



The President's Perspective



Why Not Light A Candle?

"Why not light a candle, instead of just cursing the darkness." I recently came across this statement in some reading that I was doing and was deeply convicted that this is exactly what so many in Fundamental Christianity are doing. Even this afternoon, I received an e-mail desiring my participation in a letter writing campaign against a certain entertainment venue. While I totally agree that there is definitely a time and place for such campaigns, we cannot be involved merely in being against things. For example, I am against adultery because I am FOR God's design in marriage. I am against a bad attitude because I am FOR a Christ like attitude of graciousness and kindness. I am against deceit because I am FOR the truth.

A number of years ago, we began our MEN WITH A MISSION Conferences to promote (be FOR) godliness and Christ likeness among men. While there is much in the modern men's movement that I appreciate (the accountability, the mentoring, etc.), there is much that I am troubled by. It is never enough, though, to be merely against something. In Daniel 1, Daniel faces a dire situation when he and his three friends are commanded to eat and drink the king's diet. Verse 8 of chapter 1 states clearly that "Daniel purposed in his heart not to defile himself with the king's meat nor with the wine which he drank." Most stop right there. However, the next phrase says, "Therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself." Daniel then OFFERS A POSITIVE ALTERNATIVE in the suggestion that they all be tested for ten days on a diet of vegetables and water to see who looks the best. The prince of the eunuchs is willing to listen because God has brought Daniel into "favor" with the prince of the eunuchs. It is Daniel's "excellent spirit" that causes pagans to even be willing to listen to him. Rather than having a caustic spirit and being known ONLY for what we are against, should we not rather be known for our excellent spirit and what we are FOR.? Again, this is not to suggest that we never are to be against anything. There is more than enough to be against. I am just suggesting that "being against" is not enough.

Next time you hear of a corrupt politician doing some vile thing, why not support a genuinely Christian candidate, with high morals, for that office. Rather than crying about all the filth on television, why not support wholesome entertainment with your resources (and that type programming is out there). Rather than criticizing the negatives in some of the men's movements across the country, why not support a biblically sound and dynamically exciting men's ministry that offers an alternative. May we stop cursing the darkness only (because that's all darkness can, and ever will, be)

and start lighting candles of truth in a world devoid of much genuine Christ like light. I, for one, intend by God's grace, to burn brightly for my Savior.

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