

VIII. Meeting Actual Needs is More Important than Maintaining Institutions

Closely related to previous lesson

A. A lessening of the importance of the Church

1. Outdated
2. Concentrated Power/Control
3. Corruption of all kinds (Focus on sexual sins)
4. A false dichotomy between the Church and her mission
 - a) Help solve the very real needs in the society
 - b) Work for the cause of justice - equity - inclusion
 - c) So spiritually minded, do no earthly good

B. Biblical Perspective

1. Main Mission of the Church is to preach the gospel and make disciples
 - a) Matthew 28:18f
 - b) Acts 1:8
2. Works of Mercy flow from the gospel
 - a) Ephesians 2:10
 - b) James 2
3. The Church is not simply a social entity - but a called out people who proclaim the Good News of the Gospel and provide Salt and Light to a dying world

IX. Peacemaking is More Important Than Power

Attacking the Authority of the Church

A. Progressive

1. Peacemaking basically means capitulating to, or compromising with the culture
2. To be at peace is either tossed or full on acceptance - affirmation - embracing . . .
3. Power is based in the structure of authority in the Church (which leads to abuse)

B. Authority vs. Authoritarianism

1. Biblical authority is God-given - Legitimate authority upholds God's standard, rejects error, teaches sound doctrine, etc.
2. Authoritarianism - Not interested in impartiality, maintaining or pursuing peace
3. It is marked by harsh shepherding, unquestioned authority, unbiblical discipline, etc.

C. Biblical Perspective

1. Peacemaking begins with the Gospel - Making peace between sinful man and holy God
 - a) Colossians 1:19-20
 - b) Romans 5:10-11
 - c) Ephesians 2:14-16
2. Seek to live in Peace with others
 - a) Romans 12:18
 - b) Matthew 5:9
3. God given biblical authority is legitimate and ought not be abused, but bad leadership is not a reason to reject all leadership