

Black Pastors and Trump: It's a Matter of Perspective

by

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First and foremost, let me emphatically state that, “The parameters for conversations in which Christians are to engage or how Kingdom-minded Christians are to conduct business, must NEVER be calibrated or directed by those who do not embrace an organic commitment or an uncompromising *current* relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.” While the strength of such a statement may appear harsh, its boldness is due to the severity of the lasting negative impact that such dis-focusing of the Christian has had on world events in the name of civility and tolerance. Further, although this missive is certainly not intended to be combative, it is my intent to elevate the voices of a Kingdom perspective that influences the lives of people and *the planet* to operate in the earth in a manner conducive to creational order and our ultimate survival. Thus, this short writing will offer a perspective about why Black pastors should indeed “sit-at-the-table” with the President of the United States despite the White House's agenda – whether it be a photo opportunity or not.

*“for the Son of Man has come to seek and
to save that which was lost.”*

Luke 19:10 (NKJV)

There are those who believe that Jesus Christ is indeed the Messiah; yet, they maintain a *manger mentality* about His rule and impact in the everyday lives of His creation. They read Luke 19:10, (NKJV) **as if it states** that, “...the son of man has come to seek and save *those who were* lost.” This mis-reading, relegates Jesus' purpose and the on-going purpose of His “church” to messages of salvation which may somehow confine many Christians to a docile, unsophisticated and restrictive interfacing among themselves. This leaves systems of religion, medicine, business,

education, arts & entertainment, media, law/politics, and the family to be influenced by non-Christian (Kingdom) thinkers. I believe that the corruption and chaos faced throughout the planet is due to the restriction of the *Good News* to a salvation that is only insurance protection from a future *hell fire*. This salvation disavows the *current hells* that the masses of people live in each and every day. *Hells* of sickness, addictions, poverty, human trafficking and the like plague our world as a result of Christians being boxed-out. The steady dictating, intimidating and restricting of the Christian's voice has allowed the epidemic increase in the mental *hells* of people caused by trauma-induced environments. Thus, the Christian church and those that lead them are made to appear irrelevant and out-of-touch with the human sufferings of *'the least of these'* in society. When the truth of the matter is that Kingdom-minded believers hold the only lasting solutions for many of these issues.

Beyond sharing the correct reading and context of the aforementioned scripture, I would distract you as a reader, if I were to explain the myriad ways that the *manger mentality* of Christ misrepresents the relevancy of our Savior and the mission of those who follow Him. Let me just emphatically say that Jesus came to save **that** which was lost! All of **that**! Nothing is left to be found, re-scripted, or made anew. Creation awaits in eager expectation for the voices of God's co-creators (Christians) to ask, declare, expect, live and manifest the finished works of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:19)!

Further, early Christians who propagated the teachings of Jesus Christ were said to have, "Turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:1-7). What kind of teachings did Jesus share that could have earned such a description? These teachings were a new *WAY* of thinking, believing, doing and relating to God (Acts 9:2; Acts 18:25, NKJV). They were not the renderings that the Jews had previously taught and required those who embraced God to practice, although the Pharisees themselves did not practice their own teachings (Matthew 23:1-36, NKJV)! Jesus Himself taught

about this new WAY which was the KINGDOM message. Read the Gospels! They declare over and over - Jesus saying, “The Kingdom of Heaven is like..., the Kingdom of God is like...” These clearly were not typical teachings of the Jewish faith. However, these were the teachings that could overcome obstacles in our present world - if accessed through Christ Jesus (Matthew 23:13, MSG, 1 John 16:1-33* NKJV)! You may be saying, **“So how does this relate to Black pastors meeting with Mr. Trump and giving him praise and accolades?”** Please indulged me a few more lines.

Jesus' teachings that *turned the world upside down* were challenging to the known world at that time. Again, they were not mere religious teachings or teachings of the “church” because the “church as we know it did not exist. Jesus was not a Christian pastor who preached and taught the people, ‘how to go to church’. He was the Son of the Living God and He taught about this new WAY of believing and connecting to God. He healed the sick and cast out demons wherever the opportunity appeared which demonstrated the benefits of this new WAY. After all, these teachings and demonstrations got Jesus killed and others martyred! They addressed the economic, social and political systems of that day and how those systems interfaced with mankind. Jesus intended for His church to carry on and increase His work (John 14:12).

Without going into the etymology of the word “church” [Greek: *kuriakon*] and its erroneous substitution with the Greek word “*ecclesia*”, suffice it to say that the two are very different words with unrelated meanings. However, the word form “*ecclesia*” is found over 115 times in the New Testament. Derivatives of the word are found more times than that. Nevertheless, in only three instances: (Acts 19: 32, 39, and 41) does *ecclesia* refer to the simple assembly or gathering of people. In all other places in the New Testament scripture, the word carries the full weight of

meaning, which is: "*The called-out (ones)*" [*ECC = out; KALEO = call*]. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica: In the New Testament, "*ecclesia*" (*signifies a convocation*). It (*ecclesia*) was the name given to the governmental assembly of the city of Athens, *duly convoked (called together) by proper officers and possessing all political power including juridical functions*" (Aggressive Christianity, accessed 2018, p.1; Webster on-line, 2018).

