

**An Immigrant looks at Christians and Politics  
God and Country  
and if Jesus ever got Involved in Politics  
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**Introduction.**

As most of you know I wasn't born in the USA. What that means primarily is that I can't sing Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the USA" along with you and of course I'll never get to be President of the United States unless they annex Ghana. But it does give me an advantage in many ways, because I am an American by Choice, not by birth, it gives me the ability to really and truly evaluate and appreciate what I see in the US. And as an immigrant who has traveled widely. I can tell you, this nation is a shining beacon amongst all the nations I have ever lived in or visited.

But one thing does worry me greatly about America. I see it changing. It is changing because some foreign ideas have infiltrated to her very soul. Talking about infiltrating; let me read you this quote about infiltrating.

**We have left nothing to you**

*"...we have filled every place among you—cities, islands, fortresses, towns, market places\*, the very camp, tribes, companies, palace, senate, forum—we have left nothing to you but the temples of your gods."*

\*art, theatres, universities, public opinion, philosophical centers

In case you are wondering who wrote this. This was written by a **Christian** Lawyer and Apologist named Tertullian in a letter to the Romans, in the 2nd Century AD.

Tertullian was mocking the Romans, who thought they could defeat Christianity by retreating to their Temples and shoring up their religious life.

We all know what happened to Rome.

**My background**

I was born in Ghana, now some of you may be asking yourselves: is that a town in Texas? It's actually a country just off the West Coast of Africa. My parents were Indians and I then grew up in Jamaica, Ethiopia, India, Yemen and Sudan. Yes yes, I know you are thinking Sudan IS a town in central Texas just off Texas Highway 84, turn left at the Dairy Queen, but that's not the Sudan I grew up in. The Sudan where I spent a large part of my youth is an Arabic speaking country right below Egypt on the east coast of Africa. I even used to speak Arabic fluently, but unfortunately have forgotten all of it once I started watching Star Trek in English. Since I am Indian by ancestry I should know one of the 300 Indian languages but even that I never learned, the closest I can get however is that I am able to be *talking only with a thick Indian accent. That and I know if I ever can't make it as an engineer, I can always get a job at 7-11.*

Now you are probably wondering how I came to have traveled so much, well my Dad was a Professor in Physics and taught at universities all over the world. To clarify my faith to you, our family hails back to the church in India founded by St. Thomas in 70AD.

But I tell you this to introduce a brief story of my first attempt to come to the US. About 25 years ago, my father was a Professor of Physics at the University of Sana'a in the Yemen Arab Republic. He had worked there for about 6 years and planned to continue working there for quite a while longer. I was about 18 years old and for most of those 18 years I had dreamt about coming to the US to go to college. The US was the land of my destiny. It was the land of my dreams. It was the land of my heart. It was the land of very cute girls, ....or so it seemed on the movies that I saw.

But a professor's pay in Yemen was not at that time sufficient really to pay out of state tuition and room and board in the US. It's probably even less so now. However my parents talked about it for awhile and I did a lot of research and we were finally able to find a school in Oregon that we could just barely afford. With great excitement I planned my future. Of course it was

conditional that my dad would continue to work with the Government of Yemen making the same salary. But we saw no reason why he would not do that.

I remember that afternoon when he came home from work about 2 months before I was supposed to leave for the US. He came in and sat us all down. He told us that his contract with the Government and the University had been terminated. You see we found out that a fellow professor had committed suicide and when the police went into his house, they found a Bible with my father's name on the front. In effect my dad was telling me that because a fellow worker had a Bible from him, we had to leave the country and my dreams were shattered.

**Why? Because it is illegal to give someone who is not a Christian, a Bible, in Yemen.**

### **Why pain? Why destruction?**

Does anyone here know why after spending 40 years in the wilderness and 800 years building up the nation of Israel and 50 years building Solomon's kingdom into this immensely rich and influential empire, within 10 generations God sends the Assyrians to crush and destroy Israel and later the Babylonians into the nation of Judah to destroy it and burn it to the ground. In fact they destroy it so effectively that the Ark of the Covenant disappears forever and the fires of the temple get so hot that the gold melts and drains away into the very ground. This terribleness of the sieges against God's people can be understood by this passage:

*2 Kings 6<sup>26</sup> As the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried to him, "Help me, my lord the king!" .....<sup>28</sup> he asked her, "What's the matter?"*

*She answered, "This woman said to me, 'Give up your son so we may eat him today, and tomorrow we'll eat my son.'*

*<sup>29</sup> So we cooked my son and ate him. The next day I said to her, 'Give up your son so we may eat him,' but she had hidden him."*

There are numerous passages like this. So why was this happening? Weren't these the children of God? Weren't they God's chosen people? Why did God abandon them like that? Why did God let them be so horribly tortured and destroyed? And then taken from their families into exile.

