

Dear Lillian Methodist Church family,

This wicked generation annually designates June as "Pride Month," a 30-day call for the celebration of sin. Spring Break has become synonymous with hedonism and drunkenness. Pride and the rainbow are now synonymous with attempts to normalize and justify behavior that the Holy Scripture has called sin for over 4,000 years.

I find it ironic that human pride is itself denounced throughout scripture as sin, and now "pride" is used in a vain attempt to redefine a sin into something wholesome and pure. Although unintentional, pride perfectly describes the motivation behind "Pride Month." Pride is the arrogant disobedience of God's way in favor of one's way. Pride is the undeserved high opinion of one's self with a stubborn refusal to change. Human pride is the sin that deceives one into indulging in a host of other sins. Pride's ultimate result is blindness and rejection of the Truth.

This would explain why the rainbow has been co-opted and corrupted into a related symbol of sin. Again, the irony is unmistakable. In the Holy Scripture, the rainbow is not a symbol of unity or inclusion or diversity. It is the symbol of one thing, the judgment of a Holy God against prideful, sinful mankind. God's rainbow is a visible reminder of a former method of judgment that God says He will never use again: worldwide flood. The method will be different, but judgment is surely coming. A generation shaking its prideful fist at God's holiness guarantees it.

The culture is simply being the fallen world with its Satanic influences. Yet, I do not doubt that some of our brothers and sisters in Christ dread the month of June because they personally struggle with same-sex attraction. They know homosexuality is a sin. They strive to live a sexually pure life that pleases God. They flee this temptation whenever it presents itself. During June, it presents itself daily.

This ungodly culture's fixation with and celebration of sexual perversion is the deceiver's call to these dear believers to abandon their struggle against sin. The power of this deception is strongest this time of year. This month, the temptation to believe the lie and give in to this sin must be overwhelming. So, we must stand in the gap for our brothers and sisters. We must intercede on their behalf. We must pray that they remain strong in the face of seemingly unrelenting temptation. God promises strength and deliverance during these times of temptation.

"God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation, He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." (I Corinthians 10:13)

See y'all Sunday,

Perry Cunningham
Lay Leader