

A Voice from Heaven

I think Brenda's re-working of Acts 13 speaks for itself. We are pleased to publish it in the hope that it will stimulate debate around the Baptist denomination's attitude towards sexuality. It was interesting - and exciting - the day after Brenda wrote this to hear David Kerrigan, General Secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society, calling for an open debate about how we might be Good News for what he called 'the gay couple.'

*Written at Prism Sunday 2nd May 2010 at Baptist Assembly,
inspired by Acts 13:1-13 (Bible version given at Prism, not identified)*

The apostles and prophets in the Baptist Union heard that some homosexuals had received the word of God. So, when Peter went to the Council in Didcot the leaders criticised him and said "You blessed the Civil Partnership of a gay couple".

Peter explained everything to them as it had happened. "I was in the city praying, and in a vision I saw gay couples in the wilderness walking hand in hand, arm in arm, rejoicing in their love. And I heard them praising God for it. Then I heard a voice saying 'Invite them into the Church. Eat with them. Bless them. Affirm their love. Use their gifts, listen to their pain. Let them use their experience of pain and exclusion, of love and God's acceptance to minister to others.' I replied, 'Surely not, Lord. The way I imagine they express their love is filthy, unclean, unacceptable. I cannot affirm them.'

The voice spoke from heaven a second time; 'Do not call anything impure or unclean or unacceptable that God has accepted and sanctified with his presence.'

Right then a couple came to my house, asking for a bed for the night. They told me that an angel had appeared to them and told them to come to my house and seek my blessing.

As I began to speak to them the joy of the Lord came upon them, as on us. They radiated it. They praised God aloud. Then I remembered that Jesus said "I have not come to condemn the world, but to save it. I have come that you might have life, and have it abundantly." If God filled them with the same holy, overflowing joy that He gave us, who was I to think that could oppose God?"

When they heard this, they had no further objections and praise God, saying "So then, God has granted even to gays and lesbians the joy of knowing Him through human love!"

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