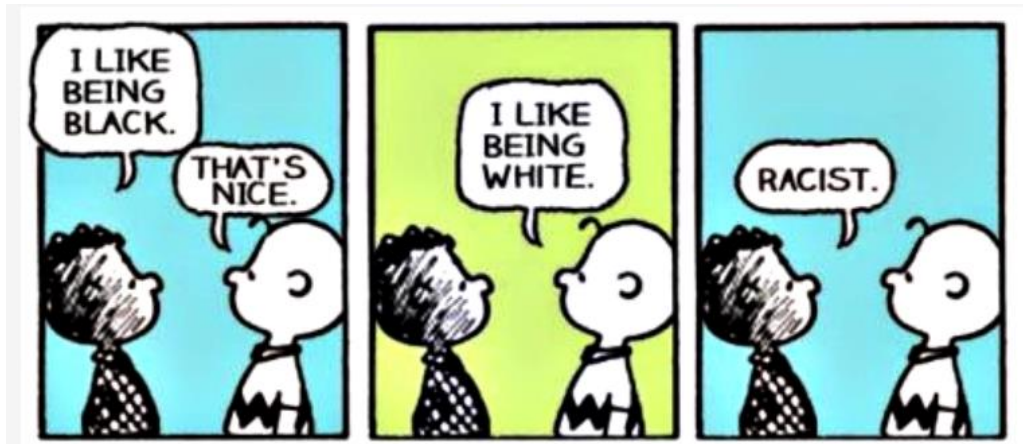


Jesus and Political Correctness



I hope you at least smiled after reading this cartoon. If not, you're likely to have been poisoned by the phenomenon called *political correctness*. We smile, because we can see the hypocrisy of the black boy in the cartoon. It is the same hypocrisy of the political correctness of leftist liberalism in the USA, which says: "*You are a racist because you are white.*" Such a statement is in itself a racist statement, because it discriminates people on the basis of skin color. But this logical inconsistency is hardly ever recognized by those who make such statements.

What is political correctness? "*Political Correctness is a term used to describe language, policies, or measures that are intended to avoid offense or disadvantage to members of particular groups in society.*", according to some dictionary.

Political correctness shows itself primarily in politically correct language. The goal here is to avoid denigrating or discriminating formulations, when talking about particular minority groups in society.

In most of western countries it is the political left wingers, the progressive liberals, who have introduced politically correct thinking in our society. The three basic values for a good society, proclaimed by the progressives, are: diversity, equality, and inclusion. All people in their diversity, from whatever race, sex, sexuality, or gender-identity, should have the same possibilities and rights in society.

This actually sounds quite good. I must say, I actually agree with such a general "tolerant" vision of these concepts. However, what this movement currently is doing, is trying to destroy some of the most fundamental values and truths in society.

"*Human life is sacred*" – one of those values – but the progressives have fought for legalization of abortion – and won the battle – at least in Denmark and most of the western world. How? By appealing to "*a right*" – the right of a woman to decide about her

own body. The right of a woman to decide about her own body trumps the right to life of another human being. How "equal" is that?!

"Marriage is between a man and a woman" – another truth, having been around for thousands of years- but progressives have established the "legalization" of marriage between gay people. How? By appealing to a "right" – gay people also have the right to be married. The thing is: every gay person has always and forever had exactly the same right to be married: every gay man has always had the right to marry a woman, and every lesbian woman has always had the right to marry a man, just like all other women and men! There has never been an exclusion of gay people when it comes to marriage!

The truth is: a marriage between two men or a marriage between two women *is just not contained in the definition of marriage*. Then why didn't the progressives make up another term to describe what they wished to accomplish, for example "gayrriage"?

They did not do so for two reasons: firstly, because they needed the sense of the inherent beauty and goodness associated with the real thing; making up a new term would never give them that. And secondly, it is not enough for them just to come to an equal standing with a conservative or religious concept – they wish to destroy that concept. That's why it is still called "marriage"- only now it means something else.

"A man is a man and a woman is a woman" – a truth as simple as the mathematical equation " $x=x$ ", which even a 2nd grader in elementary school can understand – is now no longer valid. Now some men actually really are women, and some women actually really are men. How can we get there? By letting individual *feelings* trump biological *facts*. *What you feel is what you are*.

