

A Pastor's call to all Church leaders

(March 1st 2002)

Fellow office bearers in Christ's Church, we stand together at one of the most critical times in our nation's history and a vast majority of Zimbabweans are looking to us for moral guidance. If we, however, refuse to give direction by failing to call wickedness by its name now, then we will not be able to call anything wicked in the future. The issue facing us is not "party politics", but morality, *i.e.*, that righteous behaviour God expects from the least of us to the greatest, since the universal principles of truth and justice have been written on the heart of every person. Morality is inseparable from the religious beliefs we profess, thus to ignore the immorality that has been thrust into our faces, is to deny our religion and faith. What do we become if we, who are meant to be the standard bearers of truth and justice, refuse to clearly distinguish between morality and immorality with respect to the known activities of any presidential candidate? If we as church leaders in these perilous times, are unwilling to call immorality what it is, then we will have no basis for justifying the existence of our office afterwards. For us to suggest (by our silence), that it is a moral option for our congregation members to vote for a candidate whose policies and achievements include genocide, the dismantling of our judicial system, the perversion of justice, the raping of our economy, the disintegration of the rule of law and the use of thugs, terror and lies, means that we will have no basis for ever calling any person in the history of the world, immoral. If we act as though we have no responsibility to exhort our congregations about the obvious and blatant immorality of a particular presidential candidate, we will be condoning the immorality of that candidate whom we are afraid to expose—our silence will say evil is acceptable. As ministers, we cannot act as if morality is irrelevant in this issue, without making our own calling and religion irrelevant. To attempt to be neutral in the presence of blatant immorality and oppression, is not a sign of Godliness, but of perversion. Godliness never has and never can attempt to be neutral or remain silent in the face of wickedness. If we cast aside morality in this context, then how can we insist upon it in any area of our existence ever again?

Therefore, I implore you all, by the grace and mercy of God, to exalt God's standard of truth and justice and speak out for the oppressed, for the widows, for the orphans and the helpless—in other words, to uplift Christ's Name. If we, as leaders in Christ's Church, refuse to speak now, then history will rightly regard us as nothing but hirelings (John 10:12,13). If we fail in our responsibilities at this decisive time, we will have no ministry worth preserving. Moreover, when the leaders of Christ's Church value their lives more than righteousness, be assured, evil will triumph. Fellow officers, the cross-roads are before us and the nation awaits our counsel, but to make an unclear sound on the trumpet in the heat of the battle, is to fail.

Your fellow servant in Christ's eternal Kingdom

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