



Point of View

Dear Marketplace Friend,

This morning, I received a warning from a friend... about a friend. "Look out," he told me, "you'll probably see (*mutual friend*) this afternoon. He wants to talk to you about the cigars..."

He was referring to my last **Point of View**... and the misconception that I was down on anyone - friend or not-yet-friend - who, as Christians with "freedom in Christ" exercise their freedom to enjoy a cigar on the porch, or a glass of wine with their dinner, *or whatever their lifestyle-absent-legalism affords that does not violate biblical principle*...

I'll defend to my last Starbucks my friends' freedom to live a life that glorifies God... and their direct-access, through the Holy Spirit, to confirm their strategies with Him! My intent last week was to celebrate your freedom to live your freedom... and my freedom to live differently than you! That's what freedom is about: two people who make apparently opposite decisions about the same



question, and the fact that both can be right! When you get past the concise precision of core theology - the stuff on which eternal destiny is based - the latitude to live opens gloriously...

How fitting that I would advocate you pick up this morning's edition of USA Today. Dig down to the next-to-last page of the front section, and read the half-page Forum piece written by Stephen Mansfield.

He recounts the story of a man who sat in St. Patrick's Cathedral listening to John Wesley preach with passion about what a life transformed by God would mean. Mansfield recounts, "...This rising entrepreneur hears and allows Wesley's words to frame a vision for his fledgling company: a vision for producing wealth through (*industry niche*) excellence

and then for using that wealth to serve the downtrodden and the poor..." The values that this man envisioned for his company were first honed in a life of devotion to God. He was an earthy but pious man who frequently thundered his views despite angry opposition. When he died, the Dublin Evening Post declared that his life was "useful and benevolent and virtuous."

The man? *Arthur Guinness*. His company? *Guinness Brewery*. The article's headline: "**Guinness Got It: The company's 250-year legacy of God-inspired good provides myriad lessons for today. Among them: A benevolent corporate vision is good for business, for its employees and for the world.**"

I like Mansfield's wrap up: "We are tempted in our disgust with Wall Street greed and corporate misdealing to reject the economic engine that has made us great, to prefer the security of the state to the vicissitudes of free market exchange. What we learn from the Guinness story is that character is king, that markets without ethical boundaries make Madoffs but that corporations driven by a benevolent vision can do vast amounts of good. It is morals and ethics we need, then, not a new economic system..."

"By faith he was commended as a

righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead." (Hebrews 11:4)

Great Christian leaders have a message for their contemporaries, as well as the leaders who follow them in succession...

My message to you, today: the solutions God proposes to the great quandaries of our day will not be effected through government programs: they will flow from transformed leaders who use their influence and resources to demonstrate what God wants to do for the world He loved enough to send His Son on the rescue mission that cost Him his earthly life, but resulted in the expansion of His eternal family.

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