Why? Because what? You remember... What was slowly happening in the years before the destruction of the temple? They were abandoning God. In fact the history of Israel is littered with their abandoning God and getting punished for instance:

*Judges 2:11 Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals. 12 They forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They provoked the LORD to anger 13 because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. 14 In his anger against Israel the LORD handed them over to raiders who plundered them. He sold them to their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist.*

And

*2 Kings 17:1 ..... Hoshea son of Elah became king of Israel in Samaria, and he ....did evil in the eyes of the LORD. 3 Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up to attack Hoshea, [and] seized him and put him in prison. ...5 The king of Assyria invaded the entire land, marched against Samaria and laid siege to it for three years*

This happened because the Israelites turned away from God, because they abandoned his principles and did not fear him anymore. But as we see here it wasn't just the people of Israel and Judah that turned away from God; it was especially their Kings whom they copied. It was their Kings who INFLUENCED them. It was their Kings who led them astray. It was their Kings who disobeyed God. In other words, God punished people also because of their leaders. This is even more interesting in that they didn't get to elect their leaders back then. How much more then are we who do get to choose our leaders going to be judged for what our nation does?

Now let me ask you this, during the sieges and the attacks, God obviously saved a few people like the widow who helped Elisha. But here's the question: did all the "innocent" people i.e. all who still loved God get spared? Let me ask that again did all the "innocent" people get spared?

Oh sure we'd like to think it was so. But the Bible never says so. In fact we know that the Good were taken into exile just like the bad. Good people in some cases castrated into Eunuchs just like the bad. Good women raped just like the bad, babies smashed and as you saw cooked and eaten. Are you telling me those babies disobeyed God?

No, of course they didn't. The good suffered along with the bad. The good experienced the terrible terrible Judgment of God just like the Bad. The good were raped, and beaten and kidnapped and orphaned and had their heads smashed in JUST like the bad.

And God didn't just judge his own people; he also judged all the other nations similarly.

What's my point? My point is that God judges ALL Nations and when God judges a Nation because of others in that nation or because of its leaders; YOU and I the followers of Christ, and our Children WILL ALSO SUFFER THE PHYSICAL CONSEQUENCES!

Let me say that again: when God judges a Nation because of others or because of the leaders; YOU and I the followers of Christ and our Children WILL ALSO SUFFER THE PHYSICAL CONSEQUENCES!

Now let me ask you this: Do you think this is going to happen to our great Nation of America. Do you think that we deserve to be judged for the way we are today? Do you think that some of the things we do violate God's law and are just as deserving of judgment as the ancient nations of Babylon or Israel.

Yes we do deserve judgment. We have to change our nation. We have to see it change not only from the bottom up in the people but also in the leadership, also in the culture, in the market places, in the arts, in the senate and the forum and the palace. We have to be involved in its leadership to change its leadership, we have to be involved in its laws to change its laws, and we have to be involved in its culture to change its culture. Because if not, we are doomed either way.

### **Get involved in Politics**

We've seen the laws change on gay marriage, No fault divorce, we've seen broken families, adultery, abortion, mercy killing, Euthanasia? What is next? Homosexuality being taught in grade school? It's already happening. The state sanctioned dehydration of non-terminal patients? It's already happening. The right for the government to take property from one person and give it to another person? It's already happening. What's next? Already some folks have filed for the legalization of Polygamy.

We have to get involved right at the beginning because while many people say there is NO Slippery slope let me show you a simple example that dispels that ignorant idea completely. This is a quote from a secular ultra liberal newspaper (The Washington Post) in an editorial by David Von Drehle dated July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005 – notice the gradual progression of immorality:

*Another reason is that other "culture war" or "values" issues are closely related to it. The history of abortion law is part of the broader history known as the sexual revolution.*

*In the early 1960s, married couples challenged a Connecticut law that banned the sale of contraceptives. This led the Supreme Court in 1965 to define a "right to privacy," though the Constitution did not speak of one directly.*

*This right was then extended, in 1972, to unmarried people seeking birth control. The link between marriage and the right to sexual privacy was cut.*

*The following year, in Roe, "privacy" became the basis for abortion rights. Finally, in 2003, the right of sexual privacy (redefined with O'Connor's help as a "liberty") was extended to gay men and lesbians.*

*Thus, the core concept in abortion law — of sexual liberty or privacy — pops up across a red-hot range of values-laden issues, from abortion and gay rights, to premarital and extramarital sex, and from there to the sanctity of traditional families and the role of women in society [and this all leads to the right to Gay Marriage].*

There's a great example of a slippery slippery slope, just a simple debate over contraceptives leads to the full rights for gay marriage, abortion, and perhaps the right to die next. There **IS** a slippery slope and anyone who says there isn't, is disingenuous or ignorant. And all this from one of the more liberal newspapers. That little ground you give up today will eventually come back to bite your children and ruin our culture.

