

Canadian Law C-4 and the Cult of Self

INTRODUCTION

People of God, there is in our time an all-out assault on the Lord Jesus Christ. But Satan cannot directly attack Christ because He is in Heaven. So he inspires people and governments to attack Christ on his behalf by attacking those things which signify Christ's Lordship in the world most. And one very recent attack against Christ came as a piece of legislation in Canada, titled C-4.

CONVERSION THERAPY

The C-4 legislation has amended the Canadian Criminal Code to criminalize "Conversion Therapy." What conversion therapy seeks to do is to help change a person's sexual orientation, gender expression, or gender identity so that it conforms to a person's sex assigned at birth.

What that means is, that if a person has homosexual and transgendered thoughts and feelings, psychiatrists and therapists or even pastors and counselors, could help his person through these issues by trying to bring that persons feelings and thoughts and self-identity into greater conformity to their biological sex.

According to the definitions built into the C-4 legislation - Conversion Therapy means a practice, treatment or service designed to

- (a) change a person's sexual orientation to heterosexual;
- (b) change a person's gender identity to cisgender; (cisgender means a person gender identity is the same as their sex assigned at birth)
- (c) change a person's gender expression so that it conforms to the sex assigned to the person at birth;
- (d) repress or reduce non-heterosexual attraction or sexual behaviour;
- (e) repress a person's non-cisgender gender identity; or

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(f) repress or reduce a person's gender expression that does not conform to the sex assigned to the person at birth.

Now, some people who have practiced conversion therapy have resorted to very strange and dangerous practices, including electro-shock therapy, prescribing mind altering drugs, physical punishment, isolation, and a whole host of other terrible things that are harmful. And supposedly it is these kinds of harmful therapies this legislation is seeking to criminalize.

But the problem is that these extreme cases do not reflect every person who practices Conversion Therapy. Some forms of conversion therapy are indeed extremely mild, and would simply consist of normal counselling sessions, in which a counselor or psychiatrist or even a pastor, or parent would talk to a person and help a them develop new habits and thought patterns.

Now the problem with C-4 then is that it does not make any kind of distinctions between something that could be considered torture on the one hand, or a parent having a conversation with their child, or a Pastor having a conversation with a parishioner or praying for them, on the other. And so, it is not out of the realm of possibility, that under C-4 a parent or a pastor could be charged with a criminal offence for merely praying with a person and sharing with them Bible verses to help them think about their sexuality from a biblical and Christian perspective, and to ring about repentance.

Last year, the State of Victoria in Australia also criminalized Conversion Therapy. And in their list of practices that are criminalized, is this: “carrying out a religious based practice, including, but not limited to, a prayer based practice, a deliverance or an exorcism.” So it is now illegal in

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Victoria Australia to pray for a person that they would overcome sexual problems.

Now the Canadian law doesn't expressly say that. But it is eerily vague, and should give us alarm that it lumps together any undefined practice and does not sufficiently define what they mean and do not mean by Conversion Therapy. Anything that is designed to change or repress a person's sexual orientation or gender expression in order to bring it into conformity with their sex assigned at birth is reckoned as Conversion therapy, and is now illegal in Canada. It could be prayer. It could be bible reading. It could be a sermon. It could be a conversation between a parent and a child. Anything that Canada considers to be a practice, treatment, or service, or promotion or advertisement for conversion therapy, is punishable by 2-5 years in prison.

Also notice, that according to C-4's definition of Conversion Therapy, it is not illegal if a you wanted to convert a person from being heterosexual to homosexual, or from cis-gender to transgender, or anything else. No. The law only goes one way. It criminalizes any practice, treatment, or service - whatever that means - of anyone trying to help another person out of LGBTQ toward heterosexuality.

ATTACK ON THE WORD OF GOD

Why is it only a one way street? Because these people hate Christ and Christianity and especially the Bible. The Preamble to this law says this:

Whereas conversion therapy causes harm to society because, among other things, it is based on and propagates myths and stereotypes about sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, including the myth that heterosexuality, cisgender gender identity, and gender expression that conforms to the sex assigned to a person

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at birth are to be preferred over other sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions;

What myths do you think these enlightened lords of Canada are referring to? Well this myth includes the belief that a person who is born a male is a male or a person who is born a female is a female. What myth is that? Oh, that is the Christian myth that in the beginning God created us in His image, as Male and Female.

