

Dealing with Political Correctness as a Soldier of God

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Deuteronomy 13:2(1)-4(3) instructs us:

"If a prophet or someone who gets messages while dreaming arises among you and he gives you a sign or wonder, and the sign or wonder comes about as he predicted when he said, 'Let's follow other gods, which you have not known; and let us serve them,' you are not to listen to what that prophet or dreamer says. For ADONAI your God is testing you, in order to find out whether you really do love ADONAI your God with all your heart and being."

This seems straightforward enough. If someone tells me to follow any god but *Adonai*, I won't listen to him or follow him. But things are not always that obvious, as you will see from my recent correspondence with Jonathan Allen, a Tikkun emissary who lives in the UK. Jonathan (who some of us at Ohev know) assists me by uploading, to Tikkun's web site, sections of a book I am writing. One of the completed sections dealing with not eating food polluted by idols contained the following paragraph which I emailed to Jonathan:

"A matter that deserves some discussion is the meaning of "polluted by idols." Some translations render this "offered to idols," or "sacrificed to idols," bringing to mind the ritual slaughter of an animal as part of pagan worship, and then bringing the meat home to eat. This kind of idol worship is rare in the developed world, but still may occur among pagan and satanic cults. We do sometimes encounter restaurants and food markets where there is evidence that the owners engage in idol worship (oriental restaurants especially), and we also encounter "halal" restaurants and markets where the meats are blessed by Muslims in the name of Allah. In my opinion, the former is not a violation of Scripture so long as the food being offered for sale has not been involved in idolatrous rituals. The latter is more problematic however and, in my opinion, eating such food may indeed violate Scripture unless there is nothing else to eat."¹

Upon receiving this paragraph, Jonathan wrote back:

"Michael, you raise some interesting questions. We are definitely aware of some Indian (Hindu) restaurants where blessings and prayers are said over the food in the kitchen before it is served to the customers. A number of "charismatic" Christians (and groups) refuse to eat in such

¹ This and remarks that follow are based on the presupposition that the Islamic god "Allah" is not the same as the one true God, *Adonai-Tzva'ot*. Although Muslims claim that Allah is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, they also say that (1) Yeshua is a prophet but not the son of God, (2) Allah sent Mohammed to be the ultimate prophet, and (3) Allah gave mankind the Koran, which is the ultimate Scripture in that it contains Allah's exact words revealed through the angel Gabriel to Mohammed.

establishments because they say they can "feel" the curse. Similarly, the pressure to appease the Muslim community in this country and, in many cases, throughout Europe, means that virtually all meat sold in UK and many European supermarkets is automatically *halal* unless it explicitly says otherwise. This is giving Messianic Jews and others concerned about this issue some major headaches!"

Then I responded back to Jonathan:

"The problem with political correctness in England appears to be serious. We cannot control prayers that are said over meat secretly, but what you describe opens Europe for God's punitive judgment. I do think that the individual consumer is exempted by God if there is nothing else to eat, or if excluding meat from his diet would be unhealthy. But, what about *kosher* meat? Is it available? Also, does "*halal*" in a British market necessarily mean that the meat has been blessed by a Muslim, or does it merely indicate an appropriate method of slaughter?"

Jonathan responded back to me:

"Michael, there is *kosher* meat only in areas of the country where there is a large enough Jewish population to justify having a shop. The main supermarkets don't carry *kosher* meat at all, although they do carry quite a range of other non-fresh kosher foods depending on the product and the demand/area. And, yes, I agree that Europe is (a) becoming increasingly Muslim controlled (not by real politics, but by political correctness and Muslim-manipulated public opinion), and (b) liable for and, in my opinion, starting to feel G-d's judgment.

And in response to my question: "Does "*halal*" in a British market necessarily indicate that the meat has been blessed by a Muslim?" Jonathan wrote back:

"All the major meat producers employ appropriate Muslim staff and clerics to make sure that their whole production lines and output are fully "*halal*." Too much money (and risk of public pressure) to ignore."

