**The Battle**

The people who know their God will stand firm and take action.

**Daniel 11:32**

I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And that which I can do, by the grace of God, I will do.

**DL Moody**

The simple step of a courageous individual is not to take part in the lie. One word of truth outweighs the world.

**Alexander Solzhenitsyn**

Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little. Evil triumphs when good men do nothing.

**Edmund Burke**

There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.

**Elie Wiesel**

It is better to fail in a cause that will ultimately succeed, than to succeed in a cause that will ultimately fail.

**Peter Marshall**

At the final bar of judgment the gravest charge that will be made against us will be that we were so unconcerned. We lived at a time and in an age when the very foundations of civilization were being shaken, when the very world in which we lived was rocking, when we witnessed things such as men have never seen before. We saw the spiritual and moral declension all around us, and yet we did nothing about it. We were apathetic and unconcerned. We did not feel a great solicitude that would not allow us to rest by day or by night.
**Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

**The Mechanics of Protest**

**The local church**

Each church must have a firm grasp of the truth. It must understand and teach the Christian worldview, not just isolated truths without showing their relationship to each other, and then make clear the implications. For example, that God is the Lord of all life, that he has made man in his image, that he has prohibited the taking of innocent life (legally innocent, that is), and that he holds the key to death (Gen. 1:27, 9:5-6, Deut. 32:39, 1 Sam. 2:6, Ps 24:1, 139:16, Rev. 1:18), taken together mean that human life is sacred, such that euthanasia and suicide are forbidden, and that as creatures we must allow him to determine the time of our death. There is no single ‘proof text’ that one can use to arrive at this truth – it must be teased out from all that the Bible says. If a congregation does not know the truth, it cannot stand *for* the truth.

So each church should instruct its members in the biblical worldview, make clear that Christ lays claim to all, and encourage the troops into battle. (For churches not confident of handling the biblical, cultural and legal aspects of subjects such as abortion and euthanasia, speakers are available from organisations such as Brephos, SPUC and Christian Concern.)

**Churches together**

Now more than ever, local churches must work together for teaching, encouragement, resources, information and ideas as to how to combat the growing threats to freedom and to morality, for there is strength in unity: “Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall chase ten thousand” (Lev. 26:8). Perhaps one church could act as the central information gathering point about existing and forthcoming challenges eg it could find out when the next debate on abortion is due in parliament and disseminate this information to other churches for their members’ prayer and action, or circulate a petition to churches to share with their members. The advent of email has made this very easy to do.

**Individuals**

● Know what the Bible teaches (see above).

● Know what is happening in our nation: knowledge is power, ignorance is weakness. Get informed, stay informed, inform others. This is easier than ever today because of the internet. Visit campaigning websites regularly (see the list on page 6) and sign up for emailings.

● Pray. Our secret weapon that the secularists cannot match. Pray against specific instances of unrighteousness, and pray for Christian campaigning groups and individuals in the front line; pray about bills coming before parliament; pray for Christians involved in court cases because they stood for truth. Our God is able, but we must call on him if we want him to act.

● Give. Christian research and campaigning groups have financial needs just as other ministries have, and they need our support. The secularists pour time, effort and money into pushing their agenda, and it will take the same on our part to push back. Sacrifice is required.

● Respond. When you see, hear or read something egregious, respond. Write directly to the broadcaster or newspaper or business or other organisation that is promoting a destructive idea or policy. If you always keep a copy of what you send, you can cut and paste paragraphs on a future occasion (if you’re dealing with the same subject) and not have to start from scratch every time. In July 2018 I wrote to the CEO of Santander to protest their support of LGBT Pride, a letter which took me quite a while to draft, but then it was a simple matter to overwrite that with a few changes to send to Sainsbury’s about their support of Pride.

When the government holds a consultation (as it has done recently on transgender policy, sex education in schools, extremism, and making divorce even easier), it is actually asking for input, so make sure you don’t miss the opportunity.

● Make use of your democratic privilege (much as Paul made use of his Roman citizenship, Acts 16:37). We are blessed to live in a democracy (which can be attributed in large measure to Britain’s Christian past), and we should make use of it for the kingdom. When a significant moral matter is the subject of government policy or a debate in parliament with a view to legislation, then either see your MP at their constituency surgery or write a letter or send an email asking for support or opposition to the measure, as appropriate.

● Sign. CitizenGo and others regularly sent petitions by email; get on the mailing list. Sign and circulate to friends for their signature.

● Debate. Take part in phone-in programmes (prepare well beforehand); add your comments to websites that invite response.

This is not an exhaustive list. Do what you can when you can, but please don’t sit on your hands. Ask your church for help and guidance. If nothing else, your church should be helping you to know and understand what the Bible says, and the implications for our culture, and be giving strong encouragement as you enter the fray.

