

The Third Nationbuilding Principle

Nationbuilding Principles

In unequal power relationships,
spiritual power overcomes
worldly power. God can and does
overcome the advantage of the
powerful in behalf of those who
have his favor.

Part One: The Reality of Inequality

Its Not Your Imagination

Inequality

- Inequality is always a reality in a world where personal decisions have consequences
 - **Nationbuilding Principle #2** indicates that our decisions have great impact upon our environment and our future, greater impact than the decisions of others.
 - Read Ezek 18:1-9

Inequality

- Inequality is always a reality in a world that is dominated by sin
 - Mans tendency to avoid the affects of the fall by the exploitation of others
 - By maintaining economic and political inequality
 - Genesis 15:13 (NASB95)
13 God said to Abram, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and **oppressed** four hundred years.
 - The Egyptians attempted to shift the most undesirable tasks and labors unto slaves, further enriching themselves oin the process.

Inequality

- Inequality is always a reality in a world that is dominated by sin
 - Mans tendency to seek unearned self esteem by elevating self and marginalizing or dehumanizing others
 - By maintaining **historical**, theological and social inequality
 - "The Samaritan was publicly cursed in their synagogues-could not be adduced as a witness in the Jewish courts-could not be admitted to any sort of proselytism, and was thus, so far as the Jew could affect his position, excluded from eternal life."
 - (from The New Unger's Bible Dictionary. Originally published by Moody Press of Chicago, Illinois. Copyright (c) 1988.)

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 - Gen 9:18-25
 - To understand the words of Noah with reference to his sons (vv. 25-27), we must bear in mind, on the one hand, that as the moral nature of the patriarch was transmitted by generation to his descendants, so the diversities of character in the sons of Noah foreshadowed diversities in the moral inclinations of the tribes of which they were the head; and on the other hand, that Noah, through the Spirit and power of that God with whom he walked, discerned in the moral nature of his sons, and the different tendencies which they already displayed, the germinal commencement of the future course of their posterity, and uttered words of blessing and of curse, which were prophetic of the history of the tribes that descended from them. In the sin of Ham "there lies the great stain of the whole Hamitic race, whose chief characteristic is sexual sin" (Ziegler); and the curse which Noah pronounced upon this sin still rests upon the race
 - (from Keil & Delitzsch Commentary on the Old Testament: New Updated Edition, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1996 by Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.)

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 - “Lacking much opportunity for repeated close contact with a wide variety of Blacks, Whites rely heavily upon cultural material, especially media images, for cataloguing Blacks. The mediated (media-rw) communications help explain the tenacious survival of racial stereotypes despite a social norm that dampens public admission of prejudice. And they help explain pervasive White ambivalence that shrinks from open prejudice but harbors reactivefear, resentment, and denial that the prejudice itself widely exists.” *Black Image in the White Mind*, Entman and Rojecki, 2001 pg 49 (emphasis mine rw)

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 - “Since Mangums study, scholars in various disciplines have a steady flow of increasingly sophisticated empirical studies on race and capital sentencing. Most of them strongly suggest that, because of race, defendants who kill whites are more likely to be sentenced to death than defendants who kill blacks. The most comprehensive of these studies investigated the disposition of over two thousand murder cases in Georgia between 1973 and 1979. It found that even after accounting for every non racial variable that might plausibly have mattered, the odds of being condemned to death were 4.3 times greater for defendants who killed whites than for defendants who killed blacks...” Race, Crime, and the Law, Randall Kennedy, 1997 pg74

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Scriptural Principles

- **Deut 28:1-2**

- Now it shall be, if you will diligently obey the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. NAS
- There is a relationship between the attitude of a people towards the Word of God and their ultimate success as a nation.
- Of course, the nation must have an accurate proclamation of the Word to obey. Inaccurate teaching short-circuits the national entity as effectively as disobedience to accurate teaching.

Scriptural Principles

- **Matt 5:13-16**

- "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 "Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. NAS
- The believer has a disproportionate impact upon history through his obedience or disobedience to the Word of God. By his invisible spiritual impact, the believer in Jesus Christ changes history by impeding the advance of sin and evil in the world.

Scriptural Principles

- **Acts 10:34-36**

- And opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, 35 but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right, is welcome to Him. NAS

- **Proverbs 14:34**

- Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a disgrace to any people. NAS

Scriptural Principles

- **Proverbs 11:10-11**
 - When it goes well with the righteous, **the city** rejoices, And when the wicked perish, there is glad shouting. 11 By the blessing of the upright **a city** is exalted, But by the mouth of the wicked it is torn down. NAS
- God's principles of nationbuilding **transcend national and cultural boundaries**. A critical mass of believers living in obedience to the Word of God produces significant historical impact.

How the Church Impacts History

- Stage One
 - The pastor faithfully proclaims the Word to the congregation
 - Frequently-the pastor has a full schedule of expository teaching. He is involved in discipleship efforts whereby believers learn to apply knowledge of the scriptures
 - Accurately-the pastor fearlessly proclaims orthodox doctrine to the congregation despite the specific sin patterns in his church and despite the cultural environment of his community
 - Systematically-The pastor teaches the whole counsel of the Word of God, careful to teach Old Testament and New, Gospels, epistles and theology to the congregation

How the Church Impacts History

- Stage Two
 - The congregation grows spiritually as a result of the teaching of the teaching elders of the church
 - The outcome of spiritual growth is effective witness in the community. The growing disciple models the following in society:
 - Biblical marriage values
 - Biblical family/ child rearing values
 - Biblical workplace values
 - Biblical citizenship values
 - Biblical cultural values
 - The growing disciple also provides effective evangelism to the community resulting in the salvation of the lost, as well as international missionary activity.

How the Church Impacts History

- Stage Three
 - Society is transformed on every level as the churches' salt and light functions operate
 - The models provided by growing believers create **morality** in the community as unbelievers are impacted by positive examples
 - Effective evangelism results in more believers, multiplying the modeling impact and increasing the positive influence
 - God has obligated himself to blessing the maturing believer, and these blessings overflow to the surrounding community. Families, businesses and neighborhoods are blessed as a result of association with mature believers
 - Cultural transformation begins as the national aesthetic is informed by a new moral consciousness

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