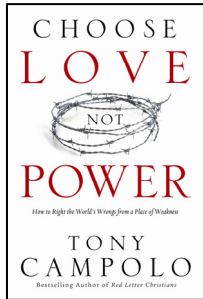


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Ben Laurro, Pure Publicity
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HAS THE CHURCH TRADED LOVE FOR POWER? Christianity's Struggle on Cultural Issues: Power vs. Sacrificial Love

Philadelphia, PA – Have evangelical Christians encouraged political leaders to favor war policies? Does the church promote sexism? Are Christian leaders misunderstood when teaching on world catastrophes?



Some of the most controversial topics are rooted in power and are challenging the foundation of modern Christianity.

Biblical scholar and minister Dr. Tony Campolo urges Christians to follow Jesus' example and combat societal struggles with sacrificial love. "Jesus refused power," says Campolo. "Instead, He earned *authority* and changed the world through personal sacrifice that claimed His own life, even though He promised to return one day in power."

In his new release, ***Choose Love Not Power: How to Right the World's Wrongs From a Place of Weakness*** (Regal Books), Campolo offers a thought-provoking assessment of power versus love with regard to some of our society's most pressing issues. "Power can be used for the good of mankind, to restrain evil and to fight corruption, but Christians need to remember that the foundation of their faith should be rooted in a call to servanthood and humility that precludes their desire for power," says Campolo. ***Choose Love Not Power*** addresses the impact of power on several critical issues concerning the church, including:

God and His Will:

- God has self-imposed limitations on power in order to give us freedom to choose love and justice, even if in that freedom we choose the opposite.
- Christians are quick to believe that God is in control of all things. But when tragedies occur like the earthquake in Haiti that killed hundreds of thousands and destroyed lives, the church often says it is part of God's will, which will one day be revealed to us. This is not a comfort to those in suffering.
- The Christian community, who claims to demonstrate God's love, need to see the opportunity in hardship to put love in action and being vessels of God's will.

Marriage and Family:

- Have some evangelical churches propagated a model for the suppression of women with the misinterpretation of wives being forced into submission by their husbands? The very nature of submission is control. Mutual submissions is the model of a Christian marriage without either person seeking to dominate or control but together seek the will of God.
- Husbands have been deluded into the temptation to be powerful and wanting to dominate their wives. In some so-called Christian marriages there are husbands with a perverted sense of power that demand their wives to submit to any demand including sexual satisfaction.
- Love requires that parents relinquish control over their children — as painful as it is for parents to see their children get hurt or fail.

~more~

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Politics and the Church:

- God is not a Republican or Democrat. Christians shouldn't act in a total partisan manner. The government can be used as an instrument by God to accomplish His will.
- Christians will not change the world through coercive power, but by yielding to what the Holy Spirit will do through them to bring justice. An example of this is Proposition 8 in California, where Christian organizations spent millions to fight the issue of gay marriage. Unfortunately the end result was that the gay community saw Jesus and His followers as their enemy, and the Bible as a handbook for oppression.
- If Christians are to be faithful to the beliefs of Jesus, then we need to remember the Sermon on the Mount and Jesus' call for non-violence resistance. We need to question our views on participating in the military and in war."

Sexism and Equality:

- Christians must recognize the validity and truth in the complaints found in the feminist movement.
- God calls an end to the battle of the sexes through equality, not retaliation. In Christ "there is neither...male nor female." (Galatians 3:28).
- Women should not tolerate exploitation by men, but neither should they use sex as a power game over men, including women who withhold sex as a form of punishment.

Through biblical and cultural analysis, Campolo works toward a "theology of power" to enlighten Christians on how to handle power in a diverse and even hostile world. Ordinary believers are saving troubled marriages, reclaiming wayward children, resuscitating dying churches, changing unjust corporate policies, and reforming corrupt governments—by imitating Christ. And in the process, many are restoring authority to the Church's message of hope.

Dr. Campolo, an ordained minister and frequent media commentator offers practical encouragement to believers struggling to find a more authentically Christ-like way to wear the name "Christian" in a pluralistic world.

Tony Campolo is professor emeritus of Sociology at Eastern University in St. Davids, Pennsylvania. He is founder of the Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education (EAPE), an organization that develops schools and social programs in third-world countries and in cities across North America. Dr. Campolo is an ordained minister and associate pastor of the Mount Carmel Baptist Church in West Philadelphia, and is a media commentator on religious, social and political matters. He has been a guest on programs such as *Nightline*, *Crossfire*, *Politically Incorrect*, *The Charlie Rose Show*, *The Colbert Report* and CNN News. He co-hosted his own television series, *Hashing It Out*, on the Odyssey Network, and currently hosts *From Across the Pond*, a weekly show on the Premier Radio Network in the UK. Dr. Campolo is author of more than 35 books, including *Letters to a Young Evangelical* and *Red Letter Christians*. For more information, visit www.tonymcampolo.org.

