

## TO MY UNITED METHODIST FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

By Roelf L. Ruffner

Through the years I have known many fine folks who were members of the United Methodist Church (UMC). Methodists are known as a people who are active in community affairs and helping the helpless. But with love in my heart I must warn you that the denomination you are a member of is not the church of Christ of the New Testament. Recent actions and proposed actions by this denomination show this to be true.

On May 18, 2015, the Connectional Table (a panel) of the United Methodist Church meeting in Nashville voted 26 to 10 to present to the 2016 General Conference a proposal to remove the prohibition in the church's laws against homosexual behavior and to allow the clergy to officiate same-sex or unnatural marriage ceremonies. They even had the audacity to say that if the UMC did this it would not contradict Christian doctrines. There is a very good chance this proposal will be accepted by the UMC's General Conference. By so doing they will join the ranks of the Presbyterian Church USA and the Disciples of Christ.

I know most Methodists profess a faith in Christ and a respect for His word. If you are one of that number, you know that the Bible prohibits homosexual activity in both Old and New Testaments. For example, "*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God*" (NKJ – 1 Cor. 6:9, 10). Jesus Himself limited marriage to a covenant between a man and a woman and God (cf. Mat. 19:4-6); which excludes the unnatural union of a man to a man or a woman to a woman. Since God recognizes no other marital union, why would those who claim to be Christians do otherwise? It is an abomination!

All denominations are contrary to the unity demanded of the church of Christ by the Master (John 17:21; 1 Cor. 1:10). They are man-made religious organizations which operate outside the authority of the New Testament of Jesus Christ (Col.3:17; Rev. 22:18, 19). Where are there any conventions of the early church of Christ mentioned in the New Testament? None! Yes, we do read about a meeting in

Jerusalem of the Apostles of Jesus Christ and the elders of the Jerusalem church recorded in Acts Chapter 15 It is never called a “convention” or even a “council!” These brethren met specifically to counter false doctrine. No vote was taken and no new laws or rules ordained, just a reaffirmation of the Gospel. Please notice that these men in Acts 15 were all inspired of the Holy Spirit. What they uttered was divine revelation. No man or woman is inspired by the Holy Spirit today. We have the inspired, inerrant, completed word of God given by the Holy Spirit to guide us (cf. 2 Tim.3:16, 17) The Bible is all sufficient. It wasn’t the Holy Spirit which influenced the UMC panel to make this proposal which is contrary to the Holy Bible. IF the General Conference votes in favor of this proposal it will not be the Holy Spirit which will have influenced the delegates to do so, but another “spirit” ( cf. Eph.2:2; 1 John 4:1-6).

My friends, you have a decision to make. Will you follow the dictates of fallible men and women or the word of the living God? Will you be in fellowship with those who by their actions show they are not in fellowship with God? *“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them”* (Eph. 5:11).

Please take your New Testament and compare it with the organizational structure, doctrine, discipline, practices, worship and laws of the United Methodist Church. The church one reads about in its pages does not match up with it. The UMC is a man-made organization which is governed by a vote and the whim of man, not by the Bible.

I plead with you with love in my heart to flee this religious organization as Joseph fled from Potipher’s wife. Go back to the Bible and be a Christian only. *“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty”* (2 Cor. 6:17,18).

<http://www.christiannewsweek.com/cbn/28011-united-methodists-propose-to-change-church-law-to-allow-homosexual-behavior.html> as of May 27, 2015.

Sincerely,

*Roelf L. Ruffner*