So now it is punishable by 2 to 5 years in prison to believe, promote, advertise or counsel anyone from the perspective of the “harmful myth” of the Bible, and of biological scientific fact that there are only two genders, two sexes, and that God created us that way, and that heterosexuality and monogamous relationships between one man and one woman are the normative practices which promote the flourishing of individuals and societies – That is a harmful myth that you can now be imprisoned for in Canada.

In case you were not aware, this is just another indicator of the adoption of a new religion, and the rejection of Christianity. But this new religion is the same as thing the serpent promised to Eve – That we can be our own god, and determine for ourselves independently from the true God and with reference only to ourselves, what is good and evil, true and false, right and wrong, what is male or female, or something altogether entirely different.

But it is precisely this lie which enslaved our to sin, death, and Satan in the beginning, and is the lie which Jesus Christ came to undo. We believe that *“The Creator gives created things their essential identity and function and He defines man’s proper relationships. Man’s sexual function has been defined by God as male-female behavior. This fact refutes the claims of homosexual (and*

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transgender) apologists who say that all human beings have the right to self-definition. Such ...rationale...reflects an autonomous desire to replace God's intended distinctions and created design for man, with the relativistic will of the creature, who would be worshipped as his own creator.”¹

In the beginning God made us Male and Female. And Jesus said “what God has joined together, let not man separate.” But denying the Male Female composition of humanity, and seeking to separate what God has put together is precisely what Canada is doing. They cannot allow the Bible to tell them what they are doing is wrong. The Bible is now a harmful myth.

The apostle Paul, of course is likewise guilty. He said that homosexuals and effeminate men will not inherit the kingdom of God; And Jesus in Revelation said that the sexually immoral will have their portion in the lake of fire.

But according to Canadian Law, if you say these things to someone and try to influence them away from homosexuality or transgenderism, or help them to suppress their sexually immoral passions, because you care for their soul, because you want to see them convert, not just to heterosexuality, but to convert to Christ and be saved from the wrath of God, then that could get you 2 to 5 years in prison. It is a harmful myth to convert a homosexual or a transgender person to Christ.

Just like in Islamic societies where it is punishable to convert a person to Christ, or to speak a blasphemous word against the Prophet Muhammad, so too now the secular world has new gods, and you cannot convert a person away from those gods, to Christ, and neither can you speak against

¹ Greg Bahnsen, *Homosexuality: A Biblical View* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1979), 28-29.

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homosexuals and transgenders, the idols of our cult to self. You need to see this for what it truly is – these are the new Blasphemy Laws.

THE WRATH OF GOD

C-4 says: *conversion therapy causes harm to society because it is based on and propagates myths...* However, the Apostle Paul tells us in our myth in Romans 1 what really brings harm to society. Paul says that the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of man. The reasons why God's wrath is revealed is because people suppress the truth about God in unrighteousness, truths that they already knew to be true, truths which were made evident to them in creation. And by suppressing the truth of God they dishonored God, and did not give thanks to Him.

Thanklessness to God is the source of this problem of unrighteousness and ungodliness. When a people are not thankful to God for creating them male or female; when people are not thankful to God that he created the world and He is the authoritative definer of all reality; When people are not thankful to God for his wise and just rules which are built in to the fabric of created order and are revealed in His word, the next step is for them to naturally fall into idolatry.

As Paul says, *“For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal men, and birds, and animals, and creeping things.”*

So because they refused to acknowledge God as God, and did not submit to his ways, and refused to thank and worship him, they instead thrust

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themselves headlong into sinful idolatry. And when you reject God over and over and over again, and choose your own way, and harden your heart to the truth of God, after suppressing the truth of God and exchanging it for lies, then, the wrath of God comes.

And how does the wrath of God come? First off, they become futile in their thinking – such that they cannot even know the difference between boys and girls. Then their foolish hearts were darkened – such that promote and defend sinful and destructive behavior. And then they became fools and gave themselves to idolatry, to the worship of themselves.

Therefore “God gave them up.” God gave them up to *what?* In God’s wrath and curse due to men because of their thanklessness, their suppression of the truth of God, and their idolatry, God gave them up to *the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves. Why? Because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and they worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever.*

The whole issue behind all of our sexual problems with the state is not politics, People of God. It is religion. The whole LGBTQ issue has little to do with sex for sex’s sake. At the heart of all this is the issue of worship.

Our problem from the very beginning is that we just want to worship ourselves. We want to be our own god. We want to make our own rules, create our own realities, and then, through the power of the State, we pass laws which now say, Thou Shalt Not speak of the old mythical god and his ways. We are our own god.

