



**The Reverend Oscar Owens
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My response to gcmwatch.com blog d3

Brother Foster I speak out against these lies you are telling about my Pastor and Presiding Bishop. I may be mistaken, but I believe I have met you in the past, at a conference, where you spoke of your book that describes your journey out of homosexuality to holiness and sexual purity. At that time you seemed a kind person so I am doubly surprised by the rancor of the lies you are spreading about Bishop Blake. In the title of your blog article, "Bishop Charles E. Blake endorses gay marriage declaration" you are telling a malicious lie. Bishop Blake does not, and never has endorsed gay marriage. Not at any time in the 18 years that I have heard him preach has he ever supported or endorsed gay marriage or homosexuality. He has consistently taught and affirmed the Word of God in the Old Testament and New Testament that homosexuality is a sin which saved and sanctified Christians must forsake through the saving power of the blood of Jesus and the delivering power of the Holy Spirit. West Angeles Church of God in Christ itself has an official marriage policy to marry male and female couples only. Bishop Blake would rejoice in your own deliverance from homosexuality to holiness and sexual purity. He consistently teaches that the only God blessed sexual relationship for born again, Holy Spirit filled couples is within holy matrimony between men and women.

Bishop Blake's endorsement of "the Faith in Human Rights" statement is not an endorsement of gay marriage, absolutely not! The "Faith in Human Rights" document does not refer to gay marriage or gay rights at all, implicitly or explicitly. It does not imply an affirmation of gay marriage - not at all. The "Faith in Human Rights" document was developed to bring world religious leaders together to affirm the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights which was written 60 years ago. In 1948, the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights was written and adopted by the UN General Assembly. It was a landmark document basically declaring that people of various ethnicities, nations and governments should be treated with dignity and justice. The world had just emerged from two world wars, it was the beginning of the Black Civil Rights struggle in America and the struggle for the independence of formerly colonized nations.

The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights was a beacon of hope for African American people in their struggle against racism. In 1948, gay marriage was not part of the conversation; on the contrary, this was the time of the affirmation of the traditional, nuclear family in America. In fact article 16 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights states:

Article 16.

(1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

(2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

(3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Notice it says, "Without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion" men and women have a right to marry. This statement says nothing about gay marriage. It affirms marriage between men and women without regard to race, nationality or religion who are of full age.

Furthermore, the document that Bishop Blake is a signatory to is the "Faith in Human Rights" document. Neither does the "Faith in Human Rights" document refer to or affirm gay marriage. Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27) Jesus even said to "love your enemy", "to bless them and do good to them" (Matthew 5:44). The love we must have for people causes us to affirm their dignity as humans created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26 -27). Affirming the image of God in each person does not mean we affirm the sinful activities of people. The "Faith in Human Rights" document affirms the dignity of human beings created in the image of God. The "Faith in Human Rights" statement reads, "we recognize our responsibility towards our believers and to the world at large and reaffirm our intention to take all necessary steps both within our communities and in co-operation with others to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms for each and every person, irrespective of religion or belief."

It is right for Christians to support human rights. Christian leaders can, without compromise to our own faith, join with other religious leaders to say that inhumanity should not be perpetrated on human beings. This is what the signatories did with this document. We can agreeably and respectfully, disagree with our fellow human beings, yet affirm their freedom to believe and think as they do. Jesus is Lord and His Gospel is the power of God unto salvation for all who will believe and receive His truth spoken by our words (Romans 1:16). Dr. David Hall represented Bishop Blake as one who brought the presence of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit inside him, to the gathering at The Hague. He was a fragrance of Jesus Christ in

his conversations with the other religious leaders as seen in the pictures. Perhaps few of the other religious leaders had ever interfaced with a Holy Spirit filled Christian.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is powerful enough to persuade and stand on its own in any setting and with every religion. Holy Spirit filled Christians should be in the dialogue on the world stage affirming that the Son of God, Jesus Christ, loved all people, even the world of people, yet judged all human sin on the cross. Otherwise, only those who do not know Jesus Christ will establish what should or should not be valued. The "Faith in Human Rights" document says that as religious people of the world, based on our own religious beliefs (in our case, the Holy Bible), we uphold human rights. Injustice, inhumane treatment and violent oppression are not what God our Father, in Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit desires that we perpetrated on any one. It is my hope that from this point on you will cease from writing untruths about Bishop Blake.