

IN THE MIDST OF CONTROVERSY

I could not help but applaud the young lady, Miss California Carrie Prejean, who in the Miss USA pageant responded to a very difficult question this way: "We live in a land where you can choose same-sex marriage or opposite. And you know what, I think in my country, in my family, I think that I believe that a marriage should be between a man and a woman. No offense to anybody out there, but that's how I was raised."



So much has been written about the situation that anything else one would say might appear redundant, but suffice it to say she was courageous and forthright.

At a time when many Christian leaders are waffling on the subject of same-sex marriage, it took a God-fearing beauty pageant contestant to put the subject in perspective. "God was testing my character and faith. I'm glad I stayed true to myself," she said later (FoxNews.com — April 20, 2009).

Paul admonished young Timothy to **"Guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith"** (1 Tim. 6:20,21).

Miss Prejean has taken a great deal of negative backlash for her statement related to the sanctity of marriage, but she has also been praised for her faithfulness.

Should we be surprised? Of course not. We live in a free country and people are pretty much at liberty to express their opinions. That is exactly what Miss Prejean did. Paul encouraged Timothy, **"But you, keep your head in all situations"** (2 Tim. 4:5). We should do the same.

I am not advocating turning your pulpits into a public forum, but I am saying that, as you walk in the village, your people really need to know where you stand on issues that are pivotal to the moral stability of the church, our families and our communities.

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus," (Col. 3:17). I continue to salute our brave and tenacious colleagues in California who fought and won the battle for marriage in their state last November.

Be blessed and be a blessing. —HBL