

CHRISTIANITY, COMMON SENSE AND SOCIAL RELEVANCE

**DISCLAIMER: THIS TEACHING SHOULD NOT IN ANY WAY BE INTERPRETED
AS AN ENDORSEMENT OF ANY POLITICAL ISSUE OR CANDIDATE.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Matthew 22:15-22 (Mark 12:13-17 & Luke 20:20-26)

1 Timothy 2:1-6....1 Peter 2:11-17....Romans 13:1-8

Jeremiah 27:1-28:17....Jeremiah 27:1; 1:3, 14-19 (ch 2-ch 27 a call to repentance, the identifying of Israel's sin and rebellion, and the persecution of Jeremiah)

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

Depending on which reports you read, it is estimated that there are between 11-20 million illegal aliens in the United States. For this discussion, we will use a median number of 15 million.

According to the 2014 National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, there are at least 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers in the United States (city police, county sheriffs, state patrols, etc who have the authority to make arrests).

15 million illegals ÷ 900,000 officers = 16.7 illegals per officer. How long will it take each officer, working entirely alone, to find his or her 16 illegals? Don't forget this means the officers will ONLY hunt for illegals and not be involved in any other law enforcement activities. If ½ of the officers (450,000) hunt for illegals and ½ perform regular police duties, now how long is it going to take?

Regardless of how many officers search for illegals...

- If 100 illegals are found per day, it will take 150,000 days (411 years)
- If 1,000 illegals are found per day, it will take 15,000 days (41 years)
- If 10,000 illegals are found per day, it will take 1,500 days (4 years)

How many law enforcement officers, FBI agents, Homeland Security agents, National Security Agency agents, National Guard, Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard troops are we going to pull away from their regular assignments to hunt down illegal aliens?

How do we send them back to their country of origin?

- The standard Greyhound bus seats 55 people (plus the driver).
- 15 million illegals ÷ 55 seats = 272,727 Greyhound buses.
- According to Greyhound's website, it only has 1,200 busses, requiring 227 trips per bus.
- A Boeing 747-400 can seat 660 passengers in a high-density, single class configuration.
- 15 million illegals ÷ 660 seats = 22,727 Boeing 747-400's.

Do we honestly think Greyhound or the airlines operating 747-400's will gladly and with great, patriotic enthusiasm foot the bill to transport all these people back home?

Simply put, there is no easy, economical solution.

CHRISTIAN FREEDOM

SWEET CAKES BY MELISSA (the name of a bakery in Oregon)

(Oct 1, 2015) The owners of an Oregon bakery are refusing to pay \$135,000 in state-ordered damages to a same-sex couple who were denied service.

Melissa and Aaron Klein, owners of Sweet Cakes by Melissa, cited religious beliefs when they refused to bake a wedding cake for Laurel and Rachel Bowman-Cryer more than two years ago.

The couple (Laurel and Rachel Bowman-Cryer) were awarded the damages in July by Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian for emotional suffering, saying the owners had violated the women's civil rights by discriminating on the basis of their sexual orientation. They (Melissa and Aaron Klein) were also slapped with a gag order that prohibited them from speaking publicly about their refusal to participate in or bake wedding cakes for same-sex marriages.

The dispute goes back to January 2013 when Bowman-Cryer came into the shop with her mother for a cake-tasting appointment. However, Aaron Klein told the women that the bakery didn't do cakes for same-sex weddings.

(Portland, Oregon newspaper) The Oregonian reports the couple complained to the labor bureau, which prompted a state investigation, four days of hearings and Avakian's July ruling.

A 2007 Oregon law protects the rights of gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgender people in employment, housing and public accommodations. It provides an exemption for religious organizations, but the agency ruled that exemption does not allow private businesses to discriminate against potential customers.

MEMORIES PIZZA

(April 1, 2015) Memories Pizza, a restaurant owned by the O'Connor family in Walkerton, Ind. (population 2,144) is the first business in Indiana to publicly come forward in support of Indiana's new controversial and discriminatory "religious freedom" law. Memories Pizza's owners claim they have a right to protect their religious beliefs — and thereby deny service to people among the LGBT community.

Memories Pizza has been owned and operated by the O'Connor family for nine years. Co-owner Crystal O'Connor told a local news station that if a gay couple wanted to order pizzas for their wedding, "we would have to say no." The family's devotion to their Christian faith is strong, and they identify as "a Christian establishment."

"We're not discriminating against anyone, that's just our belief and anyone has the right to believe in anything," O'Connor told the local ABC station, "We definitely agree with the bill." Miss O'Connor clarified her stance: "I do not think it's targeting gays. I don't think it's discrimination... It's supposed to help people that have a religious belief."

