

Conflict Resolution



Are You Persecution? I

Where to start with the violence in our streets! The shooting in Dallas, the marches, protests, and general violence is rising in occurrences. It seems that all sides are crying for reason, and diplomacy: yet the violence continues to grow, and no end in sight.

For the past two months our segments have addressed Biblical accounts of Conflict and their ensuing Resolution. In many cases the only resolution was the death of the offender, depending on the degree of the Conflict.

Many in our society, viewing the world condition from what seems right to them, decry these events: “For nation rising up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines and earthquakes in divers places”! (Matthew 24:7). Oh, and where better than Oklahoma, which has the highest rate of earthquakes on the planet, and newly so! The whole world appears to be on a road to destruction, but a final end, is it so? Historically, these events have been going on for thousands of years, and textually, the Lord’s statements in Matthew 24 applied to Jerusalem specifically, and not the end of time.

When considering the various “movements” in our society, whether they be “Black Lives Matter,” “Blue Lives Matter,” “All Lives Matter,” or the push toward a

total expulsion of a moral compass, or a righteous standard of right and wrong, as Isaiah said, “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” (Isaiah 5:20), and if a person does not address issues in a politically correct fashion they are guilty of a hate crime. When will the society wake up to the fact that ALL crimes against humanity are hate crimes! Jesus said, “Ye have heard that it was said to them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: but I say unto you, that every one who is angry with his brother shall be in danger of the judgment; and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council; and whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of the hell of fire” (Matthew 5:21–22), and the apostle John affirmed, “Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him” (1 John 3:15).

However, what is labelled as hate speech, may very well be just the opposite! When the apostle Paul wrote to the evangelist Timothy, he said, “preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables” (2 Timothy 4:2–4). In this text, W.E. Vine’s Dictionary of New Testament words, defines rebuke as, “to put honor upon,” then, “to adjudge” (to determine judicially). The fact is not all conduct is ethical, moral, or legal, and for the benefit of the offender, because they are “worth” something the offender must be rebuked that they can be instructed in their unlawful practice, and turned to that which is good. The country, and the world will be in, and is in, a sad state when those who will not be ruled, by a righteous standard, are the ones ruling.

Jehovah said, through the prophet Isaiah, “As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they that lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths” (Isaiah 3:12). I don’t know how

you might want to slice it and dice it that is the rulers in Israel were ruled by children (not likely), and women ruled over them, or the rulers ruled like children would rule, and the rulers ruled like women would rule, or, as Gill says, “as women had great influence over their husbands, the governors of Judea, in those times, as Herodias, Bernice, and Drusilla; or it may be understood of men, weak, effeminate, and given to pleasure.” No matter how you want to read it putting a positive spin on it just won’t hurt, and that’s the condition our society is in, and pushing for. The words of the apostle Paul, saying, “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all that ye do be done in love” (1 Corinthians 16:13), should give encouragement to, as has been stated during the recent crisis, “men of faith.” In regard to the existing race clashes, Booker T. Washington said, “ “There is another class of coloured people who make a business of keeping the troubles, the wrongs, and the hardships of the Negro race before the public. Having learned that they are able to make a living out of their troubles, they have grown into the settled habit of advertising their wrongs — partly because they want sympathy and partly because it pays. Some of these people do not want the Negro to lose his grievances, because they do not want to lose their jobs.”

“I am afraid that there is a certain class of race–problem solvers who don’t want the patient to get well, because as long as the disease holds out they have not only an easy means of making a living, but also an easy medium through which to make themselves prominent before the public” (1881).

In the area of Conflict Resolution it is easy to see that no easy Resolution can be achieved as long as those “who make a business of keeping the troubles, the wrongs, and the hardships of the Negro race before the public.”

Now, before I get labelled as spewing hate speech, 1) Remember that Booker T. Washington was a man of color (or whatever the politically correct term should be). 2) What Booker T. Washington said is true of all groups, organizations, and

people. It's like the old proverbs, which loosely states, "A general that is sitting at a negotiation table, and seeking peace with his adversary should not take a lieutenant who is wont to poke the tiger."

Within our society there is a great deal said about the persecution suffered by this group or that. Recently there was a group promoting a heterosexual pride day. The gay pride group complained that the heterosexuals do not have a right to have a parade because they have not been persecuted. Thus, the only group of people that have a right to celebrate, or protest, are those who have been persecuted, or prosecuted as a result of their activities.

In our next segment we will consider persecution and prosecution, and see how persecuted groups have dealt with such in the past.