

**The Role of the church in this time of
opportunity; COVID-19, tribalism and political
upheaval!**

"United in Christ,

For God's glory in the Home and at Work"!

**Galatians 3:28 ESV 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.**

Introduction

In the midst of the virus, tribalization, and political
upheaval what should the church be doing?

Micah 6:8 Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly
with your God!

What is going on in the "Evangelical" church?

Now we are in the midst of fighting the battle for the
"sufficiency" of the Word of God

Is the Bible sufficient to deal with the complex issues
of the day?

We looked at the history of "social justice" and that
"social justice" has no Biblical support

We have looked at the unity we have in Christ and
the impact that has on our lives in community

We have seen that real unity is achieved in Jesus
Christ and through Jesus Christ

In Colossians we have seen what it looks like to
mature in Christ

V1-4, we saw we are to be heavenly focused, other
world focused

V5-11, we saw we are to mortify sin, put off all the
old man put off all malice toward others

V12-17, we saw we are to put on the new man, God's Word, kindness, love and doing good to others
Look at V1, 5, 8, 12, 13, 15-17

We will look at the rules for Christian households

Read Colossians 3:18-4:6 Rules for Christian Households

18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

1 Peter 3:1 ESV Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives.

V19, 1 Peter 3:7 ESV Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Ephesians 4:31 ESV Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

Ephesians 6:1-3 ESV Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

Hebrews 12:10 ESV For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

Proverbs 3:11-12 ESV My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, 12 for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

Proverbs 15:5 ESV A fool despises his father's instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is prudent.

21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Ephesians 6:4 ESV Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Set the example, live the life, love their mother, know what battles to fight

22 Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

Different day, different culture

The context of this passage for today

1 Timothy 6:1 ESV Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.

Titus 2:9 ESV Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative.

1 Peter 2:18 ESV Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.

23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:58 ESV Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

V24, Ephesians 6:6 ESV Not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

25 For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

4:1 Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

Ephesians 6:9 ESV Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

Summary

Live for God's glory

Know and live in obedience to His commands

Be other world focused

Be more concerned about others than ourselves

Love the world less and God and others more, Mt. 22

Working in His local churches advancing His Kingdom

Being united with and in Christ with Him and others

Putting off the old self and all sin

Putting on Christ and His Spirit

Living in community united to Christ and to each other in Christ

Wives to husbands, husbands to wives, children and parents, employees and bosses

A Nation in Crisis-Larry Page, Arkansas Faith and Ethics

Ours is a nation in crisis and it is serious. I happen to believe it is approaching a critical stage, if it is not there already. In any event, none of us can afford to just ignore it and think things will get organically better on their own.

You don't need me to describe the times in detail. If you routinely receive facts from any objective news sources, you have seen the violence, rioting, looting, anarchy, strained race relations, attacks on the police, defiance of law and order, churches and faith groups being deprived of their religious liberties, and the fractures to our culture caused by identity politics and group think foisted on a gullible public by unscrupulous leaders, a dishonest media, and greedy hustlers all of whom harbor agendas and aggressively propagate them.

In trying to make some sense of our existence today, we are forced to formulate some suppositions and draw various inferences. Also, to maintain some sanity, we must come face to face with some hard truths.

To reflect on the dilemmas we face is to prompt the sentiment "well, we have been here before" remark or something equivalent. However, I doubt if things in America have ever been as dire as they are now; perhaps so, but I think not.

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I am not minimizing the turbulence and chaos the nation endured during a bloody civil war, a debilitating great depression, two cataclysmic world wars, the hostility and violence that accompanied the civil rights movement, and the rebellious 1960s that largely reordered our mores, values, and principles and ushered in the sexual revolution, put us on a trajectory toward secularism, and created a cultural bent that lent itself to narcissism and nihilism.

Despite the upheaval caused by those episodes, the nation recovered. Recovered at least to an extent that permitted a return to some semblance of civility, common purpose, and community. It is not certain that the aftermath of our current predicaments will get us back to that level again. I pray so. I hope so. But we can't take anything for granted. It may be that the national fabric is torn so badly and worn so thin that there's no going back unless we take drastic and dramatic action.

So much for suppositions and inferences. Now, it is on to the hard truths. And they are hard. So hard that some don't want to hear them, accept them, or follow them. It doesn't matter; the truth is the truth and we better be about accepting them and employing them.

We are never past the point of no return as long as the Holy Spirit is here. He is here because believers are still

here. I am convinced that the power He makes available is as strong as it was on the day of Pentecost.

But here's the question. What do we do with that power? Well, at the risk of some thinking I am being trite and overly simplistic, I will repeat what is very well known to most believers. It is not hyperbole to say this truth is both fundamental and foundational.

God provided the game plan for our survival. It is found at 2 Chronicles 7:14. I'm sure most reading this don't need it recited, but a few might. So, here it is. "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

The hard truth is that it will be God's people getting right with Him, seeking forgiveness, living righteous lives, being selfless servants, and committed to being prayer warriors that will salvage this culture if it is to be saved. For more guidance here, reference Micah 6:8, 1 Peter 2:11-12, and James 1:27. I am sure you could add your own favorite verses to this list, but these are some of mine.

If this nation is to be pulled back from the brink of the abyss, it will be the Church being real "salt" and "light" that invokes God's forgiveness, healing, and restoration that will pull it off. Nothing more and nothing less.



Be certain of this. It won't be any political party, office holder, government bureaucracy, armed insurgents, foreign power, human institution or organization, economic system, humanism or any other conjured ideology or philosophy that brings deliverance. God will do it through us believers – He could easily do it without us – but He has chosen us to be His change agents to accomplish His will.

I suggest we get serious about being the Church. The stakes are way too high for us to do anything else. As is often said, "If not us, who? And if not now, when?"