However, the O'Connors said they would not deny service to any individual who walked in for a pizza. What they disagree with is gay marriage. Memories Pizza refuses to cater gay weddings or celebrations. Crystal's father Kevin O'Connor defended his position: "I choose to be heterosexual. They choose to be homosexual. Why should I be beat over the head to go along with something they choose?"

Indiana's new law has struck a nerve across the nation, with conservative Christians coming out in support of the measure, and the rest of the nation shaking their heads in shame. In recent months, several bakeries across the country have attempted to refuse service gay people, but state legislatures have blocked these actions.

Earlier this week, an Indiana business owner anonymously came forward to support Indiana's new "religious freedom" bill by admitting that he had always discriminated against gay people. His logic? "I feel okay with it because it's my place of business, I pay the rent, I've built it with all my money and my doing. It's my place; I can do whatever I want with it."

(February 26, 2016 / BIBLICALGENDERROLES) JOHN KASICH SAYS HE WILL NOT FIGHT FOR THE RELIGIOUS LIBERTY OF CHRISTIAN BUSINESS OWNERS

I was watching the Republican debate last night and John Kasich, Governor of Ohio and 2016 Republican candidate for President, made this statement that should send chills down the spine of any believer in religious liberty:

"In regard to same sex marriage I don't favor it I've always favored traditional marriage but look the court has ruled and I've moved on and what I have said Hugh is look "where does it end?" if you are in the business of selling things if you are not going to sell to somebody you don't agree with – today I am not going to sell to somebody whose gay and tomorrow maybe I won't sell to somebody whose divorced. If you're in the business of commerce conduct commerce and if you don't agree with their lifestyle say a prayer for them when they leave and hope they change their behavior but when it comes to religious institutions they are inviolate in my mind and I would fight those institutions..."

<http://www.cnn.com/videos/politics/2016/02/26/gop-debate-john-kasich-same-sex-marriage-07.cnn>

What his answer basically boils down to is – I believe Churches and religious institutions are the only ones who have the right to practice their religious beliefs in their organizations. Business owners do not have that right in John Kasich's view.

Let me address his gay marriage to divorce comparison. Some Christians come from denominations that strongly preach against divorce of any kind. While we may debate this as Christians we must respect those who hold the position that remarriage is never allowed by God even if we may disagree with them.

That means that the answer to Mr. Kasich's question about if we should allow someone to refuse to participate in a situation involving divorce the answer my friends is "yes"! A person

who believes it is just as immoral to participate in a “remarriage” ceremony as someone who believes it is immoral to participate in a gay marriage ceremony may decline to participate. We can argue about other types of discrimination. But marriage is a religious institution made by God, not by man. Our beliefs as Christians about marriage are a part of the core of our faith and we cannot violate those beliefs even in our businesses.

My divorce attorney and his son have a practice together. He and his father are Catholic. His father handled my divorce from my first wife but his son refuses to have anything to do with divorce cases based on his faith. When his father retires and his son takes over their practice that law practice will no longer take cases of divorce and that is their right to do so.

In the same way a Christian baker, florist, photographer or anyone doing any other business where they would be providing services relating to a gay wedding or any event promoting or honoring the gay lifestyle should NOT be forced to violate their faith by having any participation in these kinds of events.

Except for maybe Ted Cruz, I do not kid myself that many of these politicians actually care about gay marriage but I do want them to care about religious liberty. This battle over gay marriage has now become a battle over religious liberty and we must realize the seriousness of it and we need to look at candidates who will fight for religious liberty.

Mr. Kasich, the Supreme Court may be your final authority for how you live your life but as Bible believing Christians we believe God is our final authority. While it is true that the Bible tells us to “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake...” (I Peter 2:13) the Bible also tells us as believers that we “We ought to obey God rather than men.”(Acts 5:29) There is a time for Christians to practice civil disobedience and when the government steps beyond its God given authority and violates God’s law we have a right and obligation to disregard that law which conflicts with God’s higher law.

[NOTE #1: The author’s use of an attorney refusing to handle divorces due to religious beliefs as an example to substantiate his argument is shallow, at best. Not all attorneys handle divorces, while some specialize in divorces. Many attorneys throughout the United States specialize in specific fields of litigation, refusing to handle cases outside their expertise. Thus, an attorney can refuse to handle a divorce case for any number of reasons, none of which would have anything to do with the attorney’s particular religious beliefs.]

