

October 2017

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Is it ironic, and surely providential, that President Donald Trump issued an executive order instructing federal agencies not to enforce the so called “Johnson Amendment?” That law forbids churches from being involved in political activities. At the same time, we are seeing unprecedented attacks on religious freedom, as well as, an assault on free speech.

Liberals, non-Christians and others see evangelical fundamental Christians as using their personal religious beliefs to influence or oppose the culture. Frankly, the church has not been speaking out on cultural issues for many decades. Perhaps, the time has come and the executive order releases churches to not only recognize their role in being salt and light, but removing impediments, which were no doubt unconstitutional to begin with. We see the culture descending into acrimonious debate, and even physical attacks. It all centers around racism and white supremacy, but free speech and individual rights and liberties as a whole will be damaged.

If it is bad now, think how bad it may be in the future. There is much concern for the views and values of the millennials and Generation Z. Perhaps more troubling are the prospects of the nation’s pool of future leaders from leading colleges who see the world as racist and sexist. Campus protests of conservative speakers, unbridled protests of persons ranging from Christopher Columbus to Robert E. Lee demonstrates that civil debate no longer exists. Instead of professors encouraging a well-rounded and complete education, they seem to be encouraging students to disagree with the establishment. When these millennial and Generation Z leaders assume their places in the workforce and the political world, where will they lead us?

Other recent news is the adoption of a “gay rights” ordinance by the City of Birmingham. While it has a mild exception for churches and religious organizations, it will have a restrictive effect on many who have a religious belief on homosexual issues. We will provide a complete report on this soon.

As you can see, it is important that the church recognize the need to speak to the culture on what is important. We hope and pray the church will do so. This month’s Educational Update gives churches guidance on this important responsibility.

We appreciate your continuing support. With personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston