

Religion, Morality and Government

A local Virginia lady challenged my Sen. Santorum op ed at <http://www.virginianewssource.com> . We've had a point-counter point of letters. Here is my last one. It serves as a counter-point to the many editorials the Liberals have written to beat up Sen. Santorum – as they are still doing. I mentioned in one letter how much I enjoyed teaching college students until they had their 'aha' moment and saw the light. Too bad for those who never get it. Conservative facts do well in bright light...

Religion and language shape human thinking. Different religions and languages have different ideas. Every civilization is based on unifying religion and language. Cultures, which change dramatically over time, are based on a civilization. Every culture that ever existed had consensus values for morality – what is wrong. The government of that culture – even if it is family groups in a tiny tribe – imposes rewards and sanction for moral and immoral behavior. Some behavior is honored, some is tolerated and some is forbidden – punished. The lines vary like an amazing kaleidoscope for human cultures.

The English-speaking people of America – since 1607 – have had, as the basis of our civilization and culture, a Christian world view. Christian thinking of one unique branch of Western Civilization – English, Protestant, Enlightenment – is the foundation for what is 'American' and 'unAmerican' ideas.

America began as Christian colonies. Then, with the second attempt at national government – the U.S. Constitution of 1787 – the Federal level of government was separated from any single Christian sect. The states remained Christian sectarian for a time. Massachusetts was Congregationalist and taxed its citizens to support the church (sect) until 1834. Virginia was Anglican. Rhode Island was a haven for dissenters – Baptists and Quakers, etc.

The records of George Washington, Patrick Henry, John Adams, etc, and the debates in the Constitutional Congress, the charters of colleges, papers etc. leave no doubt for any educated person that the United States of America and its states were 'Christian'. Christian is an adjective, not a noun. This is the big difference.

The national government would not have a church denomination (sect) like Catholic France or Anglican England, or for that matter, like Muslim Morocco, Buddhist Thailand or Hindu Indian states. But, the thinking of our laws – national, state, and local – was based on the ability of rational persons to interpret Christian thinking for the particulars of the New World and present time. The overwhelming majority of citizens, like today, professed to be Christian. No one doubted – until the 1960s – that the U.S. was a Christian country. Good democrat Presidents Woodrow Wilson and Harry Truman (and many others), as well as the Supreme Court, said so explicitly in the 20th Century.

A delegation of Baptists, persecuted by fines, jail and beatings in Anglican Virginia, influenced Mr. Jefferson to write his Statute for Religious Freedom (note: it was *for* religious freedom not freedom FROM religion). Virginia led the way for tolerance and freedom of religion. That is precisely why our CURRENT Virginia Constitution says 'Christian' tolerance of religion is the law of the Commonwealth. Christian is the appropriate adjective.

Thus, from 1607 the consensus values of a religion – Christianity (not one sect, except for short-lived sectarian rule of states) – were imposed on the civil society in our laws. Look at the details of the legislative debates. Look at the Courts' rulings.

The boundary lines of right and wrong in American culture shift. Slavery and child labor, for example, were legal then were made illegal. Yet, the source for the culture's consensus values – the Judeo-Christian moral ethical system – never changed until it was challenged by Liberals in the 1960s. Huge shifts in behavior – like sexual behavior in the 1920s – happened, but the actual consensus values, what is right and wrong, remained intact until the Great U.S. Culture War.

Fast forward to 2003. State and Federal Courts are going to declare the moral boundaries for sexual behavior legislated by the states and U.S. Congress illegal and un-Constitutional. The Courts will reject the Judeo-Christian values – still held by a majority of the people – and replace them with nothing but narrow, incomplete rulings.

The Courts will make up law and special rights – just as they did in Roe vs. Wade in 1973. The Courts will place laws against incest, bestiality, bigamy, polygamy, adultery and pedophilia under challenges.

It is the responsibility of the people – through their elected representatives in the state and Federal legislatures – to make the laws that govern moral behavior – not the Courts. This fundamental issue of who makes what laws – is why we had a Revolution and a War for Southern Independence. It's why we will have a big political blow up this Summer and throughout next year - at least.

The great news is that we may get an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to defend marriage and the family.

Then, the states will legislate morality – as they always have – to reflect the majority, if not consensus, values of the people. In Virginia that would mean that sodomy would be criminal behavior, but homosexual acts in private between consenting adults would be tolerated. In Massachusetts that would mean that sodomy will be honored even if Homosexual marriage is unconstitutional. Sooner or later, the Liberal Pharisees of Massachusetts (descendants of those oh-so-tolerant Puritans) will make free Christian speech to say homosexuality is sinful into illegal hate speech as Canada and some European countries have done – and as many U.S. colleges already sanction on campus. Massachusetts already honors homosexuality, trans-gender, whatever... in its public school system.

Finally, the issue of homosexuality is a question of moral judgment. The pagan Liberals and sissy Christians who push for homosexuality to be honored as real marriage are exclusive in their bias. They provide no moral grounds, no document of moral authority or reasoning, on why states should honor homosexuality but sanction the sexual orientations for bestiality, incest, bigamy, polygamy, pedophilia, etc. They reject the 4,000 years of Judeo-Christian morality. They only offer make-it-up-as-you-go situational ethics. Their standard says any private sexual behavior among consenting adults is okay. So, bestiality, incest, bigamy, polygamy, pedophilia (when you adjust what is adult or not and on whatever basis when you reject the Bible), and adultery are all legal. Laws about public decency and sexuality lose their validity. There is no moral-ethical basis for laws to declare sexual behavior illegal – except the whim of Liberal judges. Not good.

The great majority of Christians and Jews – in Virginia, the South and much of the plains and mountain West – hold the truths of the Bible as guidance for right and wrong. This moral majority loves the sinning homosexual and calls their special sin immoral. We are 60% nationally.

When the time comes, please support our representatives in Congress and pass the pro-Family amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Our American Civilization depends on

it. Class dismissed.

James Atticus Bowden