



Pastors Blog

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The False Moral Outrage of the Social Media Age

Dominic Cummings got it wrong. So did Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Decisions were made for self and family, and subsequent explanations missed the mark.

So, then the country goes into meltdown – or at least that’s how it seems. Petitions are started to have a man sacked (I even had a colleague in ministry post on Facebook asking for the ‘Sack Dominic Cummings to be signed – where is a Christian forgiving heart I ask). Social media explodes with castigating language of wrongdoing and counter arguments of reasons why. People write to their MP, or the 1922 Committee, or the Prime Minister to vehemently argue that the way the ‘DurhamBarnardCastlegate’ scandal has been handled is appalling, is shocking and everyone should profusely apologise, resign and let someone more capable take over.

And then we have those who argue they are more capable join in the with their opinions too. Oh boy are the political gloves off now – absolutely no sign of any good relationships in the Westminster bubble or any political bubble.

What a sorry mess our world and society is in. What a culture of blame, anger and hatred of the other we live in. What a lack of respectful dialogue we have and what high levels of mistrust pervade the corridors of power and the empty streets and lockdown homes of our nation.

And all the time I am asking, do people get so engaged and riled up about the real injustices of our world? What about rage over the loss of freedom of speech under the planned Scottish Government ‘Hate Crime Bill’¹? What about crying for the loss of life and relationships through addictions? What about positively writing to your MP to support the proposed cross-party Bill that seeks an end to late terminations on the grounds that an unborn baby has cleft palate, cleft lip or club foot². What about writing to

counselling services as well as the NHS and not just clapping the NHS... and the list could go on and on and on.

But instead the media (TV, Newspapers and On-line) in the 24hrs news cycle focus our attention on one thing, on one person so we can hate the other.

So, relationships that have been shattered by political and societal shifts and breakdowns, by a global financial crash and bank bailouts, followed by referenda (both UK and Scottish), and Brexit (still not finished) are at a low point.

Yet relationships are the most important thing we have. We are born into relationship with our parents (and siblings if we have them) whether we like it or not. We grow up forming, losing, and failing in relationships at school, work and down the pub (or wherever is your social hang out place). So, why do I think our relationships in society breaking down even more so in society today? A lack of openness, a lack of trust and a lack of forgiveness. Oh, and a lack of Spiritual faith.

Yes, as society has turned away from God the Father, Christ the Son and Holy Spirit, there has been a loss of a moral compass in community and country. People do not know there is One in whom we find our forgiveness and therefore our ability to forgive others.

I am not naïve enough to think that if everyone 'got Jesus' the worlds problems would be solved, but it would be a step in the right direction. If only we could 'love the Lord our God with all our hearts minds and soul **AND** love your neighbour' – then perhaps our leaders would have a sense of what a more moral and truthful life looked like and wider society might be more forgiving and supportive.

That said, I'm not holding my breath.

But I am praying!

1. <https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/beware-scotland-s-hate-crime-bill?fbclid=IwAR1Dkltq3AEGY1ee3XBKJO6LLVHE-bz7Q9eKE1JFtrNsBD25xJNE6DO0Po>

2. <https://care.org.uk/news/2020/05/new-bill-seeks-ban-on-abortions-for-minor-disabilities?fbclid=IwAR33u7XwskDN-mtHG9SdCo5Mi37GNmv1ConwuL8B06XipAThEOoAbxnZ8RE>

<https://gillespiechurch.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/GillespieChurch/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdVxrWpmmathmsvGdXGJSHA>