

Twelve Simple Things

by Jeremy James



Gideon Tears Down the Altar of Baal by Andrew Lindberg

Our readers may be familiar with the expression, “Nailing your colors to the mast”. We don’t hear it used very often today and I suspect it is not well understood by the younger generation. It comes from the age of great sea battles, the period between 1550 and 1850. When a ship was attacked and overcome, the crew signalled their willingness to surrender by lowering their flag or “colors”. Otherwise the fighting would continue to the last man.

Some ships liked to express their defiance by fixing or “nailing” their flag to the mast, thereby indicating that they would never surrender.

Today, when we use this expression, we generally mean that a person is completely unafraid to state where he stands and that he will not allow himself to be intimidated by anyone.

Martin Luther was famous for his courageous exploration of Biblical truth. Having given a robust public defense of his theology, he ended with the words, “Here I stand.” He had nailed his colors to the mast.

We don't hear words like this from Christian leaders today. Most of our pastors are reluctant to reveal their colors, to walk close to the mast, or even to allow a nail to be taken on board! On those rare occasions when a pastor speaks boldly and firmly on an issue, it is before an audience which he knows will be sympathetic to his views. Such bravado may be pleasing to the ears, but it should not be mistaken for courage.

The sad fact is that most of our pastors are afraid to take a stand on anything. The same is true of church elders. The awful moral calamities of the past ten years, such as *non-binary genders*, *homosexual marriage*, *hate speech*, and *LGBT pride*, have shown that the meek and mild, ever-silent church is controlled by toothless time-servers and effeminate appeasers.



There are wonderful exceptions to this, thank heaven, but the vast majority of pastors and elders are unable to say boo to a goose. What they like to call tolerance and acceptance, our grandparents would have called timidity and hypocrisy. They lack the character to speak out and condemn the masterminds behind the new moral order, the cunning Marxist perversion of Biblical truth. More often than not they pretend not to see what is happening. Only on rare occasions will they admit that the normalization of perversion is wrong.

What is the least we should expect?

What is the least we should expect from these champions of God's Word, these guardians of the flock? Rather than address this question in abstract terms, we have endeavored to draft a 'Here I Stand' statement which ALL pastors and church elders everywhere should be willing and able to defend. In doing so we tried to come up with a formulation that kept to the bare minimum, an action plan that was so undemanding that it hardly seemed to require any action at all. In short, we were looking for the smallest possible flag and the weakest possible nail.

The following list of 12 simple things must surely meet our undemanding criteria:

Twelve simple things that all truly Christian churches should be doing

1. Highlighting the false teaching that there are genders other than male and female.
2. Declaring that marriage is a unique institution uniting one man with one woman.
3. Highlighting the false teaching that a man can become a woman or a woman a man.
4. Asserting the right to disseminate and promote Biblical morality and Biblical truth in accordance with traditional practice.
5. Asserting the right to judge government policy, including legislation and regulations, by reference to traditional Christian values.
6. Highlighting the harm caused by the indoctrination of schoolchildren with inappropriate sexual or gender-related material.
7. Denouncing the annual murder of thousands of children in their mother's womb.
8. Highlighting the harm that the homosexual agenda is causing society.
9. Highlighting the harm being caused to Irish society by unregulated immigration.
10. Highlighting the co-ordinated assault on Christianity in Ireland by a range of institutions, agencies and NGOs.
11. Highlighting the role played by the media in facilitating this assault [See #10].
12. Highlighting the harm caused to our children by social media and the widespread possession of smart phones.

This list is addressed to pastors and elders in Ireland, but an equivalent version ought to be equally applicable to pastors and elders in other jurisdictions.

But will they nail their colors to the mast?

If asked, just about every pastor or elder on earth would likely agree with each of these in principle. But that's not the issue. The question is whether they are prepared to stand and defend these "12 simple things" in public? In short, are they prepared to nail their colors to the mast?

This would involve, for example, preaching sermons on the issues listed, publishing the list in the church newsletter and on the church website, distributing a leaflet announcing the list, posting flyers and bills upholding the list, and writing to public representatives and the media proclaiming the need for public discussion of the issues listed.

