

## **IS POLITICAL CORRECTNESS WITHIN THE CHURCH BRINGING ABOUT CHAOS?**

Below is a copy of my thesis for my writing class in college. I think that it is worthy of this blog so I have included it here.

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### **Is Political Correctness within Church Leading to Chaos in the Body of Christ**

The Church should avoid political correctness because the Church is supposed to be a servant of Jesus and not the world. Any time that the Church takes on the attributes of this world, the consequences are that the Body of Christ becomes lukewarm and apathetic.

Political correctness is not new. The term is used to describe a practice where extreme caution is taken not to offend any particular group of people. Political correctness has gained momentum over the past fifty years. As a doctrine, it appeals to Politico's, as well as the Hollywood elite, and those that they influence. In the worldly setting it is often used to silence people with opposing views and to castrate those who choose to effect change; if someone stands for gun rights, they are considered violent, and if they stand against abortion, they are considered unsympathetic to woman's rights. It is often used by those who have no faith in Jesus, people known to Christians as, "the world." The question arises, what is the Church and how does it relate to the Body of Christ?

Important differentiation needs to be made to understand the heart of this essay. The Apostle Paul wrote many letters to churches that he planted in Asia. His letters dealt with problems within what he called the "Church." Many of his Epistles addressed people in the churches who were still adhering to worldly doctrines. The Body of Christ consisted of sinners that were washed by the Blood of The Lamb, meeting in a congregation known as the Church. The modern Church is like the early Church, a body of believers that allows worldly people to enter to taste the goodness of Christ and hopefully, to be converted to faith in Jesus Christ. The Body of Christ is the believers; the Church is the congregation. For the purposes of this text, the church does not refer to a physical building. With this in mind, it is compelling to take a little look at how political correctness has affected believers throughout Church history.

Historically, political correctness affected the Church of Jesus Christ, right from the start. Many Pharisee's and elders confronted Jesus using political correctness. Jesus often gave them hard answers, much to their chagrin. A great example can be found in Mark, Chapter Seven, where the Elders challenge Jesus in regard to oral tradition as they tried to berate Jesus' disciples for not washing their hands before eating. (Mark Chapter 7 KJV)

Throughout Church history, groups of believers have spurned the political correctness doctrine. Political correctness caused Monastics to leave society in order to seek truth and righteousness. Every Christian revival or renewal occurred because politically correct doctrine had taken a toll on true belief. This can be seen in Luther's reformation and in escape of the Pilgrims from England to the New World. The mechanisms of political correctness have replicated in our modern Church.

Worldly political correctness often infiltrates into the Church, manifesting in many forms. Often a judgment call for righteousness is seen as condemnation, causing the offending person to state that they have been judged. They often cry foul, playing the victim. Political correctness arises most times when discussing hot social or religious subjects, however it can manifest when discussing church doctrine. What discussions could possibly activate political correctness in a church setting?

Political correctness manifests in various ways. If abortion or Darwinian evolution is discussed at some churches there are some that are quick to say they accept one or both. Belief in extraterrestrial life, and belief that UFO pilots are angels of salvation, is quickly growing in popularity. These are beliefs that are widely held in secular society and have also become popular with many in the church. Abortion is another hot topic. In an interview with Joel

Olsteen, reporter Josh Zepps asked Olsteen if he believed that God accepts homosexuals. Olsteen replied; *“Absolutely,”* Olsteen insisted, *“I believe that God breathed life into every person and that every person is made in the image of God and you have accept them as they are, on their journey.”* (Raushenbush, 2013) Olsteen is the pastor of the 45,000 member Lakewood Church in Houston Texas. Doctrinally speaking, political correctness can arise when subjects like Calvinism or predestination are mentioned. Yet, many of the same people are offended when sin and hell are presented in conversation. Absolutes are only accepted when it convenient for argument’s sake. Biblical absolutes seem to be in a steady decline.

Biblical absolutes are being exchanged for a lie. This is happening because people want to avoid being offensive. They would rather exchange the truth for a lie. An eternal truth is that when believers love and obey God, they advance and prosper in their faith; when they disobey God, they decline into chaos and confusion. The Bible describes this as being lukewarm, neither hot nor cold. Dire consequences await tepid believers.

The aim of this paper is to show that God warned that this political correctness would happen; that chaos occurs when God’s people fail to act Godly, how God hates when we become worldly, and how the Church has become chaotic in the past fifty years.

### **Political Correctness in Prophecy**

Bible prophecy is God’s way of showing us the future. God loves us and He does not want us taken by surprise when it comes to His grand scheme. He uses prophecy to exhibit His majesty, His might and His power. God knew that someday political correctness would plague us, so from before time He penned what befalls us now. God’s word shows us that only His word has authority. *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”* (2 Timothy 4:3-4 KJV) While this can be said of every generation, it tends to be truer in our time. .

