



2020 IN 20/20

2020 (the year) IN 20/20 (seeing it clearly)

Part 4: The Issues – Political Correctness

Sermon Study Guide
September 13, 2020

Introduction:

Last week, we talked about Pro Life vs. Pro Choice/Abortion

I answered the question: **“When does life begin, at conception or at birth?”** We looked at the scriptures, at pictures of the development of the child in the womb. I remember personal interactions I had with the babies still in the womb and shortly after they were born. From a biblical perspective and from scientific discovery that reinforces scripture, it is easy to conclude that life begins at conception. The embryo/fetus in the womb is a life and needs to be respected and protected.

Today we will look at the issue of Political Correctness (PC).

1. PC Defined (this will take some time)

- **“Political Correctness” (PC)**, is a term used to refer to language intended to cause the least amount of offense, especially when describing gender, race, sexual orientation, culture, or social conditions.
- The term first appeared in **Marxist-Leninist** vocabulary following the Russian Revolution of 1917. It was used to describe **adherence** to the policies and principles of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.
- **“political correctness”** is rooted in a desire to eliminate the exclusion of and putting down of various **identity groups** based on language usage

Note: Those most strongly opposed to **“Political Correctness”** view it as **censorship** and a curtailing of **freedom of speech**, and believe it leads to self-censorship and restrictions on expression of thought and behavior.

- **“Political Correctness”** is the attempt to speak without offending **anyone**.
- What was once considered “good manners” has become far more confusing, complicated, and even controversial.
- Political correctness also includes avoiding terms that reinforce preconceived **stereotypes**.
- The elimination of **verbal discrimination** is one of the main goals of political correctness.

- “Political Correctness” has become a weapon in the cultural and political war between American Conservatives and Liberals.

2. PC in America Today

Let’s take a quiz to see if you know what is Politically Correct/Incorrect.

- Telling an Asian-American student, “Asians are really smart and excel academically” _____Correct _____Incorrect
- Telling a Hispanic person, “Hispanics are family oriented and hard-working people” - _____Correct _____Incorrect
- Telling an African American person, “African Americans are superior athletes, create amazing music, and have soul” _____Correct _____Incorrect
- Telling a woman “Women are sensitive and emotional” –
 - _____Correct _____Incorrect
- Telling a man “Men are insensitive and can act like jerks” –
 - _____Correct _____Incorrect
 - (since men are not a protected group of people)
- Telling a white person “You are privileged and bigoted” –
_____Correct _____Incorrect
(since white people are not presently a protected group)

A relatively new form of **Politically Incorrectness** is called “mansplaining”. Men marginalizing women by attempting to explain something to them in a condescending, oversimplified, or rational manner.

Note: Living in an ethnically diverse country like the US makes it all too easy to find yourself inadvertently offending people with your words, since we contain so many people groups.

Often, we do not even know that we are breaking these unwritten rules. If you are a public figure, it will not take long for you to know when you crossed the PC line

As a person who that doesn’t take myself too seriously:

1. I regularly poke fun at my heritage by using negative but accurate generalizations of both New Yorkers and Italians, which, if said by someone else, could be considered to be Politically Incorrect.

2. I also regularly refer to the fact that in my marriage I am the aggressive confrontational one, while Toni is the passive/non-confrontational one, suggesting that in conflicts I am usually guilty and Toni is usually innocent

3. I also often refer to the fact that I am short - all of these could be considered Politically Incorrect.

Let me show you an example in the New Testament of something that today would be called Politically Incorrect.

Titus 1:12-13 – How would the Apostle Paul describe the Cretans? Is it gossip or truth that Paul shares with Titus? What is Titus to do with this knowledge?

