

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

July 22

2018

Politically Correct

There is a popular term being tossed around a lot these days, and that term is "political correctness." Folks, Webster defines the term "politically correct" as, "conforming to a belief that language and practices which could offend political sensibilities (as in matters of sex or race) should be eliminated."

So, you see, one who is "politically correct" is one who is carried along by the waves of popular opinion, they are influenced by those who are outspoken about moral and social issues, and they are easily swayed to agree with the opinion of smooth-talking men. However, when it comes to the politics of right and wrong, we need to be on the side of that which is right, rather than that which is wrong. So, I ask, is it more important, to be "politically correct" or to be "biblically correct"?

You see, during the first century the apostles were brought before the Sanhedrin council for disobeying their command concerning the teaching of Christ. However, notice what Peter and the other apostles said to them, they said, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). Now, the point is, the apostles were not going to be influenced by the opinion or want of men, but rather they were going to do the will of God, and they did not care who liked it or not.

Ladies and gentlemen, sadly, our society's moral standard today has drastically shifted toward evil. For instance, crime and murder rates continue to increase to all time highs, fornication and homosexuality are just considered alternative lifestyles, and divorce and

remarriage is easier and more common than ever before. Why? Well, because, of looking to God's word to see how we ought to live our lives, many have taken the "politically correct" approach, and they have decided to follow the opinion of popular belief, rather than God's will.

Therefore, many of us Christians who choose to follow the instructions of God, are often called bigoted or narrow-minded by those who choose to be "politically correct." However, the fact of the matter is, it is not up to our society to determine acceptable behavior, but rather God does that (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). So, knowing that, let's always strive to be "biblically correct" and let's be one who follows the commandments of God (1 John 5:3), no matter what (1 Peter 4:16), instead of one who follows the popular beliefs and opinions of men (Psalm 118:8).

My friends, do not fall into the "politically correct" trap, but rather be one who always take a stand for what is right and acceptable in the sight of God, and never be ashamed of doing so (1 Peter 3:15). Now, when we do stand for what is right and acceptable in the sight of God, we will be in opposition to those who claim to be "politically correct." However, we must never compromise the truth (Proverbs 23:23), and we must always remember these words of Jesus, "*He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad*" (Matthew 12:30). Now, I ask, were do you stand?

✍️ Brad Phillips



Editor's Note: I wrote the following article about 20 years ago but with announcements being sent out today I thought it appropriate to print it again to remind brethren what the work of the church really is and to quit insulting our youth. By the way, the Paul Watson mentioned in the article is not so little today. (JH)



INSULTING OUR YOUTH

While living in south Florida in the mid 1960's I received announcements from churches in the area of plans to have special activities for the

young people (especially juniors and seniors in high school) near the end of the school year. These activities included an annual “track and field meet” of the (as one group announced it) “south Florida district of the churches of Christ.” Another event in 1966 was a “Junior-Senior Banquet” with entertainment provided by Pat Boone (remember, this was 1966) and the “Belles and Beaux” of Harding College. Also, a “senior king and queen will be crowned” during the banquet. After the banquet they had all night bowling and then a breakfast served in the “fellowship hall” of one of the area churches. Those promoting these activities said they wanted to provide wholesome activities so the young people would not be attending such activities as the school sponsored proms. The newspaper article promoting these activities quotes the person they interviewed as saying, “The event is not underwritten by the churches, but by the interested parents and friends.”

Even though the events were announced and promoted by the churches and each congregation selected their own “king and queen” candidates and one church provided the place for the breakfast, they contended that it was “not underwritten by the churches.” In the years following many churches got involved in openly providing recreational and entertainment activities to attract the young. One preacher in the area at that time defended such by saying, “anything that may ultimately lead one to become interested in the gospel would be an authorized work of the church.” This is just another way of saying “the end justifies the means.” See what Paul said about such thinking in Romans 3:8.

Many opposed these activities then, not because they were bad within and of themselves, but because these things were not an authorized work of the church. Even though the claim was made that they were not paid for by the churches they were promoted as a work of the churches.

Recently, some of my brethren who spoke out against such activities as described above have engaged in the very same activities and making the same claim. They plan a “Teen Retreat” that includes Bible study, prayer and singing and, the next day, outdoor recreational activities and hay rides with meals provided. They later sent a letter explaining that they understood that recreation and social activities are not the work of the church and that these activities were not paid for by the church. This was the same statement made by those in south Florida in 1966.

I am convinced that all of these brethren are making the same mistake. And the mistake they are making is an insult to our young people. In essence they are saying to the young people, “You are too carnally minded

to respond to an invitation to simply study God’s word and engage in things spiritual.” If we truly believe that recreational and social activities are the responsibility of the home then why don’t we let the parents plan and provide such and let the church fulfill its responsibility of teaching and edifying?

At this time of year (summer) when many groups have their “Vacation Bible Schools” the announcements of these leave the impression they are, in the words of our own little Paul Watson, “having a party instead of a Bible study.” Whether its “kool-aid and cookies” or some of the previously mentioned activities, the appeal is the same.

Let’s quit insulting our young people by thinking the only way to get them interested in studying God’s word is to make a carnal appeal to them. There are those who desire to “*remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth*” (Ecclesiastes 12:1). I am convinced that we still have young people like Joseph and Daniel who love God and are dedicated to pleasing Him. They do not need some carnal attraction to get them to study God’s word. They respect those who are concerned enough about their souls to provide that spiritual teaching and training they need. They recognize that the social and recreational have their place, but it is not the work of the church to provide such. I am encouraged by the number of young people who refuse to participate in the previously mentioned activities because they recognize that such is not the work of the church and that it should not be made to appear such. In the word’s of many of the older preachers in days past, “Let the church be the church and let the home be the home.”

✍ James Hahn

Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

James Hahn (317) 745-1507