In July of 2005 we heard news of an employee of the William Patterson University in New Jersey named Jihad Daniel who was "found" guilty of violating state discrimination and harassment regulations. Why? Simply because he responded to an

email by a professor in the university promoting a lesbian movie by saying he didn't want such emails because he thought lesbianism was a perversion.

The County of Los Angeles recently changed its seal and removed a Cross and a Saint and replaced them with a Native American Goddess. You give up a little you lose a lot.

We must turn the tide around. We must turn back to God. But how do we turn the tide? Do we stay in our churches and hide? Remember the Romans. It didn't work for them? Do you think it'll work for us? The Christian tide overwhelmed the Romans, and the secular tide will overwhelm us. Do we just preach the gospel to anyone who will listen and hope that God will chose to just use that, and hope he ignores that our leaders and culture is corrupt and getting worse? If it were sufficient to merely preach the gospel would not our culture be getting better because we are doing a lot of gospel preaching over the radio and TV and books? If merely preaching the Gospel and hiding in our churches were enough wouldn't the early church have stopped at preaching and never sought to get involved in the culture AND the leadership. We have to go back to doing what the early church and Jesus did. So what is the way to reach more people?

Simple! In a democratic society we use Politics and we use the Culture. Today I'm here to talk about the Politics side of that. Perhaps another day we can talk about the culture part.

Now I've talked to quite a few Christians who don't understand that we need to get involved in politics. One guy I talked to said: Well all these politicians are all corrupt and so we should just stay out of it completely. I don't think it occurred to him that one possible solution for corrupt politics is what? Elect godly politicians. But you can't elect them unless they run? And if they run you can't elect them unless you help them win.

Some friends I was talking to once said:

Well I don't think we are called to get involved in that worldly stuff. We are all to influence the world through our love and not by forcing our morality on others.

"Besides" they said "you can't legislate morality because Laws can't change hearts."

Now there are three major logical and factual flaws in their statements. I will walk you systematically through what they are in just a bit.

But first I want to spend some time looking to see if the manual i.e. the Bible, gives us examples of if we should get involved in politics, because a lot of Christians think we shouldn't, they think we should just let God take care of that.

Let's look at Joseph in the OT, what does he do? While in prison he petitions the wine taster (which by the way was a powerful cabinet position) to tell the Pharaoh about him and he not only becomes involved politically in Egypt but he becomes the chief *politician* under Pharaoh. You don't see him saying: Oh no Oh Pharaoh, I'm a follower of God and we followers of God should NEVER get involved in politics. We'll just let God do what he wants and stay out of the way. And years later when the Jews did exactly that and shied away from politics and didn't keep their influence with the Egyptian leadership, what happened to them, they became slaves for 400 years. Is that what we want to happen to us?

What about Nehemiah? Nehemiah was the Wine Taster (there's that political cabinet position again) to King Artaxerxes in exile. He uses his political connections to do what? To get the King to allow him to go back to Israel and rebuild the wall.

How about Daniel? He not only becomes involved in the Politics of his time but he sets a moral precedence and then leads by example and gets involved in changing their very laws about things like PRAYER AND thus their culture.

The Bible is full of examples of people getting involved not only in the politics of their country but also the politics of their adopted countries. As an immigrant to this great land, I have some great Biblical role models as to why I should be involved politically.

The greatest example to me is Esther. You all remember the story. Esther is slave girl living in Persia. She is Jewish, but no one knows that. Through a sequence of events, she because of her great beauty becomes the king's wife (not in a harem but the only wife). But one day as she is in the palace a plot unfolds to kill and execute every single one of the Jews.

Her uncle Mordecai goes to her and asks for her help. And her first answer is basically this: It is not permitted for me to go to the king of my own accord. If I approach the king on my own, I could be put to death. Can we read more into her answer? In other words she is saying: Is this really my place to get involved? It is so dangerous, it is so costly, and it is so worldly. I

don't think there is much I can do. In addition persecution has always been good for the church slash nation. So I don't we should be involved is this political way. After all God is in control, he'll decide what the King does and does not do? He will choose the leaders, its upto God to decide. This is someone else's job. Besides you can see the king is surrounded by crooked politicians. And laws don't change hearts and ...you can't legislate morality.

Let me ask you this: Is this your attitude today? Is this how you feel about politics?

Yet what does Mordecai her uncle say: Esther 4:13 "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. <sup>14</sup> For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. ***And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?***"

He is saying: What if this WAS the reason that God made you so beautiful? What if this was the reason that you were chosen to be Queen? What if this was WHY God put you here? What if this is the ONE reason for which you were created?