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NEW POLL ASKED AMERICANS HOW MANY PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY HAVE HAD COVID-19 AND HAVE DIED FROM IT!

Answers:

20% of residents have had COVID-19

9% of residents have died from COVID-19

The facts!

1% of residents have had COVID-19

0.04% of residents have died from COVID-19

On Thursday, March 19, 2020, in a drastic, startlingly punitive move, California Governor Gavin Newsom issued a first in the nation mandatory, statewide shelter-in-place order, putting 40 million people and the world's fifth largest economy in peril. In a frenzied outburst of health-related hysteria, he projected that "56% of Californians - 25.5 million people - could be infected with coronavirus in the next 2 months."¹

One hundred and forty-one long drawn-out days later the governor has ruined innumerable businesses across the state, the overwhelming majority of which will never recover. And as if the harm and hurt done had not been enough yet, add to that the prohibition of nine million Los

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Angeles County children to attend public school this fall, despite the fact that not a single LA School District child had died from the Coronavirus. All this goes to show how reckless and witless Newsom's unprecedented encroachment, the first of this type in American history, has been.

On Friday, August 7, Ventura County Superior Court Judge Matthew P. Guasco managed to outdo CA Governor Gavin Newsom's roughshod COVID-19 edict from March by issuing a temporary restraining order halting all services at Calvary Chapel Godspcak. In a blast of blustering intimidation Judge Guasco added that "1 - 1000 Does" [read parishioners], who dared to attend worship services at Godspcak, would be held in contempt of court.²

Leroy Smith, the Ventura County counselor whose \$382,428 annual salary and benefits are paid by taxpayers³, announced that local government bureaucrats would be watching to see if Pastor Rob McCoy and Godspcak parishioners complied with Judge Guasco's order.⁴

They assembled a surveillance team to keep tabs on Godspcak's parking lot for 6½ hours and came up with some "alarming" observations:

"The Director of Code Compliance said, 'At one point while we were parked in the parking lot on the Property, a woman approached from the driver side of our car and

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asked if we had signed the Newsom recall petition yet. She approached numerous other individuals in the parking lot with the same request; she was not wearing a mask or face covering. [read: aka a modernized badge of shame]

"A Senior Code Compliance officer said, 'Throughout my time observing the people in the parking lot and sidewalk areas on the Property, I saw no obvious attempts at social distancing and behavior and comments overheard suggested that many were friends, rather than household members. Many people were seen hugging and shaking hands and standing in close groups talking together for extended periods of time.'"5

Pent-up anger at strong-arm overreach and iniquity by politicians and healthcare bureaucrats is increasing in every hamlet, town, and city across America. Whereas typically about 400 people attend Sunday services at Calvary Chapel Godspcak, 2,500 worshipers showed up last Sunday, August 9, sending a message to Governor Newsom and blue county functionaries that bowing the knee to Baal will be refused. [1 Kings 19:18]

As a result of Sunday August 9's services, Ventura County officials on Tuesday August 11 asked Judge Vincent J. O'Neill, Jr., of the Superior Court of Ventura County, to hold Pastor McCoy in contempt of court and "authorize and direct" the Ventura County Sheriff to take

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"all actions reasonable and necessary to close the church property."

The Court denied the County's request to order the Sheriff to close Godspoke but did schedule a hearing on the County's motion for contempt for August 21, 2020.6 Please join us in fasting and praying for God's mercy on our nation this week.

In abandoning Jesus' Kingdom assignment from Matthew 16:18, His ekklesia, Christians, perhaps inadvertently but unwisely nonetheless, have given occasion to the culture going awry. While having developed a Christian subculture, replete with rock stars, celebrities, massive buildings, CEOs, Christian radio, Christian television, Christian publishing, prodigious budgets, feel-good messages, it still only amounts to a lilliputian stick to swing in the culture.

The 1960s revolution uprooted all laws and rules anchored in Christian doctrine concerning divorce, homosexuality, and abortion, as shown in Pat Buchanan's eye-opening Day of Reckoning. The process of dechristianization and secularization of American public education was further accelerated by the radically secular Warren Court's removal of prayer from public school in Engel v. Vitale [1962] and the removal of the Bible from public education in Abington School District v. Schempp [1963]. The U.S. Supreme Court under chief justice Warren E. Burger completed the takeover by removing

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the Ten Commandments from public schools in *Stone v. Graham* [1980].

The Church slept through it all.

The robust theology of the American Founders brought a 'warrior spirit' and a vigorous Christianity to America's shores. Their unshakeable faith had been forged by persecution for "non-conformity, and the religious agitations and conflicts in Germany by Luther, in Geneva by Calvin, and in Scotland by Knox. ... They were trained in stormy times, in order to prepare them to elaborate and establish the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty and of just systems of civil government."⁷

A delayed but similar depth of faith that We The People hold sway has begun to appear in the imperious environment of blue state governors and mayors in answer to their perverse disregard of the Constitution. We're calling time on being pushed around by overzealous tyrants.

A case in point is California-based Evangelical pastor John MacArthur, who has sued Governor Gavin Newsom, Attorney General Xavier Becerra, LA Mayor Eric Garcetti, and several state and county public health officials, contending that the state and county have violated six provisions of the state constitution.

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His attorney, Jenna Ellis, special counsel with the Thomas More Society, said: "After Grace Community Church voluntarily complied with state orders for nearly six months, California's edicts demanding an indefinite shut down have gone now far past rational or reasonable and are firmly in the territory of tyranny and discrimination. This isn't about health. It's about blatantly targeting churches."8

More Gideons and Rahabs are beginning to stand.

David Lane

American Renewal Project