PC Culture is most commonly associated with: Gender, sexuality, ethnicity, social status, and religious beliefs

For example:

- -the term **“spokesman or spokeswoman,”** has been replaced by the gender-neutral term **“spokesperson”**
- -the term **“homosexual”** has been replaced by the term **“same-sex attraction”**
- -terms for **“non-white people”** has been replaced by the term **“people of color”**
- -the term **“mental retardation”** has been replaced with the terms **“intellectual disability”** or **“special needs person”**
- the term **“homeless”** has been replaced by the terms **“unhoused resident or person in transition”**

***These can certainly be considered good and perhaps needed changes, and I’m good with each of them**

3. Has PC Gone Too Far?

In an effort to promote religious tolerance, PC has slowly but surely been removing references to Christianity, which is not presently a protected group.

- **“Merry Christmas”** has become **“Happy Holidays.”**
- **Nativities** and **crosses** are being removed.
- **Prayer** has been eliminated and even prohibited.

- The **10 Commandments** have been removed from schools. Even the **mention of God** is now considered by some to be offensive and politically incorrect.
- **Attending or singing in church** is frowned upon - while protesting is encouraged.
- Believing and speaking **things clearly taught in the Bible** that do not fit in the PC narrative are prohibited and called hateful. This seems more like censoring than trying not to offend.

Examples of how PC can make a person feel:

- Duct tape over the mouth – many of us feel like we as Christians are being **censored** and even eliminated.
- We are **paranoid** and overly sensitive about unknowingly doing something “wrong”
- We are **fearful** of being called racist, homophobic, xenophobic, fascist, etc...

Let me give you some other examples of how PC has become a problem:

- Patriotism is frowned upon while burning the flag is acceptable.
- Showing support for the standing President (people are afraid to say they like Trump?) is frowned upon but to support any other candidate is acceptable.
- Saying that one supports and appreciates law enforcement is frowned upon while hating and attacking the police is acceptable.
- Saying that God designed sex to be between a man and a woman after they are married is frowned upon while extreme views such as pan sexuality are acceptable.
- Expressing your Christian belief is frowned upon while all other religions expressing their beliefs are acceptable.

I know I may be overstating these things, but many of us feel these pressures, and it comes from the censoring effect of PC.

4. How are we as Christians to live out our faith in a Politically Correct society?

1. As Christians, remember that believing strongly in most anything will result in **disagreement** with something and with someone. Just about every religion, if believed wholeheartedly, is exclusive.

- **John 14:6** - What claim does Jesus make and if it was a lie, what do we have?

2. As Christians who wholeheartedly believe in Christ, we cannot allow ourselves to be **censored** or bullied and not speak God's truth.

- **Matthew 28:18-20** – What are we to do with the Great Commission? How can that be done in Arlington? (Also read Acts 1:8)

3. As Christians, we cannot allow the fear of being criticized or called intolerant to cause us to be **silenced**.

- **Acts 4** – Peter and John were arrested after a man who had been lame from birth and was healed. The leaders were jealous that hundreds were confessing Jesus as their Savior.
- **Acts 4:16-20** What did the Jewish high council command the disciples not to do? What was Peter and John's responds?

4. As Christians, we cannot become part of the silent minority because we do not like **confrontation**.

- **Ephesians 4:15** describes mature Christians- when we speak the truth, how can we show Christ?

5. As Christians, we must have a willingness to **suffer** for what we believe.

- **I Peter 3:13-17** What does it mean to suffer for Christ? When is suffering not for God but to get attention? Give examples of both?

6. As Christians, we must treat people with **love**, even those who see us as their enemy, and we need to overcome evil with good.

- **Romans 12:14-21** How can we overcome evil with good? List the ways that Paul uses to encourage believers to be overcomers and bring glory to God.

Closing Words-

God made it very clear to me that I am not to get on any person's side in this present climate of confusion and division in our nation – even if I have a personal opinion about who I want to stand with.

- The Lord has made it clear to me to only stand with Jesus.
- I have been called by God to present the **Issues** and challenge each of us to stand clearly on the biblical side of these issues.

I present these issues to you as one who wants to conserve the teachings of the Bible and of our unchanging God (**who is the same yesterday, today, and forever**)

I want CR people to know, understand, and believe these things so that we can more closely walk with Christ in these confusing days – that is, that we would see the issues of 2020 with 20/20 spiritual/biblical vision.