By doing this the see-nothing-say-nothing church would finally step forward and become a see-something-say-something witness to God's truth.

One can easily imagine the excuses that many pastors and elders would offer to avoid taking a stand. Here are just a few:

"But this would be counter-productive or even divisive!"

"This is not supported by Scripture!"

"The church should not be involved in politics!"

"This would be seen as an attack on other religious beliefs!"

"The state would claim we were indulging in hate speech!"

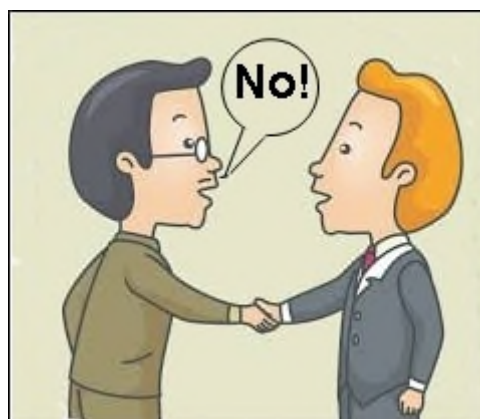
"We would be subjected to hostile reporting in the media!"

"Many of our members would leave and join less controversial churches!"

"This is too extreme / too provocative / too adversarial!" [or all three]

"This would take attention away from the Gospel!"

And so on.



A quiet life

One elderly Christian with whom I discussed this topic (in general terms only) said that many local churches are already divided. This kind of approach would only create further division, he claimed, and cause some churches to shut down.

He is right, of course, because many churches – the vast majority in fact – want a quiet life. If we took a stand on “12 simple things” we would only draw attention to ourselves. Would it not be better to keep a low profile and work quietly behind the scenes to share the Gospel?

Well, would it? Is that what God’s Word asks of us?

For those who give due weight to all of God’s Word, the answer is easy. But for those who pick only those verses which appear to support their opinions and ignore those verses which point in another direction, the answer is far from easy.



Is it right...?

Is it right to keep silent while large numbers of unborn children are being murdered? Is it right to keep silent while special interest groups demand the “right” to behave like sexual perverts and groom our children? Is it right to keep silent while men pretend to be women and insinuate themselves into the lives of innocent people? Is it right to keep silent while the institution of marriage is torn asunder by sodomites, anarchists, leftists and corrupt governments? Is it right to keep silent while the same leftists and corrupt governments indoctrinate our schoolchildren with their perverse view of human morality? Is it right to keep silent while the same leftists and corrupt governments flood our country with foreigners who hate our way of life and covet our property? Is it right to keep silent while corporate media giants poison the minds of our children using smartphone technology?

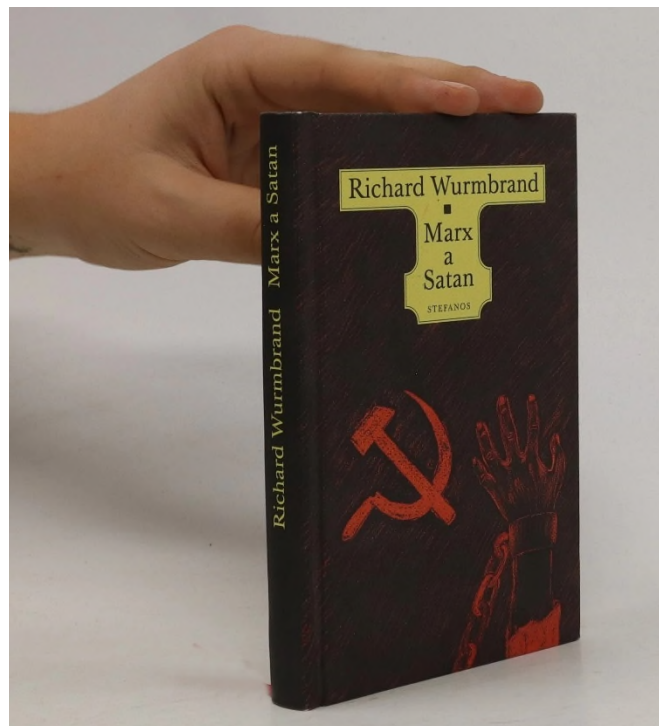
If you answered “No!” to all of these then you probably agree that our “12 simple things” are urgently needed.

