

Good News By Vic Dove

Buffet Christians

“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lust.” Roman 6:12

Being salt and light in our culture means obedience to God’s Word in all areas of our life. Some Christians try to choose which parts of the Word they want to accept, or which applications of God’s Word seem acceptable or unacceptable to them. Brethren compromise erodes our witness and weakens the influence of the body of Christ, to say nothing of the fact that it is disobedience-plain and simple-before our God, Redeemer, and Judge.

There is far too much “buffet-style” Christianity in the Body of Christ today. American consumers have grown so accustomed to the luxury of choices in every area of life that this pick-and-choose mentality has

seeped into our churches. We want Jesus as a friend, as a personal Savior for a private faith, as a financial counselor, a marriage counselor-a guidance counselor. However, obedience means that we regard Jesus as Lord and that we invite His Lordship into every nook and cranny of our lives, seen and unseen, private and public.

Have you been practicing a buffet-style Christian faith in any area of your life? Has guilt or fear kept you from humbling yourself before the Lord because there are some parts of your life you do not want to confront? Perhaps it is time for some spiritual housecleaning.

We serve a Lord of New Beginnings. With whom did God choose to make an everlasting covenant? Abraham a coward and a liar (Gen. 12:10-20).

Who was the one to whom God chose to give the Ten Commandments, including the command “Thou shall not kill”? Moses, a murderer. (Exodus 2: 11-14)

Who was the chosen leader with whom God

covenanted that his off spring would one day yield the Messiah? David, an adulterer and an accessory to murder (2 Sam. 11).

In addition, to who was Jesus referring when He said, “On this rock I will build My Church”? Peter, a man who cursed Him and denied Him three times (Matthew 16:8).

Your past does not determine your future. In Christ, we gain a new identity- a child of the Most High God. The opportunity for second chances does not weaken God’s sovereignty. He is long-suffering. He desires that we bring glory to Him with all of our life. God is grieved when we fall out of fellowship with Him as we segment our life into areas that honor Him and areas that dishonor Him. In love and grace, God seeks all of us for His glory. And all God’s people said- Amen! Amen.

Shoulder to Shoulder,
Bro. Vic

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or adopt certain behaviors, styles, or attitudes simply because others are doing so.

Unfortunately, the quick reading of this phenomena suggests that this in effect creates a cognitive bias. It appears Mayor Exum would like to rally the listening public prejudicing them against Councilman Bennefield, who has asked the Ray City Council to follow their own rules. Without the rules, there’s little point to having the expense of a City government. Instead, citizens could unincorporate their community and let the Berrien County Board of Commissioners handle their roads, water, sewer, etc.

The only arguments that occur in Ray City Council meetings are those that occur because Councilman Bennefield tries to get the council and mayor to follow the rules and be fair across the board. Instead, the audience listens to what seems like endless comments by Mayor Exum justifying her choice to unequally and not according to the Ray City Charter apply the laws that binds the City of Ray City.

The Ray City Charter is the legal document that defines the organization, powers,

functions, and essential procedures of the city government. The charter also details the form of municipal government, of which there are historically five forms, Ray City’s government is the Council form of government. The City council oversees the general administration, makes policy, sets budget.

This writer’s City of Ray City Code of the City appears to read something the following: Section 1-8 under general penalty reads “violation of Code” ... “failure to perform an act if the failure is declared a misdemeanor or an offense or unlawful by ordinance or by rule or regulation authorized by ordinance says, “unless otherwise provided, a person can be conflicted of a violation of the Code could be punished by an amount not to exceed \$200, imprisonment for a term not exceeding 60 days or compulsory labor for the city on the streets, sidewalks, squares, or other public places for a period not exceeding 60 days or any combination thereof.

Is a public official working for the citizens when...?

- official doesn’t update government’s website and keep current
- official commonly uses derogatory ‘pet’ names for anyone who does not hold identical views or anyone perceived as questioning or challenging
- official limits information available on a government’s website
- official offers solution which isn’t a full solution, just to appear ‘helpful’
- official tells staff to ignore Open Records requests instead of responding to them, hoping that the person will not pursue the request
- official doesn’t look for ways to be transparent, particularly with online information, limiting citizens right to know
- official calls citizen by name and labels a liar during public meeting?
- official tells citizens to take care of matters themselves, instead of enforcing ordinances?
- official creates community budget and minimizes board/council or citizens their right to know in advance and give input?
- official changes meetings to accommodate employee creating attendance problems for board/council and citizens.
- official constructs narrative for citizen by saying official held public meetings about which board/council never were informed.
- official pits people against each other to make one feel right and the other one wrong.
- official controls all the decision-making about everything including the responsibilities of a board/council.
- official claims truth is what’s being said at the moment, instead of information in accordance with fact or reality
- official tells citizens to follow the law, but privately doesn’t do it him/herself.