

Chronicles of Diversity



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I learned this week that all ministry, but especially this ministry, should be similar to a stay at home wife. There is no pay, the hours, in one form or another, are virtually continual, other rewards are few and far between. and your contact with the outside world much of the time is framed around the question, "What do you actually do?"

Ah, when the Bible speaks of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, I have never heard the preacher talk about who is going to do the serving. It is always about which table of importance to which we will be seated and what we will have to eat.

Such is the nature of mankind, especially man of the mankind. A wise sage mentioned to me a few weeks ago, in the Book of Acts, Chapter 6, when the twelve appointed themselves "The Apostles," they had determined that it was beneath their dignity to wait on tables, so "The Apostles" summoned the rest of the multitude of disciples to fix this problem of leadership.

Bringing it into the present day, you can almost see them sitting on a large stage in big stuffed chairs and wearing thousand dollar suits. No vestments are to be found on these evangelical leaders. Pope Peter rises from the center seat and moves to the impressive podium and announces:

"It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." Acts 6:2-4

Before the seven were chosen, later to be called elders, deacons, or bishops, the crowd murmurs nervously until Brother Smith rises from the assembly and proclaims the prophetic word, *"Thank you Jesus, for giving us such great spiritual leaders, to lead your new church into glory. Amen! Hallelujah!"* Acts 29:1

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Notice, from the Biblical context, that the Apostles were too busy with their Godly study and piety to even apply their wisdom to help with the selection process. Democracy in action. “Thank you, Jesus!” Acts 29:1a

So much for the wisdom of man. But the Bible says that God gave Solomon wisdom unsurpassed in excellence. Now the modern day apostles will tell you that God would have used Solomon even more if he had not been a back slider much of his life. However, that would not be the grace of God, that would be the merit of Solomon.

Perhaps, God gave Solomon such wisdom, because He knew that Solomon would use this worldly knowledge to provide Godly wisdom to serve others in his writings. After all, providing for the needs of 500 stay at home wives would give you a perspective unmatched in the history of the world.

You can not speak with authority about a worldly system being filled with nothing but vanity, if all you do is sit on your ivory covered throne and pontificate. In order to speak intelligently on vanity, you must experience vanity in worldly things. Let’s face it, we are all so vain that we think this whole song is about us. In the Book of Ecclesiastes, his odyssey on his worldly adventures, Solomon gives us a wise insight into the nature of stability of worldly investments, or enterprise. Chapter 11 begins with:

*Cast your bread upon the waters,
For you will find it after many days.
Give a serving to seven, and also to eight,
For you do not know what evil will be on the earth.*

But alas, alas, Solomon does not provide us with the seven or eight keys to successful diverse enterprise. This is such a complex undertaking that most guru’s of modern business state, if you are excellent in one area alone, humanity will recognize your gift and reward you handsomely. Beyond two or three areas, and you will be too unfocused for your talents to be recognized.

Therefore, in my lofty study, pouring through reams and reams of research, and days, no weeks, no months, no years of Bible study, fasting, and prayer, I have finally discovered the lost wisdom of Solomon’s diverse enterprise. And I, these magnificent themes, I shall discuss with you at great length, over the next few weeks, for that is the nature of the modern bloggers folly.

“Just think Martha, I were a blogger, before there weren’t none!”

Which reminds me I have to get these pearls into html format, so internet search engines can find them and I can become rich and famous, and no longer have to suffer in ministry as a stay at home wife. After all, I love children, I just can’t bear them.”

However, one thing I have learned about blogs in their brief history, is that they are supposed to be about truth, or at least the perception of truth. And if the truth be known, I backed into these gems from the backside. From the cart to the horse, realizing in my vanity, I had to get to the head of the procession, by hitching the back side of the horse to the cart first, before my lovely enterprise cart could begin its traveling salvation show.

