

The Attackers: Black Sheep: Hymenaeus & Alexander: Anti-Christianity: Heresy in Ephesus, Mayors & Gays v. Chick-fil-A & Traditional Marriage in America; Shopping at Chick-fil-A Is Fine but Enlarging the Pivot Is the Only Solution for Historical Downtrends

4. In Acts 19 we studied how Paul's Christian theology was tolerated by Rome but attacked by the metalworkers union. Paul never attacked the worship of Artemis, only idolatry. The ones that became violent regarding the issue were the idolaters.
5. The reason for their anger is that some citizens of Ephesus chose to abandon the idolatrous worship of Artemis and convert to Christianity.
6. The riot was quelled by the city mayor who reminded the rioters that Rome would not put up with civil disobedience.
7. Solomon instructed us in Ecclesiastes 1:9 that "there is nothing new under the sun." Such is the case with a similar episode currently playing out in the commonwealth.
8. The brouhaha originated from an interview with Chick-fil-A president, Dan Cathy by the *Baptist Press' Biblical Recorder* and posted on the former's Web site July 16.
9. In that interview, the following remarks by Cathy created a firestorm among the Progressives:

The company invests in Christian growth and ministry through its WinShape Foundation (WinShape.com). The name comes from the idea of shaping people to be winners.

It began as a college scholarship and expanded to a foster care program, an international ministry, and a conference and retreat center modeled after the Billy Graham Training Center at the Cove.

"That morphed into a marriage program in conjunction with national marriage ministries," Cathy added.

Some have opposed the company's support of the traditional family. "Well, guilty as charged," said Cathy when asked about the company's position.

"We are very much supportive of the family—the biblical definition of the family unit. We are a family-led business, and we are married to our first wives. We give God thanks for that.

"We operate as a family business—our restaurants are typically led by families; some are single. We want to do anything we possibly can to strengthen families. We are very much committed to that," Cathy emphasized.

"We intend to stay the course," he said. "We know that it might not be popular with everyone, but thank the Lord, we live in a country where we can share our values and operate on biblical principles."¹

10. Not so fast, Mr. Cathy. The mayor of Boston, Thomas Menino, and the mayor of Chicago, Rham Emanuel have decreed that Chick-fil-A may not open one of its restaurants in their fair cities.
11. Fortunately, the Constitution has certain sections that are still operative, one of which has to do with the free exercise of religion.
12. Numerous sources from the legal community have come to Cathy's defense including ACLU which supports gay marriage.²

¹ K. Allen Blume, "'Guilty as charged,' Cathy says of Chick-fil-A's stand on biblical & family values," *Baptist Press*, <http://www.bpnews.net/BPnews.asp?ID=38271> (accessed July 28, 2012).

13. I like the affirmation of free exercise by Justice Hugo L. Black from his Majority Opinion in *Everson v. Board of Education*: “No person can be punished for entertaining or professing religious beliefs or disbeliefs.”³
14. The glaring contradictions inherent in the Progressive movement are its rhetorical veils of supporting diversity and tolerance while opposing hate speech, yet it is in consistent violation of each.
15. Progressives consistently exhibit hatred for Christianity, Christians, the Bible, its doctrines and standards, Jesus, churches, and the divine institutions of marriage and family.
16. The hidden agenda is to rid the culture of any restraint upon their lust patterns which they promote as an exercise of their freedoms.
17. Such was the case in Ephesus in c. A.D. 50. The worship of Artemis consisted of the ancient mother/child relationship in which the woman was venerated as the creator of life. This view promoted involvement in the phallic cult.
18. The women’s movement promoted by the left and the promiscuous sexuality that has evolved as a result is reminiscent of the worship of Artemis and the perversions associated with it.
19. The long march through institutions must tear down all traditional standards that restrain the sin nature’s lust patterns. Christian doctrine threatens this objective and must be vilified or attacked. Here are some examples that were directed at Cathy and Chick-fil-A’s pro-family policies:

Mayor Menino: “There is no place for discrimination on Boston’s Freedom Trail and no place for your company alongside it.”

The following personalities have announced they will boycott Cathy’s restaurants: Ed Helms, Jane Lynch, Deepak Chopra, Miley Cyrus, Lindsay Lohan, and the Kardashian sisters.

CNN anchor Joe Brown announced, “How backward and ignorant ...how sad. No more Chick-fil-A for me. I am not in the stone-casing business as a Christian” as he casted a stone at Chick-fil-A.

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation is promoting a National Same-Sex Kiss Day to be held at Chick-fil-A restaurants across the country on August 3.
20. On the other hand, a literally overwhelming number of Christians shopped at Chick-fil-A on Wednesday, 01 August. This is a small sample of how believers can have historical impact, in this case visible impact.
21. What is more important to note is that the “Christian community” also has the obligation to have *invisible* historical impact and to do that it must adhere strictly to establishment and doctrinal principles.

² Michael Frost, “Experts: Politicians can’t legally block Chick-fil-A,” *Baptist Press*, <http://www.bpnews.net/BPnews.asp?ID=38353> (accessed July 28, 2012).

³ *Forty Proclamations: The Theology of Grace Doctrine Church* (St. Charles, MO: Joe Griffin Media Ministries, 2011), ix.

22. This is the problem that most greatly affects the client nation today. The visible impact regarding Chick-fil-A is primarily an emotional reaction to a verbal attack by the Progressives.
23. However, what sustains freedom and preserves the nation is personal application of the Word of God to one's individual life and this must occur in coordination with a high percentage of other believers doing the same thing.
24. The reason the United States are in decline is because many of her citizens are saved through faith alone, but few who take on the responsibilities of the priesthood and ambassadorship roles required by Phase Two.
25. Believers without doctrine are involved in the same sins that are being practiced by the larger population. Far too many Christians place no restraint on their decisions and take no responsibility for their actions.
26. This is especially true regarding the four divine institutions and the biblical requirements of applying doctrine to life and circumstances.