

# Live answerably

O'Malley Family Bible Study

July 28, 2012

Thompson Sept Zeph 2:3 Seek the Lord, all ye meek of the land; exercise judgment and seek righteousness, and **live answerably**; that you may be sheltered in the day of the anger of the Lord.

There is a destruction coming. We know not the day or the year but it's coming and we will be judged by what we think, act, do and say. All will stand in front of the throne - before Jesus. God gives the wicked their fun in the sun Ecc3:16-17 without immediate judgment since they will be damned at the judgment day. God's people are judged in the here and now and we must walk and act appropriately.

**Ecc 3:16** In addition, I have also noticed that in this world you find wickedness where justice and right ought to be.

**Ecc 3:17** I told myself, "God is going to judge the righteous and the evil alike, because every thing, every action, **will happen at its own set time.**"

Case in point the Greece triple jumper, Voula Papachristou, was severely judged and kicked off the Olympic team for tweeted:

<article Papachristou> "So many Africans in Greece at least West Nile mosquitoes will eat homemade food."

Pasted from <<http://content.usatoday.com/communities/gameon/post/2012/07/voula-papachristou-olympic-ban/1>>

All her years of hard work were destroyed by a careless comment. The tongue who can tame it (Jm3:8).

**Jas 3:8** **But no one has ever been able to tame the tongue.** It is evil and uncontrollable, full of deadly poison.

She was judged and sentenced not by a law of God but by political correctness. It wasn't prudent or kind in what she said. It was from a 23 year old cocky attitude who thought she was above the law. The heavy hand of the Government acted swiftly to put her in her place.

She didn't realize the times that we are in. We are to be guarded in what we say (Prov13:3) because of unequal justice.

RSV Proverbs 13:3 He who guards his mouth preserves his life; **he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.**

Unequal justice is when you get slammed for something that has no injured party but when you have an injured party you don't convict. They Olympic committee acted in another situation that caused an injured party - Jesus.

<article condoms> The Olympic committee is handing out 15 condoms per athlete - 150,000 in total. That's enabling people to sin with no apparent consequences and that's a crime from Jesus point of view. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2175783/The-raunchiest-Olympics-Record-150-000-condoms-handed-athletes-London-Games--thats-15-EACH.html>

<article homosexuals> The Olympic committee is also telling married athletes that they can't live together in the Olympic village but homosexuals can. Condoning homosexuality and opposing traditional marriage is a crime in Jesus' viewpoint also.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2174261/Shooters-Russell-Lauryn-Mark-barred-sharing-room-Olympic-Village.html>

<article NZ pole dancers> People aren't living answerably. Society tolerates sin but cry about the judgment. In New Zealand the residents are up in arms about prostitution wrecking havoc on their streets, destroying street signs by pole dancing.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/australiaandthepacific/newzealand/9404669/Traffic-signs-in-New-Zealand-destroyed-by-prostitutes-performing-stunts.html>

It's stated in the article "we are beyond moral outrage, We just ask for some reasonable control of this industry". The Government wants to ban the hookers from certain parts of the city. If they were beyond moral outrage they would go after the prostitutes but they can't since the final sentence in the article states that in 2003 the government passed some of the most liberal prostitution laws in the world.

People want it both ways. They want to sin and enjoy themselves but they want an orderly society. They are double minded persons Jm4:8. Even the atheist want an orderly society but reject Jesus who would bring order to society.

RSV James 4:8 Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, **you men of double mind.**

This article made me laugh. A convention of skeptics, atheists and humanist in Las Vegas were complaining that there wasn't a lot of women attending since the women were complaining that the men were propositioning the women for sex and there were unwelcomed touching. The kicker is the statement:

<article atheist> "these events are a great way to meet people, but there are appropriate ways to conduct yourselves"

If you reject God's laws or believe God doesn't exist or believe that the law has been taken away then you are in a lawlessness state.

<http://www.religionnews.com/culture/gender-and-sexuality/do-atheists-have-a-sexual-harassment-problem>

If you believe that humans evolved from monkeys and pleasures of the flesh is your to have and you have no moral laws to hold you down then why wouldn't you look at woman as your booty for pleasure? Survival of the fittest. If you are stronger than they are then they should be yours as you see fit.

There is not a national mourning/groaning over sin. The only national groaning seems to be not able to sin and get by.