Scripture is solely viable for Christians. It is the only source for correct doctrine. Political correctness is a worldly doctrine that teaches that everyone must strive not to “offend” others in any way or form. In his letter to the Roman Church, the Apostle Paul spoke about the wages of sin, *“For the wages of sin is death. (Romans 6:23 KJV)* Anything that opposes Scripture is moot and is darkness compared to God’s light.

## **Light as Opposed to Darkness**

Worldly things derive from darkness; a truth found repeatedly in scripture. We are exhorted to stay in the light of Jesus so that we can show the world that we are different, unique, and that the Father has called us. *“And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God” (2 Corinthians 6:15-17 KJV)* The darkness of this world and the Light of Christ have no fellowship whatsoever. Mixing both must be avoided.

## **Contemporary Church and Political Correctness**

Political correctness has been around for a very long time. A contemporary form of political correctness has existed in the American Church since 1962.

In 1962 corporate prayer was removed from schools. Unlike their forefathers, children were no longer allowed to say verbal prayers in the classroom. When this challenge arose, the Church offered no resistance to this ruling. In 1972 the sanctity of life was challenged when abortion was legalized. Aside from sporadic protests outside abortion clinics, Christians offered little resistance. In the years that followed, the enemy chipped away at the foundation of Christianity. As time advanced, Nativity scenes were often protested, icons such as plaques of the Ten Commandments were ordered to be taken down, and the enemies of God have found all things Christian to be offensive; Christians remained silent. Political correctness has gone far overboard.

In an effort to appear politically correct, the Body of Christ has assented to many myths and theories that atheism and other religions have thrown its way. In an effort to be tolerant toward homosexuals, atheists and people of countless religions, the Church has become lukewarm. When addressing lukewarm people, it is necessary to present subject matter in correct context.

Enforcing a scriptural point requires understanding of correct context. Politically correct Christians know only what they have been taught. Many times, it appears that they do not conduct personal Bible study because their answers are not backed up with biblical content. Often their answers are based on secular sources. For instance, after presenting an argument that God was an ancient astronaut, they'll back up their assertion by saying that their information

came from a documentary on television. Arguments that are projected from the lukewarm mindset include, but are not limited to the following.

Some fellowships argue that political correctness is a good way to show the world that we identify with them. However, Scripture states clearly that we are supposed to be separated from the world. We are told that as believers, we are the lights to attract people from darkness. Dimming our lights makes us like darkness. Political correctness argues that there are no absolutes; anything thought to be offensive in a situation, is wrong without room for discussion or debate of any kind. Can we therefore wear different clothes to minister to the lost?

A church in Eugene, Oregon argues that God is a God of love, therefore He does not care what method we use to bring in converts, as long as we act in love. However, we know that although love is important, believers are commanded to be holy and righteous in all things. The word “love” is relative in the eyes of politically correct Christians. For instance, it could be argued that a person loved a friend so much that they did not want to browbeat them with the Bible or talk about Jesus. Their friend dies without finding salvation and is assigned to Hell. Was it true love that caused the silence, or was it fear? Could political correction in the Church be denied altogether?

Some argue, “I am part of the Church and have never seen political correctness, so you are wrong and it does not exist!” This argument is valid if a person stays in one church. Visiting a variety of churches allows one to see the evidence that some Christians are taking on a worldly mantle. Some might say that people cannot be Christian if they question the Bible or doctrine, however since God is the only one that truly knows a person’s heart, it is best to defer to Him.

Political correctness is not a new. It has been around as long as man has walked the earth. Political correctness was prevalent during the time that Jesus, His enemies used it against Him. It influenced monastic orders and caused good men to withdraw from the rigors of trying to walk the tightrope of political correctness. It contributed to every revival and renewal in the Christian Church causing godly men to change the status quo.

My premise is that any time that the Church takes on the attributes of this world, the consequences are that the Body of Christ becomes lukewarm and apathetic. Political correctness is defined as being careful not to offend any group of people. In an effort not to offend the people of the world, the Church has accepted not just the sinner, but the sin of the sinner. Things seem to be spiraling out of control.

Secular society has used political correctness Ad nauseam. Growing numbers of believers in Jesus Christ have taken on the mantle of political correctness so as to appear nonjudgmental, giving the church its own form of political correctness. Increasing numbers of Christians are questioning the “fairness,” of the Bible, and of God. Political correctness is alive in the Body of Christ. In an effort to appear tolerant, some Christians are changing their mind about sin by taking on “tolerance” to entice the unsaved. In doing this, many are disobeying God. Disobedience never brings order, it produces chaos. God has given us directives; to be lights to the world, to resist darkness; and to love the sinner but not the sin. Jesus clearly told us, that if we truly love Him, we would obey His Commandments. Disobeying His Commands can only result in chaos, and a state of being lukewarm within the Church; the Body of Christ.

One can only ask the question, can a revival within the Church reverse the chaos and lukewarm attitude within the Church today? Revivals tend to bring newness to the Church. Anytime a revival occurs within the Church, chaos and lukewarm attitudes are replaced with freshness and new vigor.

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