

Get Your Game On

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I have just finished reading Bill O'reilly's new book Cultural Warrior. O'reilly has done an excellent job of exposing, not a conspiracy, but a blatant attack on the foundational Judeo-Christian values and world view of which our nation was established and of which has sustained this nation thus far. There is an aggressive front of those who have the financial strong arm and a dogmatic animosity towards truth. They want a world where there is no religious ideology that demands absolute moral judgment and is void of any moral restraint. They want a world where everything is relative to include the consequences of any injustice. A world where injustice is even relative. O'reilly makes a very strong and true statement in his book. He states that as strong, powerful and dominating the oppositional forces are to our traditional values as a nation, the saddest thing is that those who could make the biggest difference and save our nation are not even engaged in the battle, the 87% of the population that profess to be Christians. He states, where is the Church? I ask the same question. I do not just mean the church corporate, but where is the church in your family, your work place, your neighborhoods, communities, and schools. Where are you? You are the church Christ has called to wage the cultural war. Not in the courthouse and mass media, but right in the center of your own sphere of influence of which Christ has given you responsibility. Why are most of the 87% not engaged, because they have either:

1. Bought into the liberal Christianity of relative truth and consequences. A God that lends a blind eye to their blatant hypocrisy. Let me warn you Christians of this. Get in the game but do not play games with God. God will not be mocked. You come to church and cry for mercy, compassion and sympathy then go on to the club and think God's okay with that. You are living the liberal Christian life where you think standards of righteousness are relevant to your situation.
2. They have a Christianity defined by a humanistic world view.
3. They are just waiting to leave and have resolved they have no responsibility and will not be accountable for this culture that God saw fit 2300 years ago to establish on this earth as a righteous nation.

Romans 10:2-3 states it best, *2For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.*

The bottom line is that most of the church has not “Submitted to the Righteousness of God.” They have cowered, crumbled, and compromised to everything except the righteousness of God. Oh there are plenty who have religious zeal, but they are ignorant, or have not a sound Godly understanding of what the standards of righteousness are. It is like a team coming onto the football field to play a game but nobody knows the rules. Right now the church and most Christians are playing this culture war game by the rules of those who oppose righteousness. The rules are tolerance, diversity, no judgments, no absolutes, everything is relative, if it feels good do it, equal distribution, everybody's right is to do whatever they want, it is all justified under freedom of expression, you cannot force your standards on me, don't make me feel bad about anything.

Hebrews 13:17-18 *17Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. 18Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.*

Angie and I have responsibility for your souls (mind, will, emotions) and will give account to God for the well-being of such. Therefore, we take it not lightly for we must account to God. But if you are not willing to trust and submit to the motives of our heart to see you be healed, restored, and spiritually stable and growing in the things of God through accountability to the precepts and principles, the standards of righteousness, then our souls grieve and you profit nothing for yourself, the church or the Kingdom. If we say to you pray, get in the Word, come to bible study, learn, apply yourself, serve, resist temptation, stay out of the club, put the magazine down, read the right stuff. And you do just the opposite, then wonder why nothing is changing, what more do you want? I throw you the football and you run the wrong direction or go sit on the bench.

James 4:6-8 *6But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. 7Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*

Look here, you might be saying, “Wow coach your pretty tough.” How awesome is our God. It says here that He gives more grace. But look at the price? The price is humble submission. Here God presents the strategic game plan for you to be transformed into His image and grow in Christ beyond the struggles and temptations that face you. God could have easily said, “Come to me, feel good all the time and I will remove any temptation especially when things are tough on you. My yoke is easy and my burden is light, problem is your not taken on my burden and yoke, you keep hanging on to yours.” Here is the strategic pattern to live as God lives:

1. Humble Submission
2. Resist. Tis does not mean stand still or be on the defensive only but be on the offensive.
3. Draw nigh to God. Here is your greatest offense.
4. Cleanse your hands. He is not talking skin so soft. He is talking about change what you are doing and do the right thing. Change the way you think, change what is going on in that heart of your. Forgive, let go of bitternesses, anger, resentment, offense, pride.
5. Purify that heart and stay that way. Do not go back and forth. You cannot wear the jersey of both teams.

Resist means to withstand; able to repel, to strive against, endeavor to counteract, to defeat or to frustrate; To withstand and exert force in opposition.

An example is when they came to Jesus and told Him that John the Baptist had just gotten his head chopped off and Jesus responds “with, let's go cast out some devils, heal some sick and preach the Kingdom.”

Matthew 11:11-15 *11Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. 13For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. 14And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come. 15He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

Who is putting pressure on who? The best defense is a good offense. You cannot score for the Kingdom, you will not grow in your spiritual strength if you do not have a defense. You cannot have a good defense if you keep throwing interceptions, throwing the ball into the hands of the enemy, the

opposing forces. No quarterback wins a football game alone. He has linemen who defend and protect him. When he gets cocky, those linemen simply step out of the way and let the opposing force readjust his attitude. Next time in the huddle it better be, "I'm sorry guys, I need your help" The same goes for the entire offense. If they think they win the game alone, they are fools. They can score points all day long, but if the defense is not stopping the opposing force and they are equally putting points on the board, there is no contest. No one wins. The principle applies for the defense. The offense can do their part but the object is for your team to score and to stop the opposing force from doing the same. For most Christians in the church today they are neither on the defense or offense, they are sitting on the bench or in the bleachers observing the enemy devouring the lives of others, the church, their communities, their schools, their families, friends, their government. Then there are those who do not even show up to the game, or those running the wrong direction. The question is, where are you? What uniform do you wear? Where do you stand?

When the enemy comes against you, when struggles come, when discouragement comes the best defense is to resist. Far too many instead of resisting and making the enemy flee they just flee. You cannot run from the enemy. When you try to run from or avoid conflict and confrontation with the Word of God in your life, you do not get any further from the enemy, instead you get further from the truth, you get further from God.

The only way to get further from the enemy and closer to God is to take the enemy head on with the Word of God in your life. When you exert force in opposition to the enemy or his devices of temptation he will flee from you or the Word is a lie. You say, "well I've tried and it didn't work." Either the Word of God is a lie or it fails not. If the Word is true and fails not then the problem is not with the Word it was with your choosing to resist with the Word. The Word of God is on your side. It is the field, the game, the goal, the ball in your hands, it is your offense and defense. It is everything except the quarterback, the one making the decision of which direction to go and what actions to take. It is everything except that initiative to embrace the driving force to be Victorious. The Bible will not stand at the door and tell you not to go to the night club. The Scripture will not jump off the pages and knock that liquor from your lips. You have to have the Word in your heart and soul and choose to use it. You have to have your defenses up and your game on.