Ezekiel went thru the city to mark those groaning over sin (Ez9:4 ) not the inconvenience of the result of sin

RSV Ezekiel 9:4 And the Lord said to him, "Go through the city, through Jerusalem, and **put a mark upon the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it.**"

We were to act righteously but we didn't, Israel rejected God ruling over us (1Sam8:7)

RSV 1 Samuel 8:7 And the Lord said to Samuel, "Hearken to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but **they have rejected me from being king over them.**

Now we get the government that we deserve. Samuel states that the purpose of government is (1Sam8:11-20 ) take your money, land, sons and daughters. Samuel told the nature of a government would be: its take, take, take. I didn't see anything listed that indicated that it would be a benefit to the individual citizen.

RSV 1 Samuel 8:11-20

11 He said, "These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots;

12 and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots.

13 He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers.

14 He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his servants.

15 He will take the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants.

16 He will take your menservants and maidservants, and the best of your cattle and your asses, and put them to his work.

17 He will take the tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves.

18 And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the Lord will not answer you in that day."

19 But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No! but we will have a king over us,

20 that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles."

We still haven't repented so God is going to take more of our money thru Obamacare and the new 16000 agents to enforce it.

The government is not here to protect your freedom and liberty. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty (Is61:1 ). The gov is taking away Jesus and when Jesus is taken away then slavery follows.

Ez39:23 house of Israel was carried into captivity for their sins

DRB **Eze 39:23** And the nations shall know that the house of Israel were made captives for their iniquity, because they forsook me, and I hid my face from them: and I delivered them into the hands of their enemies, and they fell all by the sword.

RSV Isaiah 61:1 THE SPIRIT of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

<article **Chick fil a**> When a slave rebels they are punished such as with Chick Fil A and the Boston mayor.

Chick fil a came out stating that they oppose same sex marriages and Boston stated that Chick fil a wasn't welcomed in Boston. They can discriminate against a Christian company but it's not discriminating.

Society celebrates perversion just turn on the tv, radio, movies, newspapers, magazines... and the majority of material is anti-God

What are some of the sins preventing people from entering the kingdom:

RSV Galatians 5:19-21

19 Now the works of the flesh are plain: fornication, impurity, licentiousness,

20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension, party spirit,

21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

RSV 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor sexual perverts,

10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God.

All the above is listed in 1 Jn2:16

**1Jn 2:16** For all that is in the world is the concupiscence of the flesh and the concupiscence of the eyes and the pride of life, which is not of the Father but is of the world.

We are to stand up and call sin, sin. What is sin? Being without law a lawless person:

RSV 1 John 3:4 Every one who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; **sin is lawlessness.**

Being lawless brings on death:

RSV Romans 6:23 For **the wages of sin is death,** but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

If we are to live accountable then we can't be Christians in name only and still love and partake in the pleasures of the world. We have to be more righteous than the scribes. When we repent, we make a change inside that's permanent.

Our mission statement is to go into the world and spread the gospel -the death burial and resurrection. How one conducts their life as a Christian is a statement to the world and some may be convicted just by seeing how you walk as a Christian (1Pt3:1). Before any discussion further in the bible Getting a person to accept that they must repent and change their ways is the primary task.. Repentance is the only way God will heal the land 2Chron7:14

**KJV 1Pe 3:1** In like manner also, let wives be subject to their husbands: that, **if any believe not the word, they may be won without the word,** by the conversation of the wives,

RSV 2 Chronicles 7:14 if my people who are called by my name **humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways,** then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Regards,  
David O'Malley

<p><b>2012 Completed Bible studies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 1/20/12 - Fukushima Daiichi (end times part 1)</li><li>- 2/12/12 - The Trinity: 1 in 3, 3 in 1 or ... 4 by 2 from 1? (part 1)</li><li>- 2/25/12 - The Trinity: 1 in 3, 3 in 1 or ... 4 by 2 from 1? (part 2)</li><li>- 3/04/12 - A time for war and a time for peace</li><li>- 3/12/12 - Christian Soldier: Equipping - part 1</li><li>- 3/26/12 - 2-2-2-2-2-2 Enigma of Passover</li><li>- 4/3/12 - The milk of the gospel</li><li>- 4/15/12 - Prayer power</li><li>- 6/10/12 - Hard Water Parable</li><li>- 7/14/12- Jesus knows</li><li>- 7/24/12 Global or local flood</li><li>- 7/28/12 Live Answerably</li></ul>	<p><b>Future O'Malley Family Bible studies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Noah's flood</li><li>- Heaven's anguish, Hell's 3 day party</li><li>- Passover - pain and suffering of Jesus</li><li>- Christian Soldiers group maneuvers</li><li>- PEP: Persecution, Endurance &amp; Preservation</li><li>- Understanding, knowledge and wisdom &amp; Fear connection</li><li>- Fall of Jerusalem: departure of the King of Kings</li><li>- 5 stones for 5 giants: tearing the Baals down</li><li>- The Law - intro/controversy/importance</li><li>- The Law - distant, past, now, future</li><li>- Path to the end (end times part 2)</li><li>- Marks of the nations of Israel (end times part 3)</li><li>- Escape from Babylon (end times part 4)</li><li>- the message for the mixed multitude</li><li>- War scrolls fighting insights</li></ul>
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AFP/Getty Images

