

Blurring The Lines With The World - Social Equality and Justice

September 8, 2019

2 Corinthians 6:16-17 ESV

16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate (*aphorizō - to mark off by boundaries*) from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you.

- *Evangelism / Outreach vs. Social Justice / Community Service*
- *Grace vs. Inclusivity*
- *The Way vs. Many Ways*
- *Biblical Prayer vs. The Power Of The Mind*

Evangelism / Outreach vs. Social Justice / Community Service

"From its early days as a band of Puritan exiles to its contemporary role as a champion of social justice issues, the evangelical movement has long been concerned with the plight of the outsider. Nearly two million people enter the United States every year, many of them illegally, with an annual waiting list of over 15 million. Growing numbers of international refugees, a sprawling Mexican border, and the proliferation of drugs and terrorism lend urgency to the situation. With the 2010 enactment of Arizona's anti-illegal immigration Senate Bill 1070, parties on all sides began calling for reform at the national level, leaving evangelicals—particularly the burgeoning Hispanic church—torn between the extension of grace and the execution of justice."

—Christianity Today, September 7, 2019

- *Social equality and social justice are impossible among depraved souls and a depraved world system.*
- *True and lasting transformation comes only by regeneration by the Truth and Spirit of God.*

Romans 3:10-12 ESV

10 as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one;

11 no one understands; no one seeks for God.

12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

Romans 7:18 ESV

18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

The Church is not a "*champion of social justice issues.*" The One and Only Mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- *The mission of the Church is to make disciples, not feed the hungry, provide for the poor or solve world problems.*
- *The problems of this earth are temporary. The problems of a lost soul are eternal and that is to be the focus of our mission.*

The response of the Church towards the world depends upon their response to the Gospel.

Matthew 10:11-15 ESV

11 And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart.

12 As you enter the house, greet it.

13 And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.

14 And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town.

15 Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

- *The Christian's response and relationship to the world depends upon the individual response to the Gospel, not whether or not they have a temporal need.*

Matthew 7:6 ESV

6 Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

- *Jesus is warning His disciples against the deception of, "If we just love and give them enough, then they will see the Truth and become Christians." No, they will continue in their depravity and steal the rest of what you have.*

Is there prejudice or favoritism in the New Testament?

James 2:15-16 ESV

15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food,

16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

1 John 3:16-17 ESV

16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

Romans 12:13 ESV

13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

- *What is not said in these passages is just as loud as what is said.*

Galatians 6:10 ESV

10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Matthew 25:34-46 ESV

34 Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'

37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?

38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?

39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

- *The judgment throne of Matthew 25 is not judgment for how we treat the world, but how we treat those who Jesus calls His brothers and sisters; those who Jesus is one with, "...you did it to me."*

John 15:14 ESV

14 *You are my friends if you do what I command you.*

1 Corinthians 12:12 ESV

12 *For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.*

Slavery was the cultural norm of the first century, yet the focus of the apostles was not changing the culture by eliminating slavery, but making the slaves better disciples.

- *Were the Apostles pro-slavery? Not at all. They were wise enough to understand that you are not going to change the course of fallen, depraved man and a fallen, depraved culture.*
- *Example: the American Prohibition.*

Galatians 3:28 ESV

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 6:5-9 NASB

5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ;

6 not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

7 With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

8 knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.

9 And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Colossians 3:22-24 CSB

22 Slaves, obey your human masters in everything. Don't work only while being watched, as people-pleasers, but work wholeheartedly, fearing the Lord.

23 Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people,

24 knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ.

1 Peter 2:18-20 CSB

18 Household slaves, submit to your masters with all reverence not only to the good and gentle ones but also to the cruel.

19 For it brings favor if, because of a consciousness of God, someone endures grief from suffering unjustly.

20 For what credit is there if when you do wrong and are beaten, you endure it? But when you do what is good and suffer, if you endure it, this brings favor with God.

1 Timothy 6:1-2 NASB

1 All who are under the yoke as slaves are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine will not be spoken against.

2 Those who have believers as their masters must not be disrespectful to them because they are brethren, but must serve them all the more, because those who partake of the benefit are believers and beloved. Teach and preach these principles.

1 Corinthians 7:20-22 NASB

20 Each man must remain in that condition in which he was called.

21 Were you called while a slave? Do not worry about it; but if you are able also to become free, rather do that.

22 For he who was called in the Lord while a slave, is the Lord's freedman; likewise he who was called while free, is Christ's slave.

Philemon 1:10-18 NASB

10 I appeal to you for my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my imprisonment,

11 who formerly was useless to you, but now is useful both to you and to me.

12 I have sent him back to you in person, that is, sending my very heart,

13 whom I wished to keep with me, so that on your behalf he might minister to me in my imprisonment for the gospel;

14 but without your consent I did not want to do anything, so that your goodness would not be, in effect, by compulsion but of your own free will.

15 For perhaps he was for this reason separated from you for a while, that you would have him back forever,

16 no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

17 If then you regard me a partner, accept him as you would me.

18 But if he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to my account.