

SEGREGATION see pages 6 & 13

THE KING'S BUSINESS

November 1957 25c



The problem of **SEGREGATION** / *vs* the Christian

When the segregation issue flamed out of control this fall in Little Rock Christians across America were faced with a blunt, flint-hard problem: *What should the Christian's stand be on integration?*

No believer could escape the fact that the eyes of the world were upon so-called Christian America. With biting sarcasm Russia's *Pravda*, noting that Secretary of State John Foster Dulles had said U.S. foreign policy was based on moral and religious principles, commented: "The reports and pictures from Little Rock show graphically that Dulles's precious morals are in fact bespattered with innocent blood." And the London *Daily Herald* grimly reported: "There's something rotten in the state of Arkansas . . . rotten through and through . . . white-skinned rottenness that oozes from a black and evilish unseen pigment in their souls."

The ironic part about this ominous propaganda fodder was that it was provided for the world by a tiny minority of U.S. citizens whose lawlessness was nothing short of treason.

A mis-guided, politically ambitious Governor Faubus had encouraged 1% of the people of Little Rock to become a senseless mob while the other 99% of decent, law-abiding citizens were compelled to stand hopelessly by.

Many good people in the South who deplore mob violence have never-the-less equally deplored President Eisenhower's decision to send federal troops to Little Rock. There were dark comments of dictatorship and storm troopers. Actually had the President failed to act when he did he would have been misusing his high office. What he did was both legally and morally correct.

Many Christians may not know that both the President and Mr. Nixon were in close touch with Billy Graham during the hours of crisis. North Carolinian Graham publicly said: "The violence, the hatred, the intolerance come from man's rebellion against the moral laws of God. We must love our fellow man . . . we must love him without ever thinking about his race or color of his skin."

Graham was only proclaiming what the Bible plainly teaches. A good many white men around the world (not just in the Deep South) have been conditioned by background and society to consider the Negro inferior. These white men are often God-fearing Christians. They sincerely believe that desegregation would bring all kinds of evils. A few of these fine folks even believe segregation is God's will.

Peter, as recorded in Acts 10, was such a man. God had to take him through a thrice-repeated vision before he became Spirit controlled and humbly obedient to the will of God. Then Peter could say, "Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean." *Here is the answer to today's race problems in America.*

No Spirit-controlled Christian can escape the solid fact that all men are equal in God's sight. Integration is not only the law of our nation, it is also the plain teaching of the Bible. (*For an important article on the race problem see page 13.*) — L.H.

At

Christmas

there's

a

difference

for

the

Christian

Your editors believe that it is a fundamental truth that Christians view Christmas differently than those who know not Jesus Christ as Saviour.

For the world Christmas is a gay holiday. And sometimes we Christians are swept along with the popular attitude. Perhaps this is the year you will decide to do something definite to show your faith in Christ . . . something that others might know that being a Christian does make a difference.

There are many ways you can do this. And one of these ways is to give a Christ-honoring Christmas gift. We'd like to think that The King's Business magazine could be such a gift.

Much prayer and hard work go into every issue. Won't you make up your list today while it's on your mind and heart?

With each gift we'll send an attractive gift card signed the way you tell us. We need your order early so our limited office staff can process it properly. Of course your gift card will be held and sent out just before Christmas. For your convenience you may use the handy order blank on the right. Thank you.

—Your Editors

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NOVEMBER

In the year of our Saviour

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Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Seven

Established 1910

Dedicated to the spiritual development of the Christian home

HALF-CURED, AND THEN THE DRUG RAN OUT

"Dear Ones: In my profound distress I have plucked up the courage to write you, praying that God will open your heart to my desperate cry and that you will come to my rescue. I am a poor, orphaned girl who has been treated for 5 years at the sanitarium in Athens. My health grew worse and worse until I was brought to the brink of despair. I hardly knew what to do or what lay ahead of me. The only thing I was quite sure of was that every day I got nearer to the end.

