

Daily View

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13

November 13, 2020

The Abomination Called the “Double Standard”

“You shall not be partial in judgment. You shall hear the small and the great alike. You shall not be intimidated by anyone, for the judgment is God’s. And the case that is too hard for you, you shall bring to me, and I will hear it.” Deuteronomy 1:17

“You shall not have in your bag two kinds of weights, a large and a small. You shall not have in your house two kinds of measures, a large and a small.” Deuteronomy 25:13-14

“Unequal weights and unequal measures are both alike an abomination to the Lord.” Proverbs 20:20, 23

What happens to a person’s credibility when he or she applies one standard to some people and another standard to other people? For example, say a friend tells you that some small thing you do really bothers them and so you make an effort to stop doing that thing. Later, though, you hear one of their other friends doing the same thing but that “offended” friend just laughs about it. How does that make you feel? Will you continue to trust that friend?

Probably not because you’re a victim of something called a “double standard,” defined as *“any code or set of principles containing different provisions for one group of people than for another.”* Those who knowingly practice double standards are inherently dishonest, disingenuous and untrustworthy. It happens in marriages and friendships and it happens in churches. James talks about it in 2:1-13. I’ve seen elders apply one standard to big givers and another to those who have few resources. *That’s an abomination to God!*

Many politicians are notorious for the double-standard, often in favor of themselves. For example, a governor’s orders shut down businesses and schools, but *his* business stays open and *his* kids go to school.

Never has this been more obvious than the way the rules are being applied during the Covid-19 era. Just this week, Sacramento County has been placed back into the “purple” tier, the most restrictive tier. This means that “places of worship” cannot meet inside. And, in a largely ridiculed ruling, some governors are mandating that families meet in smaller groups for Thanksgiving — but only outside.

These rules are nettlesome, but it’s the double standard that is particularly troubling. For example, in the last couple of days, the Mayor of Chicago, Lori Lightfoot, is seen in a video standing in front of a huge crowd standing shoulder-to-shoulder, celebrating Joe Biden’s apparent victory. Yet, the Mayor has threatened to arrest people if they violate her mandates.

Likewise, here in California, churches have been forbidden to meet together except outside at “25% capacity” (how do you calculate 25% of capacity “outside”?). Yet there have been many protests with thousands of people packed together various lo-

cations in California — no social distancing and only some with face coverings. Yet, it’s all been ignored by the same governors that are tell us we can’t meet with our families.

More recently in Los Angeles, the Lakers won the NBA championship and fans gathered in large numbers inside and outside to celebrate victory — without a word from the mayor, the governor or the health authorities about the lack of social distancing and masks.

Even more recently, the LA Dodgers won the World Series and masses of people gathered to celebrate in downtown Los Angeles, some with masks, some without, but all assembling very close together. Was there any negative news about that? I’m not aware of any. But do you know what *did* get the media’s attention? Dodger player Justin Turner, after testing positive for Covid, went out to sit for the team photo at his teammates insistence. That dominated news on some networks. But not a peep about thousands of people celebrating in the streets of LA in close proximity to each other.

And this morning, I noticed the list of activities regulated by the “Blueprint for a Safer Economy” no longer has an entry for “protests.” There was an entry a few months ago but it’s disappeared. Logically, a large group of people protesting or celebrating right next to each other would be called a “super-spreader event” but, apparently, family gatherings and assemblies in church buildings are — somehow — worse.

There are 30 lawsuits pending against governor Newsom’s right to issue unlimited executive orders (he’s issued 58 of them since March) and some are challenging the tier system itself. Many of them point to the double standards that are apparent in some of those orders. But regardless, all rules should be equally applied to all persons, in families, in the church, in cities and states. Once rulers — or elders — apply a different measure to one person or group than they apply to another person or group, they lose their credibility and it’s almost impossible to get it back.

“You shall not be partial in judgment. You shall hear the small and the great alike.”

*Unless otherwise indicated the opinions expressed in this publication and images used are solely those of David Posey.
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