
Bishop O'Leary on Companionate Marriage.

A recent interview granted by Bishop O'Leary, of Springfield, Mass., has attracted attention in the secular press. Asked by an interviewer for a statement on Judge Lindsey's free-love propaganda, the Bishop stated the Catholic position bluntly and well. Some paragraphs of his declaration are herewith reproduced:

"Only the name of companionate marriage is new; the reality is as ancient as the days of Onan. Our age is an age which does not call a spade a spade, but invents names for repulsive things, as though it hopes to change the loathsome thing by a clever label. Nobody could sell onanism and harlotry to a Christian world if he called them detestable things; its salesmen try to peddle both as companionate marriage. This does not change the fact that the guilty ones are companions in sin.

"It is highly significant that in all the discussion of companionate marriage, the name of Jesus never occurs. His legislation is never consulted. His teachings are ignored, or sneered at as medieval superstitions. The sacramental character of the marriage tie, its indissolubility except by death, the primary end of matrimony, which is to beget and train children for citizenship, here and hereafter, all are swept away, that men and women may be as free as the beasts of the field in the indulgence of their lower natures.

"Right reason is denied a hearing and conscience is silenced by the cry that the Barabas of sensuality be liberated and the Christ of Calvary be crucified anew. The slaughter of the innocents at Bethlehem is renewed on a universal scale, but cloaked under the soothing title of "companionate marriage." Birth control, as advocated by Judge Lindsey, might better be named "birthless indulgence." There is no moral difference between denying birth to little ones and robbing them of existence after they are born, though one may be called birth control and the other stigmatized as murder.

"The voice of history warns us that God will not be mocked, and the nations that practice birth control soon disappear from the stage of life. Medical science sounds the same warning to the individual that historical science does to nations. If nations cannot mock God with impunity, much less can individuals. It is the experience of those who will not have children when they can, that they cannot when they will -- too late to learn.

"Whence comes this wide propaganda for companionate unions? From a judge of a juvenile court who conceived the not over-brilliant idea that if there aren't any children there will not be any juvenile delinquents in the children's courts! Parents will neglect children if they haven't any, and so the kind-hearted, if misguided jurist, would give legal permission not to have any because some might land in the juvenile courts. His next step should be, and may be, to punish parents for having children.

"Companionate marriage is not marriage at all, in any Christian sense of the word, because at least two pre-nuptial conditions render this marriage invalid from the start: the condition not to have children until and when and if the contracting parties find it mutually agreeable to have them, and the condition that the parties may divorce each other at any time, without giving reason to the court, or even to each other.

"In the last analysis, companionate marriage is a serious proposal to correct the abuse of a system by legalizing them. We cannot prevent birth control, so let's legalize it, especially as it will help the juvenile judges. We cannot prevent murder, so we might as well legalize it, especially as our courts are cluttered with cases and murder trials are long and expensive. The companionate union legalizes the murder of the unborn to keep them out of court. Why not legalize the murder of the born?

PRAYERS: Five persons who are desperately ill; Jerome Parker's mother died Tuesday.