

A REAL PHOBIA

BY CARL MCMURRAY

Merriam Webster's dictionary defines "phobia" as, *an exaggerated and often disabling fear usually inexplicable to the subject*. Some people have a phobia of snakes and some have phobias about being in a crowd. They are afraid of such things in an "exaggerated and often disabling" way. It is often "inexplicable" to the person, but it is a real fear nonetheless.

In recent times we have begun to see this term used in ways that are inexplicable to me. For example if anything is said that denounces homosexuality one is immediately heard to be called a homophobe, and is identified as spreading homophobia. The picture we painted of one who is somehow, irrationally "afraid" of either the person or the act. If you denounce adultery no one cries adultaphobe. If pedophiles are denounced no one cries pediphobe. Why is one particular form of immoral behavior defended with the name calling, homophobe, and not others? It appears there can only be one real reason. No one that I know of is actually afraid of homosexuals, nor of homosexuality. People are people and some who have chosen this lifestyle are actually pleasant and socialable people, and their choice is not catching like some sort of virus. I repeat, no one that I know of would be afraid of such people. The label is used then, not to identify a real problem but to silence the opposition. That is what name calling and labeling is all about. Whether true or false, it is used to shame, embarrass, and otherwise silence those who oppose this lifestyle.

Another area where this is being seen recently is with the religion of Islam, that is being represented by terrorists on a Holy War against Christians worldwide. If one points out the frequency of terrorist murders happening all over the world it is popular now among certain elite to call that person an Islamaphobe, or to warn us all against spreading Islamaphobia. I would say again that this foolish name calling is nothing more than another attempt to silence the opposition to Islam. Heaven forbid we should identify a religion that produces and radicalizes its adherents to silence all who disagree with bullet or beheading. We certainly don't want to label as violent a faith that murders children and captives, kidnaps girls and sells them as sex slaves, and once more, answers any mocking or disagreement with cowardly murders. It is not Islamaphobia to identify tens of thousands of violent Islamic terrorists as representing the Moslem faith. That is what they all have in common. These are not extremists. They are convicted believers of Islam. The name calling is intended to silence the rest of us.

Which brings me to the real point of this article. The name calling and labeling that goes on is because those involved with the immorality of homosexuality or the violence and bloodshed of Islam don't want to hear the truth. There is a real phobia at work here but it is not what is often named. It is truthaphobia.

Truthaphobia is a very real fear of exposure, censure, judgment, and condemnation that comes from God's word. It is seen when people don't want to ever talk about religion. It is seen when preachers will preach to their own church followers but will never accept the challenge of coming out of their church building and meeting on the honorable debate stage to defend their doctrines from the scripture. It is seen when we are told to, *"just preach Jesus and let everyone else alone,"* or, *"one church is a good as another, just go to the one of your choice."* It is heard when someone says, *"Don't judge me!"* or, *"I don't believe in arguing religion."*

If you filter out just the teaching on grace and joy and love and God's presence people will flock to hear and fill the coffers with contributions. But, if you dare tell the whole gospel, how to escape God's wrath, judgment, accountability for thoughts and deeds, the necessity of self-control and a good example? If you dare to say that someone, anyone is actually wrong (immoral? murderers? false teachers? etc.) you better be ready for the labeling and name calling to start.

The “offended” parties will try to silence the opposition. That is simply because they know they are wrong and want nothing to do with the truth. They are afraid of the truth, they are truthaphobes who are spreading the wasting disease of truthaphobia to a world who would rather try and justify themselves than be justified by the blood of the Lamb of God.