About *Choose Love Not Power*: *Choose Love Not Power: How to Right the World's Wrongs From a Place of Weakness* by Tony Campolo. Published by Gospel Light Publications/Regal Books. February 2010. Paperback, 224 pages. \$14.99. ISBN: 9780830751242.

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ANTHONY CAMPOLO, Ph.D.

Tony Campolo is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Eastern University in St. Davids, Pennsylvania. He previously served for ten years on the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Eastern College and earned a Ph.D. from Temple University.

Founder and President of the Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education (EAPE), Dr. Campolo has worked to create, nurture and support programs for “at-risk” children in cities across North America, and has helped establish schools and universities in several developing countries.

Dr. Campolo is a media commentator on religious, social and political matters. He has been a featured guest on television programs including *The Colbert Report*, *Nightline*, *Crossfire*, *Politically Incorrect*, *The Charlie Rose Show*, *Larry King Live*, CNN Dayside, CNN News and MSNBC News. He co-hosted his own television series, *Hashing It Out*, on the Odyssey Network, and presently hosts *Across The Pond*, a weekly program on the Premier Christian Radio Network in England. He is also a highly respected and sought after guest on radio stations across the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand.

Dr. Campolo speaks about 350 different times each year around the world for a wide variety of groups including churches, colleges, youth groups and the business community.

He is the author of 38 books, with the latest releases scheduled for February 2010, *Choose Love Not Power* (Regal); May 2010 *Connecting Like Jesus* (Jossey-Bass) co-authored with Mary Albert Darling; and September 2010 *Stories That Feed Your Soul* (Regal).

Some of the recent titles are *Choose Love Not Power* (Regal 2010), *Red Letter Christians, A Citizen's Guide to Faith and Politics* (Regal 2008); *The God of Intimacy and Action* (Jossey-Bass 2007) co-authored with Mary Albert Darling; *Letters to a Young Evangelical* (Basic Books 2006).

Others are: *Speaking My Mind*; *Let Me Tell You a Story: Life Lessons From Unexpected Places and Unlikely People*; *Which Jesus*; *Following Jesus Without Embarrassing God* (all published by Thomas Nelson); *Adventures in Missing the Point* (Zondervan) co-authored by Brian McLaren; *Revolution and Renewal* (Westminster John Knox Press); *The Church Enslaved* (Fortress Press) co-authored by Michael Battle; *Everybody Wants to Change the World, Practical Ideas for Social Justice* (Regal) co-authored by Gordon Aeschliman; *The Survival Guide for Christians on Campus* (Howard) co-authored by Will Willimon, just to name a few.

Dr. Campolo is an ordained minister, has served American Baptist Churches in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and is presently recognized as an associate pastor of the Mount Carmel Baptist Church in West Philadelphia.

Dr. Campolo and his wife, Peggy, live in the Philadelphia area and have two grown children and four grandchildren.

For more information on Dr. Campolo, see www.TonyCampolo.org.

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Suggested Interview Questions
For Dr. Tony Campolo,
author of *Choose Love Not Power*

1. What are some of our common cultural issues that are rooted in power?
2. Did Jesus believe in power? How did He use power? What example did He set for us with regard to power and love?
3. Can a person be loving and powerful at the same time? What's the difference between power and authority?
4. What are the power games in the family? How is this destroying the family?
5. Do you believe parents must learn to relinquish control over their children? Why?
6. You assert that in some so-called Christian marriages a husband will demand his wife to submit to any indignity including sexual satisfaction. Why does this happen?
7. How can you be a Christian and support the feminist movement? How do you come to terms with their beliefs and behaviors?
8. You write that women use power for different reasons than men use power. What are their reasons and what are the dangers involved?
9. Do you believe the church has propagated the suppression of women? Should the church change their view of women in pastoral leadership?
10. How do you respond to Christians who are undecided on the issue of war? Is there a valid reason for war?
11. What are some warnings for pastors who seek power? How can they ensure they stay within Biblical doctrine regarding their position of authority over the church?
12. What are some dangers in Christians being in political office? How can this tarnish the witness of Christ to the world?
13. How should the church stand for issues that challenge their beliefs like same sex marriage? Should the church be accepting of issues that are against Biblical teachings?
14. You write that "God had to let go of power if we were to be free to love." Please explain?
15. Do you believe God is in full control of this world? How do you make sense of national tragedies like the earthquake in Haiti?