And her answer, knowing that by approaching the king of her own accord her life could be over:

***Esther 4:16*** Then I will do it. And if I perish, I perish.

Then what does Esther do? She makes an appeal to the King. She creates a Political action committee of one and she lobbies the King and uses clever ways to get her point across. She gets involved in the politics of the situation and she plays it well, like a crafty snake. Oh my does she play it well. Read the book, she has parties and shindigs and invites her opponents and lets them think all is well and then traps them. And God uses her to save the entire exiled population of Jews.

Now let's look at all the Prophets in the Old Testament and the New Testament Prophet John the Baptist. Just a simple survey will find you hard pressed to find many prophets who did NOT get involved in either advising the King on how to rule the land or admonishing the King on what a stupid or evil job he was doing or appointing Kings or working against the King.

Whatever you say about the prophets one thing they were not shy about was being involved with Politics. So how can you say the Bible does not model involvement in Politics? The Bible is replete with political activity. Even John the Baptist was executed because he was not afraid to speak out against the governor/king Herod.

### **But Jesus didn't get involved in Politics.**

But you may say: That's the Old Testament, let's look at the New Testament and Jesus. Jesus didn't get involved in Politics. He didn't try to change the Roman laws of the land. He said "give to Caesar what is Caesar's and give to God what is God's." If Jesus didn't do it then we shouldn't.

Well there are just a few problems with that.

First: Just because Jesus didn't do something does not mean we should also not do it. For instance though scientific thought and medical research existed in infancy at that time. Jesus never did any of it. Does that mean we should not do any medical research? Should people be dying of curable diseases because Jesus never tried any physical remedies, he only prayed? Though the Romans were killing and massacring people, Jesus never did anything about it either, should we also allow others to massacre people? Though there were slaves everywhere, Jesus never fought for or said that the Slaves should be freed or that all men should be treated equally? Was Jesus condoning racism and Slavery? Of course not. Though in light of the fact that he never spoke out against it, my atheist friends say he was OK with it. Obviously just because Jesus didn't do something it doesn't mean we should ALSO not do it. So that argument is invalid.

But the reverse may not always be true. In other words, if Jesus DID something, that IS usually a good reason for us to do it as well.

Now let's look at Jesus and the politics of Rome. But wait, let's first imagine if during the long US occupation of Germany right after WWII a German Citizen had started calling for a change in the Laws of the US, how effective would that have been. Not very. Why? For he was not allowed to vote in the US. Or would it make sense for an Iraqi citizen today to petition our senators to change the laws in the US to allow marriage to 4 women like the Muslim law says you can? Obviously not. He is not a US Citizen – it would be illegal *and* a waste of time. So when we look at Jesus? We have to first ask: Was he a Roman citizen? No. He was a Jewish Citizen, so would he be allowed to be involved in the Roman legal system? Absolutely not. But hey guess who WAS a Roman citizen? Paul. And did Paul get involved in the Roman legal process? You bet he did. He appealed to Caesar, he was also a dual citizen so he also met with a King Agrippa and the Governor Felix.

But back to Jesus. Jesus was a Jewish citizen. So who were his senators and judges? Who wrote the Jewish laws? And who would it make sense for him to preach at and try to influence? Exactly the “senators” and “law-makers” of the Jews were the Sanhedrin. Here’s the definition of the Sanhedrin.

The **Sanhedrin** ([Hebrew](#): סנהדרין, [Greek](#): συνέδριον, *synedrion*, meaning "sitting together", hence "[assembly](#)") is the name given to the council of seventy-one [Jewish](#) sages who constituted the [supreme court](#) and [legislative body](#) of [Ancient Israel](#). The make-up of the council included a chief justice ([Nasi](#)), a vice chief justice ([Av Beit Din](#)), and sixty-nine general members who all sat in the form of a semi-circle when in session.

And who were these guys who were the senators and law makers of the Jews? Exactly- the “senators” and “law-makers” of the Jews (the Sanhedrin), were the scribes and the Pharisees and the Sadducees. And who did Jesus spend MOST of his time talking to and about? The members of the Sanhedrin. His Jewish Senators. His Jewish lawmakers.

Note that they made up not only the Civil laws but also the Religious Laws (mainly because there was no concept of separation of church and state). Yet Jesus was always talking to the Sanhedrin trying to influence them, condemning them, calling them to account, showing them that their laws both civil and religious were wrong, misinterpreted and too numerous. He persisted in telling the very Pharisee lawmakers that their laws or their interpretation of it were unjust (the woman caught in adultery), in addition he was NOT only involved politically by calling out these leaders but he was also using civil disobedience for example: picking and husking wheat on the Sabbath, healing on the Sabbath. Jesus was lobbying them and showing them they were unwise and their laws were wrong and needed to be changed.

Now you may claim that Jesus was only dealing with them about their religious laws. But that is meaningless as I will show you in a few minutes, this is especially meaningless when you realize that the Levitical laws were not JUST religious laws but were also civil laws.

