Ideological Battlefields

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I ideological Battlefields

A House Divided

Facing Christian Educators

Cannot stand.

Against itself

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November 2007

Dallas, Texas

ACSI Convention
Bill O'Reilly, Rod Parsley, Barna Research Group, David Kinnaman, and Charles Colson

Culture Warrior, Culturally Incorrect, Revolution, Un-Christian, and How Now Shall We Live.

"A House Divided Against itself Cannot stand."
One horse represents Christian values based on Right and Wrong, of Truth and of Value. The other of political correctness and tolerance, of diversity and ideological independence. The rider (Christian Educators) has attempted to keep these two mighty forces parallel for the past two hundred years.

It works, as this picture depicts, as long as both horses move in the same direction and at the same speed. When Christian values and political correctness are considered as these two horses, what conflicts will the rider face when these mighty forces decide on a new direction and a faster speed that is not acceptable to the rider.
Values and Culture were impacted, equally, by each piece of a student’s life. Now, who controls a student’s values and cultural thinking and reactions?
Fox News host Bill O'Reilly claimed that "it's all part of the secular progressive agenda ... to get Christianity and spirituality and Judaism out of the public square." (November 21, 2005)
In *Total Truth*, Nancy Pearcey (2004) says: “As Christian parents, pastors, teachers, and youth group leaders, we constantly see young people pulled down by the undertow of powerful cultural trends. If all we give them is heart religion, it will not be strong enough to counter the lure of attractive but dangerous ideas….Training young people to develop a Christian mind [worldview] is no longer an option; it is part of their necessary survival equipment” (p. 19).
Children Going To War

Without Armor!
Ideological Battlefield #1
What Will We Call God?

"A House Divided Against itself Cannot stand."
"Allah is a very beautiful word for God.....What does God care what we call him?" He contends that “people of all faiths refer to God as Allah.....” (The Herald Sun, Melbourne, Australia, www.albertmohler.com/blog read php?id=991)

“It reinforces the fact that Muslims, Christians, and Jews all worship the same God” (Ibrahim Hooper, Council on America-Islamic Relations)
In a very dramatic scene in “Kingdom of Heaven” a priest, when confronted with certain death from the invading Muslims, said “let’s convert and then repent later”. Are we being forced into a cultural position where this is not an option for Christian Educators?
I ideological Battlefield #2

"A House Divided Cannot stand."

Against itself

What do we consider a mixed marriage and thus parents?
According to California’s 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, words like “natural family”, “marriage”, and “union between a man and a woman” would be considered hate speech. This is probably headed for the U.S. Supreme Court. (House Bill 1592 and Senate Bill 110).
I ideological battlefield #3
What will be considered appropriate couples for the senior prom and dance?
"A house divided cannot stand."
Against itself.
ENDA (Employment Non-Discriminatory Act-H.R. 2015) was proposed and slated for a vote on November 6th. Very few religious exemptions will meet this mandate. The approving of legislation such as this will declare sexual preferences are equally valid. This has not been applied to students attending a school function but can be extrapolated to apply even to that level. If this legislation makes illegal any discrimination in hiring practices for sexual orientation, can Christian schools or church screen and fire employees practicing what is considered protected under ENDA? Sexual activity within the student body has always been considered unacceptable in any form in our Christian Schools, punishable by expulsion. Will ENDA guidelines apply to your student body? Can a case be made that this behavior is protected and therefore any action to stop this behavior or remove the students from school because of this behavior is illegal and discriminatory?
NEA and OEA Letter To Congressional Representative

How Real Is This Issue Today?
Forty years ago our culture was not that foreign to our Christian beliefs. It was like a small amount of cultural red dye dropped into our Christian glass of water. The change was so slight it couldn’t be seen. However, now the entire bottle of cultural red dye has been poured into our glass.
I ideological Battlefield #4

What Constitutes a Viable Applicant for a Teaching Position with Your School?

