

Responding to the Election

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Preview

Pre-election drama was troubling enough; post-election drama is worse

- hatred and division has turned to rioting, violence — praying it stops!
- one person's dream has become another's nightmare — gloating and fear abounds
- **Seriously troubled by how the church is responding** — we don't look much different than the world, our identity and mission is being compromised by political and national turmoil. We dare not let this continue.

***GOAL**— to share some things that will help us remember who we are and what we're called to. We are followers of Jesus and representatives of His kingdom; and to the extent that we get that right, this country will be better off and vice versa*

Peacemakers

- **Matthew 5:9**
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
- noble sounding but remember they killed the son of God — it might cost you
- peacemakers call both sides to honesty, accountability and repentance
- that doesn't always go over well with one or both sides of a conflict

**There aren't many peacemakers today
because people are more committed to their broken side
than to God's perfect Kingdom**

- **We'd do well to adopt Lincoln's attitude about sides-** "Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right." (*second inaugural address*)

***Listen**— if we are going to be Kingdom Peacemakers we need to be on God's side, of every issue, over and above race, party or pleasure, with humility and courage, otherwise we elevate human brokenness over God's Ways*

- we mustn't forsake God's will because of a higher commitment to race, party or pleasure. Truth is Truth, stand for it above all else with courage and humility

Balanced

...this seems to be our biggest challenge

- **Proverbs 11:1**

Dishonest scales are an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is His delight.

- **dishonest scales** — unbalanced, unjust, deceptive measurement
- “my side is totally innocent; your side is totally guilty” — Really???
- **blame Obama and the Dems** — for every foolish, criminal act carried out by angry people who were just looking for an excuse to execute their wickedness
- **blame Trump and the Repubs** — for every foolish, criminal act carried out by angry people who were just looking for an excuse to execute their wickedness
- “well they seem to support or condone it” there’s enough blame on both sides

**Dishonest, unbalanced, unjust scales
are an abomination to the LORD, it stinks!**

**If you’re not calling out the sins of every guilty person or group equally,
you’re dishonest and unbalanced and God hates it.
You’re making God sick and people angrier
by your unbalanced inflammatory rhetoric**

- **just weight** — perfect, balanced and true
- **God delights in** — LET’S CONTRIBUTE TO THAT, for the reputation of the Kingdom and the good of the Republic

Love our neighbor

- **Galatians 5:13-15**

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

- **called to liberty but not flesh** — not obey Jewish law, but not sinful behavior
- **our liberty of free speech — but not sinful words** — hateful, gloating, unbalanced, jabbing, accusatory, suspicion-creating, etc.
- **Ephesians 4:29**
Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.
- **Ephesians 5:4**
...neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

Application — stop the inflammatory, divisive, unbalanced, corrupt, foolish, coarse jesting posts and tweets! They get the applause of men but not heaven!

- **James 1:19-20**

So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

If there is truth to be told, be accurate, balanced, and humble

- **love your neighbor** — serve your neighbor, know your neighbor, hear your neighbor

WARNING — don't bite and devour one another lest we be consumed by one another!

Pray

"a praying man will stop sinning; a sinning man will stop praying" ¹

- we need to do more praying and less sinning

- **1 Timothy 2:1-4**

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**If the election has you in a place of relief and ease,
your trust is in the wrong place!**

**If the election has you in a place of anger and fear,
your trust is in the wrong place!**

Closing thoughts on dealing with anger

- **Ephesians 4:26-27**

"BE ANGRY, AND DO NOT SIN": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.

Anger isn't always sinful; it becomes sinful and devilish when...

- **When it is excited without any sufficient cause** — when we are in no danger, and do not need it for a protection.
- **When it transcends the cause, if any cause really exists.** All that is beyond the necessity of immediate self-protection, is apart from its design, and is wrong.

¹ Leonard Ravenhill, *Why Revival Tarries*, (Bethany House, 2004), 26

- **When it is against the person rather than the offense.** The object is not to injure another; it is to protect ourselves.
- **When it is attended with the desire of revenge.** That is always wrong.
- **When it is cherished and heightened by reflection.**
- **When there is an unforgiving spirit;** a determination to exact the utmost satisfaction for the injury which has been done.
- **When you let the sun go down on it** — marinate in it, sleep on it, harbor it.

Church...

...do we have the humility to call ourselves out on not always being **Peacemakers**, not always being **Balanced**, not always **Loving our Neighbor**, not always **Praying**, not checking our **Anger** to see if its sinful and devilish?

Discussion Questions

1. Proverbs 11:1 tells us that dishonest scales are an abomination to the LORD. Why do you think He used such a strong word?
2. When do we push our liberty of free speech into the realm of sin?
3. Read Ephesians 5:4. How does this verse affect your personal, daily speech?
4. In Galatians 5:15, how do you “bite and devour one another...consume one another?”
5. Why will “a praying man will stop sinning; a sinning man will stop praying”?
6. The day after the election, were you in a place of relief and ease, or a place of anger and fear; was your trust in the wrong place?
7. How do you check your anger to see whether it is sinful and devilish?