I don't know ALL of the pastors that were at the table with Mr. Trump on August 2, 2018. But after reading the entire transcript of the meeting and looking at the YouTube recording, it was clear to me that this was NO blanket endorsement of the President. As a matter of fact, minus the president's typical verbal 'grandiose' platitudes – these men brought out his most decent behavior ever seen in the media since he assumed office. He was a scripted businessman most of the time, but respectful when he came off script. Courteous *off-script* behavior has not been a strength of Mr. Trump! *Off-script* for Mr. Trump has typically resulted in the spewing of an emotional divided heart which some would even call, "mean-spirited". However, for Christians to overlook this very subtle but important detail amounts to a lack of discernment and conceding something to our adversary that was won for us on the cross when Jesus Himself declared – IT IS FINISHED! We are not an immature or an irrelevant church. Readers of this article are those who are curiously growing, unafraid of critical thinking and supernaturally empowered to question everything that violates the truth of the living scriptures and their contextual revelation. So let's look at what God is *orchestrating* at a very critical time in our history!

Dr. Carole Hahn, a retired Charles Howard Chandler Professor at Emory University, convinced me during my studies in comparative education that perspective is shaped more relevantly by dialectic thinking. I have come realize that God's truth supernaturally manifests many times when holding thoughts, actions and

beliefs in tension. I tend to be one who pre-thinks different viewpoints while never violating the Word of God in my conclusions. I've found it to be the process of successful leaders who are seeking to understand before being understood!

God is orchestrating something that Christians, unlike the world, must not miss! The world won't believe it because despite their brilliance in thinking they lack the full capacity and the perspective of **Godly** wisdom that is necessary to be 'true' dialectic thinkers (no disrespect intended). Let's look at what was really happening when Christian pastors met around that table with a President – a president who does not *typically* display either the temperament or the character of Christ.

I do not know all of the pastors who met with Mr. Trump. Besides it is not necessary that I know them all. However, as a statistician, if there is a known outlier in a data set, that suggests further investigation before conclusions are established. There was one pastor in that group that I do know to be an outlier. He is a Kingdom thinker! The fact that he was there is a signal for me to further investigate!

I have known this pastor literally since his BIRTH and I'm at least 6 to 7 years older than him; so I remember! Now admittedly, he wouldn't know me today from a pebble on a sandy beach, but I've known him, his family and his character since my own childhood. I was raised in the same church that he was born in and I assisted in the nursery when he was a toddler! (Lol, everybody wants to claim a piece of greatness, right!)

His parents were godly business people who lived, worked and operated at a level of integrity that would be hard to contest (period)! The Company is one of the few surviving Black owned and operated businesses in this COUNTRY. I have watched this young man grow-up and ALWAYS pursue GOD! Be mindful that I did not say that he pursued the "things" of GOD; but rather he very transparently ALWAYS pursued to *know* GOD! He's always had access to material *things*, IF he

maintained the family's culture of: God, family, truth, work and integrity! In other words he was birthed into financial and character wealth.

He started a Praise the Lord (PTL) Club at his public middle school and had friends (other teens) who were members who attended the club and who were also members of a Church of God In Christ (C.O.G. I. C.) where I joined and became the Purity Lady (Youth Leader)! He was friends with the pastor's daughter, [R.I.P.] who was a faithful member of the PTL Club at the school. While he never joined the C.O.G.I.C. (to my knowledge), his pursuit for the Baptism of the Holy Ghost (which our Baptist denomination did not believe in during those days) led him to come to the church regularly and study. His middle school nurse who was a member of the C.O.G.I.C., had been my past high school nurse, and I'm sure she encouraged his visits! She was NEVER afraid of the separation of church and state rhetoric touted by some in public schools! Lol, she knew that the Holy Spirit was an inside job! Nevertheless, we all went our separate ways always pursuing our growing understanding of Christ which eventually led us all to a mega church that taught the Word of God from a KINGDOM perspective. I watched him and his young wife come, join, and serve in this mega church as they learned more about THE KINGDOM OF GOD! Though I've never had a conversation with him, I'm sure that the KINGDOM message gave ALL of the teachings from his past church experiences clearer meaning, as it did for me!

I easily lost track of him until I heard of his first pastorate, (which I think was an A.M.E. fellowship). After all, he is a seminary trained theologian! And "yes" that (his seminary training) is important to note because somehow the ill-informed have mistakenly elevated gifts without training as a badge of authenticity, in the *church*. Thus, accounting - to some degree - for people thinking that pastors should not be a part of the political discourse no matter who sits in the seat of authority (Presidency). Christians staying out of politics is the furthest thing from the truth

and the opposite of who Jesus really was/is – and we (Christians) are to emulate Jesus!

