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Was Jesus Politically Correct?

John 18:36: (NASB) *Jesus answered, my kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, then my servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, my kingdom is not of this realm.*



George Orwell's 1949 book *1984* was about the future. It was a scary and suggestive look at what could happen to society if we did not protect our freedoms from totalitarianism. The idea that "Big Brother is watching" was a fearful one, for this fictional story gave the feeling that what we say and think is monitored and forcefully used to keep us in line. So, here it is 2017, and the year 1984 passed 33 years ago without Big Brother watching. But wait a minute - the sexist and alarming thought of "Big Brother watching" would invade "safe spaces" and be recognized as a potential trigger for some and we need to be gender and social status-free in our policing of the masses, so instead of Big Brother watching we should say, "Thought interpreting humans are guiding the collective." The point is, we have entered a time in history where the policing of thoughts and words has overtaken us in a unique and disturbing way. What would Jesus do in this environment? Would he stand in support of it or against it? Would Jesus be politically correct?

(Source: Wikipedia on Political Correctness) In the early-to-mid 20th century, the phrase "politically correct" was associated with the dogmatic application of Stalinist doctrine, debated between Communist Party members and American Socialists. This usage referred to the Communist party line, which provided "correct" positions on many political matters. According to American educator Herbert Kohl, writing about debates in New York in the late 1940's and early 1950's, the term "politically correct" was used disparagingly to refer to someone whose loyalty to the CP line overrode compassion, and led to bad politics. It was used by Socialists against Communists, and was meant to separate out Socialists who believed in egalitarian moral ideas from dogmatic Communists who would advocate and defend party positions regardless of their moral substance.

 **Politically correct - good start, *Political Correctness is in a Decadent Phase, Steven Pinker (Harvard Professor)***

There was a movement to remove basic barriers to participation for certain groups - this is appropriate. We agree with changing society's obvious wrongs. But after standing up for something and making progress, what is next? When does it get to a point where it goes over an edge?

(Source: Excerpts from factmyth.com, "The Origin of Politically Correct" - posted by Thomas DeMichele on August 18, 2016)


In its perfect balance, political correctness can do good things but it is a sensitive and easily-manipulated idea.

 **Introduction, *Political Theory, Karl Marx, factmyth.com***

JESUS AND CHILDREN: Jesus did not say too much about raising children, though he did comment on some of the great inherent values children bring to us.

Proverbs 22:6: (NASB) *Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

Give your child clear-cut guidance, missing from most parenting today.

 **No more boys and girls, *KOB4, Albuquerque, New Mexico, August 2016***

Giving a child a choice by suggesting gender identification is not teaching them. This allows a 5-year old to create a destiny.

(Source: Excerpts from thesun.co.uk, June 9, 2016, by Jasper Hamill) TRIGGER WARNING: Meet 'Generation Snowflake'

The value of children: **Matthew 18:1-6:** Jesus told us to be teachable, trusting, humble, willing and wanting to grow up. That is what is represented by a child back in biblical days. Today's children are brainwashed from a young age to be able to do and think what they want without the benefit of firm, clear guidance. Not only should we be teachable and always growing up, we must embrace others doing the same.

Today we say children should be able to make their own decisions, regardless of their immaturity. Households are run based on how the children feel. This is not correct!



Our spiritual life depends upon our growing up! Jesus saw a depth of teach-ability and trusting in children that he wanted to see in the adults who would be his followers. In our society, children are not like those described in the Bible.

Jesus' attitude towards children would not be "politically correct" in our day. He saw them as being taught and guided by their parents.

Matthew 19:13-15: Jesus always had time for children, because they followed him without hesitation. He used their ability to be taught as an example for us.

Children as priceless, *Political Correctness is in a Decadent Phase*, Steven Pinker

We look at what Jesus did, said and taught, and it is nothing near how our children are being raised today.

JESUS AND MARRIAGE: As with children, Jesus did not say much about marriage, but when you look at what he DID say, you realize that he did not have to say more!

Matthew 19:3-9: This question was likely provoked by the Pharisees' own internal debate on the matter that had been going on for decades. Political correctness wants to label us and put us on sides, and Jesus was not going to play that game.

