

Pastors Perspective May 2022

“A Time to Speak” Eccl. 3:7b

By Pastor Tim White,
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“Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.” The origin of this quote is commonly attributed to Dietrich Bonhoeffer. However, it may be a combination of quotes from several sources, one of which is a book by Robert F. Hudnut (“A Sensitive Man and the Christ.” 1971, p. 21). This author writes that “sensitive men dare not be silent when the need arises.” Hudnut goes on to say that “(t)o say nothing when the country is burning down, is to say something.”

Where were you on September 11, 2001? I am sure you remember – I do. Also, I am sure we remember the many heroes of that day, like Todd Beamer and others on United Airlines Flight 93, or the first responders who went into the burning towers as others were trying to escape. God only knows how many average citizens rose to the challenge with no less courage than these others. And then, of course, on Memorial Day, we will honor our military heroes who gave their lives to defend freedom.

I think of people like William Wilburforce, who stood up repeatedly in Parliament to oppose slavery in the United Kingdom. He lost his health and many friends along the way, but he could not stay silent as he saw the horridness of the slave trade. A little more than a century later, Martin Luther King, Jr., when faced with the evil of segregation and racism in the mid-twentieth century, could not stay silent. It cost him his life. A price, I believe, he was willing to pay.

Heroes pierce the fear-filled silence with the truth others are unwilling to declare (but know in their hearts to be true). Heroes understand when it is time to speak up and stand up regardless of how others respond. Heroes are those who run to the fire instead of running to a place of personal safety and comfort. They cannot stay silent, nor can they be inactive.

So what drives these “heroes”? I would say, fundamentally, it is the needs of others. Personal safety, comfort, or the approval of others fades into the background as the urgency of the moment and its potential harm to others comes into full view. Furthermore, I would add that “heroes” believe they have the means to help those in harm’s way.

Our children’s innocence, identity, security, and spirituality are in the crosshairs of godlessness driven by what Dr. Erwin Lutzer calls “cultural Marxism,” and they need some heroes to stand up for their sake. And let us make no mistake, our choices shape our children’s future by our willingness to speak or not to speak, act or not act. So it is time for us who know the truth to speak and act accordingly with selfless boldness and with love and compassion for those who oppose it – for our children’s sake.

In our church, we are just finishing up Dr. Erwin Lutzer’s book and workbook titled “We Will Not Be Silenced,” and these are the catalysts for our upcoming “No Longer Silent”

Conference at my church on May 21st. See our website to register or for more information: www.tcccdp.org. Dr. Lutzer will join us live via Zoom as our keynote speaker, and four other speakers will join us in person. So come and discover how we can shatter the silence with life-giving, soul-saving, culture-rescuing words of hope and truth.