We clearly don’t all have the same capacity for all the demands of the church’s mission in the world – not everyone can be involved with debt-counselling or foodbanks, for example, nor is everyone a skilled evangelist – but everyone can be supportive in some way, even if it is only signing a petition, or giving occasionally to a campaigning group. And we can all pray. And if you can do more, do it!

It is our plain duty to respond to unrighteous statements and policies; it is not acceptable to say ‘It won’t make any difference’ and remain silent. We are people of truth, therefore our task is to bear witness to the truth; but we are not then responsible for what does or not result. For example, if you write to a newspaper or the BBC (and with email it’s easy to do these days), someone will have to read it to decide whether or not to print it, so you will have borne witness to the truth to at least one person, even if it is never printed or replied to. If lies are repeated over and over without challenge, they gain currency. Let’s do our duty.

**How to contend for truth**

What the Bible says should be enough for Christians – what God says goes. What it teaches on any given subject should be sufficient for our convictions, but will not suffice to persuade other people that it is true and should inform public policy, since quoting the Bible will not impress secularists.

However, since God’s laws are not arbitrary but are for our good, it is not difficult to point out the consequences any given policy would have. For instance, euthanasia would: put pressure on people if they felt/were made to feel that they were a burden on others; undermine the ethical practice of medicine (*First do no* *harm*) and create a crisis of conscience for many doctors and nurses; undermine the trust between patient and doctor (*Does this doctor believe in alleviating suffering or does he want me to agree to a lethal injection?*); tempt callous relatives who stand to inherit to pressure vulnerable people to request it; undermine the motivation for further research and investment in palliative care – Britain is a world leader in this area of medicine precisely because we have until now closed off the option of killing people in pain. We need to bring reason and fact to bear in the same manner when we address other subjects.

The Bible enjoins us to love God ‘with all your mind’, and seeking to bring/maintain kingdom values in our nation provides us with an opportunity to do this as we seek to learn from Christian research and campaigning groups and master the various issues at stake.

**Special note for parents: Now is the time!**

In 2011 LGBT activist Daniel Villarreal wrote, “I and a lot of other people want to indoctrinate, recruit, teach, and expose children to queer sexuality.” This is being achieved in the form of Relationships and Sex Education which is mandatory in primary schools, and Sex Education in secondary schools. It is time for all parents to take a stand by coming together and approaching their child’s head teacher. Advice is available from Parent Power, Christian Concern and The Christian Institute. Here is a critical battle for the soul of the nation, perhaps *the* critical battle.

All revolutions are secured by indoctrinating the young. The Nazis and the Communists understood this, and took control of the education system to bend young minds *and separate them from their parents’ values*. The sexual revolutionaries are no different. That’s why they want to fill children’s their minds with their ideology: indoctrinate the young from the earliest possible age, and when the older, conservative generation has died off, the revolution will be complete. This cannot be dealt with by looking the other way and hoping someone else will act. Ask yourself: *If not us, who? And if not now, when?*

If the state is determined not to back down (and since the civil service and government departments are run by the Left-Liberal elite that seems increasingly unlikely), then the choice is stark: educate your children at home or have them exposed to poisonous ideas. Home education can be a real delight for parents and children, and there is plenty of advice available from Christian home education support groups.

For many the giving up of an income may be difficult, but perhaps one parent could reduce their hours rather than lose an income altogether, and grandparents and retirees at your church help with the hours when both parents are working. Or three or four couples could band together so that one parent could be full time with all the couples’ children, and financial support for that lost income be shared. This is a time for resourcefulness and creative thinking.

**Websites**

Anglican Mainstream https://anglicanmainstream.org

Brephos <https://brephos.org>

Care not Killing https://carenotkilling.org.uk

Christian Concern https://christianconcern.com

Christian Institute <https://www.christian.org.uk>

Coalition for Marriage https://www.c4m.org.uk

Parent Power https://parentpower.family

Right to Life UK[https://righttolife.org.uk](https://righttolife.org.uk/)

SPUC [https://www.spuc.org.uk](https://www.spuc.org.uk/)

Voice for Justice UK https://vfjuk.org.uk

**Further Reading**

Is Life Really Sacred? – Nigel Cameron

Love Your Unborn Neighbour – Society for the Protection of Unborn Children

That Hideous Strength: How the West Was Lost – Melvin Tinker

The Intolerance of Tolerance – DA Carson

Transgender – Vaughan Roberts

We Cannot Be Silent – Albert Mohler

When a Nation Forgets God – Erwin Lutzer

When Harry Became Sally – Ryan Anderson

**TREVOR SIDNELL February 2024**