

THE CHILDREN OF LIGHT VS. THE CHILDREN OF DISOBEDIENCE

A Response to the Stone Throwers vs. the Caring Spirit

This responds to “The Stone Throwers vs. the Caring Spirit,” *Christian Post*, July 31, 2012, by June Hunt. The Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) is ready always to give an answer for a reason for the hope that is in us with meekness and fear (1 Pet 3:15). We thank June for her article because it sets a distinction between timid professors who are hearers of the word only (James 1:22), who use flattering word to please men (1 Thes. 2:4-5) and bold servants of God (1 Thes. 2:2) who please God (1 Thes 4:11) by preaching through much contention (1 Thes. 2:2), who are plain spoken (2 Cor 3:11), and who are doers of the word and not hearers only (James 1:22).

On the one hand are the lukewarm Christians who Christ says he will “spue out of [his] mouth” (Rev. 3:16). They speak lightness and lies (Jer. 23:32) and preach smooth things instead of right things (Isaiah 30:10). They seek to save their life, instead of losing it (Luke 17:33). They sit on the sidelines of the battle, like Eliab did when Goliath came to reproach God and His people. Eliab cowered in fear and when David raised voice to condemn Goliath, Eliab found petty faults with David’s words. David responded to Eliab, “is there not a cause?” The cause was that the uncircumcised Philistine had defied the armies of the Living God. Is there not a cause, June? This generation is wholly given over to:

- The Wicked Sin of Homosexuality – God says homosexuality is wicked (Gen 13:13), and that it is an abomination (Lev. 18:22, 20:13), and that those who practice it are worthy of death (Rom. 1:24-32). They dishonor their own bodies and burn in their lust, doing that which is unseemly with one another (Rom. 1:24-32). The sin of sodomy brought the condign wrath of God upon Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18 and 19) and are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire (Jude 7, 2 Pet. 2:6). Christ said that as soon as Lot left Sodom, God utterly destroyed it with fire and brimstone – and that in the last days before His return, the world will be just like Sodom (Luke 17:28-30). As if homosexuality were not bad enough, now there are laws allowing homosexuals to marry. Christ said that from the beginning, God established marriage as between male and female (Mat. 19:4). Marrying homosexuals is what brought the flood of Noah (Luke 17:26-27, Babylonian Talmud).
- Unadulterated Adultery – Adultery is a plague that infects nearly every single Church in America. Christ said plainly that if you marry, divorce, and remarry, then you are committing adultery (Luke 16:18). He also said that whosoever marries one that has been divorced is committing adultery (Luke 16:18). God said, “What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder” (Mat. 19:6). Yet half of all marriages in the U.S. – millions – end in divorce. Divorced and remarried people litter the pews of all of the mainline churches and nearly every single church in the U.S. – but not WBC. “Thou shalt not commit adultery” (Ex 20:14). God said He hates divorce (Mal. 2:14, Matt 19:7-8). He said adulterers shall not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 6:9), that He will judge whoremongers and adulterers (Heb. 13:4), and that adultery is enmity with God (James 4:4). The sin of adultery puts any church at risk of having their candlestick summarily taken by Christ (Rev. 2:22). The duty of every Christian church is to exclude all adulterers, so they do not defile the whole church (1 Cor. 5:6-7).

- Proud Fornication – God says to flee fornication, and that he who commits fornication is sinning against his own body (1 Cor. 6:18). He says to not let fornication be once named among you (Eph 5:30), to abstain from it (1 Thes. 4:3), to not eat the Lord’s Supper with a fornicator (1 Cor 5:11), to exclude fornicators from your membership (I Cor. 5), and that fornicators shall not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor 6:9). Like adultery, the sin of fornication puts any church at risk of having their candlestick taken by Christ (Rev. 2:20-21).
- Murders by the Millions – Abortion is a legal practice, brutally murdering millions of innocent babies annually and further compounding the widespread whoredom of this generation. The U.S. also started the Iraq War, though there were zero weapons of mass destructions, and the war in Afghanistan over 9/11, though the charge from God is to “avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath” Ro 12:19. The Lord said, “thou shalt not kill” (Ex 20:13), “whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment (Mat. 5:21),” and that “murderers shall have their part in the lake that burns with fire” (Rev. 21:8).
- Other Grievous Sins – This generation is given over to worshipping idols and making graven images (Exodus 20:4-5), covetousness (a man’s life consists not in the thing he possesses – Luke 12:15), and drunkenness and reveling/partying (Gal. 5:21).

