

Kacer's Korner

"Why They Hate Us"

The obvious hatred by influential segments of our society towards all things Christian is easy to find. Though complicated, the source of this hatred towards us lies on both sides. As a point of departure, when I say "us" I mean professing, sincere Christians that hold to the authority of scripture in all matters of our faith, decisions and actions.

Any Christian that objectively studies the Bible knows at some time they will experience persecution and discrimination. It's a manifestation of continuous spiritual warfare since the very beginning (Gen 3). However, what many find difficult to comprehend is how: a nation founded on Biblical principles; that legally protects the expression of our religious beliefs; that is the most "churched" country in the world; and that invests more resources, time and treasure in preaching the gospel and sending missionaries than has any other nation in history could ever get to where we are today. And where's that? Open hostility to anything consistent with Christian values and truths is obvious in many movies, newspapers, public schools, businesses, and throughout government. This hatred of what is good has resulted in massive cultural and legal changes in our lifetime: Biblical preaching being labeled hate speech, life losing its legal sanctity, pornography accepted as beneficial, sodomy being normalized, marriage being desecrated and sexual immorality and deviancy being glorified.

On the one hand, the simple reason for this hatred is spiritual – the unregenerate hate the fact there will be an eternal judgment for their sin and that Christ's death is the only way to eternal life (Col 2:13-15). They reject His Lordship and all things pure and just. This blindness to anything holy despises all who love Christ and hate sin. Although those in this vocal, hardened category are relatively small in number, they've exerted incredible influence on the larger population through our mass media, arts, government and public schools. I know there are many "good" non-Christians trying to do what they think is right (Rom 2:14-15), but their view of us is molded by those that are rabidly anti-Christian or by their complicit cultural and legal accomplices

The other side of the story is inside the Christian community. Our influence on our nation has been deeply compromised in this last generation. Many so called cultural Christians pick and choose what they're going to believe. Others have bought into post-modern relativism that teaches everyone is going to heaven ("choosing Jesus is OK for me, your path to God is OK for you"). Many are prosperous and just feel good about their "faith". Easy belief-ism results in little difference in the presence of societal ills between our culture and much of the modern church. In effect, the church has been evangelized by the world instead of the other way around. Bottom line, many parts of the body of Christ have become ineffectual in its witness, compromised in its beliefs, irrelevant to the

sinful problems destroying this nation, and are seen as hypocritical by many. The world can rightly ask “what’s so special about us when we look like them?”

So what should be do? The probability of winning over those that despise us for who we are is remote – unless the Lord intervenes and changes their hearts. For the majority of people who have misgivings about what they perceive to be Christianity, there is more hope, but we must get our own lives and house in order. For Biblically weak churches that have compromised their purpose in order to grow bigger, or have become “politically correct” in social issues contrary to clear Biblical teaching, the only course is to repent and return to your first love (Rev 2:4; 3:14-20). This alone would be a powerful testimony to a dead world, and would help purify the currently compromised body of Christ. For Biblically strong churches, it’s critical to continue to teach and preach the whole counsel of God, equip and exhort their members to love our enemies (Matt 22:39; 5:43-48; Rom 12:20-23) and the less fortunate, evangelize the lost, and to engage in all societal and governmental realms to leverage this great nation’s resources for the common good. This last one is particularly important and one that many pastors overlook. Think about it, why should we let the ungodly use against us the tools available to all of us when we can use them for good?

Pastors of every stripe must return us to the basics – engaging those around us with understanding of the issues we all face (restores credibility), to be armed with facts and information to persuade the ignorant and foolhardy (Prov 26:5), to be able to apply Biblical principles and truths to influence every sphere of life for the common good (Matt 5:13-16), and ultimately, to share the saving knowledge of Christ to souls without hope (John 3:16; 14:6).

I understand their hatred of us. Most is expected, some is warranted, but our role is to be faithful to God’s word and to energetically engage the world for God’s glory at every opportunity (Matt 16:18; 2 Tim 3:16-17). May we be found faithful in this labor!

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