

BOOTS ON THE GROUND CHRISTIANITY - WEEK 6 Notes

Divorce: *Malachi 2:16 "I hate divorce, says the Lord God"*

While God hates divorce, He does give concessions in the Bible regarding divorce and remarriage. Here are two biblical reasons:

- Sexual i_____ (Matt 5:32, 19:9)
- A_____ (1 Cor 7:15, Exodus 21:10-11)

What about remarriage? This is where there is great debate in the church. **Luke's position:**

- Jesus speaks into a c_____ that took the ambiguity of Deuteronomy 24:1-4 too far!
- I believe that the victim in the divorce has a right to remarry.
- There is no biblical r_____ for the perpetrator in the divorce to remarry
- People who divorce for unbiblical reasons and remarry commit adultery.
- HOWEVER - divorcing your wife because of a sinful r_____ is WRONG
- two wrongs do not make a right!
- God is gracious to redeem our m_____!
- Divorce is not a command, but a concession - It is b_____ to forgive.
"Be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as Christ In God forgave you!" (Eph 4:32)

Technology and Artificial Intelligence

Stuff you should know:

- A.I. has been adopted by over 53% of the population in just 3 years!
- Ethics has always been l_____ to the discussion in all recent technological advancements (internet, biomedical, etc.)
- Ethics has been almost virtually a_____ from the discussion about A.I.
- Without ethics in the discussion, technologies go unregulated into d_____ places.

How will YOU morally deal with Technology? There are not explicit passages that deal with Technology, but there are implicit verses that may give us wisdom on how to navigate Tech and A.I.

- Genesis 3:4-5 - Eve and the Serpent
- Genesis 11:1-9 - The Tower of Babel
- Psalm 135:15-18 - "those who make them will be like them"
- 1 Corinthians 6:12 - "I will not be mastered by anything"
- John 14:26 - The Holy Spirit is OUR teacher.
- 1 Corinthians 8:1 - "Knowledge puffs up while love builds up."

CHURCH AND STATE, IRS POLICY and CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

CHURCH AND STATE:

- This statement is not in the c_____.
- This comes from a letter from Thomas Jefferson to the Danbury Baptist Association.
- The full statement is to ensure a protection of Religious liberty, not a forceful separation of religion from government.

TAX-EXEMPTION:

- This is morally n_____. There is no explicit Bible passage that clearly states whether this is right or wrong
- There are God-honoring benefits to tax exemption:
- Freedom for churches and donors to give and receive gifts without tax burden allows for more financial f_____ for the work of Christ!
- It respects and celebrates the first amendment and Jefferson's statement by protecting the church from the burden of g_____.
- I believe that the "Johnson Amendment" (1954) was governmental o_____ and not in accordance with the 1st Amendment and the Jefferson statement.
- It is the law of the land, and it can easily be respected while pushing for Christian morals in political discourse.

CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM:

Two takes:

- Christian A looks at separation between church and state as a B_____ conclusion.
- Christian B looks at the Bible and sees the mandate for Christians to i_____ every nook and cranny of society, culture, politics and government.

Passages in the Debate:

Matthew 22:20-22 ¹⁵ "Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words.

¹⁶ They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. ¹⁷ Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius,²⁰ and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?"

²¹ "Caesar's," they replied.

Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

²² When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away."

John 19:10-11 “¹⁰ “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?” ¹¹ Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

John 18:36: “Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

Philippians 3:20 “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,”

IN SUMMARY on CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

- We need to avoid e_____ as believers, such as the gnostic separation between the spiritual and the physical or “Christian” Pragmatism.
- Christian Nationalism is WIDELY m_____ and pigeonholed.
- Christian Nationalism is NOT “T_____”
- While Christian Nationalists may come to different conclusions than I do, they are consistently seeking to have Christ’s s_____ in ALL areas of life, and for that I heartily agree!
- Culture is c_____. Every culture/religion is on a spiritual conquest for ground. Christian, don’t sit on the sidelines!

COVID-19; A RETROSPECTIVE LOOK

Considering the 1st Amendment and Thomas Jefferson's letter. Laws and Mandates passed that impeded how houses of worship gathered were in violation to both. But does that define how the church should have acted?

- Hebrews 10:25 - do not forsake a _____. *Is virtual good enough?*
- Acts 5:29 - we must obey God rather than men _____. *was this a good reason to do so?*
- Psalm 91 - God will protect _____ us - *but does that mean to throw caution out?*
- Romans 13:1-7 - submit to governing authorities _____ - *did this cross a line?*
- Leviticus 13:45-46 - speaks of quarantining and social distancing _____ - *is this a model?*

ENVIRONMENTALISM

How are Christians supposed to respond to the environment? Are we for Environmentalism or against it?

- God cares about the earth _____. It's all his and he cares for it. (Matthew 10:29, Psalm 65:9-13, Colossians 1:16-17, Psalm 24:1)
- He has given mankind dominion _____ over all creation (Genesis 1:26, 9:3)
- Our dominion is not to be abused! We are called to be stewards _____. (Genesis 2:15)

Stewardship principles:

- We should show kindness to creatures _____, both those we own and those we don't (Proverbs 12:10, Exodus 23:4-5)
- We should be careful not to use but not to abuse _____ our animal resources (Deut 22:6)
- We should regularly give the land rest _____. "Smita" (Exodus 23:10-11)
- We should give rest to the produce _____ that produce and we should regularly give God our firstfruits _____. "Orlah" (Leviticus 19:23-25)
- We should never carelessly or needlessly deplete _____ our resources: "Bal Tashchit" (Deuteronomy 20:19)

IMMIGRATION:

- Treat the immigrant _____ with kindness, dignity and love (Exodus 22:21, Malachi 3:5, Deuteronomy 27:19, Matthew 25:35, Deuteronomy 1:16)
- Yet immigrants are to abide by the law of the land _____ (Leviticus 24:22)
- The Bible speaks clearly about the importance of borders _____ (Acts 17:26, Numbers 34:1-12)
- The Bible speaks against _____ those who move, distort, enlarge and invade borders (Amos 1:13, Proverbs 22:28, 23:10-11, Deuteronomy 19:14, 27:17)
- How do we respond _____? Show kindness, dignity and love to the immigrant, regardless of their immigration status and uphold the laws and borders of your nation.