So without further adieu:

Solomon’s Eight Diverse Keys to Successful Enterprise

All of mankind participates actively in these eight things. The enterprise that can appeal to more of these keys will be successful to the degree governed by the list’s priority, numbering, along with allocations of time and resources:

- 1. Love your God.**
- 2. Love your neighbor.**
- 3. Rest**
- 4. Eat**
- 5. Travel**

6. Create

7. Fellowship

8. Integrate

The nature of mankind is to have or create a god. Which is why all empirical common grace proves that God exists and created all things. Your god may be real, it may be imaginary. Most of the time gods demand appeasement of time and resources to gain their respect and blessing. The nature of humanity is to think that appeasement works and provides worth to the individual. The more and/or bigger your gods, the more your self esteem, and others will also praise you as a highly esteemed colleague.

America however, has a little different model than the historical god and Jesus. In America, as long as you deem yourself to be “a good person” and consider yourself spiritual, not only are, or can you be a Christian, when you die you will be ushered into heaven by St. Peter, there to join all the other good people who have passed before.

If confronted as being a sinner in need of a Redeemer, most of these people will confess their limited short comings, testifying that they know Jesus is the son of God and died for their sins, and (successfully) counter that they are better at their Spiritual religion than most Bible Thumping Christians they know. And what most Evangelical church leaders don't understand, is that these people are absolutely correct in their religious inferences.

Since these truths are self evident, that all men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, including freedom of, and from religion, it follows logically, people don't like their perceived understanding of Christianity, and they, and God have only the church to blame.

While I refrain from naming names, when so called Christian leaders demand a litmus test from Brother George, in regards to judicial appointments and his legislative agenda, concerning abortion, gay marriage, and a whole host of other evangelical religious hurdles, my spiritual friends distain for organized Christianity is a statement of truth. Furthermore, the real historical Jesus will also be on their side.

Where's the love? Where's the grace?

These spokesmen (and they are all men) of the Religious Right point correctly to the fact that many of the founders of the United States of America were deeply pious Christian people who risked all, to immigrate to America to establish a true Christian nation.

Again, what the men seem to miss, is within the constraints of human enterprise, America's Christian founders were a complete success. Today, what we see, as in the opening illustration of the message, the result of about 250 years of apostolic American church religious leadership. They may know the Jesus of the written Bible, but they do not know Jesus, the Living Word, who came to serve mankind in some form other than preaching and legalism.

The mess in American culture is not the result of worldly sinners, the problems of America stem from the fact that many of her religious leaders truly believe that they function in the heritage of “The Apostles.” More precisely, they believe that their religious standing is a result of personal integrity and works, instead of the grace of God.

“It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

Christianity is supposed to be different than other religions, because it finds its center in your love of God and the love for your fellow pilgrims. That love finds its well springing from God and is manifest in the application of grace.

As I said earlier I backed into the first two principles to be gleaned from Solomon's diversity wisdom. The remaining six points, which we will continue next week. all flow from these two. In closing, it is relevant to see these points in the Bible translation the Apostle Paul used in his later ministry, the New King James:

Deuteronomy 6:4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

Leviticus 19:17 “You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. 18 You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said to him, “*You shall love the LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.*’ 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Mark 12:29 Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is; ‘*Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.*’ 30 And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. 31 And the second, like it, is this: “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Luke 10:26 He said to him, “*What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?*”

27 So he answered and said, ““*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,*’ and ‘*your neighbor as yourself.*’ ”

28 And He said to him, “*You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.*”

29 But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

This passage in Luke is followed by the parable of the Good Samaritan. Samaritan’s were not good Jews, because their form of the Jewish faith did not meet with approval from the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin was a religious group of 71 Jewish leaders (Based on Numbers 11:16) similar to the 12 in the book of Acts.

The Bible in all of its pages demonstrates conclusively that every human personality that has lived after the fall into sin, except for Jesus of Nazareth, the God-man, the propitiatory Messiah, has succumbed to the desire to be part of the Apostles, or the Sanhedrin, or other group you might hold in esteem.

Christianity, through the grace of God alone, takes the burden to join the perfect elite, and crucifies it on a cross, with all the rest of our religious suits, vestments, and legal pronouncements, making the whole thing quite simple:

Love the true God.

Love your neighbor.

Anything else is some sort of vanity. All forms of love, no matter what handle we may put on them, flow from these. In the world and the country we now live in, love demonstrated through grace for others, is more rare than material riches. But wonder springs in the driest of deserts, thanks be to God.

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