## Voula Papachristou 'bitter and upset' over Olympic ban

On Wednesday, Voula Papachristou became the first athlete to be banned from the Olympics for a message that she posted on Twitter.

On Thursday, the 23-year-old triple jumper from [Greece sounded off about her emotions since the ruling](#).

"I have not slept at all and to be honest I am still trying to come to terms with what has happened," she told Reuters. "I am trying to stay calm otherwise I would lose control.

"I am thankful to my coach and family and so many other people who have stuck by me.... After so many years of hurt and sacrifices to try and get to my first Olympics I am very bitter and upset. But what has upset me the most is the excessive reaction and speed of the disciplinary decision.

"I don't know if they want to make an example out of me because of my profile, this is for others to judge, but what I believe is that they used their maximum disciplinary power on me for this," Papachristou said. "They went straight to the final stage in excluding me from the team, which was highly excessive."

Papachristou was punished for posting this racist tweet on July 22: **"So many Africans in Greece at least West Nile mosquitoes will eat homemade food."**

She later issued an apology on Twitter:

"I would like to express my heartfelt apologies for the unfortunate and tasteless joke I published on my personal Twitter account. I am very sorry and ashamed for the negative responses I triggered, since I never wanted to offend anyone, or to encroach human rights.

"My dream is connected to the [Olympic Games](#) and I could not possibly participate if I did not respect their values. Therefore, I could never believe in discrimination between human beings and races."

This would have been the first Olympic Games for Papachristou. Instead she'll be remembered for making history the wrong way.

<http://content.usatoday.com/communities/gameon/post/2012/07/voula-papachristou-olympic-ban/1>

## The oh, oh, Ohhh-lympics! As record 150,000 condoms are handed out to a host of super-attractive athletes, could London 2012 be the raunchiest games ever?

- Athletes will receive 15 condoms each for the 17-day festival
- 'I've seen athletes having sex out in the open, getting down and dirty on grass between buildings,' says U.S. women's goalie
- Victoria Pendleton among the glamorous female stars offered condoms

By [Damien Gayle](#) and [Rick Dewsbury](#)

**PUBLISHED:** 02:45 EST, 19 July 2012 | **UPDATED:** 08:07 EST, 19 July 2012

You'd think they might want to save their energy.

But it seems that Olympic athletes will be working up more of a sweat off the field than they will on it this Summer.

In a sign of what the world's fittest sportsmen and women get up to in the Olympic village, a record 150,000 free condoms - 15 for each competitor - have been made available to them.

The phenomenal outpouring of prophylactics means there will be 50 per cent more available to athletes in London than the 100,000 handed out at the last Olympics in Beijing in 2008.

It works out at nearly 15 each for the 10,500 competitors taking part in the Games, with Durex ready to deliver more if the sports stars exhaust their ration.

They will, of course, be able to take a trip to the nearest chemist if they run out.

If sexual appetites among are as voracious as former Olympians have suggested, they're going to need every last one of the condoms provided.

Women's football goalkeeper Hope Solo told the Daily Mirror: 'There's a lot of sex going on at the Olympics.'

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2175783/The-raunchiest-Olympics-Record-150-000-condoms-handed-athletes-London-Games--thats-15-EACH.html#ixzz21tkx6K6c>

## Husband and wife shooters barred from sharing a room at the Olympic Village

- **Russell Mark claims he and wife Lauryn are being discriminated against and claim they know of gay couples sharing**
- **They were told they would need to rent a room in a hotel if they wanted to share a bed**
- **The couple claim they always share a room during major championships across the globe**

By [Daily Mail Reporter](#)

**PUBLISHED:** 05:25 EST, 16 July 2012 | **UPDATED:** 02:45 EST, 17 July 2012

An Australian shooter has claimed he is being discriminated against because he cannot share a room with his athlete wife, while gay couples can.

