

Ashamed of the Gospel

The 'Aware Saga' has become 'The Christian Debacle'

Sunday, May. 3, 2009 Posted: 12:20:56AM HKT

It may have been a kind of victory for evangelical Christians in their fight against the homosexual agenda, yet it was also the greatest debacle for the cause of Christ as the Lord's supposed representatives spoke up when they should have remained silent, kept silent when they should have spoken, and backed down when they should have stood firmly upright.

When angry homosexual activists, seeing that their ploy to promote and finally gain public acceptance for their lifestyle had been ruined by a few Christian women, threw accusation after accusation at the white walls of the Church and a drama-hungry media wove it all together in a brilliant cover story worthy of an Oscar if it were not so damaging and hurtful, those in the centre of the so-called 'saga' who carried the name of Christ should have glorified Him in the midst of the public.

Sadly, they didn't.

On the contrary, one, the representative of Singapore's official Protestant umbrella organisation, issued a statement to the press to the effect that a pastor, who had called for his church members to rally together in support of the four women, was wrong in getting his church involved in the dispute. And this important figure was praised by the government for doing just that – getting his member churches not to overstep the 'boundary' of Church and civil society.

What does it mean anyway that churches should not get involved in civil society? Is it that Christianity and the Church should not engage civil society? Why is it okay for an individual to engage civil society in a personal capacity and not for churches to do so? Is there an inherent bias against Christianity as an able contributor to civil society? What is this rooted in – the Bible or the secular worldview?

The concept that religion should be separated from other aspects of social life is known as secularism. A theocracy is opposed to this. The Bible supports the latter and not the former. Indeed, when Israel had suggested creating a political sphere independent of God's rule when they asked Him for a king, He expressed that His people had rejected Him. It is clear that Christians are commissioned to restore God's rule in every sector of society. While that doesn't mean hijacking a non-Christian organisation and making it thoroughly Christian, it does mean that Christians are to play a very significant role in society. In this regard the four women and Pastor Derek Hong did very well.

Alas, when all was well, out came wrongful words from one who is standing in a thoroughly authoritative position to speak on behalf of Singapore's Protestants, and the bishop, who is supposed to be the defender of the faith from the first until the last, informing every ignorant believer of his or her distinctive and proactive role as the salt of the earth and the light of the world to call the world to the obedience that comes from faith and shutting the mouths of some presumptuous nonbelievers who choose to speak about the motives of Christians before they even have the slightest inkling of morality and teaching them not to speak of what they don't know, even if everybody else sits down and falls asleep, he called his members to account for a wrong they didn't even commit, and publicly at that.

The idea he has most probably given to Christians out there? Don't engage society. Attend your church on Sunday and keep quiet the rest of the week. Talk about a politically correct religious leader who would rather not engage society if the government or the majority of members of the public would object to it. Talk about being ashamed of the Gospel. During Jesus' days, these feared the Roman authorities and wanted only to keep the status quo and their positions of prominence and authority.

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Regrettably, Pastor Hong agreed with him and decided to step back down with a needless apology, leaving himself, the four courageous women and the Singapore Church in the most negative light possible.

Now everyone in Singapore will be able to insult and pour contempt on 'those' Christians for being such 'fundamentalists' and 'extremists', and they will have the authority of a bishop's voice behind them.

View the NCCS statement on Aware here.

The Christian Post (Singapore)

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