

WALKING IN WISDOM (Colossians 4:5) Number #3

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All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version (Bible Resources may be found on: www.johntpolkll.com)

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Proving It Can Be Done

May 05, 2011 By: Mel Category: Anarchism [response by John T. Polk II]

People often ask me how I became an anarchist, but I've come to realize that it was really more of a discovery than a conversion. **I think most people hold anarchist beliefs.** The click moment for me was when I actually began to believe that I could live in accordance with my beliefs.

["Anarchist" is the term for "complete abolition of all government, and the organization of society on a voluntary, cooperative basis." Given the free, moral agency of humans, true "anarchism" is impossible, because: (1) Everyone has ingrained beliefs which will out; and (2) No human knows what can or ought to be done at birth. "Anarchism," therefore, stands only for destroying government that exists. "Libertarianism," on the other hand, stands for "an extreme laissez-faire political philosophy advocating only minimal state intervention in the lives of citizens." Libertarianism protects the rights of individuals to choose, whether or not it is based upon a shared belief. Marxists are always "anarchists" until they destroy the government they seek to overcome, and then they eliminate all "anarchists."]

When I talk to people about anarchism I often get the response that it sounds great in theory, but it would never work. People don't think it is possible to organize without hierarchy. They point to all the scary people out there that they can't trust. They look at how we can't even speak to one another, much less actually work together to solve big problems.

The first two criticisms are easy to respond to. There are plenty of people out there who are organizing without hierarchy – from pickup games of basketball to cooperatives.

["Pickup basketball games" always strive to follow the external "rules" of basketball and requires the common consent of all players, and "cooperatives" require an independent set of values to establish fair trade practices for all involved.]

And if you think your neighbor is scary, wait until your neighbor gets elected and sends your kid to war. The people who want to be "leaders" are always the absolute last people who should have power over anything.

[Is Mel leading us in becoming "anarchists?" If your neighbor's are scary, how much scarier is being among people who don't believe in following any rules whatsoever?]

That last one is tougher to respond to. There is no denying that we have a really hard time speaking to each other. And if you can't even speak to each other, then you sure as hell aren't going to be able to resolve conflicts. But it isn't that we are incapable. It is that we have been trained from birth to do all of the wrong things.

[Only someone who is as "sure as hell" has "been trained from birth to do all of the wrong things!" (1) Mel admits that one needs training "from birth" ostensibly because one at birth knows nothing; and (2) Speaking is a matter of choice, clarity is a matter of intelligence. Humans have a God-given ability to communicate, which cannot have come from any other source! (3) Interestingly, "anarchists" never seem to have a "really hard time speaking to each other." Neither, indeed, does a Christian.]

We don't discuss things, we debate to see who scores the most points. Everything is broken down into heroes and villains. Nobody wants to hear an ill word about their hero. Nobody wants to hear a good word about their villain. If we read something written by someone we like, we ignore the weak arguments or fuzzy assumptions. If we read something by someone we hate, we look only for what is wrong and refuse to acknowledge any good points they might have made.

[What "good word" does any "anarchist" have about his/her heroes?]

That's assuming we are even willing to read things by people we hate. How many people only preach to the choir? How many people make sure that all their news comes from those with their same ideological leanings? How often do we let all our knowledge about another group of people come from media or politicians or some other filter with their own agenda – rather than talking to those people directly?

[Indeed, correct knowledge of God & Jesus Christ must come only from the objective source of information there is: the Bible. Much misinformation is in the air because people have not turned to the source of true information. "Anarchists" decry the influence of the Bible because it requires recognition of a Supreme source of authority over individuals. "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same." (Romans 13:1-3 NKJV)]

Where the rubber hits the road is where anarchists can show that it is possible for people from different backgrounds and belief systems to actually work together. We have to show that it is possible to resolve conflicts without coercive authority. And that means that we have to be open-minded enough to at least talk to people. It means we can't be dogmatic. It means we have to acknowledge that nobody is right 100% of the time and nobody is wrong 100% of the time. It means realizing that you will never find anyone who supports everything you support. It means no more guilt by association. It means we should stop making assumptions about a person based on one thing they said or on the fact that people you don't like agree with them.

[I challenge any "anarchist" to discuss "right & wrong" with an open-mind. Agreed, "nobody is right 100% of the time and nobody is

wrong 100% of the time” and that certainly applies to “anarchists” and Christians! But the Bible has right information 100% of the time, and that’s why the Bible corrects those who are nearly always right and those who are nearly always wrong. Sadly, though, “anarchists” seem to believe they are the only ones who are 100% right all the time.]