"A House Divided Against itself Cannot stand."
The position of teacher of religion at a Christian School or church-related school would be exempt from the guidelines of ENDA. However, the position of Biology teacher, English teacher, Coach, Principal, and Counselor would not be exempt. This means that the church would be forced to hire applicants despite the fact that their lifestyle is in direct conflict with the religious beliefs of the school or church. This would apply to Church camps, summer camps, Boy Scouts, Christian Bookstores, etc.
Ideological Battlefield #5
What Will We Accept
As Science Truth?

"A House Divided
Against itself
Cannot stand."
The National Science Foundation Standards present, "explanations of how the natural world changes are based on myths, personal beliefs, religious values, mystical inspiration, superstition, or authority may be personally useful and socially relevant, but they are not scientific." (page 201)

"the freedoms of speech from viewpoint discrimination, religion and association, arbitrary discretion, equal protection of the laws, and from hostility toward religion, are being challenged." (ACSI Legal/legislative update, 2006-2007)
The plaintiff in the case was the ASCI, Calvary Chapel Christian School of Marietta, and several high school students. The suit claimed the students were being denied their religious freedom and the equal opportunity for a college education. A meeting was set by a state legislator with all concerned parties. The facts presented by the U of C concerning these textbooks, caused rejection due to their Christian teaching, although there was no evidence that these current college students had a deficit in the core areas. There was no problem with the material presented in the textbook, such as the Bob Jones Physics text. The book would have been approved if the Scripture that opened each chapter was removed. The science books were rejected as they gave God more authority than science observation.
Ideological Battlefield #6
Will We Accept A Censored Bible?

"A House Divided Against itself Cannot stand."
Hate Speech - Romans 1 and 1st Corinthians 6

Omega Code Challenge

Creation

Gender Neutral
Ideological Battlefield #7

Has Christianity Mingled with the Culture?

"A House Divided Against itself Cannot stand."
"We hear an awful lot from conservatives in the Bible Belt and the TV about how we all should be living. Certainly a culture that teaches the conservative religious values of the Christian right must have clean living written all over it, and lots of ripe fruit from their morally superior lives abounding. It doesn't! Far from it! People that talk the loudest may be the ones walking the slowest. Joining its history of Biblically correct bigotry and discrimination, it is an area with the highest divorce, murder, STD/HIV/AIDS, teen pregnancy, single parent homes, infant mortality, and obesity rates in the nation. As a region, the Bible Belt has the poorest health care systems and the lowest rates of high school graduation."
Cultural Christianity has come to rely on views outside the church to tell them what is truth and what is moral. A Supreme Court judge said, “Nothing is more certain in modern society than the principle that there are no absolutes.”

Cultural Christianity embraces the concept that the majority must be right. If it is 51%, it must be correct. If everyone else is doing it, it must be OK.

Cultural Christians live by the notion that personal peace, affluence and prosperity, and popularity and cultural tolerance are the standards by which we measure success. (Schaeffer, Francis)

Consider this. “North America is the only continent in the world not growing in Christianity.” (Jim Cymbola: Brooklyn Tabernacle Church)

Why????????
“...Christianity’s image problem is not merely the perception of young outsiders. Those inside the church see it as well - especially Christians in their twenties and thirties. I was unprepared for the research showing that Mosaic and Buster Christians are skeptical of present-day Christianity.”

(Kinnaman, David, Un-Christian, p. 18)
Eventually, the rider must decide what he is going to do and which horse he is going to ride.

Are you ready to make that decision?

Their eyes are on other things and they are no longer in step with each other.
Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. (Galatians)

For we also once were foolish, disobedient, DECEIVED, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. (Titus)

It was the best of times; it was the worst of times.
It was the age of wisdom; it was the age of foolishness.
It was the age of light; it was the age of darkness.
Handout and PowerPoint available at http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/soe/ [choose Faculty Publications]

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