

## No One May Buy Or Sell

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by David McWilliams

**Revelation 13:17** “and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name” describes economic persecution under Roman rule during the first century. Those who would not engage in emperor worship and bow down to Caesar as God were not allowed to engage in commerce. They could neither buy nor sell in the marketplace. They were economic outcasts.

Today in the United States, there are governmental entities practicing the same type of persecution. If you do not adhere to their liberal ideology, you are deemed unfit to participate in the economy. You are prohibited from buying or selling.

Earlier this year, the San Antonio City Council rejected the inclusion of **Chick-fil-A** in a new food and retail agreement for the San Antonio International Airport. The city banned the chicken chain from setting up shop in the airport due to the company’s “legacy of anti-LGBTQ behavior.” A few weeks later, the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority followed suit by barring **Chick-fil-A** from opening a location inside the Buffalo Niagara International Airport.

Sean Ryan, a member of the New York State Assembly from Buffalo, stated, “We can’t allow companies who support anti-LGBTQ groups to do business at state-owned facilities.” He argued that it was wrong for the state-funded entity to do business with “corporations who fund hateful and divisive groups.”

Who are these “hateful and divisive groups” being funded by **Chick-fil-A**? The answer may come as a surprise. In 2017, **Chick-fil-A** donated \$1.6 million to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, which is headquartered in Kansas City. They also donated \$150,000 to the Salvation Army and \$6,000 to the Paul Anderson Youth Home, a residential home for troubled youth located in **Chick-fil-A**’s home state of Georgia.

What is the hateful rhetoric these groups are espousing? One principle to which the Fellowship of Christian Athletes adheres seems to be causing the most angst. The following is one of their “Statements of Faith.”

*We believe God’s design for sexual intimacy is to be expressed only within the context of marriage. God instituted marriage between one man and one woman as the foundation of the family and the basic structure of human society. For this reason, we believe that marriage is exclusively the union of one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5-6; Mark 10:6-9; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9)*

In one of the passages they cite, Matthew 19, Jesus Himself defines marriage to be the union of one man and one woman.

*<sup>3</sup>The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?”<sup>4</sup>And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’<sup>5</sup>and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?<sup>6</sup>So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”*

To borrow the language of one of our nation’s current presidential hopefuls, the quarrel those in San Antonio and those in Buffalo have is not with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, their quarrel is not with **Chick-fil-A**, their quarrel is with the Creator.

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