



THE DIETRICH BONHOEFFER INSTITUTE

NEWS ADVISORY

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Donald Trump and the Moral Collapse of American Evangelicalism **What will Evangelicals Do with Trump Policy on Immigrant Children?**

The National Press Club

Complimentary Luncheon

Tuesday, June 19, 2018, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Evangelical Leader, Rev. Rob Schenck, says Trump Administration's use of the Bible to Defend Separating Children from their Immigrant Parents is Morally Reprehensible and Far from Biblical Truth. The Press is Invited to Hear Schenck, who will be joined by Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook, Bishop Mariann Budde and others at the National Press Club

Washington, D.C. (June 18, 2018) – Rev. Dr. Rob Schenck, President of The Dietrich Bonhoeffer Institute and author of *Costly Grace: An Evangelical Minister's Rediscovery of Faith, Hope and Love*, will lead a discussion, joined by Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook (International Religious Freedom appointee by President Barak Obama) and the Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde (Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese in Washington, D.C.) about Donald Trump and the moral collapse of American Evangelicalism at a special luncheon open to all members of the news media on **Tuesday, June 19 from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. at the National Press Club, 4th Estate Restaurant, 529 14th St. NW, 13th Floor, Washington, D.C.** (RSVP required).

The Reverend Dr. Rob Schenck, a noted evangelical leader and writer, addresses what is at the core of the evangelical problem in a chapter in his newly released memoir with HarperCollins, *Costly Grace: An Evangelical Minister's Rediscovery of Faith, Hope and Love*. In the chapter, entitled, "Donald Trump and the Moral Collapse of American Evangelicalism," Dr. Schenck details the problem in the conflicting opposites of unequivocal support for Trump and the continued pursuit of a morally conservative social agenda.

Dr. Schenck says, "In light of our Trump sycophancy, American evangelicals must remember the words of Jesus in the greatest sermon ever preached, 'You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye' (Matthew 7:5). This is a time for evangelicals in the United States to do some very deep soul-searching exercises; the kind we do at the communion table. We must ask, with the Psalmist, 'Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting' (Psalm 139:23-24). This painful and

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complicated time for evangelicals is much more about us than it is about Donald Trump or anyone else.”

At the luncheon at the National Press Club next week, Dr. Schenck will comment on what he believes he and other American evangelical leaders must now do, first, to help heal the injury this hypocrisy has done to individuals, families, and whole groups of people, as well as to repair its damage to the credibility of his community, and the compromise inflicted on the reputation of the Christian message itself.

“Throughout his earthly ministry, Jesus was always the harshest on religious hypocrites,” says Dr. Schenck. “It wasn’t the common person, the sinner, the lost, the religiously uninitiated, but the people who knew better. They got the full measure of his wrath. We’d do well to remember that and learn again from it. Let those of us that stand in pulpits begin by taking ownership of our hypocrisy, repent of our transgressions, make amends as best we can, and ask God and those we’ve offended for guidance in how to avoid these egregious errors going forward.”

The Reverend Dr. Rob Schenck is the past chairman of the Evangelical Church Alliance, America’s oldest association of evangelical ministers, missionaries, and military chaplains, as well as a current executive advisor to the World Evangelical Alliance. He is the President of The Dietrich Bonhoeffer Institute, the subject of the Emmy-award winning documentary, *The Armor of Light*, and author of the newly released HarperCollins book, *Costly Grace: An Evangelical Minister’s Rediscovery of Faith, Hope and Love*.

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