

Secularism vs. Christianity

Christians today are facing a growing international movement against the fundamental truths of their faith, and ultimately against God Himself.

The situation should not greatly surprise nor upset us (Christians), as it should have been foreseeable some years ago, when there began to be an increase in resistance and opposition to the historic institution of ethical and moral principles; which all, were generally established and regarded as absolute human values, by which a great majority or considerable segment of society, was commonly guided, and to which many aspired to maintain integrity. It was, in a word, a standard of conduct for many years--but is now widely opposed and disregarded.

Believers must be able to see and react to these things in perspective. It is natural and rightful for Christians to want the traditional status quo of more favorable societal conditions to continue, for basic personal peace and security, and institutional religious freedom.

In the public discourse of the world today, we hear critics pose questions about, or voice objections to certain religious and spiritual beliefs and actions. What once were undercurrents, are now on the surface, and defiantly and vociferously expressed. The surge of terrorist organizations and their activities around the world are mainly composed of Muslim, or radical Islamic membership or following, and driven by their ideology--which is a strange diabolical mixture of religion and politics. But the "spiritual" justification they claim for their violent actions against people and nations which they label "infidels", has little credibility or authority outside their own institutional realm. And certainly not with the true God of the authentic scriptures; of whom, instead, they are mortal enemies!

The other growingly overt tide of resistance and opposition relates to fundamental Christian theology, especially its public proponents in government (i.e., protocols, meetings customs, etc., where God is named, honored, or invoked in prayers, ceremonies, etc.). Which is just the superficial church and state separation argument; with the complete Christian institution itself being the ultimate target.

If God is acknowledged publicly as man's creator or sovereign authority, there rises a hue and cry from secularists (read: atheists, agnostics, heathens, nonbelievers, etc.) that such references are not representative or subscribed to by those of such other persuasions, or beliefs.

Their attacks cause defensive counter-reactions by those they call the "religious right", evangelicals, etc.--leading to sharp, serious divisions, and conflicts. Yet, these defining differences have always been there. They were generally more subdued and controlled for generations, even centuries, but nonetheless the characteristic contrasts were very much established in the hearts

and minds of the corresponding sides of the issue.

All of this has a name: persecution. It was most notably suffered by the church in its early centuries, and in the circa 1500 reformation era. To some extent there are always elements of persecution working against Christianity, but the campaign has been increased and accelerated in intensity in the present era. I do not speak lightly or facetiously, but "it goes with the territory".

Other than Israel, who is the centerpiece of God's plans--no nation can be identified as being "under God", per se; or as having a special relationship with Him. At least, not in this age. In the early years of our country, probably, to the extent that its inhabitants were mainly believers. That is, Christians who had left the oppression of England and other nations, for religious freedom in a new land.

But in the course of intervening history that characterization has been essentially lost, or reduced to a minority situation. Our nation is largely and increasingly secular which is typical of most of the world.

Today's world is in such a social and cultural upheaval, that we are seeing every traditional institution attacked and undermined. Religion is a primary target, especially fundamental Christianity (and is anything else really Christianity?). Robert Bork, in his book, "Slouching towards Gomorrah", commenting on the causes of the cultural degeneration occurring, states that an underlying basic cause would seem to be "the ebbing of religious faith". Both nominal, and actual; I would add.

We see in our national and world cultures (in politics, government, education, social customs, etc.), an ever increasing controversy between conservatism and liberalism, or as in the title of this writing: Christianity and secularism.

We appear to be entering an era (maybe even the final arena) where the lines are being drawn between the true universal church, and the rest of the world. That is, from the latter side, a secular versus spiritual confrontation--even a war against truth itself, in that dimension of life.

There will be less and less tacit acknowledgement of God, and things related to His spiritual world, and more and more open rebellion against His kingdom (as it exists now, and will later be more visibly established).

But, believers know that God in His appointed time will prevail--and while we will indeed suffer various effects of persecution, we must maintain faith and security in the knowledge that the worst of all the possible trials and tribulations, cannot begin to compare with the "joy that shall be revealed in us" for all eternity!