Now let’s take it a step further, who among the followers of Jesus were politicians and lawmakers? Who were the Christian Sanhedrin “senators?” Joseph of Aramethia and Nicodemus. We don’t see Jesus telling them to leave the Sanhedrin once they started to follow him? In fact we know that at his burial Joseph was still involved in the Sanhedrin and we know that Joseph even went to the Romans to use his diplomatic influence to get permission to bury Jesus’ body.

Getting involved in the law making process, civil disobedience **and** attempting to influence law makers politically is MODELED for us in the New Testament by Jesus and Paul who wrote most of the New Testament Bible.

But why stop with the Bible: How about Corrie Ten Boom when her very **Religious Christian** family realized they could not stop Hitler through the normal channels they got involved with hiding Jews, a price they paid for by the death of all her family except for her.

How about William Wilberforce? Appalled as a Religious **Christian** man by the concept of Slavery, Wilberforce worked for 20 years in the British Parliament to abolish slavery and did so finally in 1807. The British Government, once masters of the slave trade now sent their vast armada of ships to what? To STOP slave traders. Here was a Christian man who was not afraid to get involved in politics. The Wilberforce movement later came to the US and coalesced under the reformed Republican Party with ...who as their President? Abraham Lincoln. Imagine if Wilberforce had said: If God wants to stop Slavery HE’LL do it, it’s not for me to get politically involved, I should JUST be preaching the gospel to change hearts and hope things change. Is that your attitude?

Look at the rest of the history of change in this country?

The abolition of Slavery was brought about by **Religious People** like the Quakers and those who realized slavery was against the law? But whose law? Man’s law? No God’s law.

The entire civil rights movement was brought about by **Religious People**, not only by black ministers, but they were joined by thousands of white preachers and pastors and church goers. **Religious people** who got involved in the political process to pass new Godly laws.

Similarly if abortion is going to stop it will have to happen through whom? **Religious People** ...

If the cloning of humans for spare parts is going to be stopped it will have to happen through whom? **Religious people**.

If gay marriage is going to be stopped it will have to happen through whom? **Religious People**... Who? – YOU, ME, US.

If there is a change coming WE HAVE TO BRING IT ABOUT.

### **Laws change hearts.**

Now some people have said as my friends said to me:

1. It's wrong to impose your moral values on others.
2. You can't legislate morality.
3. Laws can't change hearts.

Let me answer these and give you a taste of what my favorite things to teach is on. So first I want to teach you about something called a Suicide statement (popularized by Greg Koukl of Stand to Reason, [www.str.org](http://www.str.org)).

A suicide statement is a statement that kills itself. In other words it is self refuting. For instance if I say: This statement is a lie.

Or if I say "I can't speak a word of English" and I say that in English.

OK so the first one is a suicide statement. Can you see it?

You see if someone ever tells you: It's wrong to impose your morals on me? You immediately ask them? Why not?

To which they say: Because it's not right?

Then you simply say, and follow me closely on this "Oh so you are saying that you think it is morally wrong for me to impose my Morals on you?"

But wait isn't that YOUR moral value? In which case why are you imposing YOUR morals on me? You see the very fact that you told me that it's wrong to do something is a MORAL value in itself. Thus you have just stated a self refuting statement. You can't tell me I should NOT do something without imposing you values on me while doing it.

Of course it's OK to impose moral values on other people. If they **are** truly moral values. In fact it's a logical necessity. The real question is **whose** morals should we be imposing? Everyone does it, every culture does it, and every law does it. There is no way around it.

There's a whole class that I teach on suicide statements. Another suicide statement is: There is no Absolute truth. To which you ask: Is that absolutely true? Because if it is a true statement then we know there is at least 1 absolute truth.

Secondly people say: You can't legislate morality. Let's think about that for a second. That is pure nonsense. We legislate little BUT morality. What sort of other laws do we legislate? Show me a law that is not based on some sort of a moral value. Like it's illegal to steal? Or it's illegal to murder? Or it's illegal to beat someone over the head with a large stick while kicking him in the shins and calling him a silly knigget, or it's illegal to speed or cheat on your taxes or pollute? What is this if it is not an imposition and a legislation of a moral value? Note carefully that most laws that are **NOT** based on moral values are considered tyrannical laws. E.g. You have to vote for Saddam Hussein. Or: Jews are sub human and should be exterminated.

So we can and do legislate morality and we must impose it on others otherwise it because a toothless valueless suggestion..

### **Briefly back to the issue of Jesus and the Pharisees: Was he referring only to their moral laws?**

Now when I introduced the concept of Jesus and the Pharisees, you may have insisted that: Jesus was ONLY addressing their moral and religious laws and not their civil or political laws. But as you see now that does not follow logically nor does it make sense because as we've seen ALL laws are based on moral values. In fact as now know, we legislate little BUT moral values. Thus all legislation is involved in moral issues and just because moral issues are invariable related to religious issues does not nullify Jesus' involvement in politics. On the contrary this would indicate if anything that all politics is religious at the base. Furthermore as we show in the appendix there can be no real morality without it having been defined by an absolute moral authority i.e. God. So Christ was precisely addressing these very moral issues. It's unthinkable for us to imagine that we can survive for very long with lawmakers who make laws that are independent of moral values.

