

I. Conflict: Racial, Political, Religious?

- A. Mike Bickle - Increasing Intensity, answered Prayer (1 Pe 4:17 context persecution/refining)
- B. How do we Position our Hearts in an Environment of Accusation? (Rev 12:10)
- C. Provocation (Accusation)...human reflex defense is Self Justification
- D. Accusation is a Trap to shift our Reliance from Jesus to ourselves
 - 1. (Lk 16:15 NKJV) *And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts."* (Invitation - Higher Revelation)
 - 2. we don't know our hearts (Jer 17:9) - capacity for self deception/wickedness (subtle)
 - 3. understanding truth/doctrine can give the *Illusion* of full heart understanding
 - 4. God can't Reveal our Hearts to us if we cling to Self justification
- E. Stuart's Dream: Bigotry/Condescension - not rebuke, loving invitation (choice)

II. Biblical Response to Accusation

- A. (1Co 4:3-5 NKJV) *"But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God."*
 - 1. Trap: Expectation of Response - pick a side
- B. What if there is no right side? ~ story: Jn 17:20-23 all wrong, glory
 - 1. (Ex 33:18 NKJV) ¹⁸And he said, "Please, show me Your glory."
 - 2. (Exodus 34:6 NKJV) the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,"
- C. What if He's Primarily after Refined Hearts?
- D. What if in our cry for Justice (biblically appropriate) we overlook Mercy? (Heb 12:24, Jam 2:13)
- E. Response to Accusation must first be directed toward Jesus, not accusers
 - 1. (Ps 139:23-24 NKJV) Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.
 - 2. (Ps 51:5-8 NKJV) Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice.
- F. Pursue His Praise/Justification, not self/men's
 - 1. David: man after God's heart (Acts 13:22)
 - 2. Saul: feared the people, obeyed their voice (1 Sam 15:24)
 - 3. (Isa 53:11 NKJV) By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.
 - 4. We need His Knowledge of our hearts. He will bear the dross of refining.
- G. He'll use Conflict to Reveal it. ~ story: FPL - Internal Atmosphere

III. The "heart of Jesus" bar is higher than we realize

- A. (Mt 5:43-48 NKJV) ⁴³"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵"that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶"For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷"And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? ⁴⁸"Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.
- B. (1Pe 2:12 NKJV) ¹²having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.
- C. Our Actions must be louder than their Accusations
- D. (Rev 12:10-11 NKJV) ¹⁰Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

IV. What does the Church look like that Partners in Removing the Accuser from his position?

- A. Justified in Christ alone
- B. Heart Agreement with Jesus reflected in Speech
 - 1. (Mt 12:34-37 NKJV) ³⁴"For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. ³⁶"But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. ³⁷"For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."
- C. Embrace Accusation/Persecution as Revealer of our Hearts
 - 1. (Ps 119:67 NKJV) ⁶⁷Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word.
 - 2. (Ps 119:71 NKJV) ⁷¹It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.
 - 3. (Ps 119:75 NKJV) ⁷⁵I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are right, and that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.
 - 4. (Ga 4:16-19 NKJV) ¹⁶Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth? ¹⁷They zealously court you, but for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them. ¹⁸But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you. ¹⁹My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until **Christ is formed in you,**
- D. Embrace Refining Process of Christ Formation
 - 1. ends in Joy & Gladness (Ps 51:8)
 - 2. Praise from Him (1 Cor 4:5)