

Is There Not A Cause?

Engaging The Culture

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5/6/2018

I. Series: Engaging the Culture

- A. Matthew 10:³⁴ **Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword**
- B. Subject: Armed Resistance (Confession-Ashamed, Sword-Destroy, Resistance-Stop)
- C. Subject: Give us Barabbas or Give us Jesus (Choose You This Day)
- D. Subject: In Season and Out (Worshiping, Witnessing, Praising)
- E. Subject: A Time for Judgement (Ground/Heart, Tree/Fruit, Fruit/Reward)
- F. Subject: Lord Open Our Eyes (Are You Spiritually “WOKE”?)
 - 1. 2 Kings 6:¹⁶..he answered Fear not for they that *be* with us *are* more than they that *be* with them
 - 2. Are You WOKE From Iniquity? So You Can See Your Enemy
 - 3. Are You WOKE from Fear? So You Can See Your Power
 - 4. Are You WOKE From The Flesh? So You Can See Your God

II. Homework: Study 1 Samuel 17:1-29, Acts 17:28, Jude 1:3, Mark 8:35

- A. What is the difference between Living for a “Need” vs. a “Cause”?
- B. What does 1 Samuel teach us about the enemies approach to God’s people?
- C. What should we be willing to Live for, Fight for, and Die for?

III. Text

- A. 1 Samuel 17:1–4 (AV)¹ Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which *belongeth* to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephesdammim. ² And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines. ³ And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and *there was* a valley between them. ⁴ And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height *was* six cubits and a span. (**9 feet and 9 inches**)
- B. 1 Samuel 17:10–11 (AV)¹⁰ And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together. ¹¹ When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.
- C. 1 Samuel 17:24–26 (AV)²⁴ And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid. ²⁵ And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, *that* the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father’s house free in Israel. ²⁶ And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who *is* this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?
- D. 1 Samuel 17:27–29 (AV)²⁷ And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him. ²⁸ And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab’s anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle. ²⁹ And David said, What have I now done? *Is there* not a cause?

IV. Subject: Engaging The Culture: Is There Not A Cause?

- A. As we continue in our Series Engaging the Culture, the next thing I want us to consider is why are we here in the Culture?
 - 1. Why are we here in a time such as this? What the meaning or purpose? What are we seeking after?
 - 2. Some people are here to get all they can; and can all they get!
 - a. Mark 8:36 (AV)³⁶ **For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and**

Is There Not A Cause?

Page 3 of 4 (Saturday, May 12, 2018)

lose his own soul?

3. Other are here to fulfill their need! Their need for love, importance, fulfillment!
 - a. Philippians 4:19 (AV)¹⁹ But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
4. And yet others are here to fight for what's theirs or what they want to be theirs!
 - a. James 4: ² Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.
- B. David's asks a poignant question that I want us to consider as we Engage this Culture.
 1. He's accused of having ulterior motives, of selfishness, and of pride for engaging his culture; just as we will in engaging ours!
 2. 1 Samuel 17: ²⁹ And David said, What have I now done? *Is there* not a cause?
 3. Are we simply here for our needs and desires, or is there not a greater cause!
 4. We all have needs: Church, Marriage, Relationships, Money, meets needs, but...
- C. Subject: Engaging The Culture: Is There Not A Cause?
 1. Is there not a cause to live for, to fight for, and to die for?
- V. Is There Not A Cause To Live For?
 - A. 1 Samuel 17: ²⁵ And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, *that* the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.
 - B. Most people live for the wrong reasons.
 1. They live for their needs; spending a lifetime seeking to satisfy and meet them.
 2. They need love, fulfillment, purpose, desires, cares, importance, and recognition.
 3. They seek to satisfy these needs through people, places, things, careers, and more.
 4. People will spend a lifetime living for the next promotion, next increase, next friend, next lover, next house, next car, next opportunity, and even next ministry
 5. Matthew 16:26 (AV)²⁶ **For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?**
 6. Although we may experience and even enjoy these things while live, in and of themselves, they are all the wrong reason to live.
 - C. The Cause to Live for is Christ
 1. Acts 17:28 (AV)²⁸ For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.
 2. Living for people, things, wealth, recognition, or promotion is no reason to live primarily because it's not why we were created.
 3. Only What you Do for Christ will Last
 - a. "You may build great cathedrals large or small, you can build skyscrapers grand and tall, you may conquer all the failures of the past, but only what you do for Christ will last."
 4. Without him I could do nothing
 - a. "Without Him I could do nothing, Without Him I'd surely fail, Without Him I would be drifting, Like a ship without a sail"
 - D. "Is There Not A Cause? Yes, Live is Christ"
- VI. Is There Not A Cause To Fight For?
 - A. 1 Samuel 17:10–11 (AV)¹⁰ And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a

Is There Not A Cause?

Page 4 of 4 (Saturday, May 12, 2018)

man, that we may fight together. ¹¹ When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

B. Most people fight for the wrong things

1. Not only do we live for the wrong reasons (our needs), but we fight for the wrong reasons (our desires).
2. James 4:1–2 (AV)¹ From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members? ² Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.
3. People fight of the things that they desire, or over a threat to the things they have.
4. The problem is that this fight will only lead to death!
5. 1 John 2:16 (AV)¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.
6. James 1:15 (AV)¹⁵ Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.
7. Mark 4:19 (AV)¹⁹ **And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.**

C. The Cause to Fight for is Faith

1. Jude 1:3 (AV)³ ... and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.
 - a. Jude 1:3 (NLT) ³ ... urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people.
2. 2 Corinthians 5:7 (AV)⁷ (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)
3. 1 Timothy 6:12 (AV)¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

D. “Is There Not A Cause? Yes, Fight For Your Faith”

VII. Is There Not A Cause To Die For?

A. 1 Samuel 17: ²⁹ And David said, What have I now done? *Is there* not a cause?

B. David asked his brothers and Israel, and now asks the Church, “Is There Not A Cause?”

1. Is there not a cause to live for? Yes, Live for Christ
2. Is there not a cause to fight for? Yes, Fight for Faith

C. Finally is there not a cause to die for?

1. The truth is that most people are not willing to die for anything. They will do everything they can to save their lives.
2. Romans 5:7 (AV)⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.
3. John 15: ¹³ **Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.**

D. The Cause to Die for is The Gospel

1. Mark 8:35 (AV)³⁵ **For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.**
2. Romans 14:8 (AV)⁸ For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.
3. Job 13:15 (AV)¹⁵ Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.
4. 2 Corinthians 5:8 (AV)⁸ We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.