Why is the institutional church determined to stay silent?

The corruption of marriage, the family bond, the minds of children, natural gender distinctions, and normal sexual behavior is deeply offensive to God and certain to inflict severe harm on humanity, while the murder of unborn children is an abomination which no society, whether Christian or not, should tolerate. Why, then, is the institutional church refusing to address these issues?

God's Word never asks us to keep silent when bad things are happening all around us. There are times when it is right to speak out and times when it is right to remain silent. It is only through mature Christian discernment and the fruit of experience that we know what to say or do in each situation; and if we find it hard to see a way forward we can always ask the LORD to guide us.

We are now at a critical point in our paper. What exactly does the Bible say we should do when faced with this wanton moral corruption? To answer this we need to be very clear about the harm it is causing. Our governments and the media would have us believe we are dealing only with social abstractions, that moral values are basically cultural, and that our modern society will benefit from the greater latitude and diversity that these changes will bring. But they are lying.



There is nothing abstract or cultural about marriage or the family. They are the very foundation of our social order and real harm will be caused, especially to children, by any attempt to redefine them. The same is true of normal sexual behavior. Damaged children will become damaged adults who will damage their own children in turn. This is sweet music to the Satanists who, through the political instrument of Marxism and their control of the media, are behind this program of systemic corruption.

The proposed new order is Satan's order

Have no doubt about it, the next generation of Christian children will suffer terribly under this new moral order. So too will children raised in other religions, though possibly not to the same degree. The confusion and isolation that will result, with countless lives blighted by loneliness and social fragmentation, will be immense. The Bible speaks of the poor and needy, the widow and the orphan. These are the ones struggling on the edge of society. The new moral order will enlarge this group exponentially, primarily through its devastating effect on their spiritual well-being and emotional security.

What does the Word of God say about this? We know what it says about the sinfulness behind it, but what does it say about our response? How should pastors and elders counsel their flocks and warn of this planned seismic transition, or will they even bother to do so?

We have already seen that the see-nothing-say-nothing church advocates the path of silence and neutrality, of indifference and compromise, but what does GOD say?

Let's see.

The Word of God tells us very plainly what we should do

Rather than address the issue by reference to the Bible as a whole, which might be too onerous, we will confine our survey, at least initially, to the Book of Proverbs. Because the modern church has neglected this book, the forceful injunctions that it contains and their implications for the Christian life as a whole are largely overlooked.

**“Withhold not good from them to whom it is due,
when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.”
(Proverbs 3:27)**

What does this say about the self-centered silence of “modern” Christianity?

It is certainly “in the power” of pastors and church elders to open their mouths, but they refuse to do so.



**“The righteous considereth the cause of the poor:
but the wicked regardeth not to know it.”
(Proverbs 29:7)**

The “poor and needy” of the Bible include the under-privileged and oppressed. The Word of God tells us that the wicked pretend not to see these people. If this is so, then where exactly do Christians stand who are equally oblivious to their condition? There would appear to be very little moral space between the “wicked” and the non-responsive church.

**“Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he
also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.”
(Proverbs 21:13)**



If church leaders are wondering why their lives are stagnating, perhaps they should give thought to this verse (21:13). It virtually describes a spiritual law, a cause-and-effect relationship which has far-reaching implications for all believers.

In verse 31:9 the Holy Spirit spells out His position very clearly! -

**“Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and
plead the cause of the poor and needy.”
(Proverbs 31:9)**

God hates the smug, self-satisfied silence of the Laodicean church. Its leaders have effectively erased verse 31:9 from the Bible.

