

“Ripples of the Reformation”

“Have YOU Been Protested?”

November 12, 2017

Intro... “*Would YOU Protest?*”... was the question we started with.

- The context was set in the 16th Century around 5 critical ideas ...now that Christianity has come to YOU & ME—We have some “Protest Questions” to ponder, because we are passing along some version of Christianity to the next generation! ...which raises the very important questions:

- (1) *What version of Christianity did we receive ...*
- (2) *What have we added to it or taken away from it? ...Have we ‘adjusted it’?*
- (3) *Are we engaged in transferring it to others*

(1) What ‘version’ of Christianity did we (personally) receive?

...*At some point, the Gospel ‘Comes to You’*—it finds you in whatever moment of belief, practice, and life philosophy... and it presents itself to you—In Doing So IT is “Protesting Your Condition & Beliefs”

Protest (Def.) = to express strong disapproval of or disagreement with something; to state or affirm something in strong or formal terms

...To Believe the Christian Gospel, EVERYONE Must become a “Self-Protester”!!
...You must come to recognize that your condition and belief was out-of-step with God’s revealed purpose ...so to have a Biblical Story of the Gospel is to have “Beliefs that You’ve Rejected” ...and... “Beliefs that You’ve Embraced” — ponder carefully if that is Your Story!!

MY STORY

2Cor 5:14-21 ...The All Permeating Impact of Real Conversion

- Consider the connection in this verse between love of God and inner compelling to share the gospel! —***Is that You?***
- Consider the context of chap 5 ...a longing and desire to be with the Lord eternally—Is that You?
- Consider the change of identity that is highlighted in this passage—Is that You?

Does Your Story Feature 'Conversion & Regeneration' (being Born-Again by the Holy Spirit) or merely Moral Principles and Religious Practices?

—At some point one must “Depart from the race of Adam into the Race of Christ”
...One must become a “New Creature” ...One’s Identity Must Change
...One Must Receive a New ‘Alien Life’!!

—At that point we needed to make a decision about whether or not we will PROTEST our own beliefs??? ...While there may be a bit of a ‘wrong feel’ to protesting—to standing up to others or to oneself and saying that ‘long-standing’ practices or beliefs are ‘out-of-step’! ...But ***consider that Jesus was perhaps the Ultimate Protester!!***

Jesus the Great ‘Protester’

“Protests in the Gospel of John”

Jn 1:1-5

- ***The conditions in the beginning***—the God of Eternal Glory & Substance is Outside of His Creation! ...But a Condition Arises, a change in the condition, patterns, and beliefs of creation!—Into THAT Jesus comes to make a Protest! To declare that an Adjustment Must Be Made to Fix what is Broken!!
- **v. 5** ... ***“the light shines in the darkness”***—the light is going to “protest” and “split” and reveal the darkness

Jn 1:9-12 ... “the true light” establishes that there is ‘false light’ to be exposed and contended with!

- v. 14 ... “and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”

— **The Incarnation Declares There is a Problem!!** ...The Creator “crossing over” into being a Creature—makes a loud declaration about the conditions we are in!! ...He does not come affirm or approbate our condition—He Comes To PROTEST!!

Matt 4:17 “From that time Jesus began to preach saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”

Is. 1:18 “Come let us reason together, though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow!”

- v. 14 ... “we have seen HIS Glory”—

John 3:1-10 ...*Protesting Nicodemus!*

...Nicodemus, you MUST be Born Again—‘You’re Not OK!’ ...Your Condition is Lacking Something!

—**What was Nicodemus condition?**

—Jesus Protesting the Pharisees

John 8 ...*Protesting the Religious Crowds*

- v. 32-36 ...**Jesus Protested Their Lack of Freedom**—He Diagnosed Their Condition of Enslavement to SinAND he proclaimed Himself as their ONLY MEANS OF FREEDOM!

—*Jesus is "Protesting" our claims to "Freedom"—He says, "You're a Slave to Sin" ...Do You Agree?*

...One of the reasons we don't turn to Christ is because we DON'T AGREE about our NEED!!

- v. 39-41 ...Jesus "Protests" Their Inner Nature!

...Your hearts would be filled with a delight in God and what God Does—v. 42

>> IF this inner working is NOT present in you—then these verses stand in Protest of Your Condition—they declare you are still wayward and apart from God!!

- v. 43-47 ...Jesus "Protests" Their Descendency! ...He states that they are associated with the Devil—the creature who rebelled against God and sought his own purpose for God's Creation!

...Jesus Protests that they are "Not of God"—***Has That Ever Been Something You Believe about Yourself?***

Long before Martin Luther nailed his protests to the church in Wittenburg—Jesus planted His feet on Earth in Protest of man's waywardness!

? Have You Personally Been Protested? ...Have you found yourself in the dilemma of Nicodemus or the Pharisees or the Religious Crowd who is trusting in their traditions or personal decency?? —Have you pondered your own life, beliefs, and practices (your own 'self-salvation project' ...your own pursuit of 'glory' endeavors ...your own 'alternative light sources') ...and have you said, "Not that, NOT those ...but You—the God who became man and calls us to repent and receive a life that He must give to us by Grace Alone!