

Are Worship Restrictions Coming to a City Near You?

A Montana couple, Krista and Todd Kolstad, is facing a heart-wrenching battle after losing custody of their 14-year-old daughter, Jennifer, who expressed a desire to transition her gender. The family's ordeal began when Jennifer's statements about suicidal thoughts prompted Child Protective Services (CPS) to intervene in August 2023.

Krista Kolstad shared with the Daily Mail the devastating impact on their family, stating, "It's been horrible... Our family unit will never be the same." The Kolstads argue that Jennifer's troubled upbringing, marked by a tumultuous relationship with her birth mother and instances of bullying at school, contributed to her struggles.

Mr. Kolstad emphasized his love for his daughter, expressing concern about the decision to transition at a young age. He said, "I love my daughter unconditionally and only want her to refrain from making decisions until she has the maturity and life experiences to understand the consequences."

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The Kolstads' case is not an isolated incident, as another Christian family from Indiana, Jeremy and Mary Cox, has also faced custody challenges due to their refusal, for religious reasons, to let their son identify as a girl. The Coxes, evangelical Christians, lost custody in June 2021 after concerns were raised about the teen's physical and emotional well-being.

In a show of support, a California mom, Abigail Martinez, who lost custody of her daughter Yaeli in 2016, filed a document

backing Mr. and Mrs. Cox. Yaeli was placed on testosterone and later died by suicide, raising questions about the consequences of such decisions.

The Kolstads allege that when CPS intervened, their objections to Jennifer's immediate gender transition were dismissed. Despite Montana's ban on medical transitioning for minors, the hospital argued that "social transition" fell into a "gray area of the law."

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The situation escalated when Jennifer was placed under 24-hour supervision, and discussions about gender-affirming care were allegedly pushed onto her by an aide. Concerned about facilities in Wyoming, which allows gender-affirming care for minors, the Kolstads found themselves facing removal of their daughter from their care.

Mr. and Mrs. Kolstad were assigned a public defender who advised them to comply with CPS recommendations. Despite their efforts to raise concerns, they ultimately lost custody of Jennifer on , with CPS asserting that allowing her to be transgender is in her "therapeutic interest."

CPS now has custody of Jennifer for six months, after which the plan is to place her with her birth mother in Canada. The Kolstads, defying a judge's order to remain silent, continue to speak out about their case, shedding light on the erosion of parental rights and religious freedom.

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Christian Navy Vet Charged with Hate Crime for Toppling Satanic Statue

Attempts at rewriting and redefining the text within the Bible continue on what seems like a daily basis these days.

As this attack on the written Word of God continues in an attempt to deceive people as to what is considered righteous by God, few places target the Christian faith the way American universities and some radical professors do.

Recently, University of Dayton professor Esther Brownsmith made the incendiary claim the Bible actually supports transgenderism and that gender is a spectrum, not binary.

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Brownsmith alludes to Joseph being a cross-dresser and says “Deborah led an army, Mordecai breast-fed his cousin Esther and Daniel was probably a eunuch.”

In an opinion piece for the Dayton Daily News as a response to the Ohio legislature overruling Gov. Mike DeWine’s veto of a bill that prohibits biological males from competing in women’s sports and restricts sex-change treatments for minors, Brownsmith contradicts the very beliefs of the Catholic Church that runs the university where she works.

“Even God is sometimes described with feminine language, as a midwife or nursing mother. Yes, the Bible was written in a patriarchal time, but it recognizes that people reimagined and

reshaped their gender identities back then—just like they do today.”

This case is just one of many in recent years that sees deceived and spiritual misguided people try and wrap the Bible up in the ideologies they believe in, instead of having the Bible shape their belief system according to God’s Word.

“As a professor of Hebrew Bible at the University of Dayton, I believe that Scripture and trans rights are not at odds. To the contrary: the Bible calls for us to support society’s most vulnerable members, and that call has rarely been more urgent,” she continues.

Taking specific texts out of context is a tried and true method of those seeking to undermine the Word of God. Yes, the Bible does say to serve others, minister to the poor, take care of widows and children, but nowhere in it does it say to tolerate sin and accept practices which God find abominable.

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“Most Americans agree that religion should not dictate public policy, but these proposed rules are rooted in ingrained religious biases about gender roles. Those biases are unethical and unbiblical. Our trans neighbors are radiant gifts of God, just like Joseph and Deborah, and they are terrified by our government trying to legislate them out of existence,” she says.

Brownsmith brings up a major fault line in the argument that individuals who believe they are transgender are “gifts of God.” Because it quite literally contradicts the words of the Bible and destroys the narrative that God is a perfect being, incapable of making mistakes.

Transgenders claim to be born in the wrong body, and if they,

like all of humanity, are made by God Almighty, then He must have made a mistake. But that argument tears down the entire narrative of a perfect, divine Being, because if God can make one mistake, He would then be able to make other mistakes. The entire biblical narrative comes crashing down in this claim made by many in the LGBTQ community.

That is why it is important for Christians to know what the Bible says and correct those who say differently. Biblical literacy is a necessity to fight against the end times deception that will see many fall away from the faith.