Yes, June – the cause against this nation and world is great! This is arguably the most decadent, filthy, vile, lascivious, libidinous and wicked generation of all time and Christ predicted it would be like this just before His return (Mat. 24:37, Luke 17:26).

In contrast to that ugly picture, the servants of the True and Living God like Christ spoke – with authority and not as the scribes (Mat. 7:29). The Holy Spirit, through Isaiah (who also preached in a time of great sin before the collapse of Judah) said, “Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins” (Isaiah 58:1). Paul charged Timothy before God and Lord Jesus Christ to “preach the word; be instant, in season, out of season; reprove rebuke exhort with all longsuffering. For 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” (2 Tim. 4:1-3). That time has now come, and it is required that the people of God make good on that charge to reprove, rebuke and exhort.

The hallmark of God’s people is that they preach with boldness against great opposition. Peter and John spoke with boldness and reproved the high priest, elders, rulers and scribes in Jerusalem (Acts 4:13). Paul spoke boldly at Damascus (Acts 9:27) and disputed against the Grecians with boldness when they went about to kill him (Acts 9:29). Paul and Barnabas waxed bold in Antioch before the whole city and the Jews. Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy were shamefully treated under much contention in Philippi and were bold in God (1 Thes. 2:2). When there is great sin all around, the prophets of God preach to whole cities and nations. June spends the article casting many stones of her own. She criticizes WBC for having a “critical spirit,” having an excessively negative attitude, and not having a “caring spirit” (all terms never found in the bible).

From the beginning of the Old Testament to the end of the New Testament, the people of God condemn, publically ridicule, criticize, focus on faults, and stir up and trouble cities when their generation departs from God. Period. Below is a tithe of examples in the Bible.

- John the Baptist (who our church is named for and who we are affiliated with), laid the ax to the root of the trees (Mat. 3:10). Was it a critical spirit when John the Baptist plainly confronted King Herod on his audacious adultery with his brother Philip's wife (Mark 6:17, Luke 3:19) and then was beheaded for it?
- Was it an excessively negative attitude when Stephen did forensic battle before the high priest, council and them of Cilicia and of Asia telling them, "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers" and was then gnashed on and stoned to death (Acts 7:51-52)?
- Was it a caustic and critical spirit when Eljah troubled all of Israel when he called for a 3 ½ year drought, and then mocked and slew 450 prophets of Baal at the brook Kishon before the people (1 Kings 18:40), and was then immediately threatened with a death sentence from Queen Jezebel (1 Kings 18:40;19:2)?
- Was it a critical, faultfinding spirit when God told Jeremiah to preach that He was going to destroy Judah as follows: "How shall I pardon thee for this? thy children have forsaken me, and sworn by them that are no gods: when I had fed them to the full, they then committed adultery, and assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses. They were as fed horses in the morning: every one neighed after his neighbour's wife. Shall I not visit for these things? saith the LORD: and shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?" (Jer. 5:7-9)? Jeremiah was later tortured and starved for his hard words against his nation.
- Was it an excessively negative attitude when the LORD told Jeremiah "pray not for this people for their good. When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them: but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence" (Jer. 14:11-12) and "the young men shall die by the sword; their sons and their daughters shall die by famine" (Jer. 11:22).
- Did Amos have a positive message when he preached to King Jeroboam that he would die by the sword, and that Israel would be led away captive for their awful sins – such that it was said the land could not bear Amos' words because they were so strong (Amos 7:10-11)?
- Was it excessively negative of Paul and Silas to stir up the people with their preaching that the whole city of Thessalonica was in an uproar (Acts 17:5)?
- Did Paul lack the love or compassion of Christ when he boldly preached so that all Jerusalem was in an uproar and the people threw him out of the temple, laid hands on him and ran together to kill him (Acts 21:27-31)?
- Did Paul have a hardened and critical heart when he criticized Ephesus for their widespread worship of idols, including Diana of the Ephesians, so that the whole city was in confusion and an uproar (Acts 19:26-41)?
- Was John the Baptist too hard when he said to the Pharisees and Sadducees, "O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" It seems a little critical of him, no? (Mat. 3:7)
- Was Christ moved by a critical spirit when He, from His throne, threatened the churches of Ephesus, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, and Laodicea to repent of their fornication, adultery, idol worship, and other sins, or he would summarily remove their candlestick?

"Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world" (1 John 4:17). June talks about the love of God, but conveniently fails to tie the love of God to keeping His commandments. "By this we know that we love the children of God, when

we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” 1 John 5:2-3. The way to love your brother under such great sin is to warn your brother of his sin – not condone and enable it!

This is not an academic discussion held over tea and crumpets at a garden party. God frames this earthly struggle as a war (1 Tim. 1:18) and a great fight of affliction (Heb. 10:32). “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Eph. 6:12).

“Every child of God is a soldier, and a real one. In the Christian army, there are no feather-bed, no fire-side soldiers. All to a man are actual combatants. Are not their enemies real? Flesh and blood real? The world real? And Satan real?...It is no sham fight – but a hand to hand battle, in which wounds are inflicted, blood shed and life, according to our feelings, often at stake.” J.C. Philpot, The Whole Armor of God, 1851.

Our adversary is a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1 Pet. 5:8). Timothy was told to endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ and that no man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier (2 Tim 2:3-4). This is a warfare where the righteous are scarcely saved (1 Pet. 4:18). The warfare is for every one that nameth the name of Christ is to depart from iniquity (2 Tim. 2:19). The warfare is that if any man will come after Christ, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow him (Mat. 16:24). The warfare is to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly, looking for the glorious appearing of Christ (Titus 1:12-13). The warfare is to keep God’s commandments. “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me” (John 14:21) and, “for this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” (1 John 5:3).

June’s article fails to speak to the underlying gross sin of this generation. Predictably, she brings forth “judge not, that ye be not judged” (Mat. 7:1) to obfuscate this fact. We always laugh when this verse is hypocritically used to judge and condemn us. It’s fine for June to judge us, but not fine for us to show the people their transgression (Isaiah 58:1) and to preach the word, in season, out of season and to reprove, rebuke and exhort (2 Tim. 4:1). WBC preaches against homosexuality, adultery, fornication, murder, covetousness, and idolatry just as all the prophets of God have done for ages gone by. Where has WBC judged any wrongdoing not covered by the Bible and the Holy Spirit? We are perfectly fine to be judged against the standards we have held everyone else to, because they are the holy standards of God. Every member of our Church absolutely is held to the same standards we hold everyone else to. We have nothing but the goodwill of our fellow creatures in mind and to save them from the wiles and deceit of Satan. We say as Isaiah said: “Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed” (Isaiah 53:1)? We have no power to save anyone, just to speak the truth.

June also predictably uses John 8:7 to argue we have no right to preach against sin because we are not without sin. Again, isn’t June throwing stones of her own? Of course, the fact that we are not actually trying to kill anyone (as the instigators in John 8:7) doesn’t matter to June. In any case, we, like Christ, say “go and sin no more.” Vilify us, attack us, blame us – the point is always to “go and sin no more.” June, we care enough to conduct nearly 50,000 pickets to try to convince our fellow man to repent of the gross sin that is actively engaged in by this generation. “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men” (2 Cor. 5:11).

Our God is a consuming fire and a jealous God (Duet 4:24). He is a great, dreadful (Dan 9:4) and terrible God (Hab 1:7). The Lord's instruction is to "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Mat. 7:13 -14).

