

MARK JENKINS MINISTRIES

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Rejecting Political Correctness

Dear Friend,

“Political correctness” might be new terminology for some, but the spirit behind it has been around thousands of years.

The definition of “political correctness” is: ***the avoidance, often considered as taken to extremes, of forms of expression or action that are perceived to exclude, marginalize, or insult groups of people who are socially disadvantaged or discriminated against.***

It might sound like a noble cause until you realize that the **socially disadvantaged or discriminated against groups** are often those whose lifestyle choices are opposed to the word of God. This means that by simply pointing out what the Bible says, we Christians are labeled by the “politically correct” crowd as “haters” and “bigots”, unwilling to condone their sinful behavior.

Christians who follow the Bible and hold fast to its teaching that there is only one way to God are accused of “excluding” those who choose different paths to god other than Jesus. The fact is; Christians aren’t trying to exclude anyone we are trying to share the TRUTH -- **Jesus is the only way to God.**

The Bible also sets the standard regarding marriage being only between a man and a woman. Those who adhere to the Bible are accused of “excluding” same sex couples who want to marry. Never mind the fact that the Bible says such activity is an abomination before God.

The Bible has much to say about same sex issues and how God abhors the sin while loving those caught up in that lifestyle. God leaves absolutely no doubt as to how He feels about such practices and yet groups like the “LGBT” community (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender) work to legitimize their cause by being identified as a “disadvantaged or discriminated” group. Their desire is to redefine their activity as a condition they have no control over and thus is not sin. The truth is; God said it is sin so it is sin.

It should be no surprise that Christianity doesn't happen to be a "protected" group. On the contrary, when Christians speak out for what the Bible says is right their speech is labeled as discriminatory, "hate speech", even if what they are quoting is straight from the Word of God.

Make no mistake about it; this is all a carefully designed plan by the devil to eradicate anything Godly from our world. His plan is even more obvious this time of the year as the push is on to remove Christ from Christmas.

Christmas is such an important time of year because it's when the miraculous birth of Jesus takes center stage. Growing up, it seemed as though everyone stopped to celebrate the most important birthday of all. Wishing someone "Merry Christmas" was as normal as the sun rising in the east. But, all of this is sadly changing before our very eyes. You might have noticed that instead of hearing "Merry Christmas", a more "inclusive" phrase, like "Happy Holidays" is promoted, which is further proof of satan's ultimate plan to remove anything Godly from the landscape.

In today's "anti-Christian" atmosphere, the push is on to totally eradicate from society anything to do with Jesus Christ, His death, burial, and resurrection, or living a life of holiness. We are being told that we need to be more tolerant, meaning we need to be more acceptant of other "religions", even those who want to kill Christians. We are also told to accept whatever lifestyle choices a person makes and not to speak out in opposition, not even to cite Bible verses, or risk being labeled a bigot, intolerant or a "hater". What is truly shocking is how intolerant the people are who scream the loudest against Christian values.

Hard lines are being drawn as to what is acceptable or unacceptable behavior according to the world's standards. Anyone not willing to conform to their standards will be ostracized. The devil's plan is clear, he intends to use the pressure of the masses to silence anyone who will stand for truth. The question is: Will you stand for truth?

Paul made the following statement regarding whether or not we were to conform to the world's standards. (Roman 12:2)

"And be not conformed to this world: but be you transformed by the renewing of the mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Sadly, many in churches today are conformed to this world's system of thinking, acting, and believing instead of being transformed by the renewing of their mind with the Word of God. As a result, the crazy ideas that permeate this world's system are gradually showing up in churches and being preached from pulpits. National denominations are choosing to ordain people whose lifestyle choices go directly against the word of God.

Presently, the punishment for refusing to conform is not a jail sentence ...**yet**. For now, offenders are merely rebuked for their lack of sensitivity and in some cases forced to attend sensitivity training by their employers. Rest assured, it is only a matter of time until stiffer punishments are in place. So, what does that mean for us who are being transformed by the renewing of our minds to think and act and believe completely opposite to the ways of this world? It may mean that we will have some difficult times ahead for not conforming to this world's standards. Whatever the case, we won't be the first people who suffer because we refused to conform to the dictates of this world.

Take Daniel for example, he refused to be controlled by the "politically correct" crowd of his day. If you will recall, he was favored by King Darius who had made him the first of three presidents to rule over his kingdom. Due to the envy of the other presidents and princes, a plan was hatched to catch Daniel in a trap by using his devotion to God as the snare.

A law was enacted banning prayer to anyone other than King Darius for 30 days and violators would be thrown into a den of lions. Law abiding citizens not interested in following the word of God prayed only to the king. Think about what was at risk for Daniel. He not only risked losing his place of prestige as president if he prayed, he risked losing his own life. How many people do you think allowed the social pressure to conform silence them from praying to God for 30 days and prayed instead to Darius? But, not Daniel! (Daniel 6:10)

"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed (the new law banning prayer was enacted), he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."

