How important is the local church pastor?

Dr. Donald E. Wildmon
President

Last month I had an opportunity to speak to a group of ministers visiting in my home town. It was an interesting event. First, because ten minutes after I was scheduled to begin speaking I was still in my office working. Only when I received a phone call from one of the pastors did I remember where I should be. Now if there is one of you who has never done such a deed, go ahead and laugh. But don't laugh too loud because your day is coming. Lucky for me, I was only about seven minutes away.

Since each of the pastors present receive the *AFA Journal* each month (as do more than 170,000 other pastors), I did not spend much time dealing with the problems AFA is addressing. Instead, the bulk of the time was spent in conversation with the pastors about **why** AFA is doing what we are doing.

Our time together was interesting. I sensed from the group—each one of whom served as pastor of a local church—a genuine interest in the same concerns as AFA.

I also detected from the group that hardly any of them had done very much in the way of addressing those concerns with their members, either through their sermons or teachings or local church communications.

The group expressed a genuine collective concern about the moral filth which has polluted so much of our secular media; about the current state of our public schools; about the music, movies, and television programs which have inundated our society.

Toward the end of our time together there were remarks made which gave me encouragement. First was a comment from one of the group that the Don **Wild man** (those were his words) he had read about in the some of the secular media was not the man he met in person: he was a different person—one who had some degree of intelligence and compassion.

Then there was the question from one pastor about whether or not I would be successful in my attempts to stem the tide of filth. My response to that question was the same as it has always been. God did not call me to be successful, only faithful. That response is no trite, canned response. It is a response from the heart. There are some things I have no control over, and success (as the world measures success) is one of them. There are other things over which I have control, and one of those is faithfulness. I may not be successful, but I can be faithful.

One pastor expressed the opinion that we have already lost the war. That, I responded, could very well be true. But true or not it should not and will not affect what I do with my life and the task to which God has called me. Like the Old Testament philosopher Job, "Though He slay me yet will I trust Him."

The other comment which carried meaning for me was a question from one pastor: "What five things would you do if you were serving a church and wanted to lead the membership to address the problems being addressed by AFA?"

I did not have five things to do. Only two. First, I said, I would get educated about the issues. I would read and study and become knowledgeable. Then, I said, I would have the courage to share that information with the members of my congregation, act on it and invite them to join me with their actions. No, I said, I would not hit my congregation with the whole ball of wax at one time. Rather I would strive to lead them, to educate them, and to call them to make their involvement where and when they could, using the talents God has given them. I would take a stand and I would encourage my members to take a stand beside me.

One final thing I told that small group of pastors. If the Church wins this spiritual war, it will not be because of people like Don Wildmon or people holding high positions in our denominations. It will be because of pastors in thousands of local churches taking a stand for righteousness and goodness, and then reaching out to their people encouraging them to take their stand alongside their pastor.

And, I said in closing, if we lose this spiritual war it will be because of thousands of pastors—for whatever reason—who failed to take a stand and who failed to lead their people.

That is how much importance I place on the person who leads the local congregation.

Don

The myth of separation

I found the following article so interesting and enlightening that I decided to use it in place of my column. When you have read it, I think you will see why I chose to do this.

—Tim Wildmon, Associate Director

By David Barton

This eighth in a series is an attempt to clarify the differences between Greco-Roman and biblical-Hebraic thought. Whereas Greco-Roman political philosophy is based on man and human reason, the legitimacy of government in biblical-Hebraic philosophy originates from a Sovereign God and His authoritative Word. The rise of humanism in America has brought us into an intense conflict with a purported "separation of church and state."

America has existed for over 200 years under one constitution. This is an amazing accomplishment, especially when one looks at other countries. France, for example, has gone through seven different forms of government in its 200-year history as a republic. Or consider Italy, now in its 48th form of government. Where did America's founders get the principles that have caused this stability and success?

In a 10-year effort, the Political Science Department of the University of Houston collected 15,000 pieces of writing by the founders to ascertain where they got their ideas. Of those 15,000 pieces, the researchers selected 3,152 pieces that they believed had the greatest impact on America's founding. They discovered that the three men most quoted by the founders were Sir William Blackstone (1723-1780), Baron Montesquieu (1689-1755) and John Locke (1632-1704). The researchers were surprised to find that the Bible was quoted 16 times more often than these three men. In fact, 34 percent of all quotes by the founders were taken straight from Scripture. Furthermore, another 60% of the founders' quotes were simply quotes of men who had quoted the

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Christians & Society **TODAY**

April 1991

A supplement for local bulletins and newsletters

K mart uses porn profits to sponsor Child Abuse Prevention Month

In an effort to justify their selling of pornography, K mart Corporation is sponsoring national level activities of Child Abuse Prevention Month for 1991.