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But it is precisely here, People of God, that we see the wrath of God revealed from heaven. We have front row seats to the most horrific show on earth. God is giving men over to their depraved hearts and letting them run free to seek the satisfaction of their impure idolatrous lusts of their hearts through the dishonoring of their bodies. And because Western society has rejected God and refused to submit to the Lordship of Christ, by submitting to His word, and instead we have given ourselves to doing what is right in our own eyes, we are seeing God's curses comedown upon us.

Everywhere Christianity was once universally proclaimed to be the truth, everywhere Christianity had taken over the old pagan gods and their demons were cast out, now the demons is coming back with seven more worse than itself. And we are going to find the last state of Western Civilization worse than the first. This is the wrath of God revealed from Heaven, when God takes His restraining hand of grace away, and He allows sinners to follow the path that their sin will take them in. And allows the demons to come back. This is where we are.

Paul then goes even further in his explanation as to what it means for God to have “given them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies.” In verse 26, Paul refers to it as “dishonorable passions”, which he then describes in the rest of verse 26 and 27 by saying:

For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;²⁷ and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

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This is clearly referring to not only homosexual acts, but all sexually immoral acts and passions. God's wrath is revealed from heaven when He gives people over to be consumed by their passions, which leads them to receiving in themselves the destruction of their flesh through homosexuality and transgenderism, and other forms of sexual immorality as well.

CULT OF SELF

How did we get here? It is a long road, but basically, we stopped viewing God and ourselves and the world and everything in it from the objective standard of divine revelation, and we instead began viewing God and ourselves and the world and everything in it from the subjective standard of our own feelings.

Now the fundamental idolatry of our day is the cult of self. We understand and identify and define everything in the world, even ourselves, primarily with what goes on inside of us: our emotions and inclinations and desires and feelings – these are the new gods. So it matters not if God made man as Male and Female. The New god is me, and I feel like a female trapped in a male's body, therefore I am a female. The reality of objective biological fact has no bearing on our identity anymore. And especially not what God says in His word.

In short, people are identifying themselves by their temptations and desires. They are making a weird connection with their temptations and desires. Instead of understanding these things as sinful desires that ought to be mortified, they do not fight against them, and instead embrace them and coddle them, until it becomes so important to them that they identify

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with their sexual temptations. They now say, I am homosexual. I am Transgender. Even among confessing Christians, people are calling themselves Gay Christians. People today ARE their sexual desires. That is how they see themselves.

YOU ARE NOT YOUR SIN

But no Christian who believes the Bible to be the Word of God and who understands the nature of sin and temptation ought to go along with this. And yet so many are. They say homosexual attraction and desires are not sinful, it is who you are, and therefore is not something that needs to be repented of. Some Gay Christians are even saying that being LGBTQ brings with it its own culture, worldview, and aesthetics. And all these can be embraced, and promoted by Christians.

But Rosaria Butterfield was correct when she said, *“We must maintain that we who repent and believe stand in robes of righteousness as beloved sons and daughters of God, even as we do daily battle with any and all sexual lust and unbiblical desire that claims our affections. We are not our sin, and we ought never to let it define us.”*

We must hear the words of the Apostle Paul again, when he says, *“ 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

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Some of you were homosexuals, and idolaters, and adulterers, etc. That is who you were. But that is not who you are in Christ. If you are in Christ you cannot any longer be identified by the sins you have been washed delivered from. Instead you are to be identified by the objective means of grace in your baptism – you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. People of God, you cannot look toward your inner desires, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes to determine who you really are. If you do this, you are essentially overturning what the Apostle Paul says here, and saying, no, you can enter the kingdom of Heaven and be a homosexual, or an adulterer, or be sexually immoral. You are saying, that is who I fundamentally am, and God will accept me. But you are not your sin.

Greg Bahnsen said “*It is scandalous to suggest that men can enter the kingdom of God or promote its ends in society while rebelling against the standards of the King.*”² It is treason to think that one can pay homage to the Son of God by joining forces with their sin, or going along with the kings of the earth who set themselves against God and His Christ and His Church and His Word, and who are trying to break God’s covenant bonds off of society.

It is high handed rebellion against the Lord of All to think that you can redefine all of life that God made and filter it through the lens of your own sinful sexual desires and actions and cultures and worldviews, and think you are somehow still promoting the crown rights of King Jesus. Those who are doing such things have more in common with Judas, than Jesus.

² Greg Bahnsen, *Homosexuality*, 14.

