

Comment on "The Church And The Culture War"

My piece on the Church And The Culture War is a bit rambling, and harsh on pastors. At some point I might break it into parts and write separate articles from it, but it does accurately express my feelings. Because it is so harsh on Churches and Pastors, I'd like to clarify why I say some of the things I do, like "Don't think God will allow an institution that has the power to change the culture and doesn't to continue to exist."

My complaint against Churches is largely the same complaint I have against politicians. We elect politicians to represent us in Congress, but for some reason, after talking tough and promising to "change things in Washington", they end up rolling over and just going along with the usual agenda. The electorate gets really fed up with these people, then after raising hell and electing a few new faces, we expect real change, but what do we get? Usually more of the same. Sure, there's new legislation that gets introduced, and lots of words are said that sound really good, but what changes? If our legislators really wanted to balance the budget, they could do it one year. If they wanted to win a war, they could do it in weeks, not years.

Congress has the power to impeach bad judges, and God knows there's a bunch of them. Why don't they? They have the constitutional right, duty, and power to do so, yet they don't. Obviously there's a problem with will. There is simply not enough will in the congressional leadership to do what they are required to do to represent the people. Either that lack of will comes from an unwillingness to do what the people want, or a lack of courage to do so. If we assume they are unwilling to do the people's will, they are traitors and should be removed from their position, starting with the leadership. We try to do that in elections, yet we seldom succeed. The only other explanation is they don't have the courage to do what is required. I don't question that there are courageous individuals who fight very hard for what they believe, but the leadership in Congress controls what Congress does, and if the leadership doesn't change, the results don't change.

Rather than having a knock-down, drag-out political battle about really changing things in Washington, like actually ending abortion, actually balancing the budget, or actually ending a war (I mean making these things actually happen, not just talk about them), we have 'debates' and 'discussions', and 'bipartisan cooperation', all of which are excuses for not doing what's necessary to change things. We the people believe their rhetoric and then vote these people back in, and the change we need never happens.

How is it any different in the Church? We have one of the largest bodies of people in the world who say they are committed to what the Bible says. Numerous pastors talk about the need to change the culture and bring back a respect for God and righteousness. What changes do they bring about in their community? In the nation? Does anything change? Is the culture turning around? Has abortion been ended? Are corrupt politicians and local officials getting caught and going to jail? I don't see it. It looks to me like the culture is sliding into oblivion at ever-increasing speed. If anyone is putting the brakes on, it isn't working. We have the infinite power of Almighty God available to help us, and scripture makes it clear that God gives aid to those who do his will. The Maccabees in the centuries before Christ were fiercely righteous in defending their faith and their nation, and they had incredible success against almost all comers, including the Roman Empire. They won battles against impossible odds, because they refused to compromise their faith and they believed God would give them victory. He did. We aren't winning any battles that really count on the national scale. It's only small local contests

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where we win anything, and then we usually end up losing it somehow. In the early 1800's after the Captain Morgan incident (Captain Morgan was a Freemason who decided to expose the evil of Freemasonry and was murdered for doing so), the entire nation rose up in righteous anger, and for the next thirty years Freemasons had to hide under rocks to avoid public condemnation. The modern Church is so wimpy that kind of thing won't happen now.

On a more contemporary note, I just received an e-mail from the Susan B. Anthony list. They targeted twenty congressmen for defeat in 2010 and succeeded in removing 15 of them. Now that's a victory. They explain that they are being sued in Federal Court by former congressman Steven Driehaus of Ohio for “depriving a person of their livelihood”. A spurious claim from a sore loser, obviously, but he has cost the SBA List over \$200,000 in legal fees so far, according to the e-mail. Driehaus is trying to drain them dry and put them out of business, and he has a chance of succeeding. Now this is a real fight against evil, and it demonstrates what happens when the body of Christ *actually fights for what it believes*. Note that it wasn't a church that did this—it was a para church organization with a specific purpose. Why aren't Churches doing things like this locally? When evil gets hurt, it fights back, and any strategy that damages who hurt it is fine with it, no matter how illegal, immoral, unethical, or whatever. Evil wants to win and it doesn't care how it does it. The SBA list is fulfilling its calling and having success at it. Because it is having success, the evil it has targeted and overcome is fighting back. This, friends, is a real fight for a righteous cause. This is what should be happening in Congress. This is what should be happening in our Churches. A commitment to righteousness that doesn't compromise with the enemy and doesn't give up until evil is defeated.

How many Churches do you know that are having success against evil like this? How many pastors are leading their congregations in a fight against evil where they have this kind of effect? Any? Yes, I know lots of them are reaching out into the community and helping poor people or the homeless, and all of that. Great. Those are good things, but they're easy and non-controversial. What about the corrupt politician in your neighborhood that everyone knows is corrupt? Or the pedophile priest that's been abusing kids for years? The police aren't doing anything about it, maybe even protecting him, and he keeps getting away with his corruption. Is your church up to the job of removing him? Or is fighting evil like that 'not your job?' He's affecting your neighborhood. He's using public money for private purposes, and probably engaging in some illegal and immoral shenanigans on the side. He might even be messing with your wife or daughter. You say it's up to the police to arrest him, but what if the police are corrupt as well? Do you just throw up your hands and say “Oh, well, I guess we have to live with it?” But, if you actually go after him he'll sic the Cops on you or have some bad guy hurt you somehow. Or kill you. Maybe he'll sue you into oblivion. Do you expect evil to just lay down and let you beat it? If you don't stand up and start fighting, evil will overcome you, and you may become a casualty of the wickedness you refuse to fight.

I'm presenting a hypothetical situation here, but it really isn't hypothetical. You and I both know this stuff happens all the time. Don't think I'm advocating just jumping into the fray and having the bad guys make mincemeat out of you. I'm talking about gathering like-minded believers together and developing a strategic plan to win serious battles against evil and make those victories stand. When you do that, you'll find out just how deadly evil is, and just how determined it is to get rid of you. It will require strategic prayer, strategy meetings and discussions on how to proceed, and a willingness to give your life for the truth if necessary. With that kind of commitment, you will definitely win. But

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does your church have that kind of commitment? Do you think it's even possible for your Church to have that kind of commitment? Would your church leadership even allow it?

I contend that no modern institutional church has this kind of commitment, especially not a mega-church. Protecting their income is far too important to risk offending anyone, especially any important person who attends that church.

Courage is fear that has said its prayers. *Dorothy Bernard*