

Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

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Inside

The Confessing Church or the Compromising Church?

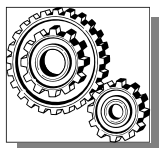
By
Kay Trudell

William Federer

Save the date—Sept 18, 2015 to hear William Federer discuss current events in the world based on a Biblical background, what you should know about the Quran, and America's history with Islam.

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If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please call 655-0280, email, or contact our website (see back page)



In the Works

William Federer

Are you interested in becoming involved? CAM is looking for interested and active people to act as liaisons to their church, helping to keep the Christian community informed. Contact CAM at 372-6442.

During the 1930's - 1940's, as Hitler came to power first in Germany and then in Europe, the German Church remained mostly silent. Fear of persecution caused most pastors to withdraw into the four walls of their churches and look the other way as people deemed unworthy of life or a threat to the body politic by the government were persecuted and executed. Over 14,000,000 people died (7,000,000 Jews and 7,000,000 others). To be sure, not everyone was silent. A minority of Protestant and Catholic clergy, laity, and some Catholic nuns did speak against what was happening. Many of them were executed. Others lost their careers, homes, earthly possessions, and bank accounts. Some ended

up in prisons and concentration camps. Christian or not, the majority of people always remain silent during times of persecution, hoping that the ax will fall on someone else. On the Protestant side, dissenting pastors formed what they called the "Confessing Church", and boldly spoke truth to power. They refused to remain part of those compromising churches that supported Hitler and his ungodly government.

Take a good look at what is happening in America today. Although it is not the same as what happened in Germany, and the persecution issues and people groups are not the same, the general scenario is similar. Conservative, Bible-believing Protestant evangelicals and Baptists, orthodox, traditional Catholics,

etc. are now out of favor with the earthly powers over the issues of abortion, infanticide, mercy killing of the sick and infirm, the deconstruction and redefinition of marriage, and gender-bending. Traditional, Judeo-Christian, formerly solid American values are constantly attacked and belittled in a truly Marxist/socialist-inspired cultural revolution. Oppose any of these trends, which are also reminiscent of ancient Rome as it rotted from within, and you will be called a racist, homophobic, fundamentalist bigot. Just as the Bible foretold, the onrush of evil appears to be increasing as people are adopting the morals of the days of Noah. The question before us is where does the Church in America stand? Rev. Franklin Graham and others are now acting as the Confessing Church in America,



"There are more instances of the abridgement of freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments by those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations."

President James Madison

stoking the fires of the conscience of the American Christian Church much as Pastors Niemoller and Bonhoeffer did in Nazi Germany.

An article appeared in Charisma magazine in November 2014 which addressed this question. I do not subscribe to Charisma, so I did not see it until I discovered it online recently. The article, written by Bishop Joseph G. Mattera, was called “8 Clear Signs of a Compromising Church”. All of American Christianity, be it Catholic or Protestant of whatever stripe, needs to examine itself. Are we the Confessing Church or the Compromising Church? Bishop Mattera listed eight signs of a compromising church. Here are his words in **boldface** with my commentary woven in.

1. In the confessing church, Christ is over culture. The compromising church accommodates Christ to culture, and elevates the surrounding culture over Jesus and Biblical truth. They accept what the culture says rather than what Scripture says. Abortion? Infanticide? Multiple redefinitions of marriage? Polyamory? Serial divorces? Shacking up? Adul-

tery? Homosexuality and transgenderism? Earth worship? Mercy killing? Corruption of the Constitution? Political scandals? Breakdown of the traditional family? Children born out of wedlock? Abandonment and sexual abuse of children? The culture appears to tolerate everything today in the name of political correctness (PC). In the “Confessing Church” of American Christianity, Christ is over culture. Truth is found in the Bible, not in cultural PC. The confessing church believes they need to adhere faithfully to what the Bible says in all areas of the culture. The Jesus of the compromising church is twisted to accommodate worldly culture.

2. The confessing church holds fast to the Word of God in spite of opposition. The compromising church alters the Word of God because of opposition. Soon in America it is quite possible that it will be illegal to preach from certain passages of the Bible dealing with human sexuality. Because of this, many will alter their theology to fit the culture. Many in the Church, both pastors and laity, will compromise as did the German Church because of fear of government-

sponsored persecution, lawsuits, fines, prison, and societal disapproval. And what’s worse, they will try to use Scripture to justify what they are doing. Absent revival, we can already see it coming.

3. The confessing church puts the kingdom of God above their culture and ethnicity. The compromising church puts their ethnicity before the Kingdom of God. The German Church during the era of Nazi persecution put their Aryan heritage and nationalism above the Word of God. Many pastors and believers today view the Scriptures more through the lens of their ethnicity and national heritage than through a proper exegesis of Scripture. It is PC today to view everything through the lens of race or ethnicity. This serves the purpose of pitting one group against another. Race-baiters and agitators constantly play the race card. It is so out of control that peanut butter sandwiches are now called racist, as is the term “black ice”. It appears that people have lost their common sense, and abandoned the actual definition of words. This is something Christians must resist. The Bible says we followers of Jesus Christ

are one in Him. Sins of the past must not be used to persecute entirely different people in the present. That is Marxist, and completely does away with the concept of forgiveness.

