

207 Truth Relevance and Need – 3

In recent Reflections we have been thinking afresh of the need for Christian people to “stand up for Jesus” in these days when Christian truth is so often ignored. Sometimes we will feel the need to address issues that arise in the public forum, in that bear-pit of debate and ideas we are conscious of. Although we may find the prospect of doing this rather unnerving, we are only following well-trodden biblical precedents, and with prayer and care, we can certainly make a difference. For some of us this may become a significant personal ministry in itself, but hopefully all of us will speak up when necessary.

First let us quickly consider some examples from the range of people, organisations and activities whose decisions affect many people, perhaps even millions of people, and to whom we can “have our say” under basic rules of free speech: Her Majesty the Queen, the Prime Minister, and all other politicians at local, national and European level; media organisations and individuals – in radio, television, newspapers and magazines; advertising agencies; the “arts” – theatre, film, music, poetry, literature, art and sculpture; businesses – banks, stores, industries; religious leaders at local and national level; education – schools, colleges and universities; and other professions such as legal and medical. So we are not short of possibilities as to whom to approach, and contact addresses can be easily found on Google.

Now we are not trying to be mere “moaning minnies”. Rather, we seek to place God’s truths clearly before influential people, to make a positive difference for the well-being of all, and for the glory of the living God (eg., Romans 12.17-19 / I Peter 2.11-17 & 3.15 & 4.11).

Letters tend to be more effective than emails. Each letter we send deserves our careful, prayerful thought, for this is often cutting-edge spiritual work in which the forces of darkness are probably keenly involved behind the scenes. We are courteous, positive and supportive where possible, then specific, clear and brief as we make our point in our own words and style.

We state clearly on what grounds we are writing and why. It is worth emphasising our negative personal reaction to the issue at hand, which your reader cannot deny, such as, “I take offence at because”. We can then perhaps quote a brief passage of Scripture with its reference in support of our objection, (eg., Philippians 4.8), introduced by, “As we are told in the Holy Bible,”, and maybe mention another relevant Bible passage, or helpful website, article or book. We close by urging a change in their ways for everyone’s benefit. Hopefully our letter has been courteous, clear and brief.

We may get no reply at all, or a standard reply which does not address the issue we have raised, or a personal reply which is dismissive of what we have said. Unfortunately this is normal, and we must not be discouraged! - "Do not be weary in well-doing" (Galatians 6.9-10).

Because such letter-writing allows us to take care beforehand with what we say and how we say it, (which also applies to our writing comments on internet forums), this is much easier than live speaking, as perhaps in a public meeting or on a live TV or radio programme. In such situations the motto is to be well-prepared, with short clear notes of the points we wish to make, and then make them anyway, whatever else others may ask or say! We know that politicians like to respond to any question with, "Yes, but what is really important here is" – and off they go, making their stock points time and again. In terms of our answering possibly hostile questions under pressure, again, "Be prepared", and claim the Lord's promise of His help in such times of sudden challenge (Luke 21.14-15).

We know that God's Truth is at stake and is frequently ignored at all levels of society. This has been the case, more or less, since the time of the Fall of Genesis Chapter 3, and God's people have always had the responsibility of "righting this wrong", even if the task can be tough and costly. We are reminded of Peter's words to the Lord Jesus when the crowds were turning their backs (John 6.66-69, AV) – "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God".

Quite true then and quite true now. The world needs to know this stupendous Truth as much as ever.

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