

Thank you, Planned Parenthood. God bless you.

by David Barnett

Most of the time, Pastor Mark Driscoll, founding pastor of Mars Hill Church in Seattle, Washington, stays well away from highly-charged political comments, choosing to focus on the spiritual growth of his flock.

As well he should.

However, the Christian life system can't exist in a vacuum, and Pastor Driscoll recently demonstrated he understands this principle. While preaching through a series on the Ten Commandments entitled, "Set Free to Live Free," Driscoll mentioned those politicians that often "wave the Jesus flag to get all the benefits without the obligations that are to ensue." He gave the illustration of a recent rally at the Iowa Capitol where Midge Slater of the Iowa Alliance for Retired Americans prayed to God for continued access to abortion, while two Democratic candidates for governor stood nearby with their heads bowed.

"My guess is, the children would disagree," said Driscoll. "Don't sprinkle a little 'God-talk' amongst a genocide. The Nazis did that."

The following Friday, Driscoll tweeted out an excerpt from his sermon:

How to take God's name in vain: "Thank you, Planned Parenthood. God bless you." #10Commandments <http://t.co/aMOB3xARMe>

– Mark Driscoll (@PastorMark) October 4, 2013

In the prayer, posted online by The Iowa Republican, Slater thanked God for doctors who perform abortions and prayed for their safety. She also prayed that elected officials support “a woman’s right to make her own medical decision” and for continued access to “all forms of birth control.”

“We give thanks and celebrate that abortion is still safe and legal,” Slater said.

The complete story was covered by the Des Moines Register.

Here’s my concern: What is happening to the leadership of our state? How can two candidates for governor stand by while a prayer like this occurs, and not say anything about it? And why wasn’t there a tremendous uproar over this? Where were the Christians – of all political persuasion?

This event and the lack of outrage it created tells me one thing – that the Church, the Body of Christ in Iowa is very anemic. The fact that a pastor in Washington state is more outraged about this prayer than anyone I have been aware of is disappointing.

“So,” you ask, “what needs to change?” My answer is “personal revival and leadership.” Self-governance and Spirit-governance seems to be a lost art. We need individuals from

all across our state and nation to rise up and take their responsibilities seriously and be men and women of courage – love Jesus with such a passion it is a secret to no one.

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