### **OK back to my friends' comments.**

People say: Laws don't change hearts. That is pure nonsense. Laws do Change hearts.

As you know from my intro I am an Indian by blood, well after many years of refusing to do the Indian thing...which is go have my parents arrange for me to marry an extremely beautiful and extremely rich doctor from India. In fact all my roommates used to think I was an idiot not to do it. Well after many years of this I met a very **young** gorgeous redhead. And I realized that the movies were right. America **is** the land of very cute women. And yes my wife is **all** of that – young gorgeous and a redhead- I met her while on a Junior High Outreach Ministry. Stop – I know what you are thinking. She wasn't in

Junior High, she was a counselor, but she was young, I'll give you that. I know that she was young because after a few dates I asked her "Where have you been all my life" she said: Elementary School.

But here's the point lest you think I've lost my train of thought, distracted by the vision of my lovely wife. See, according to my wife, her maternal grandfather, though a very Godly and Christian man, had he been alive today would probably have had trouble accepting me a "foreigner" into her family<sup>1</sup>. You see many years ago racism was the norm here in the United States of America. Young kids were born into a system of laws and regulations that encouraged racism and separation. These kids grew to believe that racism was right.

But then the civil rights movement was brought about by Religious people and the laws were changed, and interracial marriage was legalized in 1967. As a result today almost all kids grow up observing and believing the laws, that it is wrong, immoral and wicked to discriminate.

In fact this law of the land is so prevalent that **even** in families where the parents **were** racists, the kids grew up rightfully believing racism was wrong. And thus when my wife's parents met me, they accepted me even though I was not white? Why? Because they had grown up under the new law. It had changed their hearts.

My point ladies and gentlemen is that laws do CHANGE HEARTS. It may not change your heart, but it sure will change the hearts of your children and your children's children.

But think about it? Why do you have laws in your home? Why do you teach your children rules at home? Like you are forbidden to beat your little brother over the head with a Thomas the tank engine. Why? Because it's WRONG. And what are you hoping that that rule will do? Not influence them?

Laws don't change hearts? Of course they do.

And yes a law may **not** change a heart to accept God, but laws will change hearts to good.

Even the Bible says: *Ps 119:97 Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.*

Does it mean that he loved the law first and then meditated on it, or how about that fact that the more we meditate on the law we realize it's value and learn to love it.

But and here's the catch- just as a good law or a rule can change a heart for good, a bad law can change the hearts of the generations of children in elementary school today, towards immorality. Imagine – it's OK Johnny, in our house we have a rule that says you **can** lie and hit your friends. Imagine what kind of a person Johnny will grow up to be?

Today the good law says Homosexual Marriage is immoral. If the law of the land changes, our own children, despite what we tell them what God says, will reject the moral laws of God and have their hearts changed by the immoral laws of the land. They will come to believe, to embrace and to celebrate homosexuality, and as we've seen to assume that the institution of marriage is meaningless. They will ignore the fact that the law given by God was given for our safety and our health. Even today youth pastors tell me that in high school it is "cool" for young girls to be "bisexual" and to experiment with it. The laws and the culture are changing hearts.

So we must ask: Who are we going to allow to make the laws of OUR land? Of this great nation? Are we going to sit by and let immoral concepts become the law of our land? Are we going to let our children be brainwashed by bad laws?

Are we going to let our culture embrace laws that destroy us from within?

Or are we going to draw the line in the sand and say: Enough.

The decisions you make today will be borne by your children, your neighbor's children and your children's children.

Who makes the rules and the laws in our country? The elected officials. Who interprets the rules in this country? The judges. And if the elected officials and the Judges are not godly men then what will happen to the rules and the laws of this country?

And who ELECTS those men? And who are the men whom we elect?

*A wicked ruler is as dangerous to the poor as a lion or bear attacking them – Proverbs 28:15*

*With good men in authority people rejoice, but with the wicked in power, they groan – Proverbs 29:2*

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<sup>1</sup> Note that this is actually more common in India. I know I have relatives that think I shouldn't have married a "sipeah" that's 'white' person in our language. Be assured that there's a lot more racism in India than there is in the US.



*When rulers are wicked their people are too, but good men will live to see the tyrants downfall – Proverbs 29:16*

*Moreover you shall select from all the people, able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. Exodus 18:21*

(Jethro's advice to Moses who used it to set up Judges, this is the basis of the 1776 Republican form of Government of the United States vs. the vs. the Violent Mob Rule 1789 Democracy of France).

