

John Kozlowski

From: John Kozlowski <John@Kozlowski.org>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2014 5:27 PM
To: 'Chris Bitterman'
Subject: RE: reply

Chris,

While I am most appreciative that you are the only one in the PCA that has responded more than once, I was seeking a conversation and waiting one to three weeks for a response is not much of a conversation.

I heard my wife's voice for the first time in six months Saturday while I was attempting to speak with my kids on my birthday. Her voice remains music to my ears as I told her. However, her unwillingness to address anything directly with me, which has been true for 18 months, is a concern and a heartbreak. There appears to be something else going on that I am unaware of. This is a concern for our kids, for her, and for me.

My wife has stated in the past that I follow my convictions when enlighten. Repentance requires enlightenment. Tossing out one reference is not enlightening.

While I was at Volvo in Greensboro I did a 3 month contract in two weeks working slowly. It cost my family tens of thousands of dollars but I remain convinced my work was honoring to the Lord. I was condemned for not milking it. When I worked at a defense contractor, and effectively stole over \$100K from the taxpayers, I was condemned for speaking out. Today I am working to defeat the NSA spying and I have numerous people tell me directly that they don't want to be involved because they fear the government, but I guess they are willing to live in slavery. Perhaps Rev 21:8 reference to cowards is applicable. Things like this have impacted my views and my deeds.

I am also aware that many of my efforts were either wrongly motivated or improperly executed. The risks that I took cost my family dearly. I confess that that is true. I don't see how that justifies my wife abandoning the commitment she made to the Lord to remain one with me.

When I was new in the faith in the 80s and working with several pro-life groups, churches warmly accepted us when we spoke against surgical abortion. As I matured and learned about chemical abortion and the violation of the Lord's first command to be fruitful and multiply, the church shunned the message. It was disheartening but as time went on it also showed to be the tip of the iceberg.

While at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga I would often be part of a Wednesday night prayer. The submission to the world was overwhelming in the requests and the prayers, especially by the leadership. In a discussion with the Clerk of the Session he firmly criticized the efforts of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. I contend that the church was simply offering "cheap grace" which Bonhoeffer described as the mortal enemy of our church. This was the fundamental reason I wanted my family out of that church. I will stand with Bonhoeffer's idea to "not just to bandage the victims under the wheel, but to jam a spoke in the wheel itself." Otherwise we are back to the coward question.

I could continue with the efforts and grief that have transpired since my wife left me, but there is probably little point. One of my greatest sins in this time has been depression, which I believe is a lack of trust in the Lord. It has cost me a lot of time and money and the ripple effects are clear. However last week was probably the

second worse week in my life and I got through it remarkably well. The Lord has continued to show His grace toward me.

Contrary to advice I have been given by some in the church, I will not abandon my wife. I will do what I can to leave the door open to reconciliation. I harbor no ill will towards her. I will continue to seek an understanding of my past sins to know what I must do in the future, i.e. I am striving to repent of my sin. At the same time, where there has been obedience, or working in the right direction, even when costly, it is my prayer to press on with more vigor.

If you sense frustration in my words, you are interpreting it correctly. The evidence that has been set before me, some of which has been documented elsewhere, is that I am dealing with a cult or church patterned after the one in Sardis. You can ignore that or write me off because of it, but before you do I ask that you seriously consider it.

The bottom line is I love my wife and children and desire reconciliation. I seek your help in doing that.

Respectfully,

John Kozlowski



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

Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 3:57 PM

To: John Kozlowski

Subject: Re: reply

John,

You wrote me and asked me to "help you understand" and to know from what to "repent". I responded to you about **you** because that is what you requested. Is it repentance from your own sins which you seek counsel on, or have I misunderstood your requests?

Chris

On Wed, Jan 22, 2014 at 5:53 PM, John Kozlowski <John@kozlowski.org> wrote:

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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