

Initial Items of Focus for a Team to Engage the Public Square

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Introduction

This paper is a suggested starting point for a church-based gathering of Christians who want to consider and act on what God wills for his people pertaining to our participation in the locality to which he has led us. It should be adapted to meet the needs of the local group. Having worked with groups in such service for the Lord, this guideline is useful for Christians to monitor what is occurring in their city and equip themselves to engage the public square by “speaking the truth in love.” (Ephesians 4:15)

The guideline has been developed primarily, but not only, for those who live in a country where Christians comprise the majority of the population, or one of the considerable number of nations such as the United States, which formerly had a strong Christian orientation, was early in its history even called a “Christian nation” by many, including John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court, and the worldview of which still remains to a considerable extent, but now has a sizeable segment or even a majority of the population which is non-Christian that is actively promoting values, education, legislation, organizations, and policies throughout the country that are contrary to the will of God as revealed in the Bible. Christians who live in countries in which they are the minority, can use aspects of this guideline for engaging the public square in an effective witness for Jesus Christ to the extent the laws of their land provide for their doing so and do not conflict with God’s Word. (See, e.g., Daniel 1:8; 6:1-28; Esther 4:14-16; Romans 13:1-14; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; 1 Peter 2:12-17. For more, see “[Christian Witness in the Public Forum—Increasing Your Comfort Level to Speak the Truth in Love: Is Pleasing God Your Highest Priority?](#)” [[Lecture/Discussion Paper](#)])

Carefully observe: The issue is how not what. We are to be Christ’s witnesses wherever we are, speaking his truth in love; how we do so varies with the amount of freedom permitted by the laws of the land to which God has led us.

To speak the truth in love in the public square in any country is not easy but with God’s help is possible and productive, and since it is his will and calling for us, we must to so. It is not easy for several reasons: (1) Jesus revealed that Satan is “a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44) and is temporarily the “prince of this world” (e.g., John 12:31); therefore, (2) the “great...deceiver,” (Revelation 12:9) who has introduced sin into the world, which veils unbelieving people’s minds and hearts (2 Corinthians 3:14-16), has produced much distortion and untruth whereby people are confused, even when they are unaware they are, and they lack not only the truth but the ability to discern right from wrong, and (3) sin has produced enormous and egregious disharmony, including anger.

Nevertheless, and above all, with God this calling to speak the truth in love is possible (Mark 9:23), and the Lord has overcome our opposition. Jesus said, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” Very significantly, the original Greek word translated overcome, *νενίκηκα* (*nenikēka*) means “I have conquered,” and by the word “world,” *κόσμος* (*kosmos*), the Holy

Spirit-inspired Apostle John means the whole universe even with its sinful corruption has been conquered by Jesus the Christ, who has promised to be with us always. (Matthew 28:20) To summarize the Bible's military motif, the war is over; Christ Jesus has won! However, there are "mopping up" battles yet to be engaged between now and the time when he returns for the final judgment. We will have some painful experiences, but by remaining faithful to him, those of us on the Lord's side will win this spiritual warfare. (Cf. Ephesians 6:10-18)

The whole world, including our specific locale, needs us, even though for those who are veiled it is an unmet rather than a felt need. God has revealed the truth (John 14:6) to us, enabled us to have the faith to accept him and his truth, and his Holy Spirit dwells within us. (Cf. 1 Corinthians 12:3) One of the fruit the Spirit provides is love. (Galatians 5:22) Therefore, we are uniquely able and equipped to speak the truth in love as no one else can. That is why God has called us to do so.

The following can be a template Christians can use to begin a ministry designed to help Christians speak the truth in love in the public square in order to carry out God's will to "seek the peace and prosperity of the city [or other location to which the Lord has led them]." (Jeremiah 29:7) The leader(s) of such a ministry should feel free to modify this template, subtracting any part not needed or applicable and adding whatever is needed, in order to make it useful and effective for their service for the Lord in their locale. More information to help with the suggested steps is available from both of my safe and secure Websites, my general Website, www.edwardseely.com (cf. especially the Current Issues and Christian Education pages), by clicking on the hyperlinks. See also my academic Website, <https://seelyedward.academia.edu/>.