At first glance, it may not seem as though what Jonathan is talking about has much to do with not eating meat polluted by idols since there are no physical idols or sacrifices being made to them. But Jonathan's last remark: "Too much money (and risk of public pressure) to ignore." strongly suggests that there are idols of another kind. In the name of "political correctness" and under financial pressure, it appears that England has turned its entire food industry over to Muslim control, so that virtually every piece of meat sold has to be blessed by a Muslim cleric in the name of the god of Islam – *Allah!* The result is that every time a Brit eats meat bought at an ordinary market, he might as well be giving thanks and praying a *barucha* to Allah, because the meat he is eating ostensibly, belongs to Allah. So yes, in my opinion, the *halal* meat is polluted by idols and we should not eat it. The bigger sin, however, is of the society that has allowed itself to be governed by idolaters and has, in the process, itself become idolatrous.

But England is not our country, and I would not be making such a point of this were it not a warning for us as well. Here in the U.S. it is not about *halal* meat that we must be concerned; it is

about other things that belong to God that are systematically being wrested away from Him and delivered to another god whose name is "political correctness." Things like the sexual act that God meant to be between a man and a woman to seal their covenant of marriage and to produce children. Instead, in the name of "political correctness," homosexuality has increasingly become a sanctioned lifestyle, and marriage is being hijacked to include the union of two men or two women. And with what is there to argue against it if there is no belief in God or the standard of the Holy Scriptures? Why stop at a marriage of two people? Why not three people? Or four people? Or between a man and his pet Parrot that he professes to love? There is no end of perversion if one does not have a standard of eternal truth by which to live, and that standard must be God's Holy Scriptures.

I know that I am preaching to the choir on this, but although we are a numerical minority and sometimes feel powerless, the reality is that our connection to God and what we know of biblical prophecy assure us that He (and therefore we) will have the ultimate victory. As bad as things seem, and as bad as things will get, we must remember that our Bibles DO NOT prophesy the destruction of mankind, but rather the salvation of those who belong to Yeshua. Yes, many will perish but, in the end, God will be victorious, and we who finish the race holding fast to Him will be part of that victory.

Now the key is holding fast to God, and there are many distractions that are intentionally put in our path by Satan to cause us to stumble. Voices of political correctness and secular logic that tempt our flesh – telling us to go this way or that way, and that God's way is not the right way, not the convenient way, not the safe way, or not the only way. Voices professing logic like "After all, isn't God love? So if a man loves his parrot, what's wrong with his marrying it?" Of course my example is outlandish, but it was not so long ago that it was equally outlandish to believe that homosexuality and same-sex marriages would become commonplace, and even protected by law. The voices are seductive because they feed into our weaknesses so, when we hear them, it is well to remember the words of Proverbs 14:12:

"There can be a way which seems right to a person, but at its end are the ways of death."

The problem is not new. In his first epistle (1 John 4:1-3), John writes:

"Dear friends, don't trust every spirit. On the contrary, test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. Here is how you recognize the Spirit of God: every spirit which acknowledges that Yeshua the Messiah came as a human being is from God, and every spirit which does not acknowledge Yeshua is not from God - in fact, this is the spirit of the Anti-Messiah. You have heard that he is coming. Well, he's here now, in the world already!"

Similarly, and no doubt to address the same problem, Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, urging them to test everything. Paul's words are equally instructive to us because there are false prophets in the world today who would mislead us intentionally and also because well-meaning men sometimes make mistakes and miss-hear the voice of God. Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22:

"Don't quench the Spirit, don't despise inspired messages. But do test everything - hold onto what is good, but keep away from every form of evil."

Testing was also SOP for the men of Berea who “welcomed Paul’s message,” but engaged in “checking the Tanakh every day to see if the things Sha’ul was saying were true” (Acts 17:11).

I would not be speaking to you with this sense of urgency if it was only our individual welfare that was at stake. We may individually know what is right and be adhering to it, but what of our sons and daughters and their sons and daughters? What of our aging parents and other family members? What of our neighbors whom God commands that we love as though we were they? What of our nation that was founded on godly vision, that we see eroding into Sodom and Gomorrah before our very eyes?

I am going to temporarily digress from the subject of idolatry and political correctness, in order to bring to this talk something else that I think I can show is related to it; I will, however get back to political correctness shortly.

According to 2Timothy 2:3-4, we who are believers in Yeshua are soldiers in God's army; it reads:

"Accept your share in suffering disgrace as a good soldier of the Messiah Yeshua. No soldier on duty gets involved with civilian affairs, since he has to please his commanding officer."

This statement that we are soldiers is not metaphoric – it is real. We are not the kind of soldiers that kill people (as in the Crusades) but rather soldiers who seek to save people through the message of the *Besorah* and the anointing of God's Spirit.

