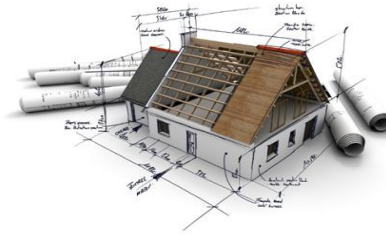


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Wisdom's House Briefmail: America reflects the church in America. 3/4

This is the third of four "Briefmails" where I will connect the condition of our nation, and in many ways the church, with the wisdom of the age that is reflected in what we call socialism.

*Personal note: **We love Jesus' Glorious Church!** More than many, my wife and I have wept over her condition and the condition of her children (the next generation). It is our sincere belief that a deep love and also revelation from the Holy Spirit compel us to sound a clarion call to those who attend services in churches across this nation. While we are convinced that prayer is essential (too few even believe this), we must do more than pray, we must change our paradigm, the first step toward changing our methods and activities. This can only come with eye-opening revelation by the Spirit of Wisdom and the consequent awakening of the individual heart that will release true Godly sorrow and repentance. The revival we seek cannot be only a momentary experience, it must result in reformation! This series is NOT intended to demean nations where socialism is the form of government, nor is it intended to 'bash the church' or discourage those who are giving their lives whole-heartedly to lead churches today, but with as much strength as we have, we are lighting the torch and blowing the trumpet.*

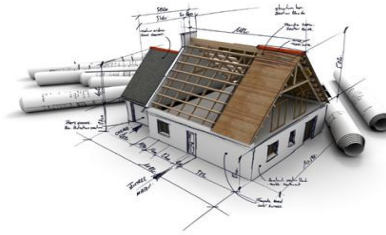
Our nation depends on an awakening within those who call themselves followers of Christ!

The root issue is spiritual and can be traced back to the wisdom of the age offered Eve in the Garden of Eden. It is reflected in our approach to many things including government, but more importantly it is reflected in our approach to church. (See Briefmail 2/4) To see this fundamental trend, one must step back, way back; don't just helicopter up, Google earth up! This is a long-term result, and subtle idea, that church has become "them"; a place we go to receive, not a mantle identifying who we are. A good test:

If the bulk of the weight of the responsibility for the success of the church does not rest on the shoulders of the individuals in the church, then amongst other things, we have socialized the church.

Just as the wisdom of the age is identified when the government becomes "them" and not of, by, and for the people, so to can it be identified when "the church" becomes a location, a staff, or a group of experts that handle spiritual matters, and not the identity of the people of God. It must move from secondary to primary in our minds, THE CHURCH IS NOT A BUILDING, IT IS GOD'S FAMILY, HIS GOVERNING BODY IN THE EARTH. Because this is only a secondary thought today, many look at church as a place to take someone to meet God; to have 'them' provide, instead of being on the hook personally. We have socialized church when the vast majority of an individual's sustenance comes from a location, a meeting, or a man - all of which one becomes dependent upon, in an unhealthy manner, for spiritual provision. Clearly no one intended to end up here, and we must always build on apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers leading the

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Church, but if we are honest with ourselves, we have built towers and anointed kings that have replaced the violently purchased Kingdom of Heaven that is to be within each of us. By default the individual becomes distant from the One who IS the Bread of Life, Jesus. Soon we do not know how to eat from the table of the Lord ourselves and we breed entitlement in those who call themselves Christians; who in the end are led astray from intimacy with Jesus, and feel it is up to 'the church' to provide for both them and the ones they want to bring to Jesus. Paul spoke to the saints in Corinth about the root of this issue when he wrote, "But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ." 2 Corinthians 11:3. Put simply:

Spiritual socialism breeds agnostic Christians.

This is the wisdom of the age. Paul, knowing the Spirit of Wisdom, wrote to the saints in Ephesus, "I keep on asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, give you the Spirit of Wisdom and revelation so that you might know (intimately know) Jesus." Ephesians. 1:17. The difference between heaven's wisdom and hell's wisdom is rooted in this issue; an individual governing their life and living sacrificially for others because of intimacy with Jesus. The antithesis of this is a group who are called 'Christians', but don't truly know God or follow Christ's example, but live mostly for themselves in the pursuit of pleasure in the midst of a false sense of provision from 'the church'.

Our nation is a reflection of this kind of church, and for this we must repent.

To be continued.

These "Briefmails" will be posted as they are published at www.wisdomshouse.org.

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