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Christian Ethics

Article Review #3: "Same-sex relationships: A 1st-century perspective" by William Loader

In his article, William Loader seemingly pulls a "bait and switch" to the reader. Though I can agree with his readings and dealings with Paul and other ancient authors, I strongly disagree with his conclusion, its premise, and its presuppositions. Firstly, it is agreed with Loader when he writes, "The temptation to modernize Paul...is to be resisted" (6). His comments over biblical texts and historical matter are (generally) agreed with, but, as Loader proposes three Christian responses, he blatantly rejects Biblical authority. I do not know Loader's own spirituality, but, if he is a believer, it is obvious it is from a liberal perspective. He uses the example of literal Creationism as an outdated, wrong ideology that, since knowledge has been progressed, ought to be changed in the Church; this is the same for sexuality.

Loader wrongly juxtaposes "Love" and "Law" against each other (8). What he considers "restrictions," he wrongly equates to "white-washed tomb" religiosity. Then, he is right that it is a hard thing to affirm a same-sex attracted (SSA) person in their feelings but afterwards to deny them to express it, but wrong in saying it is unethical (and unloving). Simply, it comes down to Loader's view of Inspiration and Inerrancy; he evidently has a low view of both. Sound theology would not separate love from holiness (i.e. practically, restrictions from sin) and God's Word (both OT and NT). Loader is wrong in his presuppositions that Jesus would prefer love over holiness. They are not mutually exclusive. Rather, love and holiness are a united in thought and practice because they source from God, who is love and holiness most manifest. Loader takes seriously the harshness of SSA people living celibately, but, in his lack of orthodoxy, he fails in understanding the greater meaning of celibacy – holiness (by obedience) in Christ. It is foolish to think calling anyone to holiness is easy, but it is the most ethical thing one can ever do. This

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review can go on forever, but it will suffice to be concluded with this last sentence: Simply,

while Loader is a fine New Testament scholar, his theology is “wack.”