

7 James 4:17 Ways to Combat the Evil That Hurts Us All

The church is in an uproar over the recent Reproductive Health Act signed by Governor Cuomo to abort babies up to birth. We are shedding tears over the blatant disregard for life and celebration of murder. We are seeing evil at levels we never expected to occur in our "one nation under God."

However, this tragedy did not strike overnight. It was not just one attack of evil that has turned this nation away from the Word of God. The blame cannot solely rest on of those who do not know the truth or believe in Christ and His Word. They will certainly be accountable for their evil and corrupt actions, and we can only pray God will open their eyes to repent and change their ways while there is still time.

However, there is a more serious issue to address if we ever want to see our land healed. We need to address the role that we as the body of Christ and the American church have played in these national tragedies.

It was the sleeping and lukewarm American church who refused to speak up to these evil acts and decision for fear of declines in membership, revenue and fans. We tolerated and played with evil under the banner of sloppy grace and love, but the truth is, we were cowards. We have authority over Satan and his demons with the name of Jesus and the power of prayer, but we became self-seekers of platforms, desiring devoted followers rather than raise high the name of Jesus and be His fully devoted followers. We remained quiet and timid instead of fighting like the warriors we are supposed to be for the kingdom of God.

It started with one compromise here, one tolerance of sin there, one time of avoiding conflict there, and inch by inch,

we opened the door for Satan to wreak havoc, and here we are. "Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, it is sin" (James 4:17).

We post our outrage on social media, but are we really ready to really step up and fight? Just because we know the end of the age is drawing near and that evil will occur, it doesn't mean we stop praying and fighting for the truth. There is still time for healing and revival, but it our responsibility to seek God for this. And enough of the "we are called to love and not judge" excuse every time a believer wants to excuse compromise and sin. God called us to love the sinner and hate the sin. We can stand up and call it out for what it is yet still pray for and love those who are deceived.

We are without excuse. We know the truth, and we know better. God is waiting for us to take our authority. Are we willing to lay everything on the line to defend His Word and truth? Are we done playing games with the devil? If the answer is yes, it's time to put action behind our words.

1. We must fall on our faces and repent for the condition of our own hearts. "If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14).
2. We must repent and cry out for mercy for our nation and the American church.

"Who is a God like You, bearing iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of His inheritance? He does not remain angry forever, because He delights in benevolence" (Mic. 7:18).

3. We must stop looking, talking and acting like the world and be the light. We are in the world and not of it!

“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? What communion has light with darkness?” (2 Cor. 6:14).

You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a basket, but on a candlestick. And it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven (Matt. 5:14-16).

4. We need to pray for our pastors to be soul-driven and not money-driven.

I exhort the elders who are among you, as one who is also an elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ as well as a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, take care of them, not by constraint, but willingly, not for dishonest gain, but eagerly. Do not lord over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of glory that will not fade away (1 Pet. 5:1-4).

5. We must pray for repentance and the salvation of our leaders across the nation.

Therefore I exhort first of all that you make supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings for everyone, for kings and for all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and honesty, for this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:1-4).

6. We must be willing to take up our crosses and follow Jesus, no matter what the cost.

“If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me” (Mark 8:34).

7. We need to stand united as followers of Christ in word and action to stand against evil.

Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man viewing his natural face in a mirror. He views himself, and goes his way, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But whoever looks into the perfect law of liberty, and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this man will be blessed in his deeds (James 1:22-25).

Remnant, we can fight the evil that has infiltrated our land and brought such great destruction with a unified heart of repentance, a passion for the lost and an unshakeable stand in the authority we have been given in the name of Jesus. If want things to change and these decisions reversed, we need to pray, act, speak and fight while there is still time! {eo}

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