Russell Mark said was sent an email by the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) which explained that he and wife Lauryn, also a shooter, were forbidden from sharing a room while competing at this month's London 2012 Olympics.

The decision has angered the couple who claimed they know of many same sex couples who have been given permission to share a room.

It is believed the decision was made by Shooting Australia but the couple believe the AOC has singled them out because of a raunchy photo shoot Lauryn took part in and Russell's stance on sleeping pills.

Australian athletes are banned from using sleeping aides at the Olympics but Russell recently caused controversy and she they were essential in helping him perform better.

His wife Lauryn is also thought to have angered officials by taking part in a photo shoot for Zoo magazine.

Dressed in a green and gold bikini, and toting a shotgun, she is featured in an Australian edition of the lads mag.

However, the couple now believe their actions have caused Australian Olympic chiefs to discriminate against them and were told they would have to leave the Olympic village and rent a hotel if they wanted to stay together.

'The stupid part of this, which I have argued to them, is that there are tons of gay couples on the Olympic team who will be rooming together so we are being discriminated against because we are heterosexual,' Russell said to news.com.au.

'They are p\*\*\*ed with my stance on sleeping tablets and what p\*\*\*ed them more than anything else is the photo shoot.'

Russell added that it was obvious that officials had a problem and were punishing them for it.

Lauryn said she hoped the photo shoot for Zoo, which is released in Australia today, would be a positive thing for the sport and said the proceeds were being given to the Royal Children's Hospital.

She also said she was 'frustrated' by the AOC's decision because same sex couples were allowed to share rooms if they were both competitors.

The couple also claim they have been allowed to stay in the same room while taking part in major championships around the world.

The AOC was not available for comment.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2174261/Shooters-Russell-Lauryn-Mark-barred-sharing-room-Olympic-Village.html#ixzz21tmtGOE1>

## Traffic signs in New Zealand destroyed by prostitutes performing stunts

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/australiaandthepacific/newzealand/9404669/Traffic-signs-in-New-Zealand-destroyed-by-prostitutes-performing-stunts.html>

By Paul Chapman in Wellington

9:00AM BST 17 Jul 2012

More than 40 poles have been bent, buckled or broken in the past 18 months in one area of south Auckland, [New Zealand](#), it is claimed.

The signs, bearing legally required notices such as parking restrictions, are thought to have cost ratepayers thousands of dollars to replace.

"Prostitutes use these street sign poles as dancing poles," said Donna Lee, an elected member of the city council's Otara-Papatoetoe Local Board.

"The poles are part of their soliciting equipment and they often snap them.

"Some of the prostitutes are big, strong people."

The revelation emerged as the community board published a tell-all booklet detailing frustrations of residents and businesses struggling to cope with the rampant sex trade on their doorstep.

Part of the area Ms Lee represents is Hunter's Corner, which has become notorious as a meeting place for prostitutes and their customers.

Bernie Taylor, a local resident, said: "We had a parcel delivered to us recently and the address was 'Hooker's Corner' and it found its way to us with no problems whatsoever."

Locals turned out with placards to welcome publication of the community board's report, which calls on parliament in Wellington to give Auckland Council powers to **ban sex workers from certain areas of the city.**

The report outlines other street incidents, including an angry clash in which it says a transvestite rammed a supermarket trolley into a woman's car before lying across the bonnet, and a school-bus full of children observing a transvestite changing her dress.

John McCracken, the board's chairman, said: **"We are beyond moral outrage.**

**"We just ask for some reasonable control of this industry."**

But the Prostitutes Collective warned that outlawing popular streets would encourage sex workers to stop carrying condoms in case they are questioned by police.

Co-ordinator Annah Pickering told Television New Zealand: "They'll be expected to pay a fine, which they can't pay.

"They'll go to court, then they have to come back on to the streets and work to pay them off."

**New Zealand has some of the most liberal prostitution laws in the world after the sex trade was decriminalised by the previous Labour government in 2003.**

# Do atheists have a sexual harassment problem?

Kimberly Winston | Jul 12, 2012

<http://www.religionnews.com/culture/gender-and-sexuality/do-atheists-have-a-sexual-harassment-problem>

(RNS) As skeptics, atheists and humanists prepare to gather for their largest meeting in Las Vegas this weekend, attendance by women is expected to be down significantly.

