

John Kozlowski

From: John Kozlowski <John@Kozlowski.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 5:53 PM
To: 'Chris Bitterman'
Subject: RE: reply

Chris,

Your statement “1 Timothy 5:8” leaves the impression that I have been just going along with life living on the work of others. This is bogus. I will give you Proverbs 18:17 as before.

Even if 1 Timothy 5:8 had merit in our case, how does it nullify Matthew 19:5-6, Ephesians 5:22-24, 1 Peter 3:1-2, Colossians 3:18, 1 Corinthians 11:3, 1 Timothy 2:11, etc.

I will also quote the statement I wrote previously about the PCA’s position:

The PCA discussed at length the issue of marriage and divorce in 1992 and approved numerous statements on the issue. I assert that to what degree PCA members or leadership have been involved, they are **contrary to the PCA’s position**.

The PCA stands against separation in marriage. Therefore I assert that this separation is in violation of the PCA General Assembly’s guidance. The following is from page 228 with my emphasis added.

Indeed, separation of any kind as a means of dealing with marital difficulty and preventing divorce not only is **neither recommended nor mentioned in Scripture**, but seems to be contrary to a fundamental principle of Biblical spirituality, viz. that what **ought not to be done, ought not to be approached**.

There is also no hint of physical abuse. The most that can be argued is that my response our situation caused emotional stress. This is the only remotely related issue to abuse. However, even *abuse* is not a cause for separation. Page 229 continues with the following with my emphasis added.

The fact remains that Scripture does not address the circumstance of an abusive husband. As is the case in any other area of Biblical ethics, one cannot extract from Scripture a comprehensive statement of all possible applications of a divine law. Rather, it is left to the church to apply Biblical norms, with the direction provided by the casuistry Scripture does supply, to the untold number of situations which must be faced. It is important to acknowledge that the view that —desertion in 1 Corinthians 7 cannot be made to refer to anything but actual departure from house and home and the view we have stated above are both extrapolations from the Scriptural statements. **No one can appeal to a Biblical statement concerning the duty or the liberty of a battered spouse.**

I contend that the actions taken, both the physical separation and the legal separation are in violation of the counsel of the PCA. I implore all who are leadership or members of the PCA to heed the General Assembly’s statements, cease and desist in facilitating this separation, and actively work to restore our family.

Grabbing on to one verse, not verifying it, violating a list of others and then destroying a family does not seem befitting of the Christian character.

Respectfully,

John Kozlowski



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From: Chris Bitterman [mailto:cbitterman@meadowviewpca.org]

Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 4:45 PM

To: John Kozlowski

Subject: Re: reply

1 Timothy 5:8

On Mon, Dec 30, 2013 at 7:51 PM, John Kozlowski <John@kozlowski.org> wrote:

Chris,

Thank you for your reply. I must confess that after waiting for three weeks for a response my respect for you had diminished greatly. I am grateful that recovery on that is at hand.

Consider me the Ethiopian who asks "How can I, unless someone guides me?" You haven't said what I must repent of.

If it is my effort to understand and be obedient to Christ, then no, I will not repent of that. If it is because in my efforts to be obedient I have made mistakes and caused others grief, I do acknowledge my mistakes and the sin behind them, but I will not repent of efforts to be obedient to the Lord. I lament the grief I have caused, but not the motivation.

If it is because in my efforts I took risks that caused my family to suffer, then again, I will not repent of the motivation to be obedient to the Lord, while lamenting the grief I cause my own family. Where my motivations pure? Of course not; it would be foolish to say so.

Do I believe my wife was justified in abandoning her marriage covenant? Absolutely not. I do not believe she has any scriptural justification and grieve that when I bring up scripture on this subject I get comments like my arguments are sophistry, "we have already said" without saying, or the occasional "you are right".

Do I believe my wife and children are more harmed by being separated from me than any trouble they had with me? Yes.

Do I understand why my wife will not communicate with me? No.

Do I know why the treatment I have received is identical to what cults do? No.

Do I see the Lord's grace in all of this? Remarkably so, but I'll leave that for another time.

Given the above, I still set before you: "repent from what?"

Respectfully,

John Kozlowski

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From: Chris Bitterman [mailto:cbitterman@meadowviewpca.org]

Sent: Monday, December 30, 2013 7:04 PM

To: John Kozlowski

Subject: Re: reply

John,

There is no condemnation here...I have my own record of offenses and cannot condemn.

I truly do not believe that my talking with you would lead to anything but just talking. Hence my reply.

My response was based on the John I have watched for a decade; not on anything you would or would not say if we talked. Your actions speak consistently and there has been no change (repentance).

I do not believe that there is anything I can say that will help you. By that I do not mean that you are beyond help, but that you are not ready for help or would not receive help. If repentance was evident I would not be writing these words; I would do what I could to help. Until then we would both be wasting our time corresponding.

Your name has been in my personal prayer notebook for years, and I have asked God for your deliverance. I will continue to do so.

Chris

On Wed, Dec 11, 2013 at 6:31 PM, John Kozlowski <John@kozlowski.org> wrote:

Chris,

Thank you for your reply. It fails to address “repent from what?” I’m afraid you are treating me as condemned before hearing the case. I thought you would do better than that. May I remind you of Proverbs 18:17 “*The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him.*”

I suggest that the closed door I have received is akin to the treatment of an ex-Jehovah’s Witness or Mormon. There is no contact or communication. Has the PCA turned into a cult?

I have contended from scripture. My rebuke is silence or slander, even from pastors with doctorates. Do you think this would cause some bitterness in me?

I welcome your communication. I hope you can see that your initial response disappoints me and seeds an anger that I don't want.

Respectfully,

John Kozlowski

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From: Chris Bitterman [mailto:cbitterman@meadowviewpca.org]

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2013 6:09 PM

To: John@kozlowski.org

Subject: reply

John,

You asked if I would be willing to communicate with you to help you understand. Until there is repentance explanation will not help you understand; once there is repentance explanation will not be necessary.

Chris Bitterman

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