

A Question of Balance

A nation is the totality of the people living in a certain area. How the people are organized economically, socially, politically, religiously, etc. is what makes them a nation. Today our nation, the United States of America, is a divided nation. The nation is divided in a number of ways but I would like to discuss the political division in terms of conservatism and liberalism.

So much of the strife comes from the conservatives or traditionalists known as the Establishment, trying to hold sway over the future of the nation to the exclusion of the liberals or those advocating and embracing change. However, the same is true of liberals who see the Establishment as an anchor that is holