

Ponderings from Pastor Paul – September 2019

Some of you are probably aware that my son got married in August. It was a great day and I was honored to pronounce Ted and Danielle as husband and wife. What you may not know was that they were already married in a civil ceremony last December. We had discussed having two ceremonies on several occasions and so it was actually part of the plan.

Why would a pastor not only be a part of such an event, but eagerly promote it? Some may perceive this as an act of cowardice by allowing “the state” to take precedence over the church. In my opinion, it is the exact opposite. I believe the concerns of the state and the concerns of our faith are fundamentally different. The state only cares IF they are married. There is absolutely no concern for a continued marriage. Our faith looks for a lifetime relationship. It encourages love and commitment and forgiveness, as modeled by God’s love for us as expressed in Jesus Christ. The state has no concern for any of these.

As our culture attempts to redefine right and wrong, I believe we may see more and more couples having multiple ceremonies. And I believe this is a good thing. I believe that when we begin to recognize differing and sometimes counter perspectives between our faith and the state, we will begin to accept that we as Christians are called to step up and defend our faith more boldly. We will begin to understand that truth as defined by the culture and our government cannot dictate how we respond to God’s truth found in his Word.

I’m not suggesting we give up on our culture or the government, but rather the reverse. I believe this is a critical era in history for Christians to have an impact on the world. The Bible tells us that we are to pray for others. We are to love those we disagree with. We are to forgive the unforgivable. We are to be a light in the darkness.

We are witnesses to divisiveness, anger, and hatred in our nation and world unlike we’ve ever witnessed before. I believe this is a time ordained by God for the church to stand up and love, forgive, pray, and shine like has not happened for 2000 years.

I pray the Christian church can respect individuals with opposing views without accepting a rewrite of God’s truths. I pray we can step up with humility and

confidence to defend the Word of God so the people we interact with will see there is a love that transcends the rational world. I pray God would use us in this confrontational age to bring peace and comfort and love to a world that is in desperate need of it.

God loves you and so do I!

Pastor Paul