I can almost guarantee Daniel's well-meaning friends told him to stop praying to God and start praying to Darius. It wouldn't surprise me if everyone close to Daniel asked him to stop. They might have said things like this: "Daniel, don't you know that praying to God is going to get you thrown in a lion's den?" "It's only thirty days; just stop for thirty days."

Daniel did what he knew was not only right, but was already his lifestyle. He refused to cower in the shadows out of fear. Instead, he threw open his windows three times a day and prayed to God. Sure enough, Daniel was caught and sentenced to be thrown into a lion's den. (Daniel 6:16)

“Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions...”

There will most certainly be a cost for following God and obeying Him. Daniel had no idea how his night with the lions would end or what his final cost would be. Would it mean his life? He did not have the luxury of jumping ahead a few verses, as we do, to see. Daniel knew one thing, God would take care of him. Notice the last phrase in verse 23. (Daniel 6:23)

“...So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.”

That's the kind of courage we are going to need to have as we approach these final days here on earth. The pressure is already beginning to be applied by the devil and the consequences for not conforming are starting to build. So often, people have the mistaken idea that when the pressure is really on then they will make their stand. How can people who refuse to make a stand now when the consequences are minor ever think they will stand when their life hangs in the balance?

Another example of people who would not conform to the pressure to be “politically correct” (in this same book of Daniel), were three children of Judah who when commanded to do something that went against what they knew was right, refused. Following King Nebuchadnezzar's defeat of Jerusalem, these three were part of a larger group of young men taken captive with the intention of teaching and training them to one day stand in the king's palace and serve. Their names were changed by their captors to: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold and issued a command that whenever the music began to play all had to bow down and worship the image. Those who refused to bow down to the image would immediately be thrown into a fiery furnace and be burned to death. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had done well and were promoted by their captors. They had been placed over the affairs of the province of Babylon. (Daniel 3:12) The Chaldeans, who were considered the wisest in the land, saw that the three refused to bow to the image and so informed the king.

These Chaldeans knew they were sending the three Hebrews to their death and did not have a second thought. Why? The agenda of the “politically correct” is the agenda of satan, which is ultimately the destruction of anyone dedicated to serving God. They may cloak their intentions by declaring they want fairness for everyone, but in their minds “everyone” is “everyone” except the Christians.

The agenda of today’s “politically correct” crowd is to one day rule with an iron fist and demand conformity, because that’s what satan wants. The minor slap on the wrist today for being unwilling to conform is only because they don’t yet have the social backing to do more. We are in the midst of a slow yet purpose driven change similar to the change a frog experiences when he is gradually boiled to death in water. The heat is being increased on a daily basis and more and more Godly principles are coming under attack by the enemy. It takes effort and courage not to buckle under the constant barrage of attacks against what we know is truth, and right and Godly.

God’s word is the only plumb line we are to follow. People can say whatever they want to say, but that does not make it right. If what they are saying does not line up with the word of God then reject it, even if the person speaking is adorned in the finest religious garb. Whole denominations are beginning to side with the “politically correct” crowd as their leadership votes against the word of God regarding social issues, such as homosexuality and gay rights. When denominations vote to ignore God’s word on such matters they have elected to separate themselves from the truth and it is impossible to depend on what they say any longer.

Let’s go back to our three Hebrews: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Ask yourself this question, why is it that out of all the Hebrews taken captive it is only these three whom the Bible identifies as ones that refused to bow? I’m certain Daniel didn’t bow, but he isn’t mentioned here. Out of all those Hebrews in captivity how many of them opted to bow; a handful, a third, half, the majority? We don’t know because the Bible doesn’t say. What it does point out are these three who did not bow. I believe that had the majority refused to bow their knee the Bible would have made a point of saying so. I believe it is safe to say that not 100% of the Hebrews withstood the pressure and they bowed.

Fast forward to today, if we refuse to make a stand for what the Bible says is right and instead we silently stand by and watch the moral fabric of our society erode, aren’t we choosing the same path as those who bowed down to the idol out of fear? We may not have physically bowed down, but somewhere inside haven’t we bowed to compromise in our hearts?

This is not meant to bring anyone under condemnation. It is meant as a wakeup call to help us realize that the water is beginning to boil and we don't want to end up like frogs. The "politically correct" crowd is turning up the heat to force Christians to bow to their idols of sin and put to death righteousness.

Notice that when Nebuchadnezzar looked inside the fiery furnace he discovered four people in the furnace instead of three. (Daniel 3:25)

"...Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

When we make a stand for truth we can count on the fourth Man, the Son of God, joining us in the midst of our fiery furnace. I believe we should have the same attitude as the three. (Daniel 3:17-18)

"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, oh king. (18) But, if not, be it known unto thee, oh king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image that thou hast set up."

God expects us to make our stand for truth regardless of the consequences, knowing that it is Him they are striking out against, not us personally. We are just the messengers sharing God's word, which will never change regardless of the political winds. God isn't the least bit interested in "political correctness". He is the one who established truth and He expects us to live by it. Be strong in the Lord in the days ahead and refuse to bow to the pressure of others to conform to the standards of a fallen world. God will join you in your fiery furnace and you will be so happy because you refused to be conformed to the politically correct.

Merry Christmas!

Mark Jenkins