



"Pastors! Meet Rosa Parks!"

November 4, 2005

Over the past several weeks we have all been the recipients of a media blitz on **Rosa Parks**, the "**mother of the civil rights movement**" and "**one of the twenty most influential heroes and icons of the 20th century.**"

It was the courage of this diminutive, unknown woman whose defiant refusal to give up her seat on a city bus to a white male in Montgomery, Alabama that sparked the civil rights movement in the segregated South 50 years ago.

Rosa Parks died on October 24th at the age of 92. Her body was placed in the United States Capitol Rotunda last Sunday, the first such honor ever accorded a woman.

Though disdained by millions at the time of her single act of civil 'disobedience,' Parks should be an example of courage and leadership to us all, especially our **pastors**, who—like Parks—were told to go to the 'back of the bus!'

By the selfish act of then **Senator Lyndon Johnson**— at about the same time as Rosa Parks' courageous act—and with the help of an unwitting Senate, a bill was passed late at night on a voice vote that effectively—and unconstitutionally—denied the right of pastors and churches to exercise their First Amendment Right to freedom of speech.

Just as Rosa Parks and millions in the South had been pushed to the 'back of the bus'— physically, socially, politically and educationally—Johnson, to squelch criticism from his opponents, and unbeknownst to his peers, had tucked away in the mammoth bill a sentence restricting non profits, including churches, from commenting on or endorsing candidates for public office, a ploy that would severely restrict church involvement or comment on anything 'political' once passed.

And since that time **our pulpits have gone strangely silent** on the great moral and ethical issues of our day, disabled by an unconstitutional 'law' and our faithless 'fear of man.'

Fearing that our church(s) would lose their 'tax deductible status' and a drop in contributions, pastors stopped speaking out on issues, politicians and candidates for office, unethical campaigns and practices, ignoble political agendas, the politics of abortion and homosexuality and any number of subjects that affect our families, children and businesses. Instead of finding the courage to protest and demand the law be overturned, we went along to 'get along,' believing the lie that we could not or should not speak out or challenge the law.

And we wonder why our nation is rapidly becoming a cesspool of obscenity, immorality, pornography, corruption, lawlessness, violence and hate, with government, the media, and education out of control and disdainful of Christians...and pastors!

Much like the backroom politics of the south that used the law to repress the black vote, politicians in Washington D.C.—with an agenda that violated the rights of a vast number of Americans—repressed the pulpits of America under the threat of reprisal by the IRS...for their own political purposes.

They, like their counterparts in England at the time of the American Revolution, wanted to silence their opponents and as a result, they silenced American pulpits.

The British feared and hated what they called, the **"Black Regiment"** (black robed Presbyterian pastors in America) because they were teaching the people that their rights and freedoms were granted by God, not government; and surely not the King of England, who was violating those rights.

Pastors, Church Boards, National Association of Evangelicals, Denominational Boards, Christian Organizations, and Christian leaders across the land:

When are you going to work together to 'petition the Government for a redress of grievances,' to end this egregious violation of your rights as a citizen, and pastor? When are you going to again lead your flock in truth without fear of reprisal from a federal government required by the Constitution to protect and defend your rights?

Rosa Parks did not have near your 'standing', nor your influence. She did know her rights were being violated however...as should you. She knew that her people would never be treated equally nor their rights respected as long as certain 'laws' that violated those rights were not changed.

Former President **Bill Clinton** said at Rosa Parks's funeral, her refusal to yield her seat on the bus **"ignited the most significant social movement in American history."**

Pastors, ignite another 'movement' in America! Refuse to remain in the 'back of the bus.' **Move to the front of the bus with courage...as did Rosa Parks.** Take your rightful role as the moral and ethical leaders of our communities, state and nation! And refuse to be moved!

Speak out on any issue and candidate you wish, as is your right, and say what you believe the Bible says...on any issue. It is your God given First Amendment right,

and the dire need of the nation. Be of good courage. Trust the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to stand with you!

As **Alexander Hamilton** said in 1775,

“The sacred rights of mankind are not to be rummaged for, among old parchments, or musty records. They are written, as with a sun beam in the whole volume of human nature, by the hand of the divinity itself; and can never be erased or obscured by mortal power.”

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The Vision of the Founding Fathers RESTORE AMERICA is founded on the belief that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, that the Founders of America understood the Gospel and the Great Commission, and established a Republic to preserve and advance the Kingdom of God through biblically enlightened self government.

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