"Then, four months ago, they began to treat me with Seromycin sent by the American Mission to Greeks, and the results were really wonderful. Although the doctors had given up hope of my recovery, within 3 months I felt almost well. But my treatment was not completed because the supply of the drug ran out. The doctors told us they could continue to give the medicine only to those who were able to buy it. I was the only one here, the poorest of all, who couldn't afford this medicine. Oh, the feeling of disappointment that filled my heart as I realized that my hopes for a steady recovery were ruined! In my despair I thought of writing you to ask for this precious medicine upon which my whole life depends. Please do help me in any way God may lead you to. Yours respectfully, Despina Pozapalidou."

What a cruel stroke of fate, to see recovery just within your grasp and not be able to reach it. Must we tell this dear girl, and many others in a similar plight, she will just have to become resigned to her lot, or will you enable us to send her the miracle-working drug that means life to her frail body? As God lays it upon your heart, will you not give whatever you can and trust Him to multiply it through others? We want to send Despina a Greek Bible too, to bring her to the Saviour who can give her eternal life. Pray for her, and send your gift today to the American Mission to Greeks, Inc., Rev. Spiros Zohiates, General Secretary, Dept. K, P.O. Box 423, New York 36, N.Y. (In Canada: 90 Duplex Ave., Toronto 7, Ont.)

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COVER

For many, autumn is the favorite season. Country, mountain or seashore, each holds its own charm. For our cover scene we chose an isolated spot along the California coast. The giant cypress, twisted by wind and bleached by sun, towers majestically above the small figure of a girl as she faces the vast Pacific. Photo: Harold M. Lambert

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Segregation : Spiritual Frontier

by Robert James St. Clair

What are your views on the integration of races in the churches? Give yourself a minute and state them in about 10 sentences.

Finished? Think about what you said. The particular ideas do not concern us for the moment — just the language. What determined your authority? Was your language naturalistic? That is, did you recite popular theories, saying, "Yes, integration would be fine because America guarantees equal status under the law and the churches must uphold America's freedoms"? Or did you say, "Mixing races leads to intermarriage and that weakens the white race"? These are naturalistic viewpoints. If you quoted Scripture and talked of God's desires as you understood them, then your views were spiritual, not naturalistic.

We see certain trends in American life now, and 50 years from now, there are going to be many more changes in the relationship of the Negro and white races. Who should accomplish these changes? What authority should they use?

In August an association of Roman Catholic laymen in Louisiana disagreed with their bishop's ruling that integration must take place in Catholic churches. They wrote directly to the Pope and said, "We will do whatever you say with no further comment." The Pope backed up his bishop. Think how much that advertised to everyone about the authority of the

Roman Catholic Church!

Now if you speak to a Christian you know he accepts the infallible authority of the whole Bible, the Word of God. He knows the Bible is the Holy Spirit-revealed guide for faith and practice. He makes it known to unsaved neighbors that when the Bible speaks it carries the authority of God. But ask him about the race question and he says, "As far as I'm concerned, it seems to me" Some Christians have much to say about the biblical point of view. *God the Original Segregationist* by Rev. Carey Daniel, pastor of the First Baptist Church of West Dallas, has already sold more than 20,000 copies. And as a whole, the churches are leaders in the segregation of the races. Though in most cases they exist in segregated areas of the city and just never think of the problem, yet in numerous other instances they have naturalistic ideas as to why it is bad to admit Negroes, whites, Mexicans, Japanese, Chinese and Indians into each other's churches. For them the

Bible seems to have authority in spiritual matters but apparently the relationship between various kinds of people is regarded as naturalistic, not spiritual. It is a shame for Bible-believers to stay in the realm of naturalistic theory in discussing the question.

I have two documents on my desk right now. One is *The Citizens' Council*, a paper published by the White Citizens' Councils in Jackson, Miss. The other is *The Kingdom Beyond Caste* by Dr. Liston Pope (Friendship Press, 1957).

One by one you can find naturalistic theories of segregation in the Council paper: you find the talk about the desire of Negroes to intermarry, about maintaining the purity of the races, keeping our way of life safe, and all the rest.

Whatever you may think of the theology of Dr. Pope, dean of the Yale University Divinity School, he takes these popular theories and tears them to shreds. For example, you hear that the Jim Crow system always existed as a foundation stone of the South. States Dr. Pope, "The Jim Crow system in the South — and in particular respects in some sections of the nation — was instituted by law and custom at the turn of the twentieth century." He shows how the Populist movement, the Supreme Court decision of 1896 ("separate but equal"), the gradual disfranchisement of the Negro and other notable factors led to the

About the Author

Robert St. Clair is minister of North Fairmount Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati. He attended Biblical Seminary and the University of Cincinnati where he majored in psychology.

