



# The Truth

## The Truth Watch weekly newsletter

Volume VIII, Issue 5

“By the blessings of the upright the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.” (Proverbs 11:11)

*“If the church is ever to have the relevance in society that it appears to desire, then it is going to have to change its approach. If they don’t see Jesus in us, then all they see is us.”*  
 –Dave



I’m going to make this column personal. It will be personal for you and for me. I’ll begin by asking us a soul-penetrating question. Can you be friends with your political opponents? Have you, or has a friend, broken a long-lasting relationship based off a political argument?

If you did so, do you regret it? Do you miss your old friend with whom you used to go to ballgames, play a round of golf, or just hang out? Can you even remember the basis of the argument? If you can’t, you need to. Why? You need to remember so you can determine if it was worth losing your old friend.

Factionalism, which is self-interested partisanship, has ripped the fabric of America asunder. Is it just political divisiveness, or is it something deeper? Have we all become political snowflakes to

some degree because we view the stakes as being too high to lose?

Or could it be the safety and somewhat anonymity we have with social media? Have we lost the ability to talk face-to-face, to listen to each side, answer questions that may arise from differing opinions?

This does not mean I’m trying to conjure up some kumbaya or Shangri-La state where we all just get along; only John Lennon could imagine such a false utopia.

Of course, we need to stand on biblical principles against the lies of Satan and the Left. However, can we not do so without fracturing, or worse, rupturing relationships we once held dear? The virtual battlefield we tend to wade into is seeping into our real lives. I would guess that many people can’t tell the difference between the two; the virtual and reality.

(Continued on next page)



## CONTINUED

The problem is that we are all usually trying to make political points, imagining our brilliance is somehow affecting the universe through our 137 Twitter followers and 429 imaginary Facebook friends.

I can't ever remember agreeing with comedian Colin Quinn, but I do agree with one quote of his:

“A lot of lip service gets paid to being honest, but no one really wants to hear it unless what's being said is the party line.” That!

I'm as guilty as anyone with Colin's take on being honest. I have rejected truth because it upset my little political world and sense of moral superiority. It's so hard to remember I'm not always right, even though proven so more times than I care to remember.

How did we get here and how do we get out of it? I'm not sure; but I'll offer some thoughts and suggestions. Turn the page for those...

# FROM THE FOUNDERS



**The concern for factionalism has been around since before America's founding. The measures in our Constitution were constructed in part to protect our citizens from themselves. This is why self-government is an essential element.**

"As long as the reason of man continues fallible, and he is at liberty to exercise it, different opinions will be formed. As long as the connection subsists between his reason and his self-love, his opinions and his passions will have a reciprocal influence on each other; and the former will be objects to which the latter will attach themselves." James Madison, [\*Federalist #10\*](#).

At times I feel at a loss as to how to deal with the rancorous discourse in our society, and not just in the political arena. I go from believing I'm right and you're wrong, and back to a line from an old Dave Mason song:

*"There ain't no good guy; there ain't no bad guy. There's just you and me and we just disagree."*

It's not the disagreeing that is tearing the very fabric of society asunder; it's how we disagree. It is true that our Founders' passions at times would get the best of them, but civility would almost always carry the day. This is because these gentlemen had to face each other daily and knew that pettiness would surely sink the Good Ship America as would any direct hit from a cannonball. Each man had to overcome his own "self-love, his opinions and his passions" in order to form a more perfect union.

Madison addressed the remedies for "the mischiefs of faction." He opined that only destroying personal liberties or to disallow the will of the people to influence government. The problem with government has always been "sown in the nature of man." The desire for power is an enticing aphrodisiac that can only be overcome by stronger than man.

It takes supernatural power to overcome man's natural instinct of self-interest and power.

Turn the page for more on that...

