

That Spurgeon illustration is razor-sharp for today's cultural climate.

Spurgeon's Point

He's saying: in a crisis, priorities must be reordered. When a ship is sinking, or a house is burning, you don't argue about comfort, music, or secondary routines—you rally everyone to address the main danger. Neglecting the urgent while fussing over the trivial is foolishness, even negligence.

Application to Today's "PC" Culture

In our time, many "politically correct" voices elevate secondary or even microscopic issues—word choice, tone, offense taken, minor social faux pas—while ignoring the gaping holes in the ship:

moral collapse in families,

widespread dishonesty and corruption,

violence and exploitation,

loss of truth itself.

The culture busily rearranges the furniture in the cabins—rewriting pronouns, policing speech, debating "microaggressions"—all while the vessel of society is taking on water.

When the house is on fire, insisting everyone pause to observe delicate etiquette before exiting the building is absurd. In Spurgeon's terms, the PC spirit often minds the little and neglects the great.

The Christian Response

Believers are called to the main thing: proclaiming Christ crucified, calling men and women to repentance and life, standing for truth, and loving sacrificially. That doesn't mean Christians should be rude or careless in speech—but it does mean we must not allow society's obsession with minor offenses to silence us from addressing the eternal danger: souls perishing without Christ.

As Paul wrote, "This one thing I do" (Philippians 3:13). Secondary comforts or debates must yield to the urgency of salvation and truth in a darkening age.

"If a captain were busy about the comfort of his passengers in their cabins, but all the while knew that there was a great leak in the ship, and it would soon go down, and to this he paid no heed whatever, you would say to him, "How foolish you are to mind the little, and neglect the great!" But if he told the passengers, "Breakfast cannot be prepared with our usual care, for all hands are pumping or repairing the vessel," you could not blame him when you knew that every man's help was needed to save the ship from going down. In times of extreme danger, secondary things must give place to the main thing. If this house were to take fire you would not stay to sing the last hymn, even if I gave it out." (C.H. Spurgeon - Eyes Right)