Segregation: Spiritual Frontier continued

present system of segregation. Tradition and legislation combined to enforce third-rate lives. A system of inferior people living near you can serve a purpose. It can become a convenient scapegoat. I remember from college days a fascinating study showing that lynchings increased with cotton crop failures.

In the Council paper the point was made that when the races are permitted to mix there is an onrush of intermarriage at a rate that is threatening and overwhelming. So I got on the telephone and called several authorities to get reliable statistics. I found that here in Ohio Negroes and whites are rubbing shoulders just about everywhere (except in church, of course). In one study of marriages in Ohio it was found that less than 1/2% were interracial. I contacted the West Cincinnati St. Barnabas Church that has had integration for some time and there has never been any courtship or intermarriage of those attending the worship and social functions. I asked if Negroes rushed into the church once restrictions were removed. Of course they hadn't. Far from it. Anyone can explode the race fables just by reading intelligent and scientific studies. Read *Sense and Nonsense About Race* by Ethel J. Alpenfels. It is only 50c and is published by Friendship Press. You'll find popular theories can be dangerous.

Whenever you draw your final authority about human relationships from a source other than the Bible, you are bound to get into more error than you can handle. One time a high school student asked her teacher why the Christians were persecuted in Rome when there were so many other small religions. The answer is because the Church of Jesus was created to thrive on the spiritual frontiers of the world. The Church is an army. Christ came to bring a sword. And the powers of hell tremble before this army.

Those who are cleansed by the blood of Christ stand on the border separating the Church from the world and stand up to the evil of the world. The Bible says that the Church carries on a perpetual warfare with the god of this world, the devil, "against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12). Other false religions could compromise with Rome. The members of Christ could not compromise. They defeated Rome and its evil spirit.

A Christian is first, last and always joined with other Christians to Christ, the head. His primary mission in life is the function of the Church. That function is revealed through the Word of God and by the Holy Spirit. Let's say it again: if you try to direct the Church yourself or if your guidance comes from a source other than the Bible, you will get into error and injure the Body of Christ.

If you want to study the function of the Church, look first at Ephesians. Barriers existed between Jew and Gentile. The blood of Christ washed these barriers away. When any soul is born again through acceptance of Jesus Christ, God's Son, as Saviour and Lord, then he is justified and sanctified.

It doesn't matter who or what he is or was. He is baptized by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ, the Church. All blood-washed souls are to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. The Church is our earthly microheaven. The Church is the forerunner, here and now, of the time when the sovereignty of God will be vindicated and all men will be forced to confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

You are seeing (supposedly) in the Church what God desires for all mankind: unity in Christ. The Church is not ours at all. It belongs completely to Christ to be used as His witness of holiness in an evil world.

Now and then you hear some

Christian say, "I don't want any Negroes or Mexicans in my church." In whose church? Christ paid for the Church with His precious blood and some saints seem to think because they put an offering in the plate on Sunday they have bought the Church back.

If Christ died to save a Negro soul and that soul is now a child of God through the grace of Jesus, we have no more right to say he can or cannot meet for worship with God's people than I have the right to tell you who you can bring into your home.

You will hear people say that it is not the business of the Church to tell an unregenerated world how to change its face. Perhaps not but a pure Church is a living witness. Sin caused segregation. Read this from *The Citizens' Council*, (July, 1957): "In America the Negro has learned many of the white man's habits, and the white man sometimes copies the Negro. But if the races did not live around each other, their habits would be pure. The white man is very civilized, while the pure Negro in Africa is still living as a savage."

Even a child can detect the sin that poisoned that pen. Take an unsaved white man in America and compare him with a Negro Christian in Africa who is growing in grace and tell me which is the savage and which one is "civilized." Look at Paul's statement that "ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28), and "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Rom. 8:14). If the Church took that seriously and people of all races were invited in love to worship Christ together, then that unity in love would witness with terrific impact against a sin-divided world.