Politically correct - decadent phase, *Political Correctness is in a Decadent Phase*, Steven Pinker

A movement gets to a point where the initial victory is won, but then the envelope is pushed further and further. Here is an example:

(Source: Excerpt from thesun.co.uk, by Rachel Dale, January 7, 2017) "I'M FOUR MONTHS PREGNANT," A British man, 20, will be the first to give birth thanks to a sperm donor he found on Facebook. Hayden Cross plans to have a baby before returning to complete the transition process, which will remove his breasts and ovaries. The former Asda worker, born a girl 20 years ago, is legally male and has begun hormone treatment. But he put his transition on hold to have a baby with donor sperm. Hayden, who lives in Gloucester and is four months pregnant, said, "I want the baby to have the best. I'll be the greatest dad."

God made mankind male and female. Jesus was politically incorrect in quoting such a Scripture from Genesis. But what about divorce? Jesus does not directly answer the question; rather, he says, "Why do you even ask? The whole idea is to be joined together for life. You should not be thinking about how to get out of it. Be thinking about how to stay *in* it! Stay married! It is a sacred covenant." That is not politically correct. Today if I do not feel like staying in my marriage, I simply do not.

Hayden told The Sun on Sunday, "I faced the prospect of not becoming the man I am supposed to be, physically, or a dad, so I didn't feel like I had any choice but to have a baby now then get back to transitioning. I want a kid now, then it's back to transition. In September I got pregnant by a sperm donation."

The Pharisees obviously do not get the point and ask again - Jesus MUST be labeled: ⁷They said to him, why then did Moses command to give her a certificate of divorce and send her away? ⁸He said to them, Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way. ⁹And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.

Jesus answers and again stresses that it is all about *keeping* the promise you made. Divorce was not supposed to exist. God allowed it because their hearts were hard. This viewpoint of keeping your promise is no longer politically correct. "If I don't feel like it, I shouldn't have to. Further, you shouldn't be telling me what I can and can't do."

Yet Hayden admits he now feels uncomfortable carrying a child and struggles with the physical changes... "I was finally starting to become myself and become a man physically - but now my body is going in the opposite direction. It makes me angry that I've been put through this. Carrying a baby is meant to be a happy time, but in my body, it feels wrong. I just couldn't face being years down the line and still waiting to transition so that I can have a kid. I wanted the kid now so that I can have the transition before I get old."

Now she is accusing others for her dilemma...? Political correctness takes away personal responsibility. Political correctness is not in line with scriptural principles, because it is about feelings and not how life actually works.



Hyper-parenting, *Political Correctness is in a Decadent Phase, Steven Pinker*

We protect our children to such a degree that we do not expose them to failure or things they do not like. We go along with how they feel. They are not shown how to cope.

We are certainly NOT to be anywhere near “politically correct” regarding marriage:

Colossians 3:18-20: We want to be scripturally and spiritually correct so we can build families who honor God and are productive in society.

We have gone so far over the edge that it is hard to imagine how it could be repaired in this present, evil world.



Based on facts, *Save the Snowflakes, Media Research Center TV*

Was Jesus a Marxist? Marxism has the idea of a Utopian world revolving around equality and not having possessions. These points sound a lot like Jesus. He wanted people treated equally and was not materialistic.

Marxism truly does paint a very utopian picture of the world - it revolves around equality and not having “things” and these points do sound somewhat like Jesus.

JESUS AND SOCIAL TOLERANCE: Jesus taught and stood for very specific principles, and those principles were most often misunderstood - then and now.

Matthew 19:16-22: For the Jew, following the Law’s commandments was the pathway to life. But it also would lead someone to Jesus, because he was the Messiah, the fulfillment of the Law.

Following him meant not being attached to the things left behind. This is a spiritual concept, not a Marxist one.

In the book, *1984*, or in any Marxist society, this young man talking to Jesus would have had to be “re-educated.” (That re-education took place in a torture camp that forced you to no longer want your possessions, done for the good of society.)

Jesus’ teachings rose well above the fray, as he lived his own teaching of truly loving your enemies: Matthew 5:43-45

Christianity is merciful yet honest enough to speak the truth when it needs to be spoken:

Acts 3:12-15: After being so incredibly blunt and politically incorrect to accuse them of their actions, what result would come of it? More shortly...

Jesus was not trying to fix the society he was in; he was trying to show them a higher way to follow him. He spoke to the Jewish people based on the Law. We should not be trying to fix our society. We should be an example to others, showing them a higher, spiritual way so that God through Jesus can fix the world for real in the next age. We need to learn how to cope with society and stand up for what we should in a way that is Christ-like.

