

5 - Christianity and Critical Theory: Response

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

~Philippians 3:20-4:1~

"Perhaps some drooping souls find their hearts fail them, while they see their enemies strong and they so weak...Let not these or any other thoughts dismay you; but with undaunted courage march on, and be strong in the Lord, on whose performance lies the stress of the battle, and not on your strength or skill."

- William Gurnall

"If we reckon humility, heavenly mindedness, contempt of the world, and longing desires after heaven, to be the real interest and advantage of the church; then it is evident, nothing so much promotes their interest, as a suffering condition doth: Adversity kills those corruptions which prosperity bred."

- John Flavel

I. Pursue of Biblical Piety with Earnestness and Sincerity

A. Private (Ps 15)

B. Family (Ps 127-128)

C. Public (Acts 24:16)

Public sincerity that reflects private integrity
Stephen, Acts 6-8, Dorcas, Acts 9

"The facts just stated show that the struggle cannot but be long and arduous. The friends of truth must therefore 'with good advice make war.' While never shirking ecclesiastical discussion when the aggressiveness of error challenges them to it, their chief reliance for victory must be upon the faithful preaching of the old-fashioned gospel and upon godly living."

- Robert L. Dabney

II. Resolve Yourself to Stand With and For Christ

A. Make the Word of God Your Standard (2 Tim 3)

B. Reject the Lies of our Age (Romans 3:13-14)

"The foundation of totalitarianism is an ideology of lies. The system depends for its existence on a peoples' fear of challenging the lies...Our way must be, 'never knowingly support lies.' You may not have the strength to stand up in public and say what you really believe, but you can at least refuse to affirm what you do not believe. You may not be able to overthrow totalitarianism, but you can find within yourself and your community to live within the dignity of truth. If we must live under the dictatorship of lies, then our response must be, 'Let their rule hold not through me.'"

- Alexander Solzhenitsyn

C. Follow the Lamb Wherever He Goes (Rev 14:1-5)

1. Pure

2. Devoted

3. Precious

4. Truth-lovers

5. Blameless

III. Commit to Building Christian Community

A. Worship and Discipleship (Matt 28:18-20)

B. Evangelism (Col 4:2-6)

C. Education (Neh 13:24)

D. Political Engagement (Dan 4:27, Mark 14:3-4)

Christianity and its true ministers make it their main business to address the individual; and their topics are his own duties and sins. They separate him, they tell him his spiritual necessities; they say: "Thou art the man"; they teach him to make his own spiritual amendment his chief care. Thus, by sanctifying each individual, human society is effectually regenerated; and organic evils easily disappear.

- Robert L. Dabney

E. Business Endeavors (Acts 16:14-15, Rom 16:1-2, 1 Cor 16:19, Col 4:15)

IV. Do not be Naïve

A. About the World (Gal 1:4, James 4:4)

B. About the War

1. No neutrality (Ps 2, Eph 2)

a. In the World

b. Sadly, sometimes, in the Church (2Tim 3:13-14)

c. A word about false teachers

1) What to know about them

2) How to spot them (2 Pet 2)

Covetous - v3, 14, 15, Deceitful - v3, Lustful - v10, 14, 18,

Arrogant - v10, Ignorant - v12

2. No immaturity (Eph 4:11-14)

3. No untethered randomness (Amps 3:6)

V. Do not Be Ashamed

A. When opposed for the Gospel (1 Pet 4:12-16)

B. To be associated with Christ (2 Tim 1:8, 10)

Praise the Lord. Cheer for the saints. Detest the Beast. Long for the final victory.

- Vern Poythress