

Sources of Authority

A new meme is circulating that says a lot about humanity, "If your god allows you to do anything you want, your god is really yourself." I totally agree. But most people seldom think about genuine, or ultimate authority. Most simply go through their day making decisions, large and small, that merely seek ease, practicality, efficiency or pleasure as they see it.

But analyze that approach to life for a moment – an approach that merely seeks self and any freedom that seems to supply temporary pleasure or satisfaction. The result is actually revealed in the Bible, "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes." (Judges 21:25).

Did you catch it? Each individual simply created his or her own reality about what was right or wrong. For a few sweet, magnanimous individuals, that might create a safe and comfortable culture. But, as we see in virtually all places on earth, many others use that approach to life to decide, "I want what you have" and satisfaction of self is the only true goal and thus self becomes the only true source of authority. Crime and chaos are the inevitable result.

The human will answer, "But our creed is do anything you want so long as it doesn't hurt anyone else." The man on the street answers, "That's fine for you, but I have the same freedom to decide my own creed, and that shall be crime!" The humanist answers, "But we have cops that have guns, and they will stop you!" Then the criminals answer, "Only if you catch us!" And thus our modern inner cities are born!

Why? Because without a wide-spread acceptance of God's authority, mankind will always degenerate into ungodly chaos and unchecked brutality. From the 19th century gangs of New York to the 20th century dictators who spread war across the globe, the result is the same – kick God out of the country and the resulting chaos will bring unspeakable human misery, sooner or later.

From ancient dynasties to modern nations, when the true source of all authority, God, Himself, is ignored, mankind will assert himself as final authority, and the (again inevitable) result will be armed conflict, whether in the inner city or between nations, large and small.

God told Ezekiel quite plainly and succinctly, that if the people followed God with all their hearts, blessings would ensue. But since they didn't, endless wars would result.

For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars. (II Chronicles 16:9)

The choices are simple and the outcome clear, follow God with all our hearts or suffer grave consequences. And that is true nationally and personally. Make God your source of authority or get ready for never-ending, and heart-braking conflict. No wonder Joshua said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Think about it!

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