But lest you think I am ONLY quoting the Bible and so it ONLY applies to Christians let me quote the founding fathers of our great nation:

Fisher Ames (Framer of the First Amendment)

*Our liberty depends on our education, our laws, and habits . . . it is founded on morals and religion, whose authority reigns in the heart, and [our liberty depends] on the influence all these produce on public opinion, before that opinion governs rulers.*

Charles Carroll (Signer of the Declaration of Independence)

*Without morals a republic cannot subsist any length of time; they therefore who are decrying the Christian religion, . . . are undermining the solid foundation of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments.*

Noah Webster:

*... let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose for rulers, just men who will rule in the fear of God.*

*The preservation of a republican [form of] government depends on the faithful discharge of this duty; if the citizens neglect their duty, and place unprincipled men in office, . . . corrupt or incompetent men will be appointed to execute the laws; . . . and the rights of the citizens will be violated or disregarded. If a republican government fails to secure public prosperity and happiness, it must be because the citizens neglect the Divine commands and elect bad men to make and administer the laws.*

Does this sound familiar to you today?

I tell you if I ever run for office I would give speeches that are composed mainly from the founding father's speeches, then when they attack me for being too Christian I'll just say: Excuse me I was quoting Noah Webster - go argue with him if you disagree.

Furthermore if you believe Christians are not to be involved in politics then what you are saying is that every one of our founders was disobeying God by creating a new nation. You are saying that the fact that a majority of the founding fathers were Christians and in fact many were preachers and lay ministers meant they were all disobeying God and thus our nation is an illegitimate nation founded by men violating the laws of God? They should have better spent that time JUST PREACHING THE GOSPEL and not worrying about politics. That is the logical extension of that belief is it not?

So let me ask you this are you involved politically? Are you risking it all? Or are you just hoping that Jesus will come and sort out this mess? Well he isn't going to come too soon. Because however you read Revelation, we all know it's going to get a whole heck of a lot worse before it gets better.

My wife is a school teacher. I was talking to one of her fellow teachers one day and the teacher said this: We decided that we didn't want to force our morals onto our sons.

At this I responded. "Oh, OK I guess they'll just have to get their morals from MTV."

She was shocked. And as the light dawned on her – she said- Oh my!

But wait what is the difference between what she said and what most of us say. We don't want to impose our values on the World or on the United States by getting involved in politics. Well then to that I say. Oh, OK I guess the United States will just have to get their morals and values and their laws from MTV. And isn't that exactly what is happening today?

Now as we wrap this up I realize that life and failures can get in the way of politics. I know that you may say: But Neil what use will it be, especially in California. We are outnumbered and outspent. But that is what they want you to believe. Look at this quote:

"The situation in the churches is characterized by weariness with struggle, by uncertainty of purpose, and by lack of courage."

Do you know who said this? Not a Christian. It was said in 1938 by the head of the Gestapo in Nazi Germany when the Church fell silent against the way Germany was slowly changing. He was saying this is a GOOD thing for the Nazi's. You see this is what they WANT you to believe.

So let me ask you this: is this a GOOD thing for those who would see our nation lose its values? Is this a GOOD thing for those who would like to destroy our family structure and make it so inclusive that it is meaningless to say the word family or marriage? Is this a GOOD thing for those who think that children DON'T need a mother AND a father and that it should be OK to dehydrate young babies to death? Is this a good thing for those who think we should be able to create human beings for the express purpose of using their bodies as spare parts? We must not lose courage. We must not lose hope; we must not let them defeat our spirit.

Last May I was in Washington DC and I and Pastor Dave Sawkins and a number of other pastors just off the cuff went to visit our CA State Senator, Barbara Boxer. You just walk into their office. We got to talk to her aide. We asked her aide if we could pray with her and the aide said – no thanks. We then told her that we disagreed with Boxer's stances on ...well basically everything. When we were done we asked: How many other people tell you this? The aide said: Actually you are the first ones to tell us this. What struck me then is that we've gotten tired. We've said – well it's of no use Boxer is a liberal anti-evangelical. So we gave up. Now let me ask you this. What if every SINGLE California Christian whenever they visited Washington DC walked to Boxer and Feinstein's office and spend 10 minutes just telling their aides that they disagreed with them. What effect do you think that would have? None? I don't think so. At least it will make a ruckus. So let me ask you to do this to your senator WHATEVER state you live in. Let NO ONE say: No no one has told us this. And don't bunch up. I.e. if 10 of you are going to Washington, make 5 separate trips to the senators office. 5 trips of 2 people is more powerful than 1 trip of 10 people. While we exist let no one say that nobody objected! If anything it'll keep them more busy to do more mischief.

We are tired and it's all in vain?

