



Four Biblical Responses to Unbiblical Events in the Culture

We find ourselves, as Christians, living in an unprecedented time in American history. We look around and see moral boundaries being blurred and the truth of Isaiah 5:20 seems to be more relevant than in previous decades.

Isaiah 5:20 (ESV) – Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness...

At the present time, we are witnessing a disturbing erosion of Biblical morality among both Christians and non-Christians alike. This erosion has a major impact on ethics, virtues, faith, and family. We see more people turning away from God than any other time since the beginning of our nation. This means that both the current and future generations will encounter many unbiblical events in the culture. This is a sobering reality that we must recognize but it is also a unique opportunity to carry out the Biblical command to shine as the light in the midst of the darkness.

Matthew 5:14a,16 (ESV) – ^{14a}You are the light of the world... ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Now is the time that Christians need to know how to respond to unbiblical events with the truth of God's Word. This well could be our "Esther Moment" (Esther 4:14) as we remember the wise words of Mordecai encouraging Esther to be a woman of faith in turbulent times. We have been chosen for a moment such as this to give a defense for the Word of God and help others understand the hope we have in Christ.

1 Peter 3:15 (ESV) – But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...

How Do You Respond to Unbiblical Events?

As you find yourself living in a culture that grows more distant from the Lord, you will face moments that will challenge you in your faith and be unsettling to your soul. In these moments, it can be easy to allow your Kingdom perspective to be blurred by strong feelings or emotions. Deep inside your heart, soul, and mind; you understand that you must do something to stand against what is wrong. At these moments, remember the truth as well as the promise of God's Word. Consider the guidance God gives us as we read these verses,

Proverbs 4:23 (NLT) – Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

Colossians 3:2 (ESV) – Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

2 Corinthians 5:7 (ESV) – For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV) – Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Christians are called to always keep their Biblical focus, especially when encountering unbiblical events in our culture. Scripture reminds us never to respond to evil with evil (1 Peter 3:8) and to keep a clear mind at all times (2 Timothy 4:5) for we will face periods when people will not tolerate sound doctrine (2 Timothy 4:3) and they will turn away from truth as they follow after fabrications and fairy tales in this life. (2 Timothy 4:4) During these times, the words of Blaise Pascal ring true with relevance as he observed,

"Truth is so obscure in these times, and falsehood so established, that, unless we love the truth, we cannot know it." -

Blaise Pascal

As we study through the Word of God, we observe four responses that we can effectively apply in life to respond to unbiblical events in our culture. These four responses are Biblically based and honor the Lord as they combat evil.

- **Response #1 – Know Biblical Truth**
- **Response #2 – Live Out Biblical Truth**
- **Response #3 – Share Biblical Truth**
- **Response #4 - Pray**

As we go through these four responses, I will provide a case study to help you recognize how this can be applied in your life.

Four Biblical Responses to Unbiblical Events

Case Study: As I write these words, our culture finds itself in the midst of the annual recognition of what is known as "Pride Month." This month honors and celebrates unbiblical standards of human sexuality and marriage that is practiced by the LGBTQ+ community. One event that is taking place in our community to honor this ungodly lifestyle is a Pride Festival and Parade where drag queens will literally be dancing in the streets with young children and striving to normalize this unbiblical lifestyle in the hearts and minds of the younger generation.

How would you apply these Biblical responses to this event?

Response #1 – Know Biblical Truth

As we begin our study, we observe that our first Biblical response to unbiblical events should always be grounded and built upon the foundation of the Word of God. If we desire to respond in a Christ honoring manner, then we must know Biblical truth, which will prepare us to live it out. We see this principle laid out in Scripture ranging from the Old Testament to the New Testament.

Joshua 1:8 (ESV) – This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV) – Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Why is the response important? It allows you to respond to any event with truth and Biblical authority as you filter each event through a Biblical Worldview. Responding with Biblical truth is critical due to the fact that it allows you to lay out a divine standard of right versus wrong and good versus evil. This

will allow you to compare the standards promoted by an ungodly world with the absolute standard of the God of the universe, the Creator and Sustainer of all mankind.

“A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line.” – **C.S. Lewis**

Case Study Response #1

- Upon laying out the importance of this response, how would you utilize it to respond to the featured case study. Remember that it is imperative to respond to any event from a Biblical perspective, building that response on the foundation of God’s truth.
- The truth is that the Bible does not treat homosexuality as a matter of opinion or personal preference. It’s not something we can simply choose to agree or disagree on. We observe God’s Word lay out the Biblical standard on this issue in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (ESV) – ⁹Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

- Notice that homosexuality is not the only sin listed in these verses, which means that it was not being singled out as a hot topic item of the day by the Apostle Paul. It is one of many sins that when it is continually practiced in a persistent manner then it leads to eternal disaster and destruction. However, the good news is that this does not have to be your destiny. The Bible offers hope and transformation for all who turn to Christ in repentance and humility as discovered in Acts 3:19-20,

Acts 3:19-20 (ESV) – ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus.

Response #2 – Live Out Biblical Truth

The second response to any unbiblical event is found as we turn our attention to living out the Word of God in our life. As we witness ungodly events unfold, we are called to respond with truth tempered by love, gentleness, and respect. (1 Peter 3:15) Sadly, we observe that this is not being carried out in many cases but one reason in particular stands out as we see fewer self-identified Christians choosing to actively attend church and be trained in the Word of God. One recent study revealed,

About 40 million adults in America today used to go to church but no longer do, which accounts for around 16% of our adult population. For the first time in the eight decades that Gallup has tracked American religious membership, more adults in the United States do not attend church than attend church.¹

Christians need to be taught truth and trained in the Word of God to be able to respond to any event with truth, love, gentleness, and respect. This allows each individual to give a defense for their faith but also be able to discern the will of God and His direction in every circumstance. We read about this principle in Romans 12:2 as the Word of God states,

¹“U.S. Adult Population Grew Faster Than Nation’s Total Population from 2010 to 2020,” United States Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/08/united-states-adult-population-grew-faster-than-nations-total-population-from-2010-to-2020.html>; and Jeffrey M. Jones, “U.S. Church Membership Falls below Majority for First Time,” Gallup, March 29, 2021, <https://news.gallup.com/poll/341963/church-membershipfalls-below-majority-first-time.aspx>.