June argues that all sin is the same and God's mercy is offered to all. She says, "God loves sinners." "It is a device of Satan to present God to the soul as one made up all of mercy" (Thomas Brooks, *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices, Device 5*).

When Satan attempts to draw you to sin by presenting God as a God all made up mercy, oh then reply, that though God's general mercy extend to all the works of his hand, yet this special mercy is confined to those who are divinely qualified, to those who love him and keep his commandments, to those who trust him, that by hope hang upon him, and who fear him... you must partake of his special mercy, or else eternally perish in everlasting misery, notwithstanding God's general mercy. (Remedy 4)

As the Scripture speaks Him out to be a very merciful God, so they speak Him out to be a very just God. Witness His casting the angels out of heaven and His binding them in chains of darkness... witness His turning Adam out of Paradise...witness his drowning the old world...witness His raining hell out of heaven upon Sodom. Witness all the troubles, losses, sicknesses, and diseases, which are in the world...witness Tophet which has long been prepared... deep and wide and an abundance of fire and wood...witness his treasuring up of wrath against the day of wrath...but above all, witness the pouring forth of all His wrath upon His bosom Son, when Jesus bore the sins of His people, and cried out, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Remedy 2)

This is one of Satan's many devices he uses to deceive the whole world (Rev. 12:9). The Lord is longsuffering and of great mercy, but by no means will he clear the guilty (Num. 14:18). "Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished" (Pr 11:21). God doesn't love all sinners; he hates all workers of iniquity (Ps. 5:5). In his mercy he sent his son to redeem a few (Mat. 7:14, Mat. 20:16, Mat. 13:13-58). He loves repentant sinners only. This generation is like Jezebel, who when God gave her space to repent, she repented not and for this God vows to bring great destruction upon her and her children (Rev 2:19-23). This generation refuses to repent or even discuss the matter of its rampant unadulterated sin, including homosexuality, adultery, fornication, murder, idol worship, covetousness, drunkenness, reveling and all the rest.

The wrath of God comes upon the children of disobedience (Eph 5:6, Col. 3:6). The Japanese earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster; 2004 Tsunami, Haiti earthquake; Hurricane Katrina, collapse of the U.S. financial system/economy, dead soldiers coming home from foreign wars and September 11, 2011 are example of God's wrath. Each time, God gives a space for repentance – but there is none.

In the Exodus, God sent an Angel (the uncreated angel – Christ) unto the children of Israel to keep them in the way (Ex. 23:20). God told them to beware of him and to obey his voice and provoke him not, for he will not pardon your transgressions when he is deliberately provoked. This generation has provoked that angel, beyond belief. He will not harken to you, because you do not obey him.

Christ had no mercy for the rich man in Hell in Luke 16: 24-25 and he had no mercy for the 18 souls that died when the tower in Siloam fell – he said to the survivors: “think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish (Luke 13:4).

The day of the Lord is coming as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up (2 Pet. 3:10). Christ is coming with 10,000s of his saints “to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” Jude 14. He is coming with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power (2 Thes 1:7-9). The Bible ends with a “bang!” not a whimper June. The Revelation of Jesus Christ is de-creation, death and destruction from one end of it to the other. By the end of it, the world is destroyed and all the people in it. “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord” (Rom 12:19).

June, if you are looking for the people and prophets of God to be “yes, men” that only tell you what you want to hear and only have positive messages when great sin abounds, you have gone to the wrong place. “This a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits” (Isaiah 30:9-10). The world hates us June because we testify of it, that the works thereof are evil (John 7:7). If you were preaching right June, the world would hate you like it hated Christ: If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. (John 15:18-20).

One question, June: where is the love of Christ for the many that follow the wide gate and the broad way that leads to destruction (Mat. 7:13), the lake of fire and brimstone which is the second death (Rev. 20:14, 21:8) where their worm does not die, and their fire is not quenched (Isaiah 66:24) and where the torments go on day and night for ever and ever (Rev. 20:10)?

Here is the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man (Eccl. 12:13).