

Dearly Beloved of God,

Today's message is going to be rather short because it will be mostly a copy of a letter sent to the editor of our local newspaper, the Norwich Bulletin. Just another sign of the times.

Three items came to my attention through various news outlets on May 17th. The first involved a lieutenant from the Norwich Police Department, who, while on medical leave was arrested in New York City on possession of heroin charges. The second report involved a staff pastor of a mega church in Texas who was arrested in a sting operation of internet solicitation of sex with a minor. The last report came out of the state of California. In 2000, a 61.4 percent majority of Californians passed Proposition 22, which limited marriage to a man and a woman and precluded California's recognition of same-sex "marriages" consummated elsewhere. In a decision derided by a dissenting California justice as "legal jujitsu," the Supreme Court, by a 4-3 majority held that the ban on same-sex marriage is an infringement of the fundamental state constitutional right to marry.

These reports are evidence of the fact that even people who are entrusted with the administration, interpretation, and upholding of the law (God's or man's) can't seem to keep themselves from operating outside the law. This is further evidence that mankind, no matter how hard it tries, cannot make itself good. Only God can transform a heart. As the prophet of old wrote **Ezekiel 11:19-20 (NIV)** *"I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God."* No matter how high the standards of one's profession, it cannot save a person. Only full surrender to the lordship of Jesus Christ and faith in His saving grace can save anyone.

That's it folks. Hopefully someone will read this and will seek the Lord while He may be found. I'm praying for all of you today that you would know, in a special way, the wonders of His grace.

Yours for His Purposes,

Pastor Les