Officials for [The Amazing Meeting](#), or TAM, said Wednesday (July 11) that women would make up 31 percent of the 1,200 conference attendees, down from 40 percent the year before. A month before the conference, pre-registration was only 18 percent women, organizers said.

The explanations are many -- the bad economy, that women, as caregivers, are less able to get away, and that more men than women identify as skeptics, whose worldview rejects the supernatural and focuses on science and rationality.

But in the weeks preceding TAM, another possible explanation has roiled the nontheist community. Online forums have crackled with charges of sexism in TAM's leadership and calls for the ouster of D.J. Grothe, the male president of the [James Randi Educational Foundation](#), TAM's organizer. In June, Rebecca Watson, a skeptic blogger and speaker, canceled her TAM appearance because, she said on her blog, she does "not feel welcome or safe."

Other nontheists -- both male and female -- have shared stories of unwanted sexual attention at nontheist gatherings, including propositions for sex and unwelcome touching. Chatter has ranged from calls for more women to attend nontheist events to personal attacks on prominent female skeptics for discussing harassment. Meanwhile, two more skeptic/feminist bloggers announced they will not attend TAM.

The debate has had two major impacts -- a call for cooler tempers and the immediate implementation of sexual harassment policies by all of the major nontheist organizations, both national and regional.

No one is suggesting that all nontheist events are unsafe for women. But the controversy has members of the nontheist community, which prides itself on its embrace of rational thinking, asking whether they have a sexual harassment problem. And if so, what should be done?

"We are a small movement, so it might be very important for some men and women to find a partner who shares their beliefs," said Maggie Ardiente, director of development for the [American Humanist Association](#), which recently adopted a sexual harassment policy. "That does not mean sexual attention, when it is clearly rejected, is allowed. We need to be clear that these events are a great way to meet people, but there are appropriate ways to conduct yourselves. There are common-sense ways to address this for both men and women."

[This is not the first time the skeptic community has struggled with sexual harassment charges.](#)

Last year, at another skeptic conference, Watson said she was approached late at night in an elevator by a man she believed was seeking sex. When she blogged about it, the "atheosphere"

erupted in comments, both supportive and negative. British biologist Richard Dawkins, the best-selling author of “The God Delusion,” wrote that Watson should “stop whining” and “grow a thicker skin.”

The current hullabaloo can be traced to May’s [Women in Secularism Conference](#), a first-of-its-kind gathering about nontheist women. On a panel examining feminism and nontheism, Jennifer McCreight, an atheist blogger, said women speakers at nontheist events warn each other privately about male speakers who make unwanted sexual advances.



[Show Caption](#)||[Details](#)

(Left to right) Sikivu Hutchinson, Rebecca Watson, Ophelia Benson and Jennifer McCreight speak on a panel about feminism and atheism at the Women in Secularism Conference in May 2012. Credit: RNS photo by Brian D. Engler / courtesy Center for Inquiry

“They brought up a concern about harassment at conferences and I was not aware of that problem,” said Ron Lindsay, president of the [Center for Inquiry](#), a humanist-skeptic group that organized the women’s conference. “Maybe I should have been. But once I became aware of that concern it wasn’t that difficult to come to a decision that we should have a policy in place to deal with that.”

CFI unveiled its policy earlier this month. American Atheists, American Humanist Association, and several large regional groups have also announced policies in the last few weeks. Most organizations had sexual harassment policies covering their employees and workplaces, but the new policies are aimed at non-employee attendees at special events.

As these groups and others unveiled their policies, members of the skeptic community asked whether TAM had one in place.

And that's where things got ugly. In an appeal to assure women that TAM is welcoming and safe, Grothe made comments that upset some in the community. They accused him of underplaying, and even ignoring, reported harassment at past meetings, and of "blaming the victims" of the alleged incidents. Grothe apologized to Watson on her blog, [Skepchick](#).

"I believe strongly that women's voices need to be taken seriously in the atheist and skeptics movements, that any reports of harassment or assault at atheist and skeptics events need to be taken seriously and recorded, and acted on effectively, and that those who make reports of such harassment shouldn't ever be blamed for such," Grothe wrote.

Asked to comment for this story, Grothe said he stood by his online remarks.

