

Conservatism is Not Politically Correct by Fred DeRuvo

In a very real sense, conservatism – whether biblical or political – is under fire today because it is said that a belief system based on conservative *ideas* often serves to benefit only one group: *heterosexual, able-bodied Christians (mainly male at that)*. That belief is faulty at best, but that does not stop those opposed to conservative values from continuing the attack.

On many fronts, the notion that conservatism can be or is a good thing is highly debated *by* many (especially from the politically correct Left), enough so that there is a felt need to continue to malign and castigate those within the community of conservatives. *Ultimately, the feeling is that it should be overturned and replaced with something else entirely since it is also believed that conservatism falls woefully short of creating true equality and freedom within society.*

Of course, what people say and believe is one thing. What they can prove is another altogether, and we saw shades of this with our last chapter on Critical Race Theory. Truth really does not seem to matter to the politically correct. The only thing that matters is if it sounds like it could be true and whether or not it fits their unspoken agenda.

I was reading an article by Dr. Michael Bauman called “*Begin Here: Civility or Equality?*”¹ It struck a nerve, largely because the things he discusses resonate within me as I see how they impact society. Obviously, the idea of a “civilization” is based on people being civil to one another. His thesis statement is that sound political theology is the best way to bring that about throughout all of society.

But of course, what we have throughout society today is anything but sound political theology, in my opinion. It is more like open season on anything that even smacks of true conservatism because conservatism should be disallowed.

The rhetoric from those opposed to conservatism is heated, often libelous, and too often absurd, though they refuse to see it that way or admit to it, even when it is clear they are making statements that are patently false and even irrelevant. Yet the vehemence with which they address the issue of conservatism is done to polarize those who firmly believe that conservatism best represents the actual biblical revelation from God as well as the attendant mandate for society.

¹ <http://www.theimaginativeconservative.org/begin-here-civility-equality/#.UUneXVd5ckV> (03/26/2013)

Bauman notes several things about what he refers to as sound political theology. *“Sound political theology is the means by which we can identify the insights of revelation and apply them prudently to the political order. Sound political theology is the wisdom and moral imagination that springs from revelation properly understood and wisely applied. Sound political theology is the theologically and historically informed prudence necessary to preserve the best of the past for ourselves and for our posterity in light of what God has done and said. Sadly, even tragically, political theology of this high order is as rare as it is necessary.”*²

In truth, sound political theology as referenced by Bauman is fast becoming outmoded, pushed to the side by the politically correct militants of our day, who desperately feel the need to throw off the fetters that remind us of God's authority over His Creation. The desire of today is to replace, redefine, and renege. But like many things emanating from the politically correct arena, the premise of many within those groups that purpose to accomplish this is flawed at best.

That premise starts with something that has nothing to do with God's absolute truth and everything to do with a thorny relativism that impinges and contorts reality into something that is not discernible, yet claims to be the actual and informed meaning of God's truth. In short, it sets out to produce what by God's standards is a very poor shadow of His absolute truth – a very poor shadow indeed. Yet in reality, this is the best that Satan can come up with. What could possibly be better than God's absolutes for a people or a nation, or for the world and all of God's Creation, for that matter?

Bauman speaks of the fact that many in society chase after and even demand equality and freedom when they should instead be pursuing justice since both equality and freedom are to him antithetical. The more we pursue equality and/or freedom, the less justice there is in the world, because for each person, there is a new definition of freedom...for them. This ever-changing definition of freedom creates injustice for someone else. When someone desires more freedom, as Bauman notes, the first rational question to ask is, freedom to do what? There is no definitive notion of freedom that works for everyone. It is not a one-size fits all commodity.

Therefore, he notes further that “unlike equality and freedom, justice is not an impracticable metaphysical abstraction. Justice is getting what you deserve. The pursuit and preservation of justice maintains the order of soul and of society necessary for human flourishing.

“To the requirements of justice, we all are born subject. No contrivance, political or otherwise, can or should extricate us from its obligations, which come from God Himself. To reject

² <http://www.theimaginativeconservative.org/begin-here-civility-equality/#.UUneXVd5ckV> (03/26/2013)

these obligations is to tear apart the fabric both of soul and of society. No person, no polity, can long endure, much less prosper, outside the obligations of justice.”³

When contemplated, the facts inherent within the above statements speak for themselves. Unfortunately, the opposite is what is happening within society today because of the dereliction of duty by our elected officials (who have sworn to uphold the rule of law of America, but fail to follow through on that promise) as well as the fallacies instilled in America from those within the politically correct arena that are given too much sway in society.

We cannot at the same time allow those opposed to God's morality and absolute truth to hold their position of power in society while believing that their understanding of truth is as good as any, since it is clear that they reject God's absolutes in favor of their own thorny relativism. These forces are at odds and there is no way to marry them. The choice then becomes: which one to follow?

Bauman speaks of the metaphysical aspects of “equality” and “freedom” and how emphasis on these areas confuses the difference between the absolutes of God's revelation with what he calls the “sloganeering” of those opposed to them. Of course, the politically correct love to create slogans and labels that they can quickly attach to anyone who opposes them. This is done to shut down dialogue and debate because those within politically correct circles cannot muster the strength or intellect to adequately respond to the facts of the matter. It is far easier and more beneficial that they do what they can to immediately squelch discussion. For them, “sloganeering” is one of the primary ways for this to be accomplished.

Imagine attempting to discuss your concerns with one of the keynote speakers from our last chapter dealing with “CREATE Wisconsin.” Imagine how quickly you would be called a racist (or something else, depending upon your race) if you dared question the motives, the rationale, or the facts surrounding what these individuals believe and propose regarding Critical Race Theory.

If you watched the video we mentioned in the last episode⁴, you saw how the Superintendent of Public School Instruction of Wisconsin was really unable to answer the question posed by the interviewer. He did what he could to misdirect and foist blame back on the individual asking the question. This is the game as far as they are concerned. It has to do with kowtowing to a group, whether or not facts support the direction that group is moving in. Because of political correctness, ideas are often deemed correct in spite of the lack of

³ <http://www.theimaginativeconservative.org/begin-here-civility-equality/#.UUneXVd5ckV> (03/26/2013)

⁴ http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=ImDTbWkt9ks

factual support for those ideas, especially when it has to do with things like “white privilege.”

Bauman notes, *“In short, we must not begin with metaphysical abstractions, no matter how desirable we might think they are. We begin with revelation and with the world as it is in all its incalculable complexity, a complexity that mocks the facile imposition of abstractions and easy recourse to metaphysical sloganeering. Sloganeers are fools, as are those who vote for them. Justice, for those requiring a reminder, is not an abstraction but a moral, social, and judicial obligation placed upon us by God. As much as we can do so, we are obligated to give folks what they deserve.”*⁵ [emphasis added]

I have met too many “sloganeers,” and I’m sure you have as well. They believe for all their pontificating, labeling, huffing and puffing that they make great strides in society, helping to push civilization to the next higher level. Unfortunately, they do nothing of the kind, but in fact simply help the downward spiral within culture to advance that much more quickly.

Thank you for joining me today. We’ll continue with this next time and until we meet again, may God open your eyes to show you how greatly blessed you are in Him!

⁵ <http://www.theimaginativeconservative.org/begin-here-civility-equality/#.UUneXVd5ckV> (03/26/2013)