

Friday with Fred – June 9, 2017



Vision is Vital

I must confess at times I feel overwhelmed with all the news, fake or otherwise, that I find myself exposed to. And the truth is, it's difficult not to get concerned. The tension between Christianity and culture is perennial and will continue to be that way until Jesus returns. Perhaps some wisdom and perspective from the past might be of help.

There was a second-century letter from an unknown author to a person named Diognetus that observed how early Christians distinguished themselves from their perverted culture:

"Christians are indistinguishable from other men either by nationality, language, or customs. They do not inhabit separate cities of their own, or speak a strange dialect, or follow some outlandish way of life. . . . With regard to dress, food, and manner of life in general, they follow the customs of whatever city they happen to be living in, whether it is Greek or foreign.

And yet there is something extraordinary about their lives. They live in their own countries as though they were only passing through. They play their full role as citizens, but labor under all the disabilities of aliens. Any country can be their homeland, but for them their homeland, wherever it may be, is a foreign country.

Like others, they marry and have children, but they do not [kill] them. They share their meals, but not their wives. They live in the flesh, but they are not governed by the desires of the flesh. They pass their days upon earth, but they are citizens of heaven. Obedient to the law, they yet live on a level that transcends the law."

So I ask you as I ask myself the question that Francis Schaeffer asked to his Christian audience: How should we then live? The biblical answer is to live with holy conduct and a heavenly outlook.

For those of us who desire justice here on earth; I think that is not going to happen until the King returns. Until He does, it is helpful to remember the words of Miroslav Volf; "The practice of nonviolence requires a belief in divine vengeance."

All will be made right! Believe it!

Serving Him with you
Until He comes for us,
Fred

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