

## **“By this will all men know that you are my disciples...”**

I just received an e-mail that I would like to share with you. I would copy and paste some of it in this article but I have a bad habit of reading, deleting, and keeping the hard drive so clean that when one wants something ... well, it is gone. The e-mail dealt with a speech that Ben Stein gave on a morning television program. He speaks of a lack of discipline of children, lack of prayer in school, lack of Bible reading in school, and acceptance of abortion. He also speaks of a small group of people that have world recognition speaking as if their view was that of the majority and he speaks of his Jewish background as compared to others' background. He speaks of times past and changes that have occurred in our culture. He speaks of how it has been so easy for people to accept rather than challenge what the minority was saying. And he believes that when we accept this as the norm the perception and reality of the minority becomes accepted as the majority view by a culture of people. His main concern was.... Why? How did this happen? I believe Mr. Stein and I have similar concerns and share a similar way of thinking. If we share a similar way of thinking then it would also appear that ones conclusion might be similar. That conclusion for me is that the time has come for the Christian minded people of our country to take ownership of what we truly believe. When we take that ownership we must then share with others. When we don't then the minority speaks for all. Some examples of what I believe that we must take ownership of are: children need to be disciplined just as we were when growing up, prayer in school is important and even Bible classes offered at school are good and do not damage or mess up anyone's self esteem. (side note please....even when one did not want their child to participate in Bible Classes when I was growing up they were allowed to leave the class. I can think of only one instance in which this occurred from grades 1-8. Bible classes were just like having music and art in the elementary school. But today?) Other areas of ownership in which we must voice our beliefs would be that abortion kills an unborn child.

Consistency is hard to maintain when we accept changes in society, changes in ideas or allow small groups of people to bring about a change in the way we think, act or believe. But we must remember that the difficulty in maintaining consistency makes it easier for a minority, less acceptable view to take hold and, once again, appear to be the view of that society's majority. So how can one be consistent in a daily changing world? First, one must know and be ready to stand for Biblical truths. A few of these “right and good” examples I have given above. Secondly, be vocal in what you believe but do so in a kind and **loving** way. That does not mean that one becomes a doormat to others but that one allows themselves to be heard when others are afraid of listening because of their boisterous and outward way of speaking. Don't stand in line but start the line and yes, this can be accomplished in a kind and **loving** way. When opinions are expressed in this manner then we are told that “*all will know that you are my disciples.*” Time is running out and we must be diligent and consistent in all that we say and do. Accomplishing this and being consistent brings to the forefront the ideas and opinions of the majority including Christian minded people. And it is the ideas and opinions of the majority that need to be heard more and more today. More and more of us need to remind ourselves that we do live in a country in which we believe it is still one nation under God. To believe this means that it is our duty to act accordingly.