

The Second Nation Building Principle Part II

Nationbuilding Principles

“No other persons decisions about your life are more important than your own decisions about your life”

The Two Paradigms

ISSUE	SIN PARADIGM	RIGHTS PARADIGM
RELATIONSHIP	GOD	MAN
PRIORITY	GLORIFY GOD	ACHIEVE RIGHTS
ENEMY	SATAN	RACISM, INJUSTICE
POWER SOURCE	HOLY SPIRIT	HUMAN ABILITY
ACTIVITY	MAKE DISCIPLES	IMPACT THE SYSTEM
MESSAGE	THE GOSPEL	DOCTRINE OF OPPRESSION
CONSEQUENCES	RETARDS CULTURAL DECAY	ACCELERATES BREAKDOWN OF SOCIETY

Job

- This very issue of environment versus decision is a primary controversy between GOD and Satan. The Book of Job concerns the issue of whether the devil can change the character of Job by changing his environment.
 - Job 1:6-11
 - 6 One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. 7 The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it." 8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." 9 "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. 10 "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. 11 But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." NIV

Job

- Gods' argument is that man is responsible for his decisions, irrespective of his environment. On the other hand, Satan is busily manipulating the environment, circumstances, to prove that GOD is culpable for the decisions of His creatures, due to the environment in which He placed them.
 - Job 2:1-3
 - On another day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him. 2 And the LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it." 3 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason." NIV

Job

- The Rights Paradigm has as its objective, consciously or not, the change of circumstances. The Rights Paradigm minister has aligned himself with a program which may provide apparent results, but must ultimately fail to provide what black America really needs, the personal renovation provided only by the gospel of Christ.

Objections

- Is the black community to cease the pursuit of equal rights as Americans?
 - No. The black community is obligated as citizens to pursue the proper functioning of the law for itself and for any other oppressed group. The issue is: what is the primary function of the Pastor and the local church? That function is the transformation of men and women through the Gospel. It just so happens that this is also the only proven method of transforming society.

Objections

- Does this mean that the local church should abandon its traditional role as the source of political action?
 - Yes. Christ did not die to provide a basis for political action. The Man of God was not called by Him to acquire and to wield political or economic power. Although every believer has a private right and obligation to function politically, it is the calling of the church to seek and to save the lost.

Objections

- Didn't the early, "sin paradigm" churches and pastors in black America approve of political action?
 - Yes, but not in the way that you may think. Biblically oriented pastors did not believe that political action was the primary means by which individuals or society is changed. Biblical pastors did not abandon the scriptures to pursue exclusively worldly solutions. They saw political action as a constructive tool, not as the ultimate solution. They understood that no other persons decisions about your life (including decisions made by politicians and businessmen) are more important than your own decisions about your life. Therefore, to change society, you must change men and women and this is the job of the Gospel.

Objections

- What about the civil rights movement? We would not have what we have today without it would we?
 - Perhaps. It depends upon what you mean when you say “what we have today”. If you mean political rights and economic opportunity, it should be noted that the efforts to secure these rights did not begin in the 1950’s. Many individuals in many walks of life were pursuing these ends since before the civil war. There would have been political progress for black Americans regardless of the civil rights movement.
 - On the other hand, if you mean by “what we have today” the weakening of marriage and the family, increased crime and poverty and a general departure from the accurate teaching of the Word of God in the black community-then I would say that the Rights Paradigm has made a significant contribution to “what we have today” by its de-emphasis of the scripture and the gospel.

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