Spirit of Grace Herald

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Spirit of Grace Ministries

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Why Believers Don't Protest Against I.C.E.

A while back, a group of hostile anti-ICE Minnesota protesters invaded a Baptist church and interrupted the service. With angry faces and fists held in the air, they asked the shocked congregation: "Why aren't you out protesting, standing with your brown and black brothers?" They accused the mostly white congregation of being "comfortable white people," and condemned them, saying, "You have your nice jewelry, but why don't you stand with your Somali community?"



To understand the mess going on in our nation today, we must recognize that not long ago, President Joe Biden opened America's borders and looked the other way. At the same time, millions of illegal immigrants poured across our borders and disappeared into the heart of our nation. This created such chaos, confusion, and misery that Donald Trump made illegal immigration a cornerstone of his election platform, and a majority of Americans agreed with him. Many of them did not especially like Trump's personality, but the idea of keeping our borders open and allowing millions more illegal immigrants to flood across our borders unhindered over the next four years was untenable to them.

It infuriated the church-invading protestors that these Christians, who talked about God, prayed to God, and followed meek and mild Jesus, did not see things their way, and had no intention of getting out on the streets and screaming at the ICE agents, the way they loved to do. So the question we must ask is, "Why not?" Why aren't evangelical Christians more upset with our government rounding up illegal aliens and sending them back where they came from? Where is our compassion? Why are we not more tender-hearted toward our Somali, Venezuelan, and Mexican brothers and sisters?

First, many of the illegals that are being arrested have criminal records, some of them being child molesters, murderers, and rapists. More than a few are gang members. These are not innocent peasants or poor farm workers who have never had trouble with the law. Hundreds of thousands of these criminals were sneaking into our nation during the Biden years, and most of them were entirely unvetted.

Is it a monstrous thing to seek out, arrest, and deport criminals who have never intended to keep our laws or respect our citizens? And these are the very ones that ICE is going after. One ICE agent said to an apparently protest-friendly journalist, "We're here to arrest a child sex offender… that vehicle (pointing behind him) is honking and impeding our investigation… insane!" We could not possibly apprehend every single illegal alien. Still, Christians and even non-Christian conservatives applaud the attempt to arrest the criminals, just as we approve regular police going after U. S. citizens who commit crimes and throwing them in jail. Of course we approve this! What chaos we would have if police and government agents refused or were not allowed to pursue and arrest criminals!

Why Christians Don't Protest I.C.E.

But beyond common sense, there are Scriptural reasons we refuse to get out on the streets and defend the people who defiantly and brazenly broke our immigration laws. The Bible that we read is a very law-and-order Book! The apostle Paul wrote: "**Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God**." (Romans 13:1). The condensed version of this is: "Keep the rules of your government – God has something to do with your nation's leaders." This was written during one of the most evil and pagan societies in earth's history. Paul was telling the disciples of Christ of his day to obey Rome and its laws. If those early believers must obey Rome, who are we to fight against the agents of our government today, when they are out rounding up criminals and child molesters who came into our country illegally?

Even in the church, Christians are instructed: "**Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account**." (Hebrews 13:17). For born-again children of God to be out on the streets screaming and cursing at ICE agents, honking their horns, blowing whistles, and doing everything they can to block them from doing what they were legally charged to do is absurd. The Spirit of Christ who lives in us would never allow us to do such things.

What these angry protestors can never understand about us who love Jesus is that once we put our faith in the Savior, we receive the nature of God in the person of the Holy Spirit. Indwelt by the Holy Spirit, we feel a powerful desire to live honorably and peacefully, obey the laws of our government, and eagerly support law and order. Throwing bricks at police cars and cursing and screaming at government agents doing their job does not match the One who lives inside us.

Given the thousands of arrests, there may be times when ICE agents act improperly, and in those cases, let an investigation determine whether they should be punished. But if those protestors felt that by invading a church and screaming at the congregation, accusing them of wearing fine jewelry and living comfortably and being insensitive toward the illegals who have swarmed our nation… if they felt that this would suddenly bring all evangelical Christians over to their cause, they are even more foolish than they appear to be.

Why We Care About Africa

Every time we organize another African mission, we are reminded of the tremendous need for Biblical training in this huge continent. But God's servants need to be equipped, and Africa needs help in nearly every way. Many struggle to put enough food on the table at mealtime. They struggle with health problems and being able to afford good medical care. Children suffer from malnutrition.



No man, woman, or organization can provide for all of Africa's needs. But given how greatly God has blessed America, we owe it to them to help out when and where we can. When John the Baptist was asked by his listeners what they should do, he replied: "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise." We are convinced that investing in the spiritual training and physical needs of our brothers and sisters in Africa is a very good investment.

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