You see this is what they WANT you to believe. But even in California 66% voted AGAINST gay marriage. People are asking to be led; even UNSAVED people listen to good ideas and will follow. Who will lead them? People are asking for moral leadership. Who will lead them? People are asking for guidance. Who will lead them?

*"..we have filled every place among you—cities, islands, fortresses, towns, market places, art, theatres, philosophy, universities, newspapers, magazines, TV shows, Movies, popular music, the very camp, tribes, companies, Governships, palace, senates, forum—we have left nothing to you but the Evangelical Bible Churches of your God."*

Is this the mocking letter sent **to** the Christians instead of **from** the Christians? It's time to take back the market places AND the palace, the senate and the forum. It's time to go back to the methodology of the early church and Tertullian.

Yes we are turning the tide around in many areas? Just these last 2 years we passed 18 State Amendments against Gay marriage.

Since 1995 we have managed through science and reasoning and logic to convince over 50+% of the country that Abortion is wrong when done for convenience.

Numerous counties are now passing tougher Divorce laws.

Due to some of the godly men in congress we are about to pass a law called the

Houses of Worship Free Speech Restoration Act that will allow us to speak freely in church.

We for the first time in 40 years we have the opportunity to overturn the Roe V Wade. Abortion Ruling. You see one of the Pro-Choice judges just retired.

We CAN turn the tide around and we are. Judges are chosen by presidents and approved by congress. Presidents and Congress are elected by us. We must start here. We must be **them**. We must be the Presidents and the Congress and the Judges. We must be the civic leaders and the mayor and the school supervisors. We must be the school board members. We must be politicians. But ethical God Fearing Politicians.

But here's a very critical point we must remember. Time is running out. About 10 years ago had we tried to pass a constitutional ban against Gay Marriage it would have passed with flying colors. But today we can't get it to pass.

A few years ago California passed prop 22 that says Marriage is a marriage between a man and a woman? Today surveys show us that the same proposition would probably not even pass. Time is running out.

In the rest of the US more than 60% of the general public believe Gay Marriage is wrong. BUT when we do a survey of those UNDER 30, only 41% feel it is wrong. My point? My point is that the slippery slope is there and if we don't change the rules and get involved now, it may be too late. Every year the tide changes against us. We have to act now.

Let me give you an example: Now is the time to prevent the reduction of the age of consent to 13 as some folks want. Today you can stop it, in a few years you will be considered intolerant to not allow 13 year olds to have affairs with older men.

Politics is no other than the application of your deeply held beliefs.<sup>2</sup>

**Their** secular temples are pumping out their ministers and pastors everyday into politics..... and onto the school board and into the universities.

**Their** secular temples are pumping out their ministers and pastors into Senators and into Representatives and into Judges.

They are voting with their **religious** beliefs. Are you?

Isn't it time that our churches started pumping out God fearing lay ministers and lay pastors and leaders into politics to combat their temples of secular humanism?

Isn't it time that our churches started putting God fearing people into the universities and onto school boards?

Isn't it time that our churches started putting God fearing people as County supervisors and as City Council members and as Mayors?

Isn't it time that our churches started putting God fearing people out to run as Senators and Representatives and Judges?

Isn't it time to take a stand? **I** Because any battle you abandon, you lose by default.

Let me ask you this question. A few weeks ago it became illegal to display the 10 commandments, what is next? No more Bibles? If we don't stem the tide, in a few years from now will America be like Yemen. Will I have to turn to my son in turn and say: Son – because I your father gave a bible to a fellow worker, we have to leave this country and our dreams.

**Because it is illegal to give someone who is not a Christian a Bible, in the United States.**

Is that the America that I will leave to my son? That you will leave to your children? Will I be forced to leave the country that I have loved and honored all my life because I am a Christian?

Not on my watch, not on my watch. Not on our watch. Somebody must take a stand even if it is costly. Even if we get mocked, even if we lose, even if we fail....will you stand with me and say:

*Esther 4:16 Then I will do it. And if I perish, I perish*

You'll notice Esther never volunteered to be the one who was to be used by God. God put her there to use her. So let me ask you this. What if this is the one reason why you were put in that school district, what if this is the one reason why you were put in this county, this city, this state?

We must do more. I am going to ask you for a commitment now. Will you today commit to become or to be more involved politically? That you will get involved with just causes, whether it be knocking on doors, or writing to the editor. Whether it be helping a candidate who is a man or woman of God. Rise and stand with me now. That you will raise your kids to run for office. That you will consider running for school board, that you will consider running for county supervisor, that you will

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<sup>2</sup> Rabbi Daniel Lapin, a conservative Rabbi worth reading and listening to: <http://www.towardtradition.org>.  
Christians and Politics /God and Country

consider running for judge? Whatever it takes. That you will consider running for representative that you will consider running to change the world and bring light to it? Stand with me then. Stand with me and be counted.

Thank you

Neil Mammen  
San Jose, CA  
July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005

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