The Church could say, "Here is Christ. He is the answer. You are struggling to overcome hate caused by racial tensions. Court battles and congressional struggles are

causing bitterness. But there is unity in Christ. When He is lifted up He draws all men unto Himself. Here, look at the Church. Do you see the fruit of the Spirit? The world could look like that if it accepted Christ as the final solution to its human problems."

But if the world sees that hatred and suspicion among races are practiced by churches too, then the Church will not be heard when it talks about anything else. A holy Church is a Church of power but holiness does not consist of saying one thing and doing another. What is the difference what the Church shouts about sin and hypocrisy? The world has eyes to see. It may not want holiness but it can recognize it.

The challenge to many Bible-believing churches is immediate. Areas turn from white to Negro almost overnight. Churches have a choice. They can forget those souls for whom Christ died until all-Negro churches or non-Christian sects take hold. Or they can bring Christ to them and build them up in the faith right in the local congregation. Some congregations may think that is a difficult decision. Read Acts 15 and remember that few Negroes and whites have ever hated each other as much as the Jews despised the Gentiles. Just where do you think the Church would be today if the courageous decisions in Acts 15 were not made? Where do you think the Church will be 50 years hence in America and South Africa if equally courageous decisions are not soon forthcoming?

How to proceed is the question. The Book of Acts tells us. The pattern of Acts is as follows: crisis and opportunity met by faithfulness. God vindicates and the Church flourishes. This is followed by new opportunity. That is, there is some opportunity or challenge to the Church. One or more disciples do what they know God wants

them to do. God vindicates by giving souls and signs and wonders. The Church goes forward and new opportunities and new crises arise.

Very well. When the evangelistic task is momentarily hindered by race prejudice, there is no use in preaching sermon after sermon on the subject. There is no use in making a big issue out of it. Talk doesn't dissolve prejudice. Science bears this out. *A Manual of Inter-group Relations* by Dean and Rosen (University of Chicago Press, 1955) states: "Within wide limits, prejudiced persons will accept and participate in a thoroughly mixed and integrated setting if integrated patterns are established and accepted as appropriate by other participants in that situation."

This means that when a soul is reborn he is brought to the local congregation, baptized if necessary, introduced to the official board along with others and received in a Sunday morning service of worship. Some members inevitably threaten to leave the church. In a congregation of 400 you can expect one or two to leave, but not necessarily. Their threats are usually empty. In a scientific study, 26 out of 237,476 left the church.

If a minister is bullied by the Pharisees and influential members of the flock, then he had better study the lives of John the Baptist, Paul and Peter to learn the meaning of courage. Let him do God's will. When the people see that "integrated patterns are established and accepted as appropriate by other participants in that situation" then they will step in line.

I know about feelings surrounding a minister. I know the feelings in the South. It is illegal for a Negro to sleep overnight in my wife's home county of Comanche, Tex. I come from New York City and I have sensed how some white Protestant churches feel about Puerto Ricans in their neighborhoods. Few of us realize how mili-

tant feelings become wildly enraged until common sense is lost. But in the name of God, the churches must face reality or bear the vile stigma of cowardice.

We mourn that the early Church had a glorious opportunity to suffer persecution for Christ's sake and think that in these high and easy days persecution is a thing of the past. How absurd! As long as the Church lives in an evil world there will always be persecution. There will always be adversity as long as there is an adversary outside of hell. There will always be hardship as long as there is an area in life where the cross is not honored. There will always be rebellion as long as Christ is not regnant in every heart.

The Church stands on the spiritual frontiers of society. If there is to be a crusade for lasting righteousness it is God's will that the Church lead the way. It is true that conquering racial tensions by the love and power of Christ will not bring in the millenium. However, today that is one of many challenges to the Church. Tomorrow there will be others, and tomorrow and tomorrow, until He returns from on high. But there will be no victories of tomorrow if the battles of today are lost.

If we empty self of pride and follow God with courage nothing will be lost. It is the same struggle and the victory is as sweet as always. It is winning others to the only Saviour of men, joining hands and hearts with new men, and going on for others yet to be won.

The devil wants us to think this is some new and strange problem. It is not. Our need for love is the same, our equipment is the same, our goal is the same, and be those souls colored or white, rich or poor, brilliant or stupid, our oneness with them in Christ is as glorious as it ever was, and the hope we share together in Him shines as brightly as ever before.

END.