

STRONGER TOGETHER and the 7C's

Greetings and acknowledgements

I am an activist – an activist for various things especially for people’s mental wellness and for people’s spiritual rights, whether they know they have such rights or not. Deprived by other people. Deprived by themselves. In today’s sermon I am advocating for both your mental wellness and your spiritual wellness, as well as the spiritual wellness of the church.

HAMAN (Esther 3:8-9)

8 Then Haman said to King Xerxes, “There is a certain people dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom who keep themselves separate. Their customs are different from those of all other people, and they do not obey the king’s laws; it is not in the king’s best interest to tolerate them. 9 If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will give ten thousand talents of silver to the king’s administrators for the royal treasury.”

ESTHER (Esther 4:15-16)

15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 16 “Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”

There is trouble in the land! Caused by the three men that exist around Esther:

- a) MORDECAI - Creates trouble. He’s an activist. Without boundaries. He refuses to give way to Haman’s motorcade
- b) HAMAN - Creates trouble for “all” Jews. His ego is hurt. Revenge always goes overboard!
- c) KING - Creates trouble by appeasing Hama’s request to exterminate all Jews. A political move which puts even Queen Esther in jeopardy.

Trouble will come from your own house, your own relatives, your own friends, and from enemies. Jesus: “In this world, you will have trouble.” THE TROUBLE IS NOT THAT THERE IS TROUBLE – COZ TROUBLE WILL ALWAYS TROUBLE. The TROUBLE IS HOW DO WE DEAL WITH TROUBLE in our contexts, churches, relationships, homes, workplaces...

Our Esther text today is showing us that we can deal with trouble using either the Spiritual Mind or the Unspiritual Mind.

THE UNSPIRITUAL MIND - HAMAN (7 C's borrowed from Rohr)	THE 7 C's of the SPIRIT-DRIVEN MIND – ESTHER (My 7 C's)
1. Compare (bitter or proud)	1. Connect (the antidote for bitter)
2. Compete (the way of the world)	2. Contribute (add value to the team)
3. Conflict (conflict where none)	3. Compliment (hot coals on your enemy)
4. Conspire (v planning, strategizing)	4. Cooperate (grows the team spirit)
<i>The wrong type of stronger together – for evil.</i>	<i>The right type of stronger together – for good.</i>
5. Condemn (gossip, rumours, neg)	5. Congratulate (relational intelligence)

6. Cancel (any evidence of good)	6. Complete (the gap; maturity factor)
7. Crucify! (like Jesus was crucified)	7. Create/ 'Cure' (the self-esteem grower)
Is in the business of DESTROYING . Has a SLEDGE-HAMMER mindset. Poor understanding of activism. "Against." x	Is in the business of BUILDING . Has a TROWEL mindset. Healthy activism – like Apostle Paul. "For." Alternatives.
SPIRIT OF CONDEMNATION?	Or SPIRIT OF COMMUNION?

"In the earth, but not of the church." We are OF THE SPIRIT.

Like Esther we will soon discover that church is a team sport – we either win together or lose together.

Stronger together – for God's spiritual purposes.

Phillipians 2:1-4

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

This makes fertile soil for a revival.

CONCLUSION:

Do not deprive us of the revival we NEED.

Do not deprive us of the revival we WANT.

Do not deprive us of the revival we are ASKING FOR.

Let us position ourselves for God's revival by operating in the SPIRIT. The spiritual mind - that creates together, that builds together, and makes a difference together. Because we are stronger together – for good.