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Do we adjust our understanding of Scripture for political correctness?

It may be very tempting to adjust our understanding of Christianity to suit any feelings of the time towards politics or morals, but is that ever right and is it even realistic and possible?

The Church of England has announced the appointment of Stephen Cottrell as the 98th Archbishop of York (December 2019). Stephen Cottrell has been widely reported as saying that we should change our morality to suit society's modern versions of morality.



The media has stated and reminded us that Bishop Cottrell has claimed that the 'Bible has to fit the current culture'. Yet the question is: "Is that ever even possible?"

To be a Christian means that we believe in Jesus Christ and so that is what the word "CHRISTian" means. So any Christian needs to see what Jesus Christ says. So what does our Lord Jesus Christ tell us?

Before we consider if Scripture can ever be changed we should begin by understanding why Jesus Christ even came.

In the gospel of John the introduction says in chapter 1, at verses 11 and 12:

¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.....

Then all is made clear for us in John's gospel when it tells us this in chapter 3:

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through

him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.

So there we are all clearly told that our Lord Jesus Christ came to save the world and not to condemn the world. So in today's modern politically correct world it is completely wrong to condemn Jesus Christ, as if Jesus Christ ever came into the world to condemn anyone, when he actually came to save them (i.e. "us").

In Matthew's gospel at chapter 5 (verse 18) Jesus Christ tells us all directly:

¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law [Scripture] until all is accomplished.

So Scripture cannot, and should not be changed.

Indeed we are told by St Paul in Romans chapter 12:

² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

So we must not go for changing anything to simply "conform to this world", particularly as our Lord Jesus Christ came to save this world and not to condemn it. None of us should conform to this world. If anything, the world should be changed by Jesus Christ and not vice versa.

Similarly the apostles James tells us in chapter 1 of James' letter at verse 17:

¹⁷ Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

So God does not change so why would anyone want to change Scripture? Nobody is so clever that they know better than God.

As we are told in 2 Timothy chapter 3:

¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

So the Bible exists to guide us in the ways of God and if God never changes why would anyone ever want to change Scripture just to suit today's morals when God's ways and morals have never, ever changed and will not ever change.

The context of trying to answer why changing Scripture is not possible remains this context as St Paul wrote in 1 Timothy chapter 1 beginning at verse 14:

¹⁴The grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

So St Paul not only constantly reminds us that “... *Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...*” but also counts himself, a saint himself, as just as much a sinner as everyone else.

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