[NOTE #2: The above reference to Acts 5:29 as a support for the argument presented is a perfect example of an egregious use of scripture out of context. Please see Acts 5:12-42. Peter and John had been ordered to never again preach or teach in the Name of Jesus; this is what led to Peter’s statement in verse 29. Neither Acts 5:29 nor any other part of that chapter can in any contextual fashion be used relative to Christians operating a business.]

7:00AM EST 3/1/2016 Charismanews, Why Evangelical Voters Can't Trust John Kasich
MATT BARBER

Much will be written about the utter thrashing GOP presidential front-runner Donald Trump took at the hands of the far-more prepared, knowledgeable, qualified and otherwise principled

Sens. Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio during Thursday night's Republican presidential debate on CNN. I will, therefore, focus, instead, on another Republican candidate who has absolutely got to go: Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

Many thanks to Hugh Hewitt for asking the question. In a campaign where the noise of myriad, and in many cases less critical, issues has drowned out the single greatest threat to God-fearing Americans' individual liberties: the secular left's tireless efforts to end our constitutional religious free exercise and freedom of conscience. Hewitt exposed John Kasich as an avowed enemy to the First Amendment and a devoted ally of Democratic change agents.

In one exchange, Hewitt said, "Senator Cruz mentioned the issue that keeps me up at night, which is religious liberty." He later added, "Governor Kasich, back to religious liberty. You've been a little bit less emphatic. You've said, same-sex couple approaches a cupcake maker, sell them a cupcake. Can we trust you as much on religious liberty as the rest of these people?" Kasich went off the rails. The *New York Times* summarized his response thusly: "Mr. Kasich went further than any of his rivals in dismissing—even belittling—the idea that businesses should be able to claim religious freedom and allow them not to cater to gay and lesbian couples."

"Religious institutions should be able to practice the religion that they believe in ..." he said, "but, look, the court has ruled and I've moved on. And what I've said, Hugh, is that, look, where does it end? ..." "I mean, if you're in the business of commerce, conduct commerce. That's my view. And if you don't agree with their lifestyle, say a prayer for them when they leave and hope they change their behavior. "But when it comes to the religious institutions, they are inviolate in my mind, and I would fight for those religious institutions," he concluded.

What a cop out. What a straw man. What a maroon.

Kasich lacks even a rudimentary understanding of the First Amendment and freedom of conscience. He's a threat to our first freedoms. No less so, in fact, than Oligarchy Obama, High-handed Hillary or Bolshevik Bernie. His evasive twaddle about, "Religious institutions should be able to practice the religion that they believe in," betrays his utter ignorance of the U.S. Constitution and our nation's founding. Not because it's untrue, but because it's intentionally incomplete.

The First Amendment follows, not only the religious institution, but the individual American citizen—be he a butcher, a baker or a candlestick maker. The Constitution secures both religious free exercise and liberty of conscience. It protects individual rights first, and institutional rights thereafter.

"Americans are guaranteed the freedom to live and work consistent with their faith," notes Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) attorney Jeremy Tedesco. "Government has a duty to protect people's freedom to follow their beliefs personally and professionally rather than force them to adopt the government's views."

Indeed, religious liberty is non-negotiable. Freedom of conscience is the bedrock of American society. Today's anti-Christian lynch mob, which evidently includes John Kasich, indignantly imagines that some newfangled "gay right" to not be offended trumps the First Amendment. Those who believe so are not only on the wrong side of the U.S. Constitution and history, they're on the wrong side of public opinion.

Consider, for instance, a 2015 Marist poll which established that, by a 2-to-1 margin, Americans reject the very kind of anti-Christian penalties and fines Kasich supports. Christians "in the business of commerce," as he flippantly calls them, are, even now, being persecuted by left-wing "human rights" Star Chambers with increasing frequency and intensity.

Christian clerks, judges, bakers, florists, innkeepers, caterers, photographers and a litany of other small-business owners from coast to coast are being summarily harassed, sued and even jailed, not because these Christian individuals won't "serve gays" (they will and do without hesitation), but, rather, because they politely decline to spend their time and talent contributing to, and thereby endorsing, the message behind specific events that run counter to biblical principles and otherwise infringe their deeply held religious convictions.

Let us be direct. According to the unequivocal moral precepts of biblical Christianity, explicit throughout both the Old and New Testaments, homosexual behavior is sin. Sin is evil. Homosexual behavior is the central, defining characteristic of counterfeit "gay marriage." Therefore, "gay marriage" is evil. Christians are obligated to avoid sin—to "do no evil." "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality ... will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

It's really that simple. This is why, as faithful Christians (apostate "Christians" notwithstanding), we will never have anything whatsoever to do with your pagan, sin-based "same-sex wedding" rituals.