A Template for the Initial Meeting Agenda

1. A [Biblical basis](#) and context of our calling to speak the truth in love in the public square. Read, comment on, and cite applications of Jeremiah 29:7; Matthew 5:13-16; Luke 6:23-24, 26; Ephesians 4:15; Revelation 21:1-5; 24-26. For additional explanation of these Biblical passages, see the lecture/discussion presentation and the related course curriculum, both entitled "Christian Witness in the Public Forum," on the [Current Issues](#) page of my general Website.
2. Subjects of Focus.
A division of labor is helpful. Ask the members of the team to select one or more of the following community affairs, and any others that come to mind, as his or her area of focus, to which he or she would like to pay special attention and act upon when an unbiblical, immoral, anti-Christian, or other activity counter to God's will and the peace and prosperity of the community occurs. That member can then do so on his or her own, or seek the group's help, as needed.
 - a. Community Events.
Sources: reading information such as the following:
 - 1) Entertainment inserts in the daily newspaper

- 2) A calendar of community events published in the local newspaper
 - 3) News reports in the daily paper or on the radio, television, or social media
 - 4) Talking with others, e.g., relatives, neighbors, workplace associates
- b. City Council.
Information sources include his or her ward councilor, attending meetings, newspaper reports.
- c. Public Library.
For example, does the public library plan to hold “Drag Queen Story Hours?” Does the library’s collection of books, DVDs, electronic and other resources include sound science in addition to the flawed “science” that is more intentional indoctrination than accurate information? For more on the distinction between sound science and pseudoscience, see below, section 4.b.2).
- d. Public Schools.
For information on the subjects below, see the [Current Issues](#) page of my general Website. Include investigating:
- 1) Curriculum and instruction, examining the following:
 - a) The “1619 Project.”
 - 1- Is it being used?
 - 2- What is being taught about racial matters?
 - 3- Is the “1776 Project” being used?
 - 4- What is the teacher saying about this subject?
 - 5- Can parents opt out their children?
 - b) Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, key tenets of Critical Race Theory (which term is being deceptively undisclosed).
 - 1- What is being taught about this subject?
 - 2- What resources are being used?
 - 3- What is the teacher saying?
 - 4- Can parents opt out their children?

c) LGBTQ+.

- 1- What subject matters are included in this part of the curriculum?
- 2- Is sound science, morality, and religion included as per the 2019 Colorado State Law HB 19-1032, Section 2. 22-1-128 states, (7) (a)? See below, 4.b.2).
- 3- What is the teacher saying about this subject?
- 4- Can parents opt out their children?

d) Abortion.

- 1- What exactly is being taught?
- 2- Is sound science, morality, and religion included as per the 2019 Colorado State Law HB 19-1032, Section 2. 22-1-128 states, (7) (a)?
- 3- What is the teacher saying about this subject?
- 4- Can parents opt out their children?

e) Cohabitation.

- 1- What exactly is being taught?
- 2- Is sound science, morality, and religion included as per the 2019 Colorado State Law HB 19-1032, Section 2. 22-1-128 states, (7) (a)?
- 3- What is the teacher saying about this subject?
- 4- Can parents opt out their children?

f) For each of the above categories, how can we obtain information as to what the teachers bring into the classroom on their own, such as any mistaken and misleading biases, pamphlets with propaganda, and other “resources” in addition to the curriculum?

2) Satan clubs.

- a) Are there any After School Satan Clubs being held in any of the schools?
- b) This is a national movement with an agenda to hold such clubs in every school (for children in the first through the fifth grade) in the United States that has a Christian after school club for children.

3) School library.

➤ Does it include books with the truth about the above subjects?

4) The Public School Board of Education.

➤ Does it listen to parents and acknowledge parents' rights?

e. Mental health stories in the news.

Concerning crimes, statistics, legislation, tax proposals, and subjects related to mental health, pay attention to any indications of possible demonic activity, such as where the perpetrator of a crime has been incarcerated for many months and even years with the judge ruling he or she is incompetent to stand trial, or where he or she speaks and acts in a way that is similar to the demonic activity described in the Bible, which is typically not reported in the United States but which is seen in other countries, and even in this country by those whom God has given the spiritual gift of exorcism. Implications include making our community, and the judicial system in particular, aware of the parallel between the significantly high rate of “mental health” issues and the decline of people testifying to and living by a relationship with Jesus Christ, the need to proclaim God’s Word, and the need for a multidimensional protection of our First Amendment freedom to do so. See the articles on Satan and demons on the [Christian Education](#) page of the secure Website, [From Acorn to Oak 12](#).

An effective communication principle to help people take seriously information, such as with this subject, is to ask a question, in particular one that affects their finances. For example, here are a few questions related to this subject.

