

Church Membership For Reformed Believers
Speech #4: THE REFORMED BELIEVER'S DUTIES OUTSIDE HIS CONGREGATION

Introduction:

1. In this life, we spend a significant amount of time interacting with the world, with unbelievers.
2. How should we relate to the ungodly? What duties do we have toward them?
3. Scripture's Answer: Matthew 5:13-16, Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 8:4, 11:19-20
4. How do we fulfil this duty to witness? (1) By what you say to others. (2) By how you live your life.
5. How we live our lives is the main way we witness. We therefore focus on that – Antithetical Living

"The Reformed Believer's Duties Outside His Congregation" – ANTITHETICAL LIVING

I. What The Antithesis Is

- A. The word itself is not found in the Bible, but clearly taught. Already in Genesis 3:15, which teaches:
 1. The antithesis is defined as enmity, hatred, conflict – not friendship, love, cooperation.
 2. Antithesis/Enmity put in place by God.
 - a. By the decree of predestination.
 - b. By the work of Christ on the cross.
 - c. By the Spirit's work of regeneration.
- B. Antithesis is spiritual separation between the godly & ungodly, between the church & the world.
 1. Emphasis on "spiritual." Sometimes takes physical form, but it isn't world-flight.
 2. Some advocate world-flight. They say that evil is in things – e.g., cars, computers, dvd's, cd's, TV.
 3. How answer them? (1) I Timothy 4:4. (2) They forget we take our sin with us wherever we go.
- C. Antithesis: "Spiritual Separation."
 1. We're not physically different from the ungodly. Regeneration doesn't change us physically.
 2. A spiritual difference means spiritual separation between godly & ungodly.

II. The Calling To Live Antithetically

- A. The Antithesis is not simply a doctrine. It is also a calling/command - concerning how we should live.
 1. II Corinthians 6:14
 2. II Corinthians 6:17
 3. Ephesians 5:11
 4. Revelation 18:4
- B. A Life Of Spiritual Separation
 1. Not Friends with the Ungodly! II Chronicles 19:2. How can we, who are God's friends, be friends of those who are God's enemies?
 2. Not Conformed to this World! Romans 12:2. Not as so many so-called Christians today – who are characterized by synthesis (instead of antithesis).
- C. How Different from the world – in specific areas of our lives? How make antithesis obvious?
 1. Different re Entertainment
 - a. Behind what the world produces and offers is the sin of the ungodly and of the Devil.
 - (1) The music and movies do not encourage obedience to the laws of God.
 - (2) The sinful content has as its purpose to arouse lusts and to incite to sin.
 - b. Two strikingly applicable verses:
 - (1) Psalm 101:3 - "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes!" (add "ears").
 - (2) Job 31:1 - "I made a covenant with mine eyes: why then should I think upon a maid?"
 2. Different in Use of Technology
 - a. Technology itself is not the problem. It can have many good uses – e.g., defense, medicine, education, spread of gospel.
 - b. But technology is often misused.
 - (1) Used in order to tempt to sin.
 - (2) Used in order to commit sin.

- c. We must separate ourselves from this misuse.
 - (1) That can be difficult because the world is no longer "out there."
 - (2) This makes the antithetical calling urgent: "Do not participate in evil use of technology!"
- 3. Different Goals in Life
 - a. What are the goals of the ungodly? We must be different.
 - (1) Different in what we live for. Remember, we are pilgrims/strangers on this earth.
 - (2) Our goal in life is not ourselves, but all done to the glory of God. I Corinthians 10:31.
 - b. I John 2:15
 - (1) Two things not love: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world."
 - (2) If do, serious indictment: "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."
- 4. Different re Friendships
 - a. Not established with unbelievers, but with the people of God. They your closest friends.
 - b. Often closer to church members than to family members who not in the faith.
 - c. Doesn't mean you cut off those family members.
 - d. But seek out friends among the people of God.
- 5. Different in Many Other Areas:
 - a. Dating and Marriage
 - b. Sunday Observance
 - c. Family Life
 - d. Use of Alcohol
 - e. Language
 - f. Work Ethic
 - g. Attitude Toward Rulers
 - h. ...

III. The Fruit Of Living Antithetically

- A. The fruit of antithetical living is that you witness by your life. You fulfil your calling: "Ye are the salt of the earth: ... Ye are the light of the world. ... Let your light so shine before men ..." (Matthew 5:13-16)
- B. 1st – Your Life Itself is a Witness.
 - 1. Clear from what happens if you don't live antithetically: You cause others to mock Christianity and Christ, and you turn others away from Christ and His church.
 - 2. Here's what happens when you do live antithetically:
 - a. God is glorified. Matthew 5:16 – "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."
 - b. Others are saved. Lord's Day 32 of Heid. Cat.
 - (1) Q. - "... why must we still do good works?"
 - (2) A. - "... that by our godly conversation others may be gained to Christ."
- C. 2nd – Your life produces opportunities to witness by what you say.
 - 1. I Peter 3:15 – "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."
 - 2. Others ask: "Why do you do those things?" – Or: "Why do you refuse to do certain things?" What is your answer? – "The grace of God! Grace has changed me! Grace makes me thankful!"
 - 3. Begin a conversation in which you give a witness. Christ may use that to bring others to faith in Him.

Conclusion:

- 1. We need to be zealous in the witness we give by our life and speech.
 - a. Our desire is to show and tell others what Christ has done for and given to us.
 - b. We seek the salvation of all the elect so that Christ might return. Matthew 24:14.
- 2. By God's grace, be faithful members of the church. Show in your life that you are! Do so with a view to the salvation of others. Do so for God's glory.