

The racism of Apartheid was predicated on entitlement.

The elitism it encouraged birthed an arrogance, selfishness and inhumanity that has had devastating consequences for millions of people.

The legacy of entitlement lives on in the continued reference to race.

Even when referred to euphemistically as affirmative action it has presented with an entitlement that is counterproductive and disadvantages the very people it was meant to help. In fact, the notion of such affirmative action has created a climate for the corruption that has become endemic and atrociously discouraging for this wonderful country, South Africa. Such phrases as "it's our turn to feed now" express this.

We have sown the wind and now reap the whirlwind of massive entitlement-based corruption. Though the wheels of justice do turn they often take much longer than hope can endure.

The entitlement of the corrupt to a fair shake in Justice often implies a tardiness to give account of responsibilities for evil and abuse.

The tardiness expressed in the delays pertaining to Jacob Zuma and the need for accountability illustrate this point.

The entitlement of patriarchal leadership with its broken views of masculinity has been a trap for humankind leading to centuries of disempowered women.

This is a major contributor to the tragic escalation of gender-based violence that we see in our world today.

There are those who argue that it was the silence of Adam in the neglect of his patriarchal duty to support Eve at the point of a temptation which led to the entry of sin and all its consequences into the world.

When God created Adam and Eve in the Genesis account, he created humankind in his image, male and female.

He created them equal and in his image.

It was to the both of them but he gave the mandate to rule manage and lead. It was a partnership deal not a patriarchal conspiracy.

So, the silence of Adam was not a neglect of his patriarchal responsibility, but a betrayal of his partnership.

He did not show up to assist Eve at the point of her vulnerability.

The consequence of this betrayal continued from those early expressions of blame-shifting and acrimony to the ongoing sword between the sexes which continues to prevail in these days.

Gender-based violence is the result.

Quite frankly, men who try to establish their dominance by the abuse of women and children are themselves the weakest creatures.

Their own lust betrays their weaknesses. It takes more courage, more healthy masculinity, to love!

If the 1800s was the century when slavery was abolished, and the 1900s was the century in which we untangled totalitarian regimes, then this present century will be the time in world history when gender-based violence and femicide are unpacked and defeated!

Such practices are far off the mark of the teaching of Jesus!

He modelled and taught such powerfully hope-inspiring alternatives.

He seeded a new humanity where we find the following:

- Leaders lead as fathers, not kings. No title addictions! No abuse or manipulation.
- Integrity is fundamental. Without honesty there can be no trust
- Leaders rise by serving, not grabbing. They "wash feet".
- Leadership is a gift, not gender dependent
- Stewardship is valued. Look after the earth.
- Ethnic cultures are not sacrosanct, but subject to the culture of the Kingdom of God
- Churches are not inanimate places, but people in caring relationships
- Churches are families of friends, not rented crowds
- Sowing and reaping prevails. God is not mocked. Whatever we sow we will reap.
- God's Kingdom is unshakable. As surely as Jesus rose again, He will come again and bring all things to fulfilment. The lion will lie down with the lamb.
- Jesus will wipe away tears and banish sickness, sorrow and death!

That's worth remembering while we do battle with Covid-19.

Let's courageously say "No More" to the entitlement traps of race-based privilege and economics and of patriarchy which inspires gender-based violence.

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