



# **A LAWYER'S PLEA TO PASTORS:**

A different legal strategy

# THE AMERICAN CHURCH HAS TWO PROBLEMS:

1. Culture's elevation of sin to a legal right
2. Unbelievers' perception of church people

WHICH ONE SHOULD WE SPEND OUR TIME  
ADDRESSING?

“THE MAJORITY’S DECISION IS AN ACT OF WILL, NOT LEGAL JUDGMENT. THE RIGHT IT ANNOUNCES HAS NO BASIS IN THE CONSTITUTION OR THIS COURT’S PRECEDENT.”

--Chief Justice John Roberts, dissenting in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which gave same sex couples the right to marry

# JURY SELECTION





# SIDEBAR





# WHAT JURORS SAY ABOUT CHURCH PEOPLE:

- Argumentative
- Condemning
- Not pleasant to be around



WE CAN NO  
LONGER IGNORE  
THAT WE'RE IN  
BABYLON



THE FOUNDATIONS  
OF LAW AND ORDER  
HAVE COLLAPSED.  
WHAT CAN THE  
RIGHTEOUS DO?"

--PSALM 11:3 (NLT)





THE QUESTION FOR THE CHURCH IS:  
WHAT SHALL BE OUR RESPONSE?



“THEN DANIEL REPLIED WITH  
DISCRETION AND DISCERNMENT”

--DANIEL 2:14



# SUGGESTIONS FOR MINISTERING THE GOSPEL IN LEGAL BABYLON

# PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS AGREE TO MORE RESPONSIBILITY BEFORE CONFLICT ARISES

- Define relationships & behavior
- Agree to biblical conflict resolution

BUT TO WORK YOU MUST...



# TELL PEOPLE WHAT TO EXPECT AND PUT IT IN WRITING

- Website
- Statement of Faith
- Bylaws
- Staff and Volunteer Handbook

# BE CLEAR ABOUT PROCESS

- Resolving disputes
- Discipline and terminating relationship
- Improper use of facilities
- Bad behavior
- Advocating unbiblical ideas



## DESCRIBE FOR PEOPLE WHAT KIND OF COMMUNITY YOU HAVE

- Glorify God in all things
- Cultivate Fruit of the Spirit



# INFORM PEOPLE ABOUT THE CHURCH'S BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Objective behavior vs. theological categories

E.g., same sex marriage vs. sexual sin



# GIVE PEOPLE A CLEAR PATH TO RESOLVING DISPUTES

- Create expectation that people will follow  
Matthew 18
- Apply to email, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram

# CAN BEHAVIOR BE MEASURED IN YOUR CHURCH?

- Objective vs. subjective
- Homosexual conduct vs. homosexuality
- What should you measure?



THE BEST DEFENSE IS A GOOD OFFENSE

(But what is a good offense?)



## HOW DID DANIEL DO IT?

He made his LOVE for unbelievers more valuable to them than their legal right to persecute him






BEST WAY TO STAY OUT OF LEGAL TROUBLE:

PRACTICE THE LAW OF LOVE









Love your enemies and pray for those  
who persecute you.

--Matthew 5:44





QUESTIONS?