That is a lot easier said than done. It is hard to have a conversation with someone who seems to hate everything you most value. It is hard to confront people’s prejudices. It is even harder to confront your own. Sometimes it isn’t even content, but style that seems to be the most difficult. Some people take a super logical approach to discussing things and seem cold and heartless. Other people meander through their stories and anecdotes, driving the superlogicals off the deep end.

[Like the fabled “Diogenes,” I would like to find an “anarchist” who would honestly admit that external rules are essential, and I will be glad to provide Bible rules that are essential, also. “Anarchism” admits of no Supreme Ruler, Libertarianism protects the God-bestowed freedom for individual choices. The Bible is the account of the perfectly brilliant God dealing with the “warm and fuzzy feeling” inconsistencies of humanity.]

We are all going to fail miserably a lot of the time. But we need to at least try. Our ability to create a different kind of world depends upon our ability to develop skills in communication, conflict resolution, and horizontal organizing. We know how to make revolutionary change. We don’t know how to make change that lasts and that doesn’t reproduce the same oppressions we fought to get rid of. Once we can learn how to resolve our own problems – without calling daddy, or the cops, or Smith & Wesson – the jig is up.

[How does an “anarchist” fail? Bringing down government is a one-way street, and “anarchists” have nothing to offer in return. That’s why Marxists use “anarchists” to clear the way for Marxism, which, itself is a parasitic political philosophy which does nothing constructive for its victims/citizens/slaves.]

If we can manage to bring seemingly incompatible people to the table and actually accomplish something, then the naysayers will see that it is possible. ***[“Naysaying” “anarchism” doesn’t make a positive, but advocating the edifying doctrine of Jesus Christ does! Who will re-think this with me?]***

Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

- ~You cannot travel back in time to fix your mistakes, but you can learn from them and FORGIVE yourself for not knowing better.
- ~Just because you had a few bad chapters in your life doesn’t mean the story can’t end well. Turn the page & never look back.
- ~Being wanted feeds the ego; being valued feeds the soul.



By David Sproule

Who Are You Going to Believe—God or the Devil?

The devil lies! You know that, right? You cannot believe or trust anything that the devil would have you to believe or trust! What he tries to convince you to do is completely contrary to whatever God wants you to do. Would you like some evidence?

In Genesis 2:17, God said, “...of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Then twelve verses later, the devil boldly proclaimed, “You will not surely die” (3:4). God said, “You shall surely die” and the devil said, “You shall not surely die.” Who are you going to believe?

In Matthew 3:17, God announced from heaven (for the benefit of the witnesses and Jesus Himself), “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” A voice boomed from heaven and declared, “THIS IS MY SON!” That’s not hard to understand. Who could miss it? Three verses later, the devil said to Jesus, “If You are the Son of God...” (Matt. 4:3). What do you mean “If”? God just declared it to be so! Who are you going to believe?

Do you see? The devil lies! He always lies! Truly the devil “does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it” (John 8:44). You cannot

trust him, and yet how often do we fall for his lies?

God said that there are only two genders, which are permanently identifiable and distinguishable from birth—“male and female” (Gen. 1:27; 5:2; Matt. 19:4). But the devil says, “Don’t be so naïve and closed-minded! Be respectful of how someone feels and let them be true to themselves!” Who are you going to believe?

God said that marriage is only between one man and one woman (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:4-6; 1 Cor. 7:2). But the devil says, “Don’t be such a prude! Marriage is for those who love one another, regardless of whether they are the same or different genders!” Who are you going to believe?

God said that sex before marriage (i.e., fornication) or outside marriage (i.e., adultery) is sin (Heb. 13:4). But the devil says, “What’s the big deal?

Don’t be so old-fashioned. There is nothing wrong with it!” Who are you going to believe?

God said that there is an eternal heaven for those who obey Him and an eternal hell for those who reject His will (Matt. 7:21-23; 25:46). But the devil says, “Who cares about heaven and hell? Nobody’s ever seen them! Just live the way that makes you happy!” Who are you going to believe?

God is truth! The devil is a liar! Who will you follow?

Five First Steps to Success

THE FIRST HOUR of the Day

THE FIRST DAY of the Week

THE FIRST PORTION of your pay

GIVE GOD

THE FIRST CONSIDERATION in every decision

THE FIRST PLACE in your Heart

WHAT ARE YOU GIVING TO GOD?