- We will not bake your fake wedding cake.
- We will not arrange your fake wedding flowers.
- We will not take your fake wedding pictures.
- We will not host your fake wedding reception.

(And we will, most certainly, not be voting for you, Gov. Kasich.)

To be sure, we will not do these things because to do these things is to disobey God. It is to aid you in your sin—to cause you to stumble, which, in and of itself, is to layer sin upon sin. "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than that he would cause one of these little ones to stumble" (Luke 17:2).

While we all fall short of His glory, the history of God's people has shown that no unjust law or arbitrary court ruling presuming to force us to do otherwise, will ever make us disobey God in this or any other regard. I realize, my "LGBT" friends, that forcing others to affirm that which offends God makes you feel better about your sin for a time. I also realize that it

infuriates you when we refuse to join in as you attempt, ineffectively, to justify your wickedness by calling it "marriage."

This is nothing new. We Christians have been infuriating pagans by refusing to bend on truth for over 2,000 years.

And we will continue to do so until Christ returns.

So, it's time for John Kasich, the sole remaining liberal RINO in this race (aside from Trump), to drop out. He was never going to be president of the United States anyway, but on Thursday, he found the one free spot in his political coffin to hammer home the last nail.

You blew it, governor. Move aside.

[NOTE: I cannot see anything in scripture wherein God would approve of name-calling such as Oligarchy Obama, High-handed Hillary or Bolshevik Bernie, let alone referring to John Kasich as a moron. This harsh, mean-spirited narrative is more like something from a supermarket gossip tabloid than a heart-of-God, non-compromising, declaration of scriptural truth. This article was not written by someone who genuinely prays for leadership and loves them as Christ loves them.]

WHERE DOES IT STOP?

Matthew 7:12

DONALD TRUMP, JESUS and the CROSS

There is an article on FACEBOOK stating that Donald Trump bashed Jesus, stating I'll be able to save you without some silly cross.

ORIGIN: On 30 December 2015, the entertainment web site *Free Wood Post* published a fake news article claiming that Donald Trump had badmouthed Jesus, saying that he could "save" America without some "silly cross":

"You know what I'm gonna do? I'm gonna make America great again. You know how I'm gonna do it? I'm gonna get the best people, only the greatest. I'm gonna save our country. I'm gonna save this nation like nothings been saved before. I'm gonna save this nation like Jesus saved Christians. Except, I'll be able to save you without some silly cross. I don't like guys who let themselves get nailed to a cross. Real saviors don't need crosses, they need know-how. And know-how is what you'll get with President Trump."

This is not a real quote from Donald Trump. *Free Wood Post* is an entertainment publication that does not publish factual news stories:

Free Wood Post is a news and political satire web publication, which may or may not use real names, often in semi-real or mostly fictitious ways. All news articles contained within FreeWoodPost.com are fiction, and presumably fake news.

Any resemblance to the truth is purely coincidental, except for all references to politicians and/or celebrities, in which case they are based on real people, but still based almost entirely in fiction.

This isn't the first time that a satirical fake news web site attempted to frame Donald Trump as a person who believes that he is more popular than Jesus. In August 2015, the humor web site *The Good Lord Above* published a fictitious story in which Trump called Jesus a "socialist loser."

However, Trump has shared thoughts about his beliefs in the past. In a September 2015 interview with the *Christian Broadcasting Network*, he told the interviewer:

Well, I say God is the ultimate. You know you look at this? Here we are on the Pacific Ocean. How did I ever own this? I bought it fifteen years ago. I made one of the great deals they say ever. I have no more mortgage on it as I will certify and represent to you. And I was able to buy this and make a great deal. That's what I want to do for the country. Make great deals. We have to, we have to bring it back, but God is the ultimate. I mean God created this (points to his golf course and nature surrounding it), and here's the Pacific Ocean right behind us. So nobody, no thing, no, there's nothing like God.

SUMMARY

- 1) Isaiah 28:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:15 Do you know how to keep scripture in context to support both your beliefs and subsequent arguments regarding laws and political platforms?
- 2) If you're going to quote from the internet or post on the internet, do you have the conscious wherewithal to research and confirm what you're quoting or posting?
- 3) Do you have the moral character and integrity to lay aside all political party labels and evaluate candidates according to their positions?
- 4) Do you ever pray for political leaders, candidates and elections? Or, do you value your opinion to be higher than God's instructions? Concerned Christians pray; hypocrites run their mouths.