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God will not bless the person, the church, the land, or nation that actively refuses to abide by and submit to the Word of God and the Lordship of Jesus Christ over our sinful desires. Our society is trapped in and ruled over by their sins. And they give themselves over to it. And Canada is saying that it is now illegal to help people out of their sins which will keep them in their condemnation.

The LGBTQ lifestyle, if it can be called that, is not a virtue that ought to be celebrated, a culture to be embraced, a worldview from which to understand the world. It is the wrath of God against an ungrateful idolatrous people who did not see fit to acknowledge God as God, but who corrupted themselves by worshiping and serving the creature – themselves and their sinful lusts, to the destruction of their souls, and their societies. Homosexuality and transgenderism is the outworking of the wrath of God on a society who “*did not see fit to acknowledge God.*” This is where we are.

TWO FINAL WORDS

Now I would like to conclude with two exhortations. First I want to talk to those who are trapped in sexual sin, and then I want to finish with a word to the Governments in Canada, and everywhere else the Lordship of Jesus Christ is being rejected for false gods.

TO THOSE TRAPPED IN SEXUAL SIN

To those who are trapped in sexual sin and temptation, let me say this: In Christ you are more than your sexual passions. In Christ You are more than who you find attractive. In Christ You are more than your feelings or your emotions and desires of the flesh. There is salvation for you

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outside of your slavery to your sinful nature, and you can receive the Holy Spirit and be made a new creation in Christ. The Old can pass away, the chains of your sexual bondage can be broken, and you can be made new. God can change your desires, God can give you a new heart to love what he loves, he can write his laws and commands onto your heart, and he can set you free.

For we believe the words of the Apostle Paul when he teaches that if we live according to the flesh we will die, but if by the Spirit we put to death the deeds of the flesh, we will live. And in Christ we have the Spirit of God.

So do not be deceived, you cannot stay enslaved to your sexual sins, whatever they are, and make it the kingdom of Heaven. Homosexuality, lesbianism, bi-sexuality, pornography, adultery, effeminacy, feminism, pedophilia, transgenderism, fornication, polyamory, polygamy, - whatever your sexual addiction and desire and temptation is, at its root is idolatry. And the Good news is that your worship of self can be broken in Jesus Christ. For He is the true Lord of All, even our Desires. Which is why he is called the Desire of the Nations.

The will of God for you, therefore is Your sanctification. God desires you to be holy, as he is holy. And his design is for you to abstain from sexual immorality, and learn how to control your bodies in holiness and honor, not in the passions of your lust, like those who do not know God. For God has not called us to impurity, but to holiness. And whoever disregards this, disregards not the word of man, but the word of God, who gives his spirit to you so that you would worship and desire Him above all else, and live.

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TO CANADA

Now a final word to the nation of Canada and her rulers, and to all nations that are embracing the religion and worship of self through sexual expression and identity. You have embraced false gods. You have sought to overthrow the Lordship of Jesus Christ in your lands, and you are attempting to abolish the Christian faith through proxy. Repent. You are in vain error. The Lord Jesus Christ sits high enthroned above all nations as the Lord of all. God the Father has given to Him all nations for His heritage, and the ends of the earth as His possession. And he does not like what he sees with you.

So be warned. He is going to break you in pieces with a rod of iron, and dash you in pieces like clay jar. He will smash your idols and break apart all pseudo-peace and prosperity and rule you think you are establishing by encouraging the people to be enslaved to their sins and lusts.

You are required by God to uphold His standards of justice and righteousness. You are to establish order in your realms so that unity and peace be preserved in the Church, that the truth of God be kept pure and entire, and that all blasphemies and heresies be suppressed.

But you have exchanged the glory of the immortal God for false gods that cannot save. You have established new laws, new standards of righteousness and justice which are not righteous or just at all. You set up new gods, and through new blasphemy laws you prohibit the people from speaking against your false gods. You call that which is evil good, and you call that which is good, evil. And for this the Lord Jesus Christ will unleash His holy anger and wrath against you and He will destroy you by the hand of your gods. For the passions of your lusts will consume you. It

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will be a trap of your own making, and your nation and society will suffer incomprehensible harm as a result of your foolishness.

So turn to Jesus Christ in repentance, and be saved all ends of the earth. For He is God, and there is no other. He has sworn, and from his mouth has gone forth in righteousness a word that shall not return void: To Him every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess and swear allegiance to Jesus Christ. For the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever. Do this, and live. Refuse, and you will perish by the wrath of his anger. Amen.