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STANDOUT QUOTES FROM *CHOOSE LOVE NOT POWER*:

Using both insightful anecdotes and his long experience as a sociologist, Dr. Campolo examines the effects of power plays among families, churches, communities and nations. He demonstrates that *power* actually weakens, while *authority* strengthens—and the root of authority, he says, is sacrificial love for others.

Ch. 1: Power Plays

Pg. 14. “Giving up power is a requisite for loving.”

Pg.18. “Christian activists often delude themselves into thinking that the kingdom of God can be actualized in history through the use of political power.”

Pg. 21. “Right now the Church in America does not speak with much authority. ...Billions have been spent to construct buildings for a God who ‘does not live in temples built by hands,’ according to Acts 17:24. If the church had instead used its vast resources sacrificially on behalf of the poor, I am convinced that the world would be listening to us with more attention than we can imagine.”

Pg. 22. “The world is saved through love, and power is used only to restrain what love cannot redeem.”

Ch. 2: Love and power in the Family

Pg. 26. Principle of Least Interest: “In any relationship, the person who has the most power exercises the least amount of love, and... the person who loves the most has the least power.”

Pg. 33. “Some Christian men have taken the verse “Wives submit to your husbands’ (Eph. 5:22) to mean that their wives should willingly submit to any indignity that will stoke the husband’s perverted sense of power. There is a lot of rape going on in so-called Christian marriages.”

Ch. 3: Women With Power

Pg. 45. “The gospel stands in opposition to any teaching that encourages men to oppress women. Instead, ours is a gospel that calls upon men to yield their power in order to express love.”

Pg. 47. “Women should be liberated in order that they might freely live out sacrificial service in the home, in the church and in the workplace and wherever else God calls them to be.”

Ch. 4: When Children Get Power

Pg. 53. “Whenever a child is punished, particularly when that punishment is corporal in nature, the parents experience a sense of failure.”

Pg. 58. “Only parents who are not afraid of losing power are capable of having an honest relationship with their children.”

Ch. 5: Religious Power Plays

Pg. 73. Eph. 2:8-9 says “For it is by grace you have been saved,” but “People who are in love with power cannot handle this.”

Ch. 6: Holy Terrors

Pg. 83. “Loving sacrifice can earn authority that will invite the congregation to listen to hard messages.”

Pg. 88. “I believe that every pastor should have a select group of people to whom he or she is willing to be submissive and responsible. That group should constantly evaluate the lifestyle of the pastor and call for repentance when needed.”

Ch. 7: Glorious Authority

Pg. 93. “During the first century of its existence, the Church was a powerless movement.” Then in 313 A.D. Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire. “From this dubious honor, the church has not recovered.”

Pg. 97. Regarding the Religious Right / Left: “Both sides are too easily tempted to use and depend on the power of the state to enforce their will on the rest of the populace. This is a serious mistake that will, in the long run, hurt the witness of the Church and significantly diminish its authority.”

Ch. 8: Rulers in the Upside-Down Kingdom

Pg. 119. “Powerlessness and fearlessness, rotted in love, make us truly free. Those who do not seek power are those most free to speak the truth, even when the truth is unpopular.”

Pg. 125. “...Being a Christian too easily becomes equated with being Republican. God is not a Republican. I also want to emphasize that God is not a Democrat, either.”

Ch. 9: What to Do While We Wait for the Second Coming

Pg. 146. “To be peacemakers may mean being persecuted for righteousness’ sake. It may involve having the so-called realists of the world call us foolish. But then, the way of Christ has always been foolishness to those who are not of the mind of Christ.”

Ch. 10: The Sins of the Powerless

Pg. 155. “When the powerless feel that they are the victims of forces beyond their control, they may say to themselves, *It’s just not fair, but there’s nothing I can do about it.* Such feelings are dangerous. Resentment was at the root of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.”

Pg. 173. “Not all things are good when they happen, but God can use the most painful evil to produce good in our lives. If we give over our resentment, God will replace it with love.”

Ch. 11: The Painful Cost of Conquering Love

Pg. 179. “We Evangelicals have hailed the Lord God as the One who controls all earthly events—yet it may be that our strong declarations of God’s omnipotence fail to acknowledge that God may *deliberately* choose not to use His power, and does so out of love.”

Ch. 12: When God Does His Stuff

Pg. 203. “I once heard an evangelist shout at his audience, ‘On Judgment Day, God will play a videotape and project up on a screen images of all the sins you have ever committed. Every filthy, dirty thing you have ever done will be up there in full view—and your mother will be there!’ By the time he finished, I was more afraid of going to heaven and having to view that videotape with my friends and my mother than I was of going to hell.”

Ch. 13: Living Without Power

Pg. 215. “I believe that love is greater than power. Only love redeems us and makes us good.”