

There is a time...

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

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Religion and Politics

Two topics of conversation that are kept from entering many people's homes and that are too often forbidden from being discussed around the dinner table. These are topics that are considered "taboo" and that should be avoided at all costs. Who decides what is an unacceptable topic of conversation and who gets to say what the church should or should not be involved in? Is it the secular mob who does not know God or is it the Creator and Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ?

There is a time...

Matthew 10:16 "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves."

The Cross on Table Mountain

- **January 1956** (Junior Chamber of Commerce – Jaycee) – completed the 60' tall cross
- Initially, the land was owned by the Idaho Department of Corrections (Gov. land)
- (14 years later – **1972**) Due to a lawsuit and loss of a concrete cross in Eugene Oregon, they had the wisdom and foresight to separate the land through an auction making the cross private property. \$100
- **Mid 90's ACLU** – tried to attack the validity of the auction.
- Early 2000's Talk show host **Rob Sherman** – a Chicago-based talk show host was speaking at Boise State.
 - Called for the cross to be torn down.
 - 10,000 people showed up to march in a protest against removing the cross and to express their support for it.
- **There is a time** to quietly buy land for \$100, there is a time to stand with 10,000 others and make an issue known.

It's not about being on the right side of history, it's about being on the right side of His story.

Should the church stay quiet? Yes... when it's time.

Should the church speak up? Yes... when it's time.

"If you cannot speak in love you should not speak."

Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

Be loving and have a cup of coffee.

There is a time

- *You should lovingly have a cup of coffee and have a conversation.*
- I agree... in fact, I appreciate those rare opportunities to do just that.
- But there is a time...
 - *There is a time to sit down with a cup of coffee.*
 - *There is a time to stand up and stop what is going on.*

Children are being exploited and sexualized... harmed and lead astray.

Are we going to be a church that is involved in politics?

- I wrestled this for years
- We as a church and I as a pastor have no interest in chasing the government, wagging my finger, telling them what they are going wrong.
- However, I have no choice but to speak up when the government tries to silence the church, propagate aberrant lifestyles, or endanger our children.

Ps. 120:7 I am for peace; But when I speak, they are for war.

Silence is Compliance

Psalm 82:2-5 *defend the poor and fatherless*

Proverbs 31:8-9

Separation of church and state

When ungodly people tell godly people what god doesn't want them to do... it is not from God

1954 Johnson Amendment (Senator Lyndon Baily Johnson)

Churches and other nonprofit organizations that are exempt from taxation "are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office,"

Paul didn't lobby against Rome!

- *That's because Rome wasn't America. You are in America (Right to peaceably protest)*
- *Gold Fringe Flag*

John 15:20 "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

– **they didn't persecute Jesus because He was quiet.**

Lost Ground

For far too long we have thought that talking about the darkness was the same as doing something about it. Dear saints, please beware of our ability to critique something without seeking to change it.

Moses got Lot back

Genesis 14

4 Kings take over Sodom & Gomorrah and in the attack take Lot and his possession. Lot was loved by his uncle Abraham. Abraham called up 318 trained men and pursued those who took his nephew. In the night, divided and pushed back the enemy, recovered his nephew, all of Lot's possession as well as many other men and women.

David got his family back

1 Samuel 30

David and his men get to Ziklag only to find it burned to the ground and everyone's family taken captive. (Wept until they did not have the strength to weep any longer)

David found strength in the LORD his God. (vs. 6)

600 men to 400 men came to the (Boise River) Besor Ravine

Nothing was missing: young or old, boy or girl, plunder or anything else they had taken. David brought everything back.

School Boards
City Councils
Offices of Elected Officials

The excuse of “I don’t want to be a hypocrite.”

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

What is a hypocrite anyways?

How long do you have to be a non-sinner for it not to be hypocritical? About 1 minute.

Boise Pride & Drag Festival

(Dance with a Drag, Drag Story Time for kids, Kids’ Drag Show)

- Keep your sexual persuasion in your bedroom
- Should I go promote heterosexuality?
- Should we have young girls provocatively dancing in public

Texas teacher and pedophiles

"Stop calling them that. You're not allowed to label people like that. Stop it, Diego. We are not going to call them that. We're going to call them, MAPs. Minor Attracted Persons. So don't judge people just because they want to have sex with a 5-year-old."

Grooming and leading

Grooming is when someone builds a relationship of trust and emotional connection with a child or young person so they can manipulate, exploit and abuse them.

It is like a thief telling you he is not a thief, he is just an admirer of other people’s belongings.

WW2 train whistle blew so they sang louder

Pacifists: First, they came, then there was no one

First, they came for the Communists

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a Communist

Then they came for the Socialists

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a Socialist

Then they came for the trade unionists

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a trade unionist

Then they came for the Jews

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a Jew

Then they came for me

And there was no one left

To speak out for me

Should a church be involved in politics?

How about policies that shape our communities and influence our kids?

Matthew 5:10-15

God has not given us a spirit of fear.

John 9:4 "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; *the night is coming when no one can work.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1 & 7-8

To everything *there is* a season,
A time for every purpose under heaven:

A time to tear,
And a time to sew; A time to keep silence,
And a time to speak;
A time to love,
And a time to hate;
A time of war,
And a time of peace.