1) “Do you know that if an offense that has been committed by someone who is possessed by a real demonic spirit, no amount of money will cure that person?” Then explain that some people who commit crimes, such as murder, and are judged to be “mentally incompetent for trial,” so they are kept for months and years in prison, undergoing psychological counseling, medical, and other treatments at great public expense, are not helped by those treatments; the treatments have no effect.

2) Why do you think these treatments are having no effect?

If this criminal is possessed by an evil spirit, such treatments will have no effect on a demon.

3) So how can we protect the public and help this incarcerated person and protect his or her fellow inmates?

The only way to rid the person of the demon is by exorcism in the name of Jesus Christ. Refer them to the above-hyperlinked articles.

f. Muslim advocacy and activism.

Many mass murders are perpetrated by Muslim activists who are trying to dominate the world. As some of these Muslims have argued, they are not “Islamic extremists;” they are only following the teaching of the Qur’an, the Hadith, and other teachings of Islam. For information on Islam in the West and in the United States in particular, see the resources on the [Christian Response to the Global Challenges of Islam](http://www.edwardseely.com) page at www.edwardseely.com.

g. Are there any other subjects/issues of specific focus that our group should consider?

3. Questions

a. What will be our general focus in the community? What will be our objectives?

b. Where do we fit as a group in the community?

1) It would be good to invite other Christian congregations to participate with us.

Which ones should we invite? Be careful to invite those congregations who preach, teach, and practice faithful adherence to the Bible in its traditional interpretation and not the contemporary interpretations that are more concerned with political correctness than with Biblical correctness.

2) When these representatives from other congregations have a good understanding of how to start such a group as this one, they can do so in their home church.

c. Who do you know who might be interested in joining this effort? We need to now ask for those present who would like to continue participating in the formation of this group.

d. When can we meet next to further explore the execution of the stated objectives? How should we do so?

e. How broad should be our focus?

1) Should we also include our whole county, which already has an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Board?

2) Or, should we start local, get well established, and then consider county, state, and beyond? How far beyond?

f. How should we do our work?

1) Should we work mostly independently on our subject(s) of focus?

2) Or should we work independently but gather together periodically to report on our findings and experiences, learn from each other, reflect together, pray, and explore

ways to most effectively address certain issues in our special area of interest in the public square?

- g. If we decide to become an ongoing group, what should we do about the following?
 - 1) What name should we give ourselves? At another church where I started such a committee, the team decided to call itself the “Salt and Light Ministry.” (Matthew 5:13-14) Another possibility would be “Engaging the Public Square Ministry.” What other names come to mind?
 - 2) Who should be our coordinator, at least for now? (The word leader can be used, but depending on the group, that word carries many connotations that may or not be accurate and cause unnecessary concern for some, such as pertaining to time commitment, personal capability, and amount of willing help available.)
 - 3) Do we need to function within a particular church structure? If so, which one?
- 4. Group Member Individual Tasks
 - a. Monitor community developments in our area of focus.
 - b. In engagement, include the following:
 - 1) Speaking the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15, *et al.*), being sure to include God’s Word, why that’s necessary, and why even secular sources recognize that we cannot ignore God, referring to such sources as the 2019 Colorado State Law HB 19-1032, Section 2. 22-1-128 states, “(7) (a) Nothing in subsection (6) OR (6.5) of this section shall be interpreted to prohibit discussion of health, moral, ethical, or religious values as they pertain to comprehensive human sexuality, healthy relationships, or family formation. SUCH DISCUSSION IS ENCOURAGED. [The uppercase emphasis is in the law.]” Add that the Founders based the United States’ philosophical foundation on the Biblical worldview. (See documented explanation on pages 5-6 of the paper, [“Homosexuality: An Abbreviated Fact Sheet for Speaking the Truth in Love.”](#))
 - 2) Sound science and helping people recognize the need to distinguish between sound science and flawed science (simply mention the reality, or explain it, e.g., pp. 28-33 in the curriculum, [Christian Education Ministry in the 21st Century and Beyond: Seminary Course Curriculum](#)),
 - 3) Logic and logical fallacies (cf., e.g., the primer in Chapter Four of the book, [What Is God’s Will Concerning Homosexuality? Help for Church Leaders and Others to Speak the Truth in Love](#)),
 - 4) Trying wherever possible to develop relationships especially with those in our focus area who have decision-making authority,

- 5) Seeking further information and selecting means of engagement listed in the unabridged presentation of [*Christian Witness in the Public Forum \(Lecture/Discussion\)*](#) on the Current Issues page of the safe and secure Website, www.edwardseely.com, that will be most useful to address the above and other matters of concern,
- 6) Praying regularly in Jesus' name.