According to Matthew 24:24: "For false christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."

We must guard our hearts against those who would lead us away from the singular path to salvation, which is through Jesus Christ, and Him alone.{eoa}

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Christian Surfer Maintaining Stand Against Males in Women's Sports

In the latest episode of "The Strang Report," Charisma Founding Editor Stephen Strang delves into the ongoing investigation at the International House of Prayer (IHOP) in

Kansas City, particularly focusing on its founder, Mike Bickle, and the accusations being made against him.

Strang shares his heart on the need for restoration for all parties involved, and is deeply concerned for the impact this controversy will have on the body of Christ. There is history between Charisma and Bickle dating back to 1990 through early coverage of 24/7 prayer at IHOP.

“I want you to know that I believe in him [Bickle]. He is my friend. I do not hide it,” shares Strang. “I don’t think it’s ever wrong to stand for your friends. And no matter how this comes out, Mike Bickle is my friend. That doesn’t mean I excuse anything Mike Bickle does or has done.”

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Strang expresses the pain he feels for the broader Christian community: “I am a journalist, I seek for the truth. I want the truth. I love the body of Christ. And for me, part of the pain of all this is what it’s doing to the body of Christ,” Strang explains.

Strang acknowledges wrongdoing on both sides and emphasizes his careful approach to the matter. He recounted a previous podcast interview with IHOPKC’s General Kurt Fuller, now the Chairman of the Board, stressing the importance of a balanced perspective.

“Sadly, some of the nastiest fights are church fights,” Strang says. “And unless you’ve been in a church split, you don’t know how nasty it can get. And the thing is that most people on both sides of the church fight, maintain that they’re righteous and the other people are unrighteous. And that’s exactly what’s happening here.”

Strang noted an exception with Bickle, in his stance over a number of years of not defending himself if some matter arose.

Strang's discussion revolves around the spiritual restoration that needs to take place on both sides of the investigation. Citing Galatians 6:1, he argues that individuals caught in transgressions can be restored with a spirit of meekness. Drawing from his roots in the Assemblies of God, Strang pointed to examples of other leaders such as Jim Bakker and Ted Haggard, who went through periods of restoration after public scandals.

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"I believe that the apostle Paul writing to the Galatians said very clearly that people can be restored. I come from a denominational background that has a path to restoration for ministers who are repentant, and to their credit have always stood for righteousness. And they're very quick if somebody messes up to deal with it, unlike some groups where it seems almost anything goes. But they also have a way that people can be restored," Strang says.

"There's other examples that I could cite, including my own mentor and longtime friend Jamie Buckingham, who died in 1992," shares Strang. "Jaime had two, kind of crash and burns, both of them affairs. He, in two different churches, he was run out of town both times. He's written about this, in several of his books, and all this happened before I knew him. It was a real crushing season for him, he described himself as being a very prideful Baptist preacher. And, and he was totally humiliated. But it was through that crushing that he became open to the Holy Spirit in 1967."

Strang raises questions about the validity of the accusations against Bickle, emphasizing the need to consider the perspectives of all parties involved. He references a statement from Jane Doe's, published by Misty Edwards on X, who claim they were involuntarily labeled and had narratives

constructed by others. Strang urges a careful examination of the entire situation, questioning why some Jane Doe's are believed while others are not.

*This "Appeal and Protest Statement" is a collaboration with "Jane Does" who have been wrongfully identified by the "advocates" and some of those associated with them. Having read this, I am glad that our voices can finally be heard.
#ihopkc*

– misty edwards (@mistydedwards) January 18, 2024

Strang also cites other complexities in this controversy, including social media reactions and criticisms faced by Strang for advocating the possibility of Bickle's restoration. While emotions are running high on both sides of the investigation, Strang reinforces the importance of compassion, avoiding judgment and focusing on the bigger issues at hand.

"There's been quite a bit on social media as a result of my last podcast, [and] I stand by the podcast. I was attacked for saying that he could be restored. But I've answered that with that Scripture from Galatians. And explained that my perspective is that ministers being restored is something far as Mike Bickle is concerned, he will survive this, his name and reputation in some ways will always be tarnished," Strang says.

Throughout, Strang grapples with the spiritual warfare aspect of the controversy, expressing concern for the potential vulnerability of all ministries if a prominent one like IHOPKC can be tarnished. He calls for prayer, forgiveness and support for the parties involved at IHOPKC.

"Most people, even most leaders, have done something they would not want [brought] out, and the enemy would want to destroy all the different ministries. So let's forgive. Let's

stand together. Let's be supportive of the leadership, they have a very great responsibility."

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Pastor Jack Hibbs: Is the Country At Greatest Risk Since 1861?

In a recent YouTube video, Chuck Pierce shared a powerful message for the year 2024, delving into the significance of the Four Winds and their profound impact on the lives of believers.

