

Christians in the Political Arena

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“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.” (Proverbs 29:2)

For too long, Christians have sat on the sidelines debating among themselves while allowing others to make important government decisions.

It is time to answer the “don’t mix religion and politics” questions. Christian involvement is crucial to the future of America. Permanent, positive changes can be best brought about when citizens are informed and motivated by the best principles.



Civilizations

I remembered hearing one university history professor who reported, “The average age of the world’s great civilizations has been around 200 years. These nations have progressed through this sequence:

**from bondage to spiritual faith;
from spiritual faith to courage;
from great courage to liberty;
from liberty to abundance;
from abundance to selfishness;
from selfishness to complacency;
from complacency to apathy;
from apathy to dependency;
from dependency back again to bondage.”**

Arnold Toynbee, the famous historian, counted 19 to 21 major civilizations that had come and gone since man began to form governments. Ours, he said, is only one of five which remain. He also pointed to the fact that **almost all had not been overthrown by some outside aggressor but by moral and spiritual collapse on the inside.**

When our nation was still young, Alexis de Tocqueville, the well-known French political analyst, came to visit America and learn what unusual quality enabled a scant handful of people to break the tyrannical grip of the British.

He said he looked for greatness in our harbors, rivers, plentiful fields, endless forests, mines, and seemingly unlimited natural resources. He studied our schools, our government, our leaders, but he failed to find the secret of the new nation’s strength.

Not until he visited America’s churches, where he heard pulpits ringing “afire with righteousness”, did he find the real answer.

“America is great”, de Tocqueville reported to his countrymen, “because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.”

More than a century later, General Douglas MacArthur insisted “History fails to record a single precedent in which nations subject to moral decay have not passed into political and economic decline. **There has been either a spiritual**

awakening to overcome the moral lapse, or a progressive deterioration leading to ultimate national disaster.”

“You are dying,” wrote Oswald Spengler in his heralded book, *The Decline of the West*, “I see in you all the characteristic stigmas of decay. I can prove that your great wealth and your great poverty, your capitalism and your socialism, your wars and your revolutions, **your atheism and your pessimism and your cynicism, your immorality, your broken-down marriages, your birth control, that is bleeding you from the bottom and killing you off at the top in your brains—can prove to you that these are characteristic marks of dying ages of ancient states—Alexandria and Greece and neurotic Rome.**”



Crossroads

Wrote John W. Whitehead in his best-selling shocker, *The Stealing of America*:

For the first time in history, the American nation has no idea what its future ought to be.

Politically, economically, and morally, America has become a broken reed. The old forms (the glue that bound society together), such as traditional religion and the family, that once predominated, have been shaken.

The idea of absolutes is dead. All things are seen as relative, even the value of human life.

Beset by numerous crises we stand paralyzed, unable to act effectively. As a consequence, our age is characterized by confusion,

chaos, and decay.



In *Concerned Women For America News*, CWA President Beverly La Haye commented:

Since nothing is absolute to secular humanists, then obviously neither is truth. If truth is not absolute, then it might as well be error—or illusion. There is no difference. I looked up the word “illusion” in my dictionary and found the first meaning reads “an erroneous perception of reality”. That expresses secular humanism to a “tee”. It is safe to say, “The illusions of secular humanism are erroneous perceptions of reality.”

Yet, these very people who reject the truth of God and his moral absolutes are the ones who have filled the public schools with so much explicit sex education that they have created an obsession with sex instead of learning in the minds of our youth. Consequently, while sexual activity, teen pregnancy, teen abortions and venereal diseases have increased alarmingly, academic levels have sunk to an all-time low. And instead of facing the harmful effects of their actions during these past 20 years, they continue to demand more money and more time to be spent on more explicit sex education.

But what can you expect from people who suggest that “illusion” or error “is truth”? No wonder

God calls secular humanism
(man's wisdom) "foolishness"!
(See 1 Corinthians 1:18-25)



Freedom

Our Forefathers came to this country to carve from the wilderness the greatest nation in the world. With a gun in one hand and a Bible in the other, they stood—through the years—against insurmountable odds.

And they passed to us the greatest amount of freedom and the highest standard of living of any nation.

The cost? This history of America has been written with the blood of its patriots and with the self-sacrificing men and women who believed deeply in our special liberties.

For too long Christians were told that their place was inside those hallowed halls of the nation's churches. The "separation of church and state" philosophy was heralded so loudly that we were made to believe that we had absolutely no say at all in the legislative decisions and government programs—that our mission to this world was purely a spiritual matter.



Says former Congressman and Arizona State Senator John B. Conlan:

"Separation of church and state" is a false issue. It is a slogan created by the secular humanists which sounds legal, but in fact is a sham. It does not appear anywhere in the constitu-

tion, and it is not a concept that our Founding Fathers believed. The Constitution was written with godly influence of the government as a "given". Our Founding Fathers expected it, and counted on it!

"Separation of church and state", on the other hand, is simply a line of propaganda created by modern humanists to intimidate Christians and make us believe we are second-class citizens.

The legal argument is clearly on the side of godly values. The First Amendment specially sets forth freedom of religion, and forbids the government to "prohibit the free exercise thereof", or to favor any particular denomination.

