

Politics In The Lord's Church

The "politics" this article addresses is **not** the politics of Democrats and Republicans attempting to make their objectives and boost support for their party. The "politics" we now address are those employed by members of the kingdom of God in an attempt to gain **unbiblical control** over the Lord's church. Such "politics" are a disgrace to the cause of Christ and bring shame on the church of our Lord. Jesus has made it very clear that His is a spiritual kingdom that should not employ the tactics of a worldly kingdom. The Lord said, "*Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence*" (John. 18:36). Godly elders who oversee congregations of the Lord's people are admonished, "*Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them*" (Acts 20:28-30).

False teaching is not the **only** thing that can be used to "draw away" members of the Lord's body. Politics can also be employed to manipulate the lack of a **stand** for the truth. Human wisdom is not to take priority over godly wisdom, and yet often times today Bible wisdom is conveniently overlooked while human wisdom is used within the church to achieve the result that "politicians" desire. God states that he "Made foolish the wisdom of the world" (I Cor. 1:20), but that does not deter the one who desires to have his own way and engages in "church politics" to do so.

This writer has often encouraged young men to attend a sound School of Preaching to better prepare themselves to preach the glorious gospel. A warning has also accompanied such encouragement: "Remember that you are to be a product of the Bible and not some school of preaching. Your allegiance lies with the Word of God and not the instructors or alumni of some school." Whether one attends a School of Preaching or a Christian University (if one exists today), I have long believed the warning given to be prudent and sound.

Today money and loyalty to certain people are revered by some more than the Holy Scriptures. Such should never be because souls are lost and the Devil is the victor! One danger always inherent with preaching schools, Christian Universities, and entities like *Apologetics Press* is that they **depend** upon financial support to exist. If "financial supporters" desire to employ "politics" to achieve certain results, then **woe** to the group that does not acquiesce to such pressure.

Apologetics Press came under fire the **moment** Bert Thompson hired Dave Miller. Dave needed (and still needs to repent of actions at Brown trail and of encouraging (instead of opposing) the elder/reaffirmation procedure. He also needed (and still needs) to repent of his "intent" twist regarding M-D-R as employed with Everett Chambers. Bert Thompson was testy, abrasive, and condescending in his replies to those who **dared** question is hiring of "Dr. Dave." *Apologetics Press* was above rebuke or questioning while Bert was the director and nothing has changed now that Dave is the interim Executive Director (AP current web page). Brethren go out of their way to exalt and defend AP even though some state that they do not agree with the "E/R practice" or the "intent twist" regarding M-D-R. They support the "body" but not the "head!" Oh, yes, "politics" play a big role when it comes to taking a stand against AP.

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BELVEDERE BEACON

"Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)

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Cell Phone vs. Bible



What would happen if we treated our Bible like our cell phones?



What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?



What if we turned back to get it if we forgot it?



What if we flipped through it several times a day?



What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?



What if we gave it to kids as a gift?



What if we used it as we traveled?



What if we used it in case of emergency?



Copied

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am.
Morning Worship 11.00 am.
Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.

EVANGELIST: Ken Chumbley - Tel. No. (803) -279-8663

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“We love because he first loved us - I John 4:19”

So read the portable noticeboard outside of the local Roman Catholic Church. I do not know whether such was done deliberately, accidentally, or out of ignorance of what the scripture actually reads, “*We love him because he first loved us.*” One little word, “him” but it changes the whole meaning of the passage.

We are not suggesting that we are not to love others or that such love is motivated because he (God) first loved us for clearly such is taught within the pages of Holy Writ. Let us note one scripture from John in that same chapter, “*Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love*” (I John 4:7-8).

However, clearly, in context, in I John 4:19, John is speaking about God’s love for us and the response that is found from the saints of God to His love for us. Let us look at the context, “*Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. [Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us*” (I Jhn. 4:10-19). Clearly here, John, under inspiration, is speaking of the love that we have for God is motivated by the fact that God first loved us (John 3:16, Romans 5:8). It is then, as John also, shows in the same chapter, an outgrowth of this love that we have for God that we love others, “*If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also*” (I John 4:20-21).

This illustrates an important point with regard to Scripture. Words are important. They are there for a reason. When the inspired writers penned Scripture the words that they wrote are given for a reason. Remember, “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works*” (II Timothy 3:16-17). Our Lord told His disciples, “*But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you*” (Matthew 10:19-20). They would be taught *how* and *what* to speak. That is “verbal inspiration.” The very words were inspired, not just the thoughts. Thus when John wrote, “*We love him because he first loved us,*” he meant what he wrote. The reason the children of God love God is that He first loved them.

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Let us continue to keep in our prayers Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett and her mother, Kathy Treadway’s mother, Lanny Niver’s father, Tim Arnold’s father.

Parys Mitchell is still in Palmetto Hospital in Columbia.

Lanny Niver was out of town last week.

Jack Pebbles fell Sunday morning as he and sister Pebbles were getting ready to come to services and thus they were not out. He was not badly hurt.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of brother Odie McLemore who passed from this life on October 30, 2006. Services were held on November 2, 2006. Let us keep sister Dot and the family in our prayers. Brother Odie will be greatly missed.

There will be a pot-luck Sunday November 12 after the morning services. Plan to stay and eat.

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This writer was assigned the topic of “repentance” at a lectureship this year and then canceled for refusing to remove a footnote implicating the errors of Dave Miller and his connection with AP. A part of the manuscript stated:

Do human institutions that focus on religious training or supporting and defending religious matters attain such status that Biblical principles can be ignored and people’s sin overlooked so that the “institution” can continue to operate? Brethren, there is cause for concern that it is not just the Hindu’s in India that believe in “sacred cows”Are “sacred cows” exempt from a “thus saith the Lord?” Do those who labor with “sacred cows” not have to repent of their sins? Is the voice of a “sacred cow” given more respect than the voice of God (His Word)? Is there one standard for a “sacred cow” and another standard for institutions that are not “sacred cows?” God’s Word applies to **all** people. May we be determined that we will consistently follow only the Word of God!

What a tragedy it is that some brethren will defend “church politics” while refusing to abide by God’s Word!

*Marvin L. Weir
Paris, TX*

(While this article deals mainly with a specific instance where “church politics” have been practiced by some in an effort to uphold an institution where a known false teacher is at the helm of the organization, it is not the only instance of “church politics” that could be cited. Brethren, we must place the truth of God above personal preferences and friendships. Sadly, when schools, colleges, programs and congregations have turned from the truth of God, some will continue to uphold their “alma mater” or a congregation that they have known and loved even when the evidence is clear that they have deviated from the truth of God and have not, despite efforts to get them to do so, to repent. We must be sure that we are on the Lord’s side, even if it means that to do so will mean that we cannot remain in fellowship with friends or family. Fellowship with brethren is important, but fellowship with the Lord is more important (I John 1:3-8) - Ken Chumbley).