It is ironic that K mart is using some of the profits from pornography sold in their Waldenbooks stores to help sponsor Child Abuse Prevention Month, a project of the National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse (NCPCA).

K mart helped pay for development, production and distribution of materials fighting child abuse to thousands of individuals and organizations. The company hopes such action will help give them a better public image and divert attention from their involvement in pornography.

"K mart giving money to help NCPCA is like a drug dealer giving money to a drug-recovery program," said AFA president Donald E. Wildmon. "K mart takes a small percentage of the money they make from pornography and gives it to prevent child abuse.

"And yet they continue to sell pornography which causes child abuse. K mart deserves to be boycotted by every person who is concerned about child abuse."

One of the leading causes of child abuse is pornography, especially the kind of pornography sold by K mart in their Waldenbooks stores.

John B. Rabun, Jr., before becoming Deputy Director of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, was the Program Manager of the Louisville-Jefferson County, Kentucky, Exploited & Missing Child Unit.

This police/social work team was the first in the nation created to provide detection, investigation, and protective services on behalf of abused youth as well as apprehension and prosecutory services against adults criminally exploiting children through prostitution, pornography or child sex rings.

Concerning pornography, Rabun wrote: "From July 1980 through February 1984 the police/social work team investigated about 1,400 cases of children suspected of being victims of sexual exploitation. During this time period, E.M.C.U. prosecuted hundreds of adults for various crimes involving the sexual exploitation of children. Over 40 major cases involved the successful prosecution of adults involved with over 12 children each. In one particular case, investigators thought there were up to 320 child victims. *At the time of arrest and/or service of search warrents, ALL of these adult predators were found with various forms of adult pornography and in most cases child nudes and/or pornography.* Over four years, the E.M.C.U. Team learned to expect to always find adult pornography as such was used by the adult offenders for their own sexual arousal, for self validation of their own sexual deviation(s), for extortion of child victims or other adults, and for the deliberate and planned lowering of inhibitions of child victims."

Rabun wrote Dr. Judith Reisman, who made an extensive study of child sexual exploitation in *Playboy, Penthouse* and *Hustler* magazines, saying:

"The media you have identified (*Playboy, Penthouse, Hustler*) can be devastating in effect in protecting children and gives real cause for concern and study when child erotica seems to be on the increase in popular literature."

K mart, through their Waldenbooks stores, is one of the largest retailers of magazines such as *Penthouse* and *Playboy* in America.

Wildmon says the American Family Association is encouraging individuals to boycott K mart and their subsidiaries until the company stops selling pornography in their Waldenbooks bookstores.

Concerned individuals are also urged to call their local K mart store and tell the manager you will be boycotting K mart and asking others to do the same. Always be polite when calling.

The address to write is Chrm. Joseph Antonini, K mart Corporation, 3100 West Big Beaver Road, Troy, MI 48084, phone 1-800-635-6278.

K mart owns Waldenbooks, American Fare Stores, Pay Less Drug Stores, Office Square, Bargain Harold's, Builders Square home supply stores, Sports Authority and PACE Membership Warehouse stores.

ACLU plans to sue pro-life Catholics, force abortion support

The pro-abortion Catholics for Free Choice has filed a complaint with the Vermont Human Rights Commission alleging a Catholic couple who own a printing shop discriminated against them by refusing to print membership brochures.

Although the Vermont Human Rights Commission subsequently ruled against the couple, no enforcement action has yet been initiated. Now, the ACLU has announced it will file a lawsuit against the couple on behalf of Catholics for Free Choice.

The Catholic couple first accepted the order for the membership cards, but later refused to print them when it was learned that they were for the pro-abortion group. The couple said that it violated their religious beliefs to help the pro-abortion group.

ACLU, which says it supports freedom of religion, plans to sue to force the pro-life couple to violate their religious beliefs. Catholics for Free Choice says they oppose "moral authoritarianism" and promote "the exercise of free and uncoerced conscience," but nevertheless plan to sue the couple to force them to act against their conscience.

Catholic League Newsletter, 2/91

Chrysler ends Playboy ads

Chrysler Corporation has announced that they will no longer be advertising in *Playboy* magazine. The action came two months after AFA called for a boycott of Chrysler. The company made the decision following thousands of cards, letters and phone calls complaining about their support for *Playboy*.

Chrysler spokesman Steve Harris said the company acted because "we don't advertise to upset a large segment of the population. Obviously, advertising in *Playboy* did.... Some people don't think *Playboy* stands for the things they like it to."

Playboy's Cindy Rakowitz said Chrysler bowed to a "small, vocal minority group" who was dictating "its marketing agenda." People for the American Way, which was founded with a grant from Playboy, were also upset because Chrysler dropped the porn magazine. PAW president Art Kropp criticized Chrysler for trying to "avoid controversy." *Washington Post, 2/22/91*