A COUPLE OF ARTICLES TO READ

Posted on October 26, 2021 by Eddie

A couple of articles which will make you think and which may well make you squirm. (Sorry about the picture, I couldn't resist it.)
Category: Observations

Today, rather than write anything myself, I thought I would draw your attention to two articles which are tangentially related to my post from yesterday. I'm grateful to Chris Howles for making the connection for me.

The first article is by Harvey Kwiyani of Global Connections. In it he addresses the issue of mission and power, which I raised yesterday, but he does so from a different perspective.

> *In conclusion, the new reality of World Christianity means that new (non-Western) missionary movements must emerge. God has Africans, Asians, and Latin Americans participating in Godâ€™s mission in the world. As a result, we need new ways of understanding mission that makes it possible for non-Western Christians (who largely have no imperial powers behind them) to engage in mission. Indeed, we need to decolonise mission. This will release the global body of Christians to engage in mission, bringing us closer to Jesusâ€™s vision of disciples and missionaries (apostles and evangelists) in every nation.*

The second article comes from the Atlantic and it focuses on the question of political power and the American evangelical church. This is a very disturbing and extremely important piece. However, I do think that the author paints with brush strokes that are too broad. Not all American evangelicals, not even all white American evangelicals fit the picture that he is drawing here, so we need to be careful in making stereotypes. I should also add, that I'm not pointing to this article out of any political agenda. My concern is that mission which comes wrapped up in secular power is highly compromised; whether this is mission to the ends of the earth or to the neighbours across our street.

> *Many Christians, though, are disinclined to heed calls for civility. They feel that everything they value is under assault, and that they need to fight to protect it. â€œI understand that,â€ Dudley said. â€œI feel under assault sometimes too. However, I also know that the early Christians transformed the Roman empire not by demanding but by loving, not by angrily shouting about their rights in the public square but by serving even the people who persecuted them, which is why Christianity grew so quickly and took over the empire. I also know that once Christians gained political power under Constantine, that beautiful loving, sacrificing, giving, transforming Church became the angry, persecuting, killing Church. We have forgotten the cross.â€*