"Not by force, and not by power, but by my Spirit," says ADONAI-Tzva'ot." (Zechariah 4:6)

And as do all soldiers, we fight alongside friendly soldiers and against enemy soldiers. That's what soldiers do; they fight as part of an army. In this case, the friendly soldiers are our fellow believers in Yeshua, and the enemy are Satan's minions.

"For we are not struggling against human beings, but against the rulers, authorities and cosmic powers governing this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm." (Ephesians 6:12).

Now serving in God's army is not all glory. The typical action movie does not portray a soldier's life as one of suffering, but the 2 Timothy Scripture tells a different story. It tells us that, as one of God's soldiers, we should expect to experience suffering and humiliation as Yeshua did. This comes up again and again in Scripture but, because it is unpleasant to think about, we tend to block it out or gloss over it. But we must stop doing that and we must, instead, confront it because, if we are not ready to suffer for God, we are vulnerable to being overtaken by the enemy in a time of weakness.

So, here it is again, the same thing stated another way in 1 Peter 2:21:

"Indeed, this is what you were called to; because the Messiah too suffered, on your behalf, leaving an example so that you should follow in his steps."

And here is Paul rallying the troops in his letter to the Philippians:

"Only conduct your lives in a way worthy of the Good News of the Messiah; so that whether I come and see you or I hear about you from a distance, you stand firm, united in spirit, fighting with one accord for the faith of the Good News, not frightened by anything the opposition does. This will be for them an indication that they are headed for destruction and you for deliverance. And this is from God; because for the Messiah's sake it has been granted to you not only to trust in him but also to suffer on his behalf, to fight the same battles you once saw me fight and now hear that I am still fighting." (Philippians 1:27-30).

Most of us in the Western World will not have to die for our faith, but it is not that way for many believers who live elsewhere, particularly in the Middle East and the Orient. We must remember to pray for our brothers and sisters who live in such places because they constantly face the reality of martyrdom. For us it is not death that threatens, but persecution for our beliefs.

This is where we get back to talking about the idolatry of political correctness. In the Western World (including the United States), persecution of believers who resist political correctness occurs all the time and can take many forms. Sometimes the form is economic, as we recently read about how the mayor of a major city sought to withhold business licenses from Chick-Fil-A because the president of Chick-Fil-A expressed his opposition to same-sex marriage. Sometimes the form is social ostracism. Sometimes the form is vandalism; someone doesn't like what we stand for, so he paints swastikas on our wall. Sometimes it is that no one in our community will hire us for work. Sometimes it is finding that we have received an undeserved "F" on a college term paper.

Whatever the way it hurts, but there is always a sure way to make the hurt and the attacks go away – abandon God's Word and conform to what is politically correct and expected of us by the secular god, political correctness. I don't advise it for a lot of reasons but, if we must have a practical reason, it is that we won't get away with it. Yes, we will get relief from the pain of persecution, but we will eventually have to stand before God, and what will we have to say then?

For my part, I am determined to stand my ground and fight. Experiencing pain sometimes, but also experiencing the satisfaction of knowing I am on God's winning team, and that I have a role in the victory. It is not easy to watch events that I cannot control unfold as we move forward in the end times. Scripture tell us that things will get worse before they get better. But there is one area I can control – my personal choices of whether I follow God, or follow the ever-present pressures of political correctness that pulls in the other direction. I don't want to see my country the USA go the way of England but, frankly, it is just about there. But I am not in despair because I am a soldier of God, and I know for a certainty that my army – God's army – will prevail. Meanwhile, I have a soldier's job to do, which is to recruit new soldiers for the battle, and to man the "guns" which, in this war is prayer. All of us at Ohev have that same soldier's commission, so let's suit up by the numbers ([Ephesians 6:12-17](#)):

1. *"Take up every piece of war equipment God provides; so that when the evil day comes, you will be able to resist; and when the battle is won, you will still be standing. Therefore, stand!*

2. *Have the belt of truth buckled around your waist.*

3. *Put on righteousness for a breastplate.*

4. *Wear on your feet the readiness that comes from the Good News of shalom.*

5. *Carry the shield of trust, with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the Evil One.*

6. *Take the helmet of deliverance; along with the sword given by the Spirit, that is, the Word of God;"*

All suited up? Let's move out!