Romans 12:2 (ESV) – Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

This response is critical as we find ourselves living in a culture that is continually shifting and redefining standards of morality. G.K. Chesterton summed it up well when he observed,

“When men choose not to believe in God, they do not thereafter believe in nothing, they then become capable of believing in anything.” – **G.K. Chesterton**

Case Study Response #2

- Upon laying out the importance of this second response, how would you utilize it to respond to the featured case study. Public opinion on homosexuality has changed dramatically in recent years. According to the Pew Research Center², support for same-sex marriage in America grew from 31% in 2004 to 61% in 2019. Even among evangelical Protestants, support increased from 11% to 29% in the same timeframe. This shift in public opinion has led to widespread debate on the subject but you must always remember that your feelings on a subject do not replace or redefine the truth of the matter. The Word of God is clear: homosexuality and alternative lifestyles outside of the Biblical pattern for sexuality and marriage is a sin. If God recognizes this lifestyle in this manner, then Christians are called to recognize it in the same manner. We read about this standard of truth in Romans 1:26-27,

Romans 1:26-27 (ESV) – ²⁶For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

- We are called to live out our faith in all seasons of life, good and bad, high and low so that we can be the salt and light to a dying world around us. (Matthew 5:13-16) We should not participate in or approve of unbiblical events that dishonor the Lord such as a “Pride Parade” or festival. This doesn’t mean we are trying to cast insults or judgment on others. Rather, we are choosing to live out the Biblical standard that honors the Lord in love, gentleness, and respect because we want to see all people come into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Response #3 – Share Biblical Truth

The third response to an unbiblical event in our culture is found as we look to sharing Biblical truth in love with those around us. We have numerous opportunities to proclaim what we believe and value as Christians and we do this because we understand that God’s truth sets you free.

John 8:32 (ESV) – You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

John 14:6 (ESV) – Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

² Pew Research Center, November 15, 2022. <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2022/11/15/about-six-in-ten-americans-say-legalization-of-same-sex-marriage-is-good-for-society/>

These verses are a powerful reminder that God's truth sets us free for eternity as we respond to the invitation of Christ to know Him as our Savior and live for Him as our Lord. Knowing this truth compels us to share it with people of all backgrounds for each of us is a sinner in need of a Savior.

Romans 3:23-24 (ESV) – ²³For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

As we read the Word of God, we understand that we are set free because our freedom is not found in a man-made philosophy or theology, nor does it change from generation to generation based on public opinion. The truth that sets you free is found through and in the Savior, Jesus Christ. This is the only truth that is alive, active, and redemptive (Hebrews 4:12) setting us free for eternity.

The truth is like a lion; you don't have to defend it. Let it loose; it will defend itself... – **Saint Augustine**
"Peace if possible, truth at all costs." – **Martin Luther**

Case Study Response #3

- Upon laying out the importance of this third response, how would you utilize it to respond to the featured case study. The answer here is simple: Share the truth of God's Word with anyone you can in a loving, gentle, and respectful manner. Each of us may have friends or family members that might talk to us about their support of "Pride" month or maybe their attendance to a "Pride Parade" or festival. These are perfect opportunities to share why you are opposed to this lifestyle. Some will respond with anger, others will argue, and others will dismiss the truth you share. But some will listen, and everyone will be exposed to the truth of God's Word which penetrates heart, soul, and spirit (Hebrew 4:12) and does not return void. (Isaiah 55:11) This is a great opportunity for you to be the light of the world and plant the seed of the Gospel.

Response #4 – Pray

The final response to unbiblical events is the simplest and hardest response that we can carry out as Christians. We are called to pray in all circumstances whether facing times of trial or triumph. Prayer moves spiritual mountains, brings conviction, repentance, and fosters revival. Never underestimate the power of prayer but always be willing to labor in prayer to see transformation take place in our culture.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV) – Pray without ceasing.

Case Study Response #4

Upon laying out the importance of this final response, how would you utilize it to respond to the featured case study. The words of Corrie ten Boom go together with this response.

"If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you'll be at rest." – **Corrie ten Boom**

One of the most important ways to respond to "Pride Month" as well as any "Pride Festival or Parade" is to pray for the Lord move in a mighty manner, bringing people to a conviction of sin, clarity of identity, and recognize their need for the Savior. We also need to pray for doors to be opened for the Gospel to be shared. Finally, we need to pray for Satan to be rebuked and cast out of our community, churches, families, and every nook and cranny of our county. Try praying a few of these prayers this month as found in Colossians.

Colossians 1:9-10a (ESV) – ⁹ And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord...

Colossians 4:3a (ESV) – At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ...

Conclusion

As we conclude this study, we have reviewed four Biblical responses that we can apply to any unbiblical event we encounter in life. Each of us is called to live our life in a manner worthy of the Gospel as found in Philippians 1:27 as we are given a great opportunity to shine for the Glory of God. Honor the Lord today as you live for Him and make an eternal impact with your words and actions.

Ephesians 4:10 (ESV) – For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.