A number of the pastors around the table with the President are strategists – they are thinkers – they are Kingdom businessmen! They met with the president and gave him accolades for getting the *First Steps Act* through the House. While Congress has already noised that it will be nearly impossible to get the bill through them and many are saying that it only represents *a crumb!* We must not forget the crumbs (Luke 16:19-25), because those accepting crumbs with the supernatural power of God may indeed become repositioned as God orchestrates history through believers. Think about it: the beggar, Lazarus, ends up in the arms of Abraham, while the rich man begs a drink of water from the place called hell.

Nevertheless, Jesus sat with publicans and sinners (Matthew 9:10-17; Mark 2:13-15; Luke 5:29-30). He directs KINGDOM folks (in context) to use worldly connections because although their wealth might eventually fail, they will gain a platform with those who can bring to bear the will of God in future situations (Luke 16:9, NKJV) – it's about influence for the Kingdom of God. Similarly, if you think that King Hiram was a God-fearing rich man who was benevolent to the cause of God – think again! He was a pagan, but a friend to Solomon's dad, David. God turns the hearts of kings (Proverbs 21:1) and God simply caused Hiram to keep his word to his friend's son as he supplied resources to help build the Tabernacle (2 Chronicles 2:16-19). The point that I am making here is that God is the Sovereign God of the Universe – not just your (individual) world understanding! There is no one who can vie for a close second place once the Lord's preeminence has been interjected. When God gets ready to bless His people, He uses what and who He desires to do it. Moses and the children of Israel did not reject gifts from wicked Egypt (see Exodus 12:25-36).

The Greek term for church “*ecclesia*” references a political assembly of citizens who came to Athens to debate. The church “*ecclesia*” can and should wield an enormous amount of political power in the systems of the world today. The deception has been to keep Christians thinking that the term “church” only meant a four-walled building for worship! It was never the case! The furtherance of the Re-entry Act (2018) while small can have an enormously positive economic impact for those ex-prisoners who will participate. And “Yes,” this meeting was POLITICAL! POLITICS or rather the development of policies out of relationships and networks is how the American political system works (Civics 101). But of course, the world systems have always killed Christians who would dare come out of the pulpit and participate in real economic and political discourse! Oops, did I say, “the world systems have always killed Christians who would dare come out of the pulpit...” We must not forget the role of religious people (the Pharisees) who were primarily responsible for killing Jesus! So what am I saying here?

I am saying that I recently visited Memphis, Tennessee with my godchildren. As we walked through the Civil Rights Museum, it became increasingly obvious that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was tolerated as long as he was marching, praying and preaching... but when he started challenging the economic, social and political systems of America, he was killed! Whether his death was a part of J. Edgar's conspiracy to eradicate freedom fighters or whether Ray was the sole mastermind (which I personally doubt), Dr. King's death happened as he encroached upon spaces where the economic and political tables of America would eventually change. And if you think that the supernatural was not involved in such an accomplishment... Every pastor at that table with Mr. Trump was not there “*to get his*” which is what typically happens when those with a poverty mentality rise to places of prominence. There was an outlier at the table who has a Kingdom mentality who has imparted that mentality through his teachings and lifestyle to others – with identifiable fruit!

John the Baptist announced the coming of Christ to those who would repent and believe. When Jesus showed up, John pointed to Jesus and declared, “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the earth,” (John 1:29). However, Jesus in turn took up another form of teaching than what was expected of a king! He taught through parables and demonstration messages about the possibilities on earth that were empowered by the mystery power of heaven impacting earth's situations [That is demonstrating the Kingdom of God.] (Luke 16:16). As punishment for accessing these possibilities, He was killed (John 5:8-16). This access was for the sole purpose of restoring **that** which was lost in the Garden of Eden – *Man's Dominion in the Earth!* (Genesis 2:26, NLT).

Jesus came teaching ordinary men (by demonstration) how to replicate His relationship with the Father (John 10:30; John 15:4-10). His teachings accessed heaven (supernaturally) for the benefit of mankind which fulfilled Father's desires for mankind in the earth. God's desire was/is that the good news be expounded to the poor, that the broken-hearted be healed, and that people be set free from every captivity and oppression (Luke 4:18). The time for the fulfillment of these desires started with the appearance of Jesus Christ (Like 4:19-21) and continues to this day through us as imitators and ambassadors of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20).

That is the reason why those pastors had to go to the White House. Regardless, of who sits in the Oval Office (or other seats of power), God's representatives must be present at tables of authority where we have not heretofore been privy. However, we must not allow the world's opinion, the ill-informed Christians or our own religious thinking to judge our appearances in these spaces. Esther had a favorable relationship with the king, without compromising who she was as a Jewish woman. It was out of that relationship at the right moment that she was able to save an entire nation (Esther). Shallow idle talk nor accusations of the favors bestowed upon the President from a photo-opt with the pastors need to be our

focus. Instead we must understand that we are glory carriers and where our feet tread – so does His “Presence”. His Presence carries both the authority and the power to bring **AUTHENTIC change!** Some will mock my believing in the supernatural, but I say in the voice of Dr. Phil, “How has not believing worked for you?” In the voice of my millennial son, **STAY WOKE Y'ALL!**