

6.28.21 - Liberalism and Religion

We wanted to write an article about a similarity that recently caught our attention...the similarity between liberalism politically and the current modern religious culture.

We are by no means trying to insult liberals or religious people. We are trying to expose a thought process of trying to control others through laws, rules, peer pressure...basically any means deemed necessary and available.

We have noticed a trend in society where opposing thoughts can not be allowed. Instead of allowing people to have a difference of opinion where both parties stay agreeable and keep their friendship, what we have now is an environment where if we disagree then we cannot have fellowship or friendship. This is not good...if we do not allow discussion of differing opinions or beliefs...if we only surround ourselves with people of like mind then we cease to learn and grow. We must always base our beliefs on the Word of God, but sometimes those beliefs need challenged. When challenged, we dig into the Word to find the Truth...this will either strengthen our beliefs or it will cause us to learn something new and allow us to grow. Either one of these outcomes is a positive outcome.

Now, let's define terms so we can have a brief discussion... By liberal we mean progressive socialist thinking that ultimately leads to communism. By religious we mean the thinking that is promoted by most Christian churches that ultimately leads to the making of legalists, Pharisees and hypocrites of their members with a "works" or "Grace plus" teaching.

We would like to look at the similarities of these two thought processes and see if there may be a common power behind both.

By conservative, we mean people who are moving away from either or both positions towards individualism and liberty which is freedom with as few limits on the individual as possible and as many of the limits on a governing body as possible.

Liberals operate today on the basis of making laws in order to control behavior. If laws can't be enacted, then they go to intimidation tactics such as we see with groups like Antifa or BLM. Right alongside that is the use of peer pressure. Cancel culture is now being used via social media in an effort to take away the opponent's ability to communicate their point of view in a public setting. Next

would be the use of false accusations to try to weaken the credibility of the opposing view. And last but certainly not least is the use of violence rather than just the threat of it.

It looks a little different in the religious arena, but not much. The religious of the day try to make rules in their churches or denominations to control behavior. If the rules cannot be enacted or are not being obeyed, then the religious leaders go to intimidation tactics like “you will do this, or we will remove you from church membership.” They resort to peer pressure by “sicking” the deacons or Sunday School teachers on you or they have someone “visit” in your home to “straighten you out”. They may not resort to social media to silence you, but they most certainly will tell you that you are not allowed to share your “dangerous” beliefs with anyone under their control. We have witnessed a pastor resort to false accusations when he realized his position was weak. We have even seen a pastor go so far as punching a member in the face to silence that member with an opposing view.

Liberal tactics and religious tactics today share many similarities, but what should be the proper tactic when dealing with opposing views? Well...we believe in individual liberty...the right of the individual to choose the path that is right for them. We believe that is also the biblically correct method.

We believe in debate...the open discussion of ideas. The founding fathers of our nation had heated debate over public policy and the right direction for our country, but at the end of the day they believed that their opponent politically had the nations best interest at heart and that they were generally goodwilled people. So, after a day of heated debate the opposing parties would typically sit down to a meal together for friendly fellowship. Oh, that we would relearn this wonderful attitude! We need to encourage public discourse of opposing ideas...how else do we learn? And at the end of the day, we remain friends and we go home maybe having learned something, or maybe simply strengthened our own beliefs.

Hosea tells us that a lack of knowledge is a main cause for God’s people’s destruction. **Hos 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:** We need to be a good Berean and search the scriptures to see if the things we are being taught are true, and we need to allow others to do their own research to come to their own conclusions. Keeping in mind that the idea is not to search until you prove the teacher or pastor or yourself right, but rather to search for the truth.

Part of the search for the truth is debate...how the church handles debate and discussion is very familiar to almost everyone reading this site. If and when you try to share your naturist views at church it usually ends in name calling and the use of emotion of some type when Bible knowledge fails the opposing view. Most of the time they do not even examine the scriptures or listen to reason...most of the time they go straight to emotion. You will often hear things like "I can't believe you have been deceived this badly" or "I thought you knew the Bible better than that." Why do they respond this way? Well, they may not know how to search the scriptures themselves and are depending on some authority, so they don't know the scriptural answer. Maybe they just "know" the authority is right. It could be an area they did not study, but they are not going to admit that. They may have studied it and did not like the answer or did not want to take the heat for a "radical" position. If how religious methods of handling debate were not clear enough when you tried to explain that God is for nakedness whenever the body will not be harmed by temperatures or some other hazard, try asking what will happen and where it is found in the Bible if you do not follow their legalistic rules. Same methods as liberals, emotion and name calling.

The similarities have led us to another observation...if the methods are the same or similar is it possible that the source of leadership is the same or similar? Could Satan be the one trying to keep knowledge suppressed? Could Satan be the author of the confusion? Could Satan be trying to keep the image of God hidden? Could Satan be behind all of the rules to control behavior. Jesus tells us that he came to make us free and that we would then be free indeed. Jesus tells us that we are made in His image, and He called it very good. Jesus tells us to love our enemies and do good, not to intimidate, silence or suppress our enemies.

We should be encouraging healthy debate and discussion using the Bible as the foundation and basis for those discussions and the ultimate authority.

The main differences between the left/religion and the right is...that if a person on the right disagrees with someone on the left, the person on the right will typically allow you to disagree and still maintain a relationship because they believe in individual liberty whereas if a person on the left/religion disagrees with you they will attempt to silence or destroy you.

Do not be like those who try to silence or destroy, be confident enough in your belief in the Word of God that you can give someone the freedom under grace to grow!