# FROM THE PULPIT

“Christians today are mad at the world. We’re mad about movies, the media, the militant movements...of...gays and lesbians. We’re mad about the ACLU, condoms in school, crime on the streets, and drugs in our neighborhood. We’re mad about education, the impact of society upon our children, and abortion activists. The world views Christianity as more of an angry political activist movement than a spiritual organization devoted to handing out hope and healing to a hurting world. Too often, when the world is hurting, our response is to say, ‘Well, it serves them right. We warned them this would happen.’” Pastor Jeremy Myers, “Loving Those You’d Rather Hate” [sermon](#), July 11, 2015.

Pastor Jeremy’s sermon hits home in my heart. My pastor, Dr. Dennis Brunet, says the church is completely irrelevant in today’s society. Rarely is a pastor brought into the conversation about something in our culture. When one is, such as Franklin Graham or Dr. Robert Jeffress, usually it is to defend the actions of President Trump. Normally, that is an attempt to discredit evangelicals in their defense of real or purported sins by Trump.

Pastor Jeremy’s sermon is based on Luke 6:27-28: **“But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.”** I must confess, that is one of the toughest teachings of Jesus for me to follow. However, Pastor Jeremy gives great ideas on how to love as Jesus commands.

What has happened in my life that’s brought great conviction to how I deal with my enemies, is that I don’t want Jesus pointing them out to me and asking why I never told them about Him. I’ve been very apt at telling them their sins and how wrong they are on certain cultural issues. Have I told them of my Redeemer? Have I asked them if they’ve noticed a change in me over the years, one that is hopefully overall positive. Sadly, I know that I fall into the category Pastor Jeremy brings up:

*“I am convinced that one of the reasons so much evangelism fails today is because people cannot see the love and grace of God in our lives and actions. Forget showing love to our enemies for the moment, most of the time, we don’t even show love to our own brothers and sisters in Christ!”*

OUCH! Understand that our enemies are real. They hate God and they hate us. They are bitter souls who seek to do evil, many completely oblivious to the path on which they travel. That is why they need our love to show them the way to Jesus. Turn the page to find out how we do that...

# TO THE STREETS

WE the People of God have much work to do. We have lost our way in the Great Commission and violated the Greatest Commandment. This is why we are ineffective in our culture as a whole and the term evangelicalism has become a term no longer clearly defined. We aren't who we say we are and those posing as us are making a bigger impact in our culture to the detriment of Christ's church.

If we want to see the change in our culture, the culture will have to see the change in us. That change starts with you and me and here are some steps we need to take for the change to be real:

1. If Jesus is not your Lord and Savior, then you can't do any of this. Being a conservative is not what I'm talking about. Conservatism is rooted in biblical principles, and if you're not grounded in the Word of God, you're faking it. If you are a Christian, then along with me, let's make a new commitment to Christ to be the salt and light He has called us to be. Without this step, we can't go on...
2. That friend of yours I wrote of in "Unshackled." How about starting there? How about reaching out to that friend and asking him or her to forgive you for your contentious behavior. Perhaps you didn't contend with them; it was all one-sided. Apologize to them for upsetting them over something as silly as politics. It may not work, but you'll have a clear conscience knowing you tried.
3. Do you have a friend, relative, associate, or neighbor you consider an enemy? I'm talking someone who hates God and hates that you are a Christian. How do you share Christ with them? Do what Pastor Cho in South Korea has his congregation do. Perform three good deeds for your enemy before you witness to them about Jesus. Good deeds for Jesus will soften their heart.
4. Make a new commitment to be in the Word daily. Without Scripture, our stinking thinking begins to grow roots and the next thing you know you're back in the cesspool slinging mud and mocking your enemies. There is a better way.

Christian Patriots, we love our country. Do we love Jesus more? Do we love people more? Do we love the Truth more? It all comes down to what we hold the dearest in our hearts. Let that be Jesus!

This copy is for your personal, noncommercial use.  
If you intend to reprint this e-newsletter you must obtain permission prior to publication.  
The Truth Newsletter is a for profit publication and is for subscribers only.  
Please tell all your family and friends about The Truth Watch and invite them to join us.