

CORY WILSON

## Eat more chicken

So it has come to this. Private citizens who dare oppose marriage "equality" (read: full sanction of homosexual marriage) will now be bashed, banned, and bankrupted, simply for expressing their views.

Earlier this year, when State Representative Andy Gipson (R-Braxton) defended traditional marriage by citing to the Bible in a Facebook post, he and his family received death threats. Gipson's belief that marriage is the union of one man and one woman made national news. Gipson, a smart lawyer who also preaches in a Baptist church in Simpson County, was attacked by the leftist media and the "tolerance" crowd for being so "intolerant" in his views.

Views which happen to be shared by solid majorities of voters in at least 33 states, and, until his expedient "evolution" this spring, by President Obama. While the attacks on Gipson were shameful, I guess the leftist tolerance squads could argue that Gipson was an elected official, and so fair game.

Now the Left has crossed another line. Their newest target? That insidious peddler of immorality, Chick-fil-A.

In these parts, it is generally

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known that Chick-fil-A is a family-oriented business, led by Atlanta-based CEO Dan Cathy. The restaurants, much to the disappointment of many kids leaving church at lunchtime, are closed on Sundays, out of respect of the Sabbath. Dastardly.

Last week Cathy had the audacity to say that he does not support gay marriage, endorsing instead the "biblical definition of the family unit." Cathy freely admits to running a pro-family business. Villainy. "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," Cathy has been reported to have said.

He may want to hold back on that last statement. For Cathy's traditional stance, which reflects his opinion, not official Chick-fil-A policy, Cathy and his company are now under severe attack. Indeed, elected officials in San Francisco, Chicago, Boston, and Washington DC are openly stat-

ing that they disapprove of having Chick-fil-A stores in their cities. The Mayor of Washington, a city with far bigger problems than chicken sandwiches, nonetheless has taken to Twitter to refer to Chick-fil-A as "hate chicken." "Twit" may be more apropos.

Pause and think about this for a minute. Have we reached a point where government officials purport to block legitimate businesses if they do not reflect the "right" values?

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emmanuel has strongly hinted that Chicago will deny permits for Chick-fil-A to expand business there. Same for Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, who wrote a letter to Cathy urging him to keep his business out of Boston. Menino wrote, "There is no place for discrimination on Boston's Freedom Trail and no place for your company alongside it." Interesting approach to economic development.

Menino forgot about that whole "freedom of speech" thing when hyper-defending Boston's Freedom Trail. Keep in mind that Cathy and Chick-fil-A have discriminated against no one, in hir-

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Clinton, Jackson, Vic Sexton of Jackson, Linda Brunt of Madison, Rosemary Maxey of Jackson and Paul Bowers of Madison.

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ing, serving, or otherwise doing business. They have simply endeavored to work according to their worldview, one respected if not espoused by most Americans.

Yet these elected officials have become arrogant enough to pick and choose which values are valuable. So we devolve from "the United States of America" to

"you deserve a boycott today." Hard to reconcile "liberty" with the use of government to crush people who do not agree with the "official line."

This is scary stuff. And sad. America is better than this.

As evidence of that, the game of "PC" chicken may be backfiring.

Wednesday, Aug. 1 has been proclaimed "Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day" by evangelical leaders and personas like Mike Huckabee and Sarah Palin. Liberal New York Mayor Mike

Bloomberg has broken with his mayoral brethren for their stupid rushes to tolerance. Mayor Rahm Emmanuel is being called out to explain how a Christian-led company does not reflect "Chicago values" but Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam, famously anti-Semitic (and whose tenets call for homosexuals to be put to death), is embraced to help reduce Chicago's spiraling murder rate. How are the tolerance squads to answer that one?

The Left's apologists like to say that gay marriage is an issue

on which both sides have legitimate beliefs worthy of respect. But the reaction to Dan Cathy's courage of conviction shows that, in reality, the radical Left sees no legitimacy in the other beliefs, or the right to express them.

As for me, I may invite Andy Gipson to lunch, and plan on chicken sandwiches.

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