

DISNEY'S THREAT TO BOYCOTT GEORGIA OVER GAY MARRIAGE BILL

- Ron Stullenbarger -

The Walt Disney Company threatened to stop filming in Georgia if the state's governor signed a bill that would protect a preacher's right not to perform gay marriage ceremonies. The bill would also *"protect property owners which are religious organizations against infringement of religious freedom."* The governor caved and vetoed the bill.

Disney owns Marvel, which has shot major films at Pinewood Studios outside Atlanta. Such a boycott would be a significant loss for the state. The NFL is also threatening to bypass Atlanta as a Super Bowl destination if the religious freedom bill is passed.

What does this news mean for those of us who support biblical marriage?

One: We can expect opposition to escalate. Ironically, many companies that defend gay marriage have their own issues. For instance, Disney has been accused over the years of human rights violations with regard to working conditions in factories that produce their merchandise. And the NFL is embroiled in a controversy regarding its support for players at risk of cognitive damage.

Nonetheless, the crusade against those who defend biblical marriage is only going to intensify in coming years. We can expect strategies such as Disney's, which are intended to provoke a public backlash against us. What used to be accepted Christian faith is fast becoming *"religious extremism."*

Two: We should choose now to defend biblical truth, whatever the cost. The time to decide that we will endure persecution for Jesus is before persecution begins. Challenges don't produce character—they reveal it. Walt Disney himself noted that *"some men make difficulties, while difficulties make some men."*

Jesus promised, *"Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake"* (Matthew 5:11). To live a life God can bless, we must decide to stand for God's word and will. The price of today's obedience is an investment in eternal reward.

Francis Schaeffer was right: *"If you are a Christian looking for an easy ministry in a post-Christian culture where Christians are a minority, you are unrealistic in your outlook. It was not to be so in Jeremiah's day, and it cannot be so in ours."*

But the good news is that Jesus stands with those who stand for Him!