

Success of Chick-Fil-A

Sometime around the summer of 2010, Chick-fil-A came to IL. It had been a southern company but it's tasty food was picking up popularity and spreading throughout the country. The first one in our area was opening next to Fox Valley Mall. Very soon after it opened, someone noticed that the foundation was Christian based and that they donated money to organizations that supported Biblical marriage. The Gay Rights organizations went wild. They started protesting and calling for people to boycott the restaurant. Roger, I and a few friends of ours went to Fox Valley to do a little protest of our own supporting Chick-fil-A. Someone had started this formal action, and it was pretty neat when we got there to see the lines streaming completely out of their parking lot. CHRISTIANS! They showed up!! I do not remember how long we stood in the hot sun waiting to get up to order food in support. Someone from the restaurant came around with Iced tea for those in line. There were cases of water. They passed around umbrellas to share to give a little relief from the hot sun. When we finally got up to order, they were out of almost all of their food. In spite of the heat, it was a neat experience. First, you knew that almost everyone in line was a Christian, because not many people outside of God's people would have felt that strongly about marriage. The CEO of Chick-fil-A, Dan Cathy is a devout Christian. He would not have caved to the left ideals of marriage. So, I am sure he was encouraged by the support all over the country on that day. It was the single highest grossing day the company ever had. What the devil meant for bad, God changed to good.

I read about a conversation between Dan Cathy and the head of a gay rights organization sitting down and really talking. At the end the other man, reported that he had never had such a great conversation with a Christian and that he felt completely heard. He joked that he had to come out of the closet as a friend of Dan Cathy because at that time there were actual death threats against him for his Christian beliefs. He told the reporter that they both talked about why they had their beliefs and Dan never once criticized him or argued with him. He also never wavered in his beliefs. I felt completely humbled when I read this. I wonder if I would have been so gracious. So compassionate. But Jesus would. I have found that the only way to influence someone with different ideology is to be gracious and compassionate. Anything else usually turns out combative. Although we know that Jesus had "righteous indignation" and was indeed angry at the money

changers, we never hear of him arguing with people. I think it is one of the reasons our country is so divided. We have lost the ability to have a conversation without criticizing the other person. Jesus didn't allow people to stay the same after he met them, He did say "go and sin no more". But he didn't say "look, you are a jerk if you do not listen to me.". Jesus changed people with His love, compassion and acceptance. Now, I didn't change my stance on these things and neither did Jesus. Sin is sin. But I know that God has "accepted" me in spite of my sin. The loving thing to do is love. Love like Jesus. I am definitely not saying that we compromise our beliefs! This man came away from Dan Cathy knowing he made a new friend but one who still had his oppositions to his lifestyle. Someone who had not compromised, but loved.

Lord, help us to be more like Jesus. Help us to show Grace and Compassion to all we meet, even those we do not agree with. Help us to be a light in this present darkness. Amen

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