

Acts 17:16-17

Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.

Over the last several years, we have all heard about the current rave of gay marriages. First off, the bible makes it clear that a homosexual lifestyle is sin, and we all know this as Christians

† **Lev 20:13** *If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them.*

But today's devotional is not about whether it's right or wrong, but rather how we, as Christians, are to deal with it.

I have heard of churches going to the courthouses and blocking the way so that these people cannot go into the courthouses and pretend to get married. The results are that these Christians were arrested. The arrest was not because they were against the homosexual marriages, but rather because they were breaking the law by blocking the entrance to the courthouse.

But the bible says that we are to obey the laws of the land, as long as they are not against the word of God.

† **Romans 13:1-3** *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.*

So then how do we deal with this? There are those who are called to go out to the courthouses, not to make a human barrier, but rather to share the love of Jesus with these people. We as the church should be doing for those that are going to the courthouses in this manner, the same thing they did in the bible.

† **Acts 13:3** *Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.*

We should be spending time in prayer and fasting for those people who are to go out, sharing the gospel in love. If you think about it, those who are thrown in jail for breaking the law by picketing and being a human barrier are not bringing glory to God, but rather

they are bringing attention to themselves, and in a sense they give God a bad name as well as other Christians.

Look at what today's devotional verses say again.

† *Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.*

Notice that Paul did not take a bunch of people to picket and block the way so that others could not enter the city, or so that they could not worship these false gods, but rather Paul *“reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.”*

With all sin, not just gay marriages, this is not a physical warfare, but rather a spiritual one, and the only way we can fight this battle is by prayer and fasting.

† **Eph 6:12** *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

† **Mark 9:29** *So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."*