

Spectre in the Closet - March 1987

It was 29 June 1970. Ten thousand homosexuals marched down Sixth Avenue to Central Park, New York, chanting '2, 4, 6, 8! Gay is just as good as straight! Out of the closets! Into the streets!' That event more than any marked the beginning of the gay rights movement in America. Since then, the media, music industry, advertisers, pornographic publishers and trendy Left have conspired to champion the movement's cause. For millions of us 'straights' the whole thing is horrifyingly repugnant. In the 1960s and 1970s biblical morality was declared 'outdated', 'old fashioned', 'unrealistic' and finally 'dead' in the midst of an unprecedented sexual explosion. We had moved into the Age of Aquarius, the era of enlightenment. Sexual utopia was just around the corner. Terms like 'promiscuity' and 'licentiousness' were hijacked by such words of promise as 'sexual liberation', 'moral freedom' and 'if it feels good, do it'. Anyone speaking out against the trend was promptly dubbed a 'right wing bigot' or 'Bible thumping extremist'.

Evil Labelled Good

For the Christian this tidal wave of immorality, set in motion by a secular minority, was a frightening omen of Restoration for the future. Society was being brainwashed into believing that something self-destructive was actually beneficial and liberating. Then came the 1980s and a dreadful thing happened. The sexual revolution finally paid out its rewards in a sickening and deadly fashion — Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. The word AIDS entered our vocabulary. Initially homosexuals, drug users and prostitutes were the main sufferers, but that has now changed; the whole population is at risk. Although homosexuals and drug addicts still account for the overwhelming majority of victims, the community is endangered through the growing number of cases attributable to intercourse with prostitutes and bisexual partners. Not only the promiscuous are at risk, however — the community at large is also endangered. Innocent children born to infected mothers have been known to be born with the AIDS virus. Infected blood used in transfusions has resulted in individuals — many of them haemophiliacs — becoming innocent victims of AIDS.

How Serious is It?

A million Africans are expected to die from AIDS in the next 10 years. In Uganda 1 in 10 adults is affected. In an 11-nation stretch from the Congo to Tanzania 50,000 have already died since the disease was confirmed in the late 1970s. World Health Organisation's scientists estimate that five million Africans are now carriers of the virus. Dr Francis Barin of the Bretonneau Hospital in Tours, France, described the tragedy of Africa by saying, 'It's difficult using these words, but we risk an apocalypse.' In the USA, 15,000 men, women and children have already died from AIDS. The disease has reached such proportions that, despite recent encouraging results of clinical tests with the experimental drug AZT, 58,000 people are expected to die from the disease by 1990 — as many as American deaths in the Vietnam war. At present, 11 million Americans are believed to be carriers of the

AIDS virus, vulnerable at any time to an all-out attack. In New York, 8 in 1000 men and 6 in 1000 women are carriers. Worldwide, three million people will die of AIDS by 1990.

AIDS in Britain

It was on 4 July 1982 that AIDS claimed its first victim in Britain, 37-year-old Terrence Higgins. Since that time over 300 people have died, another 4000 being expected to follow them over the next three years. Up to 100,000 people in Britain are now believed to be carriers of the AIDS virus, of whom half are expected to develop the full blown disease. These awful statistics take no account of those who will contract the virus during the next five years or more that the disease will take to develop in the present carriers. The prospects are fearful. John Biff in, leader of the House of Commons, in his appeal to the churches to speak strongly on the issue, referred to the disease as 'a great shadow' looming over all public debate. With the number of AIDS cases doubling every 10 months, some feel it is already too late to stop the epidemic taking hold. There is a growing cry for a campaign of containment as well as increased information.

Local Councils

This is no longer just a health crisis or a moral issue; it has become a political concern. Every one of London's 12 Labour borough councils has taken a 'positive' (sic) approach to 'pro-gay commitments'. Many such councils — including Leicester, Manchester and Nottingham — have either already appointed or will shortly be appointing lesbian/ gay officers. It is time that all people took note: you cannot call for churches and government to take firm action to stop the spread of AIDS while at the same time you allow your taxes and rates to be used to finance education promoting homosexuality as a positive lifestyle. Where the government can act to curtail these extreme Left councils, let's support it in its action. Where we as Christians can speak out, let's not be afraid to do so. Where we find ourselves in a position of influence that can be used to protect society, then let's use it. It is time for Neil Kinnock and the shadow cabinet to take note that militant tendency, though now banned at the official level, has sympathisers who have hijacked the Labour party at local council level. There is no doubt in my mind that ordinary Labour supporters have no taste for the policies being espoused and promoted by these extremist councils. Unless action is taken from within the party to discipline these groups, the general public will make its feelings clear at the next election. God is the saviour and protector of man, not man's destroyer. The moral law of God is to prevent man from becoming a victim of his own self destructive nature. It doesn't matter how intellectual the debate becomes, or how well the secularists present their case; the Word of God remains clear. 'Whatever a man sows, this he will also reap' (Galatians 6:7 NASB). This does not mean that God hates the people suffering from AIDS. God has always loved man, and desires that all men everywhere be saved not only from a final future hell, but from the hell of their own making in this present world.

Raising a Voice

As Christians, let's be ready to share compassionately the love and faith of Christ with everyone, including homosexuals and AIDS sufferers. But let's be equally clear that God wants not only to forgive and to cleanse but to change lives.

It is time to stop the silence and raise a voice:

- We don't want our children taught that a homosexual lifestyle is normal because it isn't.
- We don't want our children to be subject to the promotion of homosexuality as acceptable behaviour — because it isn't.
- We don't want our rates used to subsidise the 'pro-gay' activities of local Councils.
- We must bring positive pressure upon our local politicians and councillors to act responsibly in representing the desires and concerns of the majority.
- At home, every Christian parent should instruct his children in sexual matters and help them to appreciate the dangers of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases which result from promiscuity.
- It is time to stop apologising for our 'conservative lifestyle'. It is time to stand up and speak out before it is too late. When the homosexual opened the closet it was no 'gay life' that walked out — it was a fearful spectre of the apocalypse.