The North Wind: Seasonal Change and the Manifest Presence of God

Pierce describes the North Wind as a harbinger of change and the manifest presence of God. He urges listeners to discern the spiritual significance of this Wind, stating, "That is going to cause a great upheaval with everything that is opposing the manifest presence of God." According to the Bible, the presence of God is transformative and powerful, symbolizing His authority and sovereignty. Proverbs 25:23 says, "The north wind brings rain, and a backbiting tongue an angry countenance."

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The East Wind: Judgment and Progress

In his message, Pierce associates the East Wind with judgment, which opens a way for progress while addressing obstacles. Drawing from 17 biblical references, the East Wind often represents God's judgment and intervention. Exodus 14:21 recounts the East Wind parting the Red Sea, allowing the Israelites to escape from the pursuing Egyptian army. In addition, The East Wind is responsible for destroying the ships of Tarshish in Psalm 48:7. Pierce emphasizes discernment amid judgment, advising, "Let Him deal with the enemies as you move forward."

The South Wind: Blessing and Prosperity

The South Wind, according to Pierce, is linked with blessing and prosperity. When these Winds converge, a transformative motion begins in one's sphere, bringing about new blessings. In biblical terms, the South Wind is often associated with warmth and abundance. Job 37:17 affirms, "You whose clothes get hot when the earth is still because of the south wind," highlighting the positive connotations of the South Wind.

"This wind brings prosperity, blessing, provision and restoration," Pierce shares. "After the enemy's years of havoc, there is left much pain and devastation, poverty and lack. God blows in His South Wind to restore the years of the destruction of the canker worm and the locust."

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The West Wind: Mercy and Deliverance

Pierce emphasizes the significance of the West Wind, associated with mercy and deliverance. "God, we need mercy. God, help us. We need mercy," he declares. In the Bible, the West Wind is symbolic of God's mercy and deliverance. Micah

7:19 assures, "He will again have compassion upon us. He will tread down our iniquities, and cast all of our sins into the depths of the sea." Pierce encourages listeners to discern prevailing Winds in their lives, stating, "Learn to move with the winds in [your] field or sphere."

As we navigate the winds of change in 2024, Chuck Pierce's prophetic insights offer a spiritual compass, reminding believers to stay attuned to God's presence, discern His judgments, embrace His blessings and rely on His mercy and deliverance. The biblical references provide a solid foundation, emphasizing the timeless wisdom embedded in the Scriptures as a guide for contemporary challenges and opportunities.

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Prophetic Red Heifers Targeted in Coordinated Attack

Experts are warning that humans could soon be shifting their devotion from traditional religious beliefs to worship Artificial Intelligence as if it were a deity.

Lars Holmquist, a professor of design and innovation at Nottingham Trent University, highlights the psychological aspect of human-computer interactions, stating that people interpret AI responses, such as those from ChatGPT, as

meaningful and akin to seeking guidance from religious scriptures.

“The results of generative AI are very open for interpretation, so people can read anything into them. Psychologists have historically proven that humans interpret their interactions with computers like real social relationships,” Holmquist says. “So it’s very possible that people are using AI to find meaning and guidance, much like from religious scriptures, even though there may be no actual meaning there. There have also been examples of people interpreting AI chatbots as being conscious—which they most definitely are not—which raises very interesting theological issues for those who believe humans are a unique creation.”

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Holmquist notes the open interpretation of generative AI results, allowing individuals to find meaning and purpose in AI interactions. He raises intriguing theological questions for those who consider humans a unique creation, especially when some interpret AI chatbots as conscious beings. The emergence of robot priests and the transhumanist movement further blurs the lines between technology and spirituality, with some envisioning AI as God-like entities.

“I think at the moment the role for AI and robots is more as an aide to existing religious organizations and churches, much like commercial companies use AI to understand and communicate with customers. I have not heard of any worship of software entities yet, but I would not be surprised if it happens in the future,” continues Holmquist.

The transhumanist belief in AI resurrection and the desire for human-machine integration add complexity to the growing intersection of technology and faith. While some argue that AI models, like ChatGPT, may eventually be treated as living

entities, others see them as tools supporting existing religious organizations.

False Gods and Idol Worship

The Bible strongly condemns the worship of false gods and idolatry. In Exodus 20:3-5, God commands, "You shall not make for yourself any graven idol, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water below the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of them who hate Me."

Throughout the Old and New Testaments, the Bible emphasizes the exclusive worship of the one true God and warns against turning to idols.

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Christian Response to Growing Paganism

In light of the increasing inclination toward paganism and potential AI worship, Christians can turn to biblical principles for guidance. The Bible encourages us to stand firm in our faith and resist the temptation to worship anything other than the One, true God. Romans 12:2 advises, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

As Christians, we should engage in meaningful dialogue with those exploring alternative beliefs, presenting the uniqueness of the Christian faith. Acts 17:22-23 provides an example when Paul addressed the Athenians who worshiped an "unknown god," proclaiming the true identity of the God they sought.

Prayer, reliance on Scripture and living out the teachings of

Jesus are essential for us as Christians to navigate the challenges of a changing spiritual landscape. As technology advances, maintaining a strong foundation in biblical truth becomes crucial to discern the spiritual implications of emerging trends around us.{eoa}

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