

Problems with Lawyers and Courts¹

Kuhn made several interesting statements worthy of some reflection. He describes a meeting of legal professionals that featured a panel of representatives of three religions and one academic. “Uncharacteristically, this meeting opened with a caution for us all to respect each other’s views. What a strange caveat, given that this was a professional context.” Given that this was a meeting of professionals who specialize in cutting each other down without any semblance of respect for each other, for truth or for justice, I can understand Kuhn’s description of the event as uncharacteristic. What I cannot understand is that he can express this situation in such a calm way as if that situation were normal, without causing him any pain and consternation.

Another Kuhn statement: “Efficiency and economics are not the only reasons people steer clear of Canadian courts.” I am happy that here we have at least one lawyer who recognizes these to be hurdles for many people, but, again, I am distressed. For one thing, his statement belittles the fact that those reasons probably are the main reasons most people steer clear of the legal world. That world *terrifies* most individuals, organizations, institutions and corporations. It is one of the reasons I opted out of the landlord business. It is a major reason for the high cost of medical care. It has made simple sharing of information a formidable exercise. One could just go on and on of the terrors the legal world has unleashed on us. And Kuhn can calmly make that remark without showing any disturbance on his part?

A third Kuhnism: “...desire for justice along the lines of their personal faith in God is not going [to] get much airtime in a Canadian court.” Cutely expressed, but where is Kuhn’s pain?

No. 4: “Canada doesn’t have a justice system; it’s just a legal system.” How true and how terrible. Surely it did not take this one client to make Kuhn aware of this! This situation has been recognized so long, it is almost a cliché. But Kuhn seems to accept this situation with easy contentment.

Finally: “It’s safe to say that the Bible does not get cited very much as a persuasive authority in legal argument.” That is true and sounds innocent. The problem is not that the Bible does not get quoted; it is that Christians in law have apparently not learned to incorporate Bible-inspired principles in their legal harrangues.

¹ Letter to Editor, 4 June/2006, in response to Bob Kuhn, “Who Will Have the Last Word...” *BC Christian*, May/2006.