4. The confessing church alters their methods of preaching. The compromising church alters the message they preach. Too many churches today have decided not to discuss “sensitive” topics such as hell, sin, abortion, divorce, homosexuality, redefinition of marriage, adultery, living together outside of marriage, etc. Why? Because people (even Christians) are engaging in these now culturally-acceptable practices, and PC churches do not wish to offend their members. The method of preaching may change, such as the increased use of technology and media to reach the lost, but the Biblical message must never be compromised. Ever. Biblically-based “fire and brimstone” sermons of yesterday have been replaced by feel-goodism and PC in compromising churches. Conviction of sin is out. A tolerant, feel-good Jesus is in. Repentance is hardly spoken of.

5. The confessing church is a remnant in the minori-

“Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”

Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer

ty of church and state. **The compromising church wants to be in the mainstream of both church and state . . . in the mainstream of culture more than living in the divine flow of God’s favor and presence.** Try witnessing and/or picketing and/or praying outside an abortion clinic, or passing out Bible tracts which address God’s plan for sexuality and marriage at a gay pride parade, to see how this works.

6. The confessing church is penalized by the state government. The compromising church is applauded by the state government. While the confessing church is hunted down and ostracized by the humanistic state, the compromising church is celebrat-

ed by the far-left radicals and used as a model of how church and state should function together. Think of how the state applauds the “progressive” denominations which ordain practicing homosexuals as bishops and clergy, perform same-sex “marriages”, or declare that abortion is a woman’s choice. Think “Catholics for Free Choice”, and “The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Rights” on the Protestant side. Jezebels.

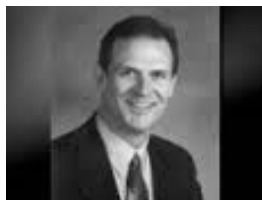
7. The confessing church prophetically speaks truth to power. The compromising church conforms to those in power . . . Since the compromising church enjoys the power and prestige the elites grant them, they always conform ra-

ther than confront. CAM hopes and prays that we are now and will continue to be part of the confessing church, not the compromising church.

8. The confessing church desires the praise of God. The compromising church desires the praise of men. If things don’t change . . . we will be shocked at how many megachurches, mid-size churches, and smaller churches compromise the Word of God so they can keep their doors open. This is exactly what happened in Nazi Germany, and what happens in Communist countries. You have a state-approved “Christian” church, and the Underground Church of Jesus Christ where persecution is the norm.

Bishop Mattera is not speaking of some distant future. The questions he asks and the issues he raises confront us even now. The Christian Church in America has enjoyed favor under the protections of the US Constitution. As the Constitution is being eroded by those in government and the judiciary with a militantly secular agenda, the Church will be affected. It already is. Where do you stand now? Where will you stand in the days to come? With the confessing church or the compromising church?

Kay Trudell is a Director of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Community Bible Church in So. Burlington.



SAVE THE DATE

The Christian Action Ministry is pleased to welcome William Federer to Vermont September 18, 2015

William J. Federer is an American writer, and former evangelical pastor.

Federer was born October 1, 1957, and raised in south St. Louis, Missouri, the fifth of eleven children. He graduated from Saint Louis University in 1980 with a degree in Accounting/Business Administration.

Federer was an associate pastor in Word of Faith Family Church under the leadership of Robert Tilton.

His works include *George Washington Carver - His Life and Faith in His Own Words*, *America's God and Country: Encyclopedia of Quotations*, *The Faith of FDR*, *The Ten Commandments and Their Influence on American Law*, *Three Secular Reasons Why America Should Be Under God*, *What Every American Needs to Know About the Quran: A History of Islam and the United States*.

He hosts the daily program *Faith in History* on the TCT Network and has a daily radio show, *The American Minute*, which summarizes what happened on a certain day in history.

Federer has signed a November 2009 ecumenical statement known as the *Manhattan Declaration: A Call of Christian Conscience*.



What can I do?



*Faith without
works is dead
James 2:17*

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www.christianactionministry.com

On this 4th of July, take time to consider this poem:

"Face the Flag, son, and face reality.
Our strengths and our freedoms are based in unity.
The flag is but a symbol, son, of the world's greatest nation,
And as long as it keeps flying, there's cause for celebration.
So do what you've got to do, but always keep in mind,
A lot of people believe in peace ... but there are the other kind.
If we want to keep these freedoms, we may have to fight again.
God forbid, but if we do, let's always fight to win,
For the fate of a loser is futile and it's bare:
No love, no peace ... just misery and despair.
Face the Flag, son ... and thank God it's still there."

John Wayne, "America, Why I Love Her", 1977

When John Wayne delivered this message, we still embraced the concept of "one nation under God". What does our nation embrace now?

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Next Meetings

July 14, 7:00 pm
Roadside Assembly of God
Rutland, Vt.
August 11, 7:00 pm
Parkinson home
Hinesburg, Vt.

**Making A Difference
in
Vermont!**