

COMMISSIONED

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As always, it was good to be together this morning. I trust the Q & A time we had was helpful.

Since several of you asked for a copy of the remarks I made right at the end of our time together regarding our response to the assassination of Charlie Kirk, I thought it would be good to send them to the whole group. Here they are, with the added point that Rodney made was well:

1. **Avoid *impulsive and reckless reactions*.** Can we be righteously angry? Yes, we should be. But we must not give the devil a foothold with foolish, inflamed, sinful speech—in person, or online (Eph 4:26–27; James 1:20).
2. **Recognize that trans ideology is Satanic.** The trans movement is no neutral or misperceived movement. It is the vivid expression of rebellion against God’s authority in defining sex (male and female) and marriage (between a male and a female)—the most basic blocks of human existence and society. The trans movement is the attempt to mutilate God’s image in human beings. It does not seek peace; it seeks dominance. As we will learn in the coming months (and as we have seen with past mass killings), the trans movement is a movement that is violent—the end result of being “given over” to depraved desires (Gen 19:1–29; Rom 1:18–32; 2 Tim 3:1–4). But while the movement is utterly antithetical to biblical Christianity, those in the movement need the gospel, and we must not withhold the message of forgiveness from them. Pray for those in the movement and be ready to proclaim that good news to them. Be quick to form relationships and conversations with them. There is a Savior, whom we also have come to know! (After all, this is exactly what Charlie Kirk was trying to do. It is what motivated him to compassionate dialogue with very people who hated him so fiercely.)
3. **God has given the government the responsibility of capital punishment.** The basis for capital punishment is not only an OT principle (e.g. Gen 9:6). It is affirmed by NT as well. When Paul writes that “for it [government] does not bear the sword for nothing” (Rom 13:4), he is speaking of the responsibility of the government in terms of on-going duty. And in Paul’s day, the Roman “sword” was the metaphor for capital punishment. In fact, Paul states that the government bears this responsibility as “a minister of God to you for good.” And although we should truly pray for the killer’s salvation, the desire for his redemption does not alleviate the government’s responsibility of bringing justice for the stability and well-being of society.
4. **There is a need for justice that is public and swift.** Solomon expresses this so well: “Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil” (Ecclesiastes 8:11). In such a heinous act of evil as we saw this past week, the government is required to act objectively, judiciously, and quickly for two primary reasons: (a) to prevent evil doers from gaining inspiration from such an act—that is, to restrain the other evil doers from thinking that they can copy this evil without serious consequence); and (b) to prevent the righteous from thinking that the only option left for them is to pursue justice according to their own means. Both of these options have horrible consequences.

5. **Don't send your children to be radicalized.** Details seem to indicate that the killer was radicalized in a university setting. Even if this wasn't the case, this radicalization is apparent in other cases of violence and shocking depravity. Many school divisions and universities, under pressure from governments, lobbyists, and ideologues, now openly promote anti-Christian ideologies such as LGBTQIA+, seeking to indoctrinate young people at their most vulnerable stages of life. In fact, it is not unusual now to hear of schools and universities punishing students or parents who object to this propaganda. What do you do as parents? First and foremost, know what is going on in your child's classrooms. As a parent (and as a tax-payer), you have every right to know. Cordially but firmly find out. Ask your child questions. Help him or her with homework to learn what is being emphasized in classes. Secondly, don't risk your child's mind. Make sure he or she can learn in an environment where God is not mocked. Your children are your legacy. Don't risk their lives. Learn about all your educational options. (An excellent resource here is pastor John's book, *The War on Children*.)
6. **Learn from "Christian" capitulation.** We are where we are today as a culture not by accident. Sadly, vast portions of professing Christianity in the West began to capitulate to cultural degradation decades ago. Compromisers believed that the best way to "win" sinners over was to eliminate from their message anything offensive. Certainly, Roman Catholic and mainline Protestantism led the way. But significant evangelical ministries like Fuller Theological Seminary and *Christianity Today* also went silent and refused to confront the culture. Then they began to suggest openly that these movements could be syncretized with Christianity. Then they began to attack directly those like John MacArthur and Charlie Kirk who spoke out against these ideologies. Learn from all of this: we must not bow. (A great sermon to watch on this is pastor John's 2015 sermon, "We Will Not Bow," accessible here: [We Will Not Bow \(Selected Scriptures\)](#).)
7. **Standing for conservative values does not make you a Christian.** One of the dangerous reactions to all of this is the growing tendency to equate *true Christianity* with *a state defined by Christian laws*. While the latter would certainly be best for human flourishing, it is *not* the same as the former. Bringing sinners into *external conformity* to good laws is not the substance of the Great Commission. Living in external submission to good laws does not make a man or woman pleasing in God's sight. The commission that we've been given is to preach the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, for it is only through new life in Him that we can enjoy His smile. Remember Jesus' words in Mark 8:36, "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?"
8. **Be careful with what you consume.** Media outlets and especially social media platforms want you to be obsessed with their content. It means money for them. In particular, it does not take social media platforms long to "learn" who you are, and they have an algorithm just for you to keep you coming back for more. To add to this, a lot of what you read is woefully errant. It is intended to enflame and tempt. In response, double down on your intake of the Word of God and on your face-to-face fellowship with other believers. These are two wonderful ways to cleanse your mind from the woes of the world and remind you of reality. David says it well: "You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever" (Psalm 16:11).

In Christ,

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