

“Defending the indefensible”

Have you noticed lately how our society has become good at defending the indefensible? I’m not speaking about defending the vulnerable in our society, but those who are guilty of poor behaviour, whether it be on the sporting field, society in general, and sometimes even in the body of Christ.

Two AFL players were suspended this week because they took a substance which was apparently laced with an enhancing performance drug. The players still don’t admit any wrong on their part, but claim they were victims. The television commentators then attempt to defend (and excuse) their behaviour by saying they are young and should be given a second chance, even though all the rules state clearly that taking performance enhancing drugs will mean a two-year suspension.

In some sporting codes, there are participants who deliberately try to harm their opponents with unlawful tackles. When it occurs, commentators and supporters alike, quickly try to defend ‘their’ player by suggesting it was only accidental when it clearly was indefensible.

This past week, TV stations Channel Ten and Seven refused to run an advertisement put out by Marriage Alliance, showing an iceberg with the words “Same Sex Marriage” above the water. It came with the tag line, “It’s not as simple as you think” implying that there is a lot more to this debate below the water level than what people have read and heard so far. Yet, some well-known TV celebrities and sporting stars have come out in defense of Channel Ten and Seven, even though what they are doing is indefensible.

On the positive, Foxtel (Sky TV) has shown this advertisement and has copped a heap of abuse, with many subscribers threatening to unsubscribe. To Foxtel’s credit, they have not withdrawn the advertisement.

Sometimes as Christians we also fall into the trap of trying to defend the indefensible. I understand the dilemma only too well, for we don’t wish to sound condemning but winsome. But in doing so we may be inclined to defend wrong behaviour or turn a blind eye towards it for a time, hoping all the while that they will turn to Christ and be saved.

However, when we are inclined to defend someone, we need to be certain that our defence is not based by the standards of the society and culture around us or on some personal bias. To do so may lead us to defending the indefensible and the Lord would not be pleased.

God doesn’t judge our lifestyles and behaviour by the standards set in our society or by our culture, or by our personal bias, but by His righteous laws. And when we look into the mirror of His law on our lives, we will soon see that we cannot and must not defend the indefensible, not in our own lives or in the lives of others, even if they are loved ones.

God’s law says that we are to love Him above all and our neighbour as ourselves and that is the measure by which anyone should be defended, in the body of Christ, in our homes and I would suggest also on the sporting field and in society in general. If we suggest that God’s law is no longer relevant, then there is no sin, and people may even conclude that our loving God made a mistake in sending His Son to pay for our sin.

So let’s not be tempted to defend the indefensible. The only answer is to acknowledge we have and are breaking God’s righteous law and seek forgiveness in Christ. And thankfully, when we confess and repent for breaking God’s righteous laws and trust in Christ’s completed work of salvation, He becomes our defence attorney even though at one time we too were indefensible because of our sin.

JZ