Perhaps nothing is as horrifying as their indifference to the murder of unborn children:

**“If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and
those that are ready to be slain; If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it
not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that
keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it?” (Proverbs 24:11-12)**

The blessings that are drawn to the earth through the lips of a righteous man are given special mention in the Book of Proverbs. Consider this beautiful statement:

**“The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life...”
(Proverbs 10:11)**

A well of life! It delights our Father to behold a true believer speaking forth His statutes and His judgments. These are the obedient believers who heed His request and open their mouths. When they do...

**“The tongue of the just is as choice silver”
(Proverbs 10:20)**

The wicked are exceedingly devious. They want to harm our families and our children and they plot against us in ways that most of society do not understand. As the Bible says, “they lie in wait for blood” -

**“The words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood:
but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them.”
(Proverbs 12:6)**

We defend ourselves against the wiles of the wicked by speaking out, by speaking truthfully, and by speaking words of **“choice silver”**, directing them at the heart of darkness that threatens to destroy the moral order established by God.



Notre Dame, Paris – 15 April 2019

None of this is difficult!

None of this poses any difficulty for those who love God! They may need to pause and reflect, but they know what needs to be said and they know what is pleasing to God! -

**“The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable:
but the mouth of the wicked speaketh perverseness.”
(Proverbs 10:32)**

**“The heart of the righteous studieth to answer:
but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.”
(Proverbs 15:28)**

The moral order established by God is embodied in “the law”. Any pastor who fails to defend the law is actually giving aid and comfort to the wicked:

**“They that forsake the law praise the wicked:
but such as keep the law contend with them.”
(Proverbs 28:4)**

Note that word, “contend”! The Hebrew word is *garah* [Strong's H1624], meaning to become excited or angry and challenge one's opponent. The English word, contend, is a good translation.

How many of our pastors and elders contend for truth? The Word of God says **“the righteous are bold as a lion” (Proverbs 28:1)**, but the church today is led by pussycats. They may hiss occasionally at one of their own, but they will never dare to venture forth and contend with the wicked. It is just as the Word of God says: **“When the wicked rise, men hide themselves...” (Proverbs 28:28)**



The Judgment Day [detail], 1700, fresco in Kiev.

Judgment Day

How will our Savior address these people on Judgment Day? What excuses will they offer to account for the baleful neglect of their flock? We are given the answer in the book of Ezekiel:

“When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.” (Ezekiel 3:18)

Jesus may remind them at that solemn hour of his clear injunction in Psalm 82 where he railed against the see-nothing-say-nothing brigade and their continued refusal to stand against the wicked. He says they don't even understand their failure, their sinful neglect, because they walk in darkness:

“How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? Selah. Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked. They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.” (Psalm 82:2-5)

If only our church leaders would study this passage! It is a passionate denunciation of false religion and the time-serving hypocrites who pretend to lead the flock and protect them against the ravages of the wolf pack. Has there been a time in the history of the church where it could more justly have been said that **“all the foundations of the earth are out of course”**?

The LORD is calling all true believers to rally to His side:

**“Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? or who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity?”
(Psalm 94:15-16)**

They must urge their pastors, their elders and their fellow believers to take a stand. They need to see that the failure to speak out, to nail one’s colors to the mast, is a denial of Jesus:

“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32-33)

CONCLUSION

We began with *Twelve Simple Things*, the minimum degree of commitment that we would expect from all Christian leaders who truly love Jesus (**“If ye love me, keep my commandments.” John 14:15**)

We say all that we say for their edification. The words we cite are His, not ours!

“Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.” (Isaiah 58:1)

**Jeremy James
Ireland
June 3, 2024**

- SPECIAL REQUEST -

Time is running out...

Regular readers are encouraged to download the papers on this website for safekeeping and future reference. They may not always be available.

For an easy way to download all papers (over 380), please email me.

We are rapidly moving into an era where material of this kind may be obtained only via email. Ireland is on the brink of introducing a draconian censorship law which will shut down sites like this and could result in penalties such as confiscation of property, financial fines and imprisonment for up to five years.

Readers who wish to be included on a future mailing list are welcome to contact me at the following address:-

jeremypauljames@gmail.com

For further information visit www.zephaniah.eu

Copyright Jeremy James 2024