What about politics? Did Jesus get involved? Was he politically correct?

Acts 4:1-4: The result of Peter not being politically correct was he got thrown in jail...but people converted by the thousands! Why? Peter was bold enough to tell the truth. We must be bold enough to speak the truth.

Christianity then focuses us on honesty and accountability and provides forgiveness for our wrongdoings. Christianity is focused on bringing one person at a time to see their own lives, not to try to change society. In this world of political correctness gone haywire, we should not pool our resources and try to fight it. We should stand the way Jesus stood. He showed his followers a better way.

JESUS AND POLITICS: Jesus was far from political correctness when it came to politics, for his life’s objectives were far from any other man.

Luke 20:19-26: This sounds like the *1984* book’s “Thought Police” or any random present day politically correct approach. Clearly they needed to get rid of Jesus! He was offending people!

They never expected that answer from Jesus. He delved into the laws and politics of the day - should I be paying these taxes to Caesar? Sure, give him the money due. God wants your hearts, mind, soul and strength.



Jesus never hinted at insurrection and always taught to be cooperative and to rise to even higher standards than were expected. For Jesus, it was always all about godliness.

There is danger in falling into traps of certain ways of thinking. We are talking about drawing people in with good principles, drawing them in and then dominating them by ruling over them with an iron fist. Joseph Stalin was a great political example of this. Unfortunately, the Papal system was a great example of this as well. They drew masses of people in through Christianity, set rules and created the vision of hell-fire to scare the people if they stepped out of line. With that fear in place, you now control them. This is a misuse of something good for the purpose of power. We are in this world but are not of it. Do not try to change the world; stand above the fray. This is what Jesus did.

Back to religious politics: Mark 12:28-31: They tried to argue Jesus into a corner. Whatever commandment he would pick, they intended on arguing against it. Jesus did not hesitate about which was the greatest commandment - a combination of two, but in his description he described all of them. (If you kept perfectly the first two, all of the rest automatically followed.) Brilliant!

Jesus was about loving ALL, but always in the context of loving God first, because the true God is love. Today we see the complete disassembly of these two factors. Some religions love their God and hate the people who do not agree. Others, while denying God, proclaim to love the people though they have disdain for those who do not agree with them. Jesus never did that. He lived his life in sacrifice for both his friends and enemies.

In one sentence, Jesus clearly describes his "political" views in our theme text: John 18:36: His kingdom does not belong within the context of the kingdoms of this world. His is a replacement kingdom. If you replace something, you are not trying to fix the old broken thing; you remove it and replace it with something with far more lasting value.

Go back to the original "good news" of the Gospel and apply its principles to your life. We should not try to change the world around us, as it is being torn down to be replaced with God's kingdom. But we should be a witness to the individuals around us of a higher, better way.

JESUS ON RELIGIOUS THINKING AND POSITION: Jesus set a standard that rose above the fray.

Matthew 5:13-16: To be *the salt of the earth* is to be a person of exceptional character - godly character - a person who is a living sermon to any who see them! That kind of character has a preserving effect; it keeps things intact. It is stable and selfless. To be *the light of the world* is to be a source of light and truth. Being a light means not only revealing what is in dark places, but also being a beacon of hope and direction. Rise above to be the example! Be the light, be the salt!

We can be happy and hopeful in a dark world because we know the answers. People can see our calm attitude. We may not be telling everyone directly about Jesus, but someone may at some point ask you, "Why are you so happy all of the time?" or "What do you believe, because you have such peace?"



More sarcasm, *Save the Snowflakes*, Media Research Center TV

Our bottom line regarding our role in the world: **First, focus on the building up of the body of Christ:** Ephesians 4:11-16: Our position in this world of political correctness needs to be focused on the body of Christ, and standing up for what is true and right. **Second, stand firmly upon the foundation of Jesus and do not fall for the emotional trickery of men:** Grow up! Let us be *spiritually* correct, not politically correct. We need to be spiritually sound and spiritually mature. Be salt! Be light! We are not going to change the world around us, but we can change the minds of a few by showing them a better way. Stand above the fray. Do not let political correctness get you down, because what you stand for is ultimately stronger, more powerful and everlasting - the kingdom of God!

***So, was Jesus politically correct?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!***