Those remarks continue, "I do not deny that there is a problem with sexism at atheist or skeptics conferences, nor any of the accounts blogged about in general terms by women who have attended TAM or similar kinds of events, but I would appreciate if such reports were balanced with an acknowledgment of the great effort the JREF goes to ensuring that TAM is a safe and welcoming environment for women."

This year, TAM has hired an outside consultant to deal with harassment incidents. And TAM is notable among nontheist conferences in that roughly half of its speakers are women, including keynote speaker Carol Tavris, a social psychologist. Many skeptic women say they have no plans to abandon the conference or the broader nontheist community.

"We may not be able to ever completely solve misogyny online but we can absolutely do a better job ensuring that our physical events are welcoming and safe spaces for women and minorities than we have been," said Amy Davis Roth, a longtime skeptic who has helped raise almost \$8,000 for grants to send 22 women to this year's TAM.

"Anti-harassment polices are a good start because it sends the message that event organizers want everyone to feel safe and that harassment will not be tolerated by our community," she said.

## **Boston mayor to anti-gay-marriage Chick-fil-A: stay away**

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/07/26/usa-gaymarriage-chickfila-boston-idINL2E8IQ5N020120726>

By Ros Krasny BOSTON, July 26 | Thu Jul 26, 2012 10:57pm IST

(Reuters) - Boston Mayor Thomas Menino has waded into the national controversy surrounding fast food chain Chick-fil-A, whose president has publicly opposed same-sex marriage, urging the chicken sandwich sellers to stay out of Boston.

Even as the chain took heat from Menino, gay rights activists and even the Muppets, conservative politicians, including former Republican presidential hopeful Rick Santorum, pushed back.

A letter from Mayor Menino derided Chick-fil-A president Dan Cathy for recent "prejudiced statements" against same-sex marriage, which has been legal in Massachusetts since 2004.

Posted on a Boston community page on the social media site Facebook on Wednesday, the letter has gone viral. It has been "liked" by more than 131,000 users and shared more than 46,000 times.

"In recent days you said Chick-fil-A opposes same-sex marriage, and said the generation that supports it has an 'arrogant attitude,'" Menino wrote in the letter, dated July 20 and addressed to Cathy at Chick-fil-A's Atlanta headquarters.

"Now - incredibly - your company says you are backing out of the same-sex marriage debate. I urge you to back out of your plans to locate in Boston."

The fast-food company has reportedly been shopping for sites in downtown Boston, including spots along the city's well-known Freedom Trail, a pathway that winds past many of the city's Revolutionary War landmarks, and even within sight of Menino's City Hall office.

Menino, noting that some of the first same-sex couples to wed in the country came to the Boston City Hall to get married, said: "It would be an insult to them and to our city's long history of expanding freedom, to have a Chick-fil-A across the street from that spot."

Chick-fil-A did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Menino's letter or its plans for Boston.

Last week, the chain said its culture is "to treat every person with honor, dignity and respect - regardless of their belief, creed, race, sexual orientation or gender."

The Chick-fil-A controversy hit the headlines after Cathy's comments to the Baptist Press citing "proudful supporters of same-sex marriage and defending the company's support of "the biblical definition of the family unit."

### **KISS-IN PLANNED**

Same-sex couples around the country plan a kiss-in at Chick-fil-A restaurants on Aug. 3.

The Jim Henson Company, whose Muppet characters like Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy are hugely popular, announced it will no longer work with the chain.

It said it will donate a payment received from a promotion with Chick-fil-A - which featured "Jim Henson Creature Shop Puppets" in kids' meals - to the gay rights group GLAAD.

Santorum, known for his opposition to same-sex marriage, struck back by suggesting a counter-protest.

"Simply have a meal at Chick-fil-A on August 1 for 'Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day' and our support for traditional values will be heard loud and clear," Santorum, a former U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania, wrote in an email to supporters.

Privately held Chick-fil-A was founded in 1946 by S. Truett Cathy, a devout Southern Baptist who is still the company's chairman. The company is known for its mix of religion and business as well as its fried chicken sandwiches and waffle fries.

The company's website says that Dan Cathy, the founder's son, is driven by a "personal passion" to see the fulfillment of Chick-fil-A's corporate purpose: "To glorify God by being a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to us."

All of Chick-fil-A's roughly 1,600 locations - including two outlets in suburban Boston shopping malls - are closed on Sundays, Christmas and Thanksgiving.