



The Southeast Sower

Southeast Church of Christ

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“The Wildfire of Class Envy”

By

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“Envy is the religion of the mediocre. It comforts them, it soothes their worries, and finally it rots their souls, allowing them to justify their meanness and their greed until they believe these to be virtues. Such people are convinced that the doors of heaven will be opened only to poor wretches like themselves who go through life without leaving any trace but their threadbare attempts to belittle others and to exclude - and destroy if possible - those who, by the simple fact of their existence, show up their own poorness of spirit, mind, and guts. Blessed be the one at whom the fools bark, because his soul will never belong to them.” - C. R. Zafon

It has often been said that if you tell a lie big enough and often enough people will begin to believe it. It is a tactic used by Satan and his followers to systematically promote false, sinful, and immoral

principles in order to increase acceptance, tolerance and the practice of them. Unfortunately, history clearly shows its effectiveness even to the point where those things that traditionally have been viewed as vices have become accepted as virtues. Even in our country today we see this tactic being used in the promotion of all manner of sinful ideas. One of the most prevalent is the exploitation of the masses through the political promotion of class envy. It is tearing this country apart by the seams, and I believe many Christians are in danger of being caught up in it.

The telling of the “big lie” of class envy basically involves a three step process involving victimization, demonization, and criminalization. The narrative that is presented goes something like this. Those who have less materially, have less solely because they have been victimized by those who have more. Those who have more are then slandered and demonized as acquiring it illegally, unethically, or immorally through “greed”

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6:00 pm

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and at the expense of those who have less. The state is then enlisted by those who have less to target those who have more, taking their legally acquired wealth through force for redistribution to those who have less. The whole process is then justified and made more palatable under lofty-sounding buzzwords and catch-phrases like “fairness”, “economic

equality”, and “social justice” but it is nothing more than unbridled envy, plain and simple - envy of another’s income, job, education, health care, neighborhood, social status or success and good fortune in general.

Solomon recognized this same type of envy in his day. Eccl. 4:4, *“Again, I saw that for all toil and every skillful work a man is envied by his neighbor.”* For those who would justify envy towards those who acquire it illegally, unethically, or immorally through greed or evil motives consider the following proverbs that teach that envy is not justified for any reasons.

Prov. 23:17, *“Let not thy heart envy sinners.”*

Prov. 3:31, *“Do not envy the oppressor, And choose none of his ways;”*

Prov. 24:1, *“Do not be envious of evil men, Nor desire to be with them”*

Rom. 12:17, *“Repay no man evil for evil”*

Envy, whether it is directed toward an individual or a particular class of individuals, is petty, it is sinful, and furthermore, it is part and parcel of an atheistic, humanistic, Marxist ideology which stands in

direct opposition to God and His Word. It spreads like wildfire, burning out of control right back to the hearts and minds of those who harbored it themselves. As Christians, we need to be extremely cautious about not getting caught up in this sinful, destructive mindset as it will surely tear us apart as God’s people and cost us our place in God’s kingdom.

Don’t think envy is that dangerous? As the flames of class envy continue to be fanned in our country pitting Americans against one another, inciting a mob-like mentality, it is interesting to note the written historical perspective of a man who personally suffered through the disastrous end results of the same ideology.

“If I were asked today to formulate as concisely as possible what was the main cause of the ruinous revolution that swallowed up some 60 million of our people, I could not put it more accurately than to repeat: Men had forgotten God; that is why all this has happened....our envy of others devoured us all.” - (Alexander Solzhenitsyn, political prisoner and survivor of the Russian gulags, on the Communist Revolution in Russia.)

“Men had forgotten God....”A condition made manifest as the lie of “class

envy”, lit like a wildfire by communist revolutionaries, burned increasingly out of control, eventually engulfing the entire population, sparing no one.

If you want to get the full picture and see the end results of what happens when men forget God, read Romans, chapter 1. Consider in particular verse 29. *“...being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers.”* Look closely here at the list of the familiar cohorts of envy and tell me it is not a serious problem with serious consequences.

In closing, consider the solution to resisting the wildfire of class envy by Alexander Solzhenitsyn, a man who lived through it. “The simple step of a courageous individual is not to take part in the lie. One word of truth outweighs the entire world.”

May we all be loyal to the truth unlike those in 2 Thess. 2: 9-12, *“And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”*

