

Christian Radio Station Loses Its Savor

by John Cobin, Ph.D. for *The Times Examiner*
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No other words from the Savior are more dreadful than “The world cannot hate you” (John 7:7a). When professing believers become so much like the world—so that they no longer are an offense to the world—the world cannot hate them. When desires for tenderness or “love” eclipse the proclamation of truth, those who are called to be salt and light in the world cease to be an irritant. The usefulness of such professors becomes little more than the sprawling maggot’s delight in rotteness. “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men” (Matthew 5:13). The wayward Christian thus ceases to be “mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God” (II Corinthians 10:4b-5a). Sympathy and sentiment become paramount, and courage gives way to complacency and compromise.

One of the most tragic instances of the people of God becoming like the world is found in the history of Israel. “The people sacrificed at the high places, because there was no house built for the name of the Lord” (I Kings 3:2). Pragmatism, compromise, and sentimentalism trumped the truth. Willful sin and godless living reigned among the chosen people—and were disregarded by the heedless kings. “Also the children of Israel secretly did against the Lord their God things that were not right, and they built for themselves high places in all their cities, from watchtower to fortified city... There they burned incense on all the high places, like the nations whom the Lord had carried away before them; and they did wicked things to provoke the Lord to anger” (II Kings 17:9, 11). The children of Israel provoked God when they copied the ways of “the world”. Neighboring Canaanites could not hate the Israelites on account of their worship venues. Indeed, both peoples chose the same mode of worship, and Israel’s enjoyment of defiled rituals became a besetting sin. “But the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places” is often repeated (II Kings 12:3; 14:4; 15:4, 35; 16:4). God was riled as He was not glorified. His worldly people would not obey Him.

For the Israelites, the high places must have seemed a minor nuisance. “Why bother to take them down? God can be served by our efficient use of the high places. Look at the opportunity we might have to show others how God may be worshipped. It is not worth offending people by tearing down the high places.” But God had commanded them otherwise. He was not pleased with their initiative of indolence and complacency. His command is: “Buy the truth, and do not sell it” (Proverbs 23:23). God is not pleased when His people sell out the truth for the sake of sentiment and convenience.

Two of my fellow *Times Examiner* columnists, Ben Graydon and Dr. Steven Yates, have done an outstanding job of exposing the government school in their recent columns. These critiques have been echoed by over a dozen letters to the Editor. The government school is the most pernicious threat to the Christian church, liberty, and morality that has ever existed in our nation. It has damaged more minds and weakened more believers than any other American institution. It is, plainly, the devil’s workshop for warping minds and derailing what is good. Nevertheless, sadly, the church and Christian people have failed to take a unified stand against “public” education. Like the high places of old, the people of God are demeaning and undermining the work of God by building up (and not tearing down) this “stronghold” of the enemy. The same kinds of lame platitudes employed by the wayward Israelites are heard today to justify substituting rotteness for God’s chosen way. The compromisers are brazen in proclaiming the virtue of sending their kids to secular humanist indoctrination centers—or the practicality of working for one.

This issue is rather touchy. After all, people are tender and are prone to having their feelings hurt when someone questions their participation with public schooling. Critiques of public school involvement are called “negative”, “angry”, “radical”, and “extremist” by those who esteem this modern high place. Woe unto him who takes a hard stand against the government school! Until December 3, 2004, I was volunteer co-host of “Christian World View Today”, a call-in morning radio show on our Christian radio station in Greenville, South Carolina. The show enjoyed growing recognition. Indeed, there was a groundswell of popularity on account of the unique “Jeffersonian radical” perspective I brought, as well as the

interesting banter with fellow (neoconservative) *Times Examiner* columnist Dr. Tony Beam. Nevertheless, the end came when I stood on principle against the public school and decried Christian involvement in it. Many people were shocked by what transpired. Why would a producer want to quell a burgeoning program on account of an opinion anyway? It seems like a stupid decision. Well, his action makes sense once one grasps the mystique and practicality of inoffensiveness. One must first comprehend that acceptance in mainstream Evangelical circles often requires that sentimentalism triumph over truth. People do not want to be bothered by what they do. Instead, they want to be encouraged in anything they do.

Unwillingness to compromise a principle is never going to be popular among pragmatists. Saying that Christians who send their kids to public school are sinning is considered to be uncharitable and unkind. Granted, there is a tender and patient way to speak the truth (II Timothy 2:24). But no matter how gently and tactfully the message is put, the point that Christians miss the mark regarding government schooling needs to be made and heard by modern Christians. Dr. Yates has admirably demonstrated the strong link between the public school and leftist ideologues. Let's not forget that the tenth plank of Marx and Engel's *Communist Manifesto* seeks "Free education for all children in public schools." The government school "high place", Satan's "stronghold", needs to be pulled down by Christians.

What gives us most hope in the recent tragedy, the loss of a voice for the true right on the airways, are the dozens of listeners who took the right side. Several dozen listeners wrote to the general manager and the board of the radio station decrying what transpired and standing with me against public schooling. Regrettably, these cries were ignored by the station management, and Christian talk radio in this community has taken a turn to the left. Management sided with the "mainstream" of American Christianity that sentimentalizes involvement in the public school and that is "tender" towards those who choose to sacrifice at this modern "high place". Truth proclamation is inappropriately subordinated to love promulgation. Those who offend public school supporters are stifled. In the end, the Christian radio station imbibes the liberal, cop-out position. God's glory is also left as an afterthought, and the world cannot and does not hate Greenville's Christian radio station.

No one likes to be unpopular. It is tough to stand for the truth with conviction. That is why many of us "radicals" have difficulty being published in the mainstream press. Truth, which never has a conflict with love, is a hard pill to swallow. Too, being persecuted by fellow believers for standing for the truth is a grievous experience. Who likes being punished for doing well?

Management imagines that it stands for love, efficiency, and expediency. Yet they are not willing to let those who want to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) have a platform. The biblical maxim, "Open rebuke is better than love carefully concealed" (Proverbs 27:5) is disregarded. Hence, for the time being, Christian talk radio in Greenville, SC has become the champion of the neoconservative and the leftist. By defending Christian involvement in the public school, it has lost its savor.

Those who desire to express their concerns are encouraged to write to the Board of Directors, His Radio WLFJ, 2420 Wade Hampton Blvd., Greenville, SC 29615.