of that. Under that nice sales pitch, there's a seamy side."

Abortion rights supporters say the drug will be preferred over surgery by many women and will make the procedure more accessible and private.

By Kim Painter, USA TODAY

Questions & Answers

1. Should the introduction of RU-486 be delayed? Why or why not?
2. Should a woman have the right to "choose" to end a pregnancy?
3. What Bible passages would you use to show that abortion is wrong? (Consider Exo 21:22-23; Psa. 139:14; Luke 1:44)
4. Is a woman who has an abortion displaying the "natural affection" mentioned in Romans 1:31 and 2 Timothy 3:3?
5. Does God give people a choice to do good or evil? When it comes to having or not having children, when should a woman exercise her freedom to choose?