

## **Published Guest Opinion Article in the Loveland Reporter-Herald 11/26/2024**

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Let Loveland leaders seek wisdom and cultivate a spirit of unity

The past year in Loveland has been marked by division, conflict, and uncertainty, leaving the call for leadership rooted in spiritual conviction never more urgent. Leaders, whether in government, business, or community organizations, hold significant influence over the direction of their members. It is imperative that leaders reflect on their spiritual beliefs and consider how these beliefs shape their positions on issues, ethics and morality. Every person adapts a spiritual worldview as their guidance system for navigating life.

Christianity is centered on the divinity of Jesus Christ and his teachings especially the importance of loving God and loving people. Its most unique claim is that God did for man what man is unable to do for itself by providing redemption and life eternal.

Another common worldview is humanism. While humanism promotes the value of human dignity, reason, and ethical responsibility it does so from autonomy apart from God, positing that mankind can derive ethics and purpose independent of any divine influence. People embrace the worldview they have faith in, but they should anticipate being judged by their adherence to the tenants of that philosophy.

The lack of consistent application of one's belief system often manifests as a lack of insight and empathy, leading to decisions that prioritize personal agendas over the common good. This disconnect can foster environments of distrust and division. To truly lead with integrity, leaders must confront any doubts that hinder their ability to act with discernment and compassion in alignment with their spiritual position. An important step in this journey is humility as demonstrated by repentance—a sincere acknowledgment of shortcomings and a yearning to realign with what leaders claim as their higher principles.

Repentance is crucial not merely as an act of remorse; it is a transformative process that opens the heart and mind to a deeper understanding of purpose and responsibility. This means turning away from self-serving motives and embracing a mindset that seeks wisdom beyond human understanding. Seeking wisdom requires humility and a willingness to listen. The Scriptures remind us in James 1:5, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

In a world inundated with information and opinions, the voices of self-centeredness can drown out the call to unity. Leaders must gather not only to discuss policies but to engage in deep personal reflection while seeking guidance from others. By doing so, they create an environment where collaboration and consensus can flourish.

While many call Jesus "Lord," Scripture reveals, far fewer truly follow Him. Jesus warns that not everyone who claims allegiance shows the good fruit expected of a disciple (Matthew 7:21-23). This stark reality challenges leaders whether Christians or humanists to take a hard look at their actions versus their declarations. The absence of good fruit—such as love, justice, and compassion—may

suggest a disconnect between their words and their commitment to their selected worldview. This lack of authentic belief undermines their ability to lead effectively, and the consequences reverberate throughout the community.

It is paramount to remember that true leadership is not about wielding power but about serving others. Jesus exemplified sacrificial servant leadership, emphasizing the importance of love, compassion, and humility. Leaders are called to emulate this model by prioritizing the needs of the community above personal ambitions.

The path forward for leaders in our community necessitates a profound shift in perspective judging by the behavior and outcomes realized in 2024, which was not a great year for our city. By repenting from spiritual inconsistency and together seeking wisdom from others and God, together we can cultivate a spirit of unity that transcends differences. This unity is not only a goal but a divine imperative that can transform communities, foster peace, and inspire hope. Strong, spiritually grounded leadership can catalyze a movement toward genuine mutual respect and collaboration, essential for a thriving society. The stakes have never been higher, and the time for change is now as a deeply divided community will not continue to prosper.