Humanists love to tell us, "You can't legislate morality". It is illogical, because every law on the books—air pollution, murder, taxes—every single one of them is a legislation of morality. The question is not whether morality is being legislated, but whose morality is being legislated. Theirs or ours! (quoted from *Christian Life Magazine*, October 1983).

The whole world is our mission field—not just foreign lands, but America herself. And not just the world inside the four walls of the church, but every world—art, science, agriculture, and certainly government.

Action in the Arena

Richard Hogue, in his booklet *Saints*

and Dirty Politics wrote:

Have our modern times changed so much that today the saint of God should not get involved in politics? Today should the saint live a monastic type of life and let the political scene be controlled and dominated by unbelievers?

Would not Joseph if he were alive today do the same thing he did in interpreting dreams by saying to the president, “This is what God is saying”? Or would he choose to be a saint and not involve himself for fear there might be a price to pay. Would David choose not to be king? Would Jeremiah refuse to preach against the evils of government on the grounds that some might yell “politics”? Would John the Baptist prefer to live to an old age rather than take a political stand?

If our Lord was such a political activist and if Paul was an advocate for the saints to pray for our government, then why should we resist getting involved?



If our country survives—and I realize that’s a big IF—it will be because there is an awakening in the lives of committed Christians across our nation who finally begin to realize that it is not only their opportunity but also their absolute responsibility to be intricately involved in the political process of our country and to use that involvement to turn this na-

tion once again to the Lord.

For much too long we have allowed our government to grow farther and farther away from the direction that God has always demanded our nation take. At the same time **we have yielded the control of our country to a godless, secular, humanistic philosophy that has absolutely sapped the strength and spiritual vitality America has always had.** Never before in the history of Christendom have so many believers been willing to forfeit their liberty and freedom without even putting up a struggle.



Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade For Christ, once said:

Citizenship in a free country is a blessing from God. Our great system of self-government assures every Christian a voice in the affairs of the nation. **God wants us to do His will in government, just as in the church and in the home.**

But we have disobeyed our Lord. We have ceased to be the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world”, as Christ has commanded. As a result, the moral fiber of America is rotting away—and our priceless freedom is in grave jeopardy. **Atheism is penetrating every area of our national life. America is faced with the greatest crisis in its history.** We are in danger of losing

our nation by default, and with it our individual freedoms and possibly our very lives.

If that should happen, **our opportunity to help fulfill the Great Commission throughout the United States and the world will also be lost.** And hundreds of millions will never have an opportunity to receive our Saviour.



And with so many issues facing our government, it is extremely important for CHRISTIANS IN THE POLITICAL ARENA to fulfill the challenge of I Timothy 2:1-2(NIV):

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.



President of American Christian Voice Foundation Ray Allen wrote in the *Christian Voice Guide*:

In response to God’s clear and necessary commands, many Christians have begun **to pray together in unity for Sixteen Key Leaders who are in authority over most Christians in America.**

The Key Sixteen are as follows:
The President of the United States (1)

- The U. S. Supreme Court (9)
- U.S. Senators from your state (2)
- U.S. Congressman in your district (1)
- State Senator in most states (1)
- State Representative (1)
- State Governor (1)
- Total Key Leaders 16

Every Christian should identify and pray for each member of your Key Sixteen. Pray that God’s righteous purposes will be realized through their faithful stewardship of the solemn duty of governing entrusted to them.



Question

Our national anthem ends with a question mark:

Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O’er the land of the free
And the home of the brave?

No other country in the world is faced with as formidable a question.

Today we face a momentous choice—to be courageous and brave when such notions as patriotism, morality, and faith are ridiculed and attacked; or we can shrink from the task at hand, afraid to make the needed commitments, and fade into oblivion like so many great nations before.

Television Evangelist Lowell Lundstrom declared that faith in God—acceptance of Jesus Christ—has made America

great:

General Carlos P. Romulo, a Philippine general, lived in the United States for 17 years. As he was about to return to his homeland, he gave this farewell statement:

“Never forget, America, that yours is a spiritual country. Yes, I know you’re a practical people and, like others, I have marveled at your factories and skyscrapers and your arsenals. **But underlying everything else is the fact that America began as a God-loving, God-fearing, and God-worshiping people. It is this spirit that makes America invincible. May God keep you always, and may you always keep God.**”

Gutzon Borglum sent forth his message from Mt. Rushmore, “Remember, remember, remember.”

God at Mt. Sinai, said to the world, “Remember, remember, remember.”

And God through Christ on the cross at Mt. Calvary, said,

“Remember, remember, remember. Don’t forget.”

The question is, are we listening?

If we are to survive and prosper, we must give our lives to Christ and re-dedicate ourselves to America and our unique, God-given liberties and freedoms.

A strong and free America will assure us of being able to continue to do what God has called us to do—to share Christ with the nations. “**...Much is required from those to whom much is given, for their responsibility is greater**” (Luke 12:48). Our commission is “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).

We must pray and work and rise from mistakes. Only then can we ensure that the United States of America will endure as the democratic torchlight for generations to come.

We must—as Christians in THE POLITICAL ARENA!

(Selected excerpts from *Christians in the Political Arena*. Reprinted with permission from Mary McLellan)



The Church was the Center of Society in the Early Colonies.