

Why Keep Those Laws On The Books?

Jack Williams

"I don't see any reason to keep laws on the books that no one is going to obey."

The above quote is from a Missouri legislator who was giving his reasons for raising the speed limits above the current level. I know that many, including myself, have some positive inclination toward a higher speed limit on some of our highways. As I read the quote though there was an attitude displayed in it that troubled me. The more I thought about it the more I realized it was an attitude that God had described in His holy word — and not in a positive fashion. When Paul, soon to face death for his stand for the truth, penned Timothy a letter encouraging him to remain steadfast for the truth of God's word he said,

"...the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned into fables" (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

Think of the consequences of such an attitude if applied consistently. In the realm of society we have already seen its fruit in many areas:

- *Abortion*, the murder of unborn children, is now legally protected. One of the arguments in defense of this practice is, *"Women are going to get abortions anyway, there is no sense in making it illegal — change the laws."*
- *Homosexuality*, once rightly recognized as an abominable practice is now protected by law. Why? *"People are going to do it anyway — change the laws."*
- *Pornography*, the destructive exploitation of the human body and sexuality, is now protected under the auspices of "personal freedom." Why? *"People are going to do it anyway — change the laws."*
- *Alcohol*, the destroyer of millions of lives and families was once outlawed in the United States. But soon this law was repealed. Why? *"The people are going to drink anyway — change the laws."*

We are even seeing the beginnings of such a movement in the realm of other drugs — marijuana, cocaine and the like. The idea is, *"People are going to do drugs anyway — change the laws."*

Society has and will continue to suffer as long as this foolish idea continues. While there are some things that are not wrong in and of themselves, many things are absolutely wrong such as the things listed above. Changing legislation on such matters because *"no one is going to obey"* is absurd.

Perhaps a more shocking reality though is how such an idea is also prevailing in many quarters in the Lord's body. Think of the things that have been "changed" in the past few years:

- The authority of elders (Hebrews 13:17).

- The oneness of the body (Ephesians 4:4).
- The role of women in worship and in the home (1 Timothy 2:12; Ephesians 5:22-23).
- The only reason (outside of death) for a marriage being dissolved and leaving one free to remarry (Matthew 19:9).
- The manner of worship (John 4:23-24).

Men who once stood firm on such matters have long since left the old paths for the “new way.” Why? Oh, it can be worded in many ways, but it all comes down to the same old story: “*We have to change! The people are not going to obey these laws anyway.*” Those who have given in to the foolishness of God’s laws being susceptible to the whims of man need to remember the warning of the prophet Isaiah. When there were those who proclaimed to the prophets, “*Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things...*,” God’s answer was, “*Because you despise this word ... this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall*” (Isaiah 30:10-13).

Why keep those laws on the books? Because God said it — that settles it!

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