

Blurring The Lines With The World - Social Activism

September 15, 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.

- *Discipleship vs. Social Activism*
- *Grace vs. Inclusivity*
- *The Way vs. Many Ways*
- *Biblical Prayer vs. The Power Of The Mind*

Discipleship vs. Social Activism

- **There is a very subtle and seductive deception within Christianity where serving mankind for the betterment of the human condition in this world is elevated above serving God and seeking His will only and above all else.**

Romans 1:25 ESV "...worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator..."

- **Jesus came to serve and not be served but His service to mankind flowed directly from doing His Father's will, not the people's will; giving people, not what they wanted, but what they needed from their Heavenly Father.**

Matthew 7:22-23 ESV

22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'

23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

- **The Church is commissioned to make disciples; the disciplined children of God who deny themselves and take up their cross to do the Father's will, not their will nor the people's will.**

Matthew 16:24 ESV

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

"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, Sep 7, 2019

"The church is the hope of the world and, in this particular matter, the only hope for modeling racial unity. We have been called into the new community, with Christ as its center. If we can achieve racial unity in our churches, it truly would be offering the world something it does not already have and could never achieve on its own."

—"Why Pastors Need to Address Racism Now, Dr. James Emery White, Crosswalk.com, Sep 5, 2019

"God's design for the church to end trafficking, I firmly believe, is through vulnerable people like you and me, loving other vulnerable people because Christ was made vulnerable for us,' he added. 'Throughout Scripture, Jesus was always present with vulnerable populations — and so that's what they did, and they saved countless lives as a result.'"

—"God's Design for the Church Can End Human Trafficking", Christian Post, Leah MarieAnn Klett, Feb 23, 2019

The Church was never intended to be the "champion of social justice issues."

- **The Church is to make disciples of the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We pull dying souls out of Hell-fire; we do not facilitate cultural reform.**

Jude 1:22-23 ESV

22 And have mercy on those who doubt;

23 save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

Matthew 28:19-20 ESV

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 Church recognizes that any cultural reform or social equality (justice) of the unregenerate is both impossible and a misnomer among depraved minds in a depraved world system. There can never be true and lasting change without repentance from sin and the new birth of the human spirit.**

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.

2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

“Our tendency to think that all problems are to be politically understood, are politically motivated, and can only be politically fixed is symptomatic of something Chuck Colson talked about frequently, and we still talk about on BreakPoint: The political illusion. But no policy, no political ideology, no bureaucracy can heal wounded psyches, rebuild the mediating institutions of civil society, provide meaning and a sense of belonging, or overcome hatred with love.”

“Those tasks belong to the very institutions that have been dismissed and even dismantled across our society: The family and the Church.”

—John Stonestreet, "BreakPoint: The Problem with 'Do Something'" Aug 13, 2019

“Where is the hope? The hope that each of us have is not in who governs us, or what laws are passed, or what great things that we do as a nation. Our hope is in the power of God working through the hearts of people, and that’s where our hope is in this country; that’s where our hope is in life.”

—Chuck Colson, "BreakPoint: The Problem with 'Do Something'" Aug 13, 2019

Philemon 1:16 ESV [Paul writing to Philemon about Philemon’s slave Onesimus.]

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.

- **The Church is sympathetic and gives care to those in need, but also understands that the Church will never correct or reform the consequences, judgment and trajectory of a sinful, depraved and rebellious culture.**

Ephesians 2:1-3 ESV

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins

2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience--

3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

2 Timothy 3:1 KJV

1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

1 Timothy 4:1 KJV

1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils...

2 Peter 3:3 KJV

3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts...

1 John 2:18 KJV

18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

2 Peter 2:5-6 ESV

5 if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

6 if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly...

2 Peter 3:7 ESV

7 But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

Mark 14:3-7 ESV

3 And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head.

4 There were some who said to themselves indignantly, "Why was the ointment wasted like that?"

5 For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they scolded her.

6 But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me.

7 For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me.

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

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.

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.

- **The Church's mission is to make people's eternity secure; it has never been to make their earthly life happier. To make the earthly existence more of a priority than being ready to stand before God's judgment throne is to lay up treasures on earth instead of heaven, it is to gain the whole world but lose our souls.**

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.

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.

- **Neither Jesus, Paul nor the Apostles, engaged in political or cultural battles issues of their present-day society.**

2 Timothy 2:4 CSB

4 No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in the concerns of civilian life; he seeks to please the commanding officer.

Matthew 22:15-22 ESV

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him [Jesus] in his words.

16 And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances.

17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"

18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites?"

19 Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius.

20 And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?"

21 They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

22 When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

Ephesians 6:5 NASB

5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters...

Colossians 3:22-24 CSB

22 Slaves, obey your human masters in everything.