Starting with a distinction between the objective *"being a man"* (biological sex) and the subjective *"identifying as a woman"* (gender identity). Then declaring the subjective to be more *"real"* than the objective (After all: *"Everybody has his own reality"*, isn't that true?): *"Everyone who identifies as a woman, is a woman."* And finally claiming equal rights for all people, now belonging to that newly designed class of *"women"*.

The results? Now biological men can occupy women's restrooms; biological men dominate women's sports; biological male criminals (often sex-offenders) are transferred to women-prisons. *All because they identify as women*. Isn't that taking away the rights of all other women? The right of privacy in women's restrooms, which excludes men? The right to compete against other biological women instead of biological men with an unfair amount of muscle-mass and strength because of the sex?

And the other victim-group here: our children. In many public schools in the West our kids are being poisoned with this gender-ideology. They are being told that boys can be girls

and girls can be boys. *"You decide: if you feel like a boy, you are one."* And thousands of insecure, confused, and often depressed teenage-girls start the on the path to the wilfull destruction of their own bodies: pubertyblockers, crosshormones, and surgery.

The opposition between the progressive left and the conservative right has led to an enormous polarization in society. This means, though, that in a political debate, everybody looks at their opponent as an *evil* enemy. Sadly, that leads people to not anymore listen to each others arguments. Not a good situation for a democracy.

Politically correct thinking with its focus on diversity, equality, and inclusion has also made its way into our churches. In many churches words some *"sin"*, *"salvation"*, or *"hell"*, are being tabooed now. They sound old, rigid, and, frankly judgmental, and exclusionary. We want to be *seeker-sensitiv* now: if somebody new visits our church, we do not want to scare them away by speaking potentially offensive language.

The word *"salvation"* has become unpopular, because, if somebody is in need to be saved, that means he is neither *"safe"* nor *"free"*. And this is of course opposed to the idea of our society, that all human beings already are free. *"Free to be, whom you are or whom you want to be."* *"Free, to act after your own desires."* The world thinks that is freedom, but it is nothing more than licentiousness. And it leads to bondage, addiction, and finally, destruction.

The freedom that Christ offers is of another nature: it is the freedom *to do what you ought to do*. The psalmist declares it so accurately: *"I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free."* That is real freedom; it is the freedom of eternal life.

Another example of political correctness in our churches, one which I have heard and read many times, is the following statement: *"God's love for human beings is unconditional."*

The concept of *"unconditional love"* is not to be found in scripture. When we say this in our churches, we mean something like this: *"No matter who you are and what you do, God loves you."* And this is in some way surely correct. God's love does not depend on us, or on what we do or do not.

But the thing we are failing to say, when talking about God's love, is a much more important truth: *"Human beings will not experience God's love without meeting God's conditions."* There *are* conditions tied to our experience of God's love. God *does require* something of us human beings. We have to *repent*. We have to *believe*. We have to *act* on our faith. We have to *lead a holy life*. We have to *love God* with all our hearts.

And we know this. And we also do know, that *not everybody will be saved*. But it is not something we say easily. Instead, we use politically correct language, and say that God's love is unconditional. That sounds *egalitarian* and *inclusive*.

Another political correct statement, which we often hear in our churches: "*We should not judge or condemn other people.*" That sounds so correct, so true. And doesn't the Bible tell us so?

Yes, Jesus does actually say that: Luke 6, 37: "*Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.*" But Jesus immediately puts this into the context of forgiveness, when he says: "*Forgive, and you will be forgiven.*" Jesus has just talked about how we even should love our enemies. What Jesus is trying to express here, is, *if somebody sins against us*, even our enemy, we should not judge, but instead *forgive*.

But then Jesus continues talking about "*judging*": "*Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, and you do not see the log in your own eye?*" We should not judge our fellow-believer for sin, *if we are committing the same kind of sin*. We should not be hypocrites.

But Jesus is not finished, and he goes on to admonish us first to clean ourselves from our own sin, before we go and try to help our fellow-believer with his sin. Obviously, to be able to do exactly that, we need "*judgment*", in the sense of *discernment*. We are called to *discern*, we are called to *judge*!

And, what's more, we are sometimes even *called to condemn*. The apostle Paul makes that clear in his letter to the Corinthians. A member of the church in Corinth, was living together with his father's wife. Paul clearly does not only condemn the sin, but also the man committing this sin: *he is to be expelled from church*. We are *called to judge* those within our churches, those that claim to be a brother or sister in Christ.

The politically correct in our society condemn condemnation. But anyone who states "*You should not condemn others!*", does actually and ironically condemn others by just saying that. But that is not all – the politically correct leftists will use their power to even persecute Christians for their "*judgmentalism*".

Just one example: a Catholic company in Albany, New York, was charged with civil rights violations when it refused to host a lesbian wedding on its farm. The company was forced to pay \$10,000 to the state, and another \$3,000 to help heal the "*mental pain and suffering*" it inflicted on the aggrieved lesbians. Jesus has told us, that we will face persecution in this world – we have been privileged in the West, but those times are over now.

The politically correct of this world never judge *themselves*, but always *others*, and especially those, who happen to disagree with them. In God's kingdom, things are the other way around: we are called to judge ourselves first, and only then are we allowed to judge others.

Our society does not just hate to be judged, but isn't even able to bear being "*offended*". As Christians we have been used to be offended, judged, and condemned for our beliefs for about 2000 years now. We can handle that, because we are rooted in reality. What other people think of us is of secondary importance.

But those living on their own terms and without a God are living a lie. And every time they are confronted with that, they *will* feel offended – their false worldview crumbling down before their own eyes. It is like a house of cards: the smallest blowing of the Spirit of Truth destroys it immediately.

That's why they cannot bear to be offended. And that's why *we* now have to speak *their* language: the progressives want to compel us to use a transperson's preferred pronouns, so they can live on in their small bubbles of make-believe reality without feeling offended.

Jesus was never afraid to offend. He always spoke truthfully:

Matthew 23: "*Woe to you, scribes and pharisees, hypocrites, for you cleanse the outside of the cup, and the dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence!.....(.....)....., snakes, offspring of vipers, how can you escape from the judgment of hell!*"

Such were Jesus' words to the hypocrites of his time. How politically incorrect! Jesus was not afraid to "*offend*". On the contrary, he does it here on purpose!

And what about this statement from Jesus?

Matthew 10, 34-36: "*Do not believe I have come to bring peace on earth. I have not come to bring peace, but the sword. For I came to divide a man against his own father, a daughter against her own mother And one's foes will be the members of one's own household.*"

Jesus came to create division within families! How should that be understood? Jesus explains it in the next verse: "*the one loving his father or mother more than me, is not worthy of me, and the one, loving his son or daughter more than me, is not worthy of me.*"

Our love towards God should be stronger than our love towards our family! We should be more loyal to God than to our family. This means, when God becomes our spiritual Father in heaven, it is very possible that you will get into conflict with your biological father here on earth.

So God's living Word, Jesus, offends people!

God's living Word, Jesus, creates division in our families.

And so, Jesus creates polarization in society!

But God's word does not only offend people, but he even *wounds* people!

Hebrews 4, 12-13: *"The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eye of the one whom we must render an account."*

God's word reveals, what we think and ponder deep inside our hearts. It shows us, whom we are. *And that hurts*. Because, what we think and keep hidden in our hearts is not that good at all.

But God does not hurt us to bully us. He wants to save us. He knows that we need his salvation. And we cannot be saved without repentance. And we cannot repent without the truth. And we cannot see the truth, because we have closed our hearts. And then God comes, and cuts our hearts open, so the light of the truth can come in. And only then our healing can begin.

The apostle John says this about Jesus: *"The law came with Moses, mercy and truth came with Jesus Christ."*

Jesus is not politically correct. He speaks the truth straightforwardly. But He is also merciful.

He *offends* people, but He *embraces* them also.

He *hurts* people, but He *heals* them also.

He *polarizes* people, but He *gathers* them also.

He speaks about the *way to destruction* to lead us on *the way to life*.

He speaks about *hell*, to bring us to *heaven*.

He demands *surrender*, but promises *new birth*.

He offers *forgiveness*, but expects *holiness*.

He offers *salvation*, but expects *service*.

He demands *self-denial*, but promises *freedom*.

Jesus' answer to diversity, equality, and inclusion:

All people are loved by God.

All people are sinners.

All people are invited.

We are all invited to lay down the burden of sin; we are invited to eternal life; we are invited to obtain peace with God and with ourselves. As Jesus so beautifully says in *Matthew 11, 28-30*: *"Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."*

Let us do as Jesus tells us and enter His rest today!