

What About... The Church Being Relevant?

BY DR. DAVID A. DEWITT

Christian Pastor Rob Bell Suggests Ignoring the Bible to Help the Church 'Stay Relevant'

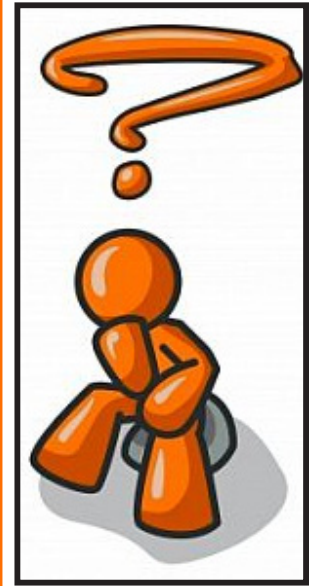
By Jennifer Van Laar
[<http://www.ijreview.com/2015/02>]



During a special Valentine's Day episode of Super Soul Sunday on OWN, Oprah Winfrey asked her spiritual advisor Rob Bell if he thought churches were close to accepting homosexuality and same-sex marriage.

He answered that "we're moments away from the church accepting it," and that Christians needed to stop relying on its holy text as a basis for opposing homosexuality:

"I think culture is already there and the church will continue to be even more irrelevant when it quotes letters from 2,000 years ago as their best defense, when you have in front of you flesh-and-blood people who are your brothers and sisters, and aunts and uncles, and co-workers and neighbors, and they love each other and just want to go through life with someone."



I don't know about you, but I find it very encouraging that Rob Bell understands that the Bible makes today's church "irrelevant." Write it down somewhere,

DEWITT AGREES WITH ROB BELL

Let's just overlook Bell's stand on homosexuality for a minute. I want you to notice the bigger picture here. Bell believes "the church will continue to be even more irrelevant when it quotes letters from 2,000 years ago." Ummm, let's see— "letters from 2000 years ago."

- Would that be Socrates, Plato, or the Apocrypha? No that's older.
- Maybe "papal bulls" at the time of the Crusades? No, that's only 1000 years ago.

So, what letters might the church be tempted to follow from 2000 years ago?

Oh, I get it—that would be the New Testament. So the New Testament will make the church "irrelevant."

I like that. Rob Bell has it figured out. While so many "scholars" are trying to warp the Bible into fitting our 21st century morality, Bell just ignores it.

For example, in this statement, quoted above by Jennifer Van Laar, Bell seems to understand that the Bible teaches marriage as a heterosexual thing and the Bible condemns acts of homosexuality. So if the church followed the clear teaching of the Bible, the church would have to reject homosexual marriage. Therefore, the church should "stop relying on its holy text as a basis for opposing homosexuality." But homosexuality is not the big issue here.

The big question is, are we going to follow the Bible or the church? Because the Bible will make the church "irrelevant." Of course, Bell is not using the New Testament idea of the church. I'm going to guess he means people who call themselves Christians and go to places called churches (at least off and on). Identifying himself with that group, Bell says, "we're moments away from the church accepting"... in this case homosexuality. Apparently, all we need to do is to ignore those "letters from 2000 years ago." After all, those "letters from 2000 years ago" just might keep people from coming to our churches. Suppose the Bible also condemned divorce and remarriage, sexual cohabitation, cheating and lying. What if instead of tolerating sin and calling it "Love" and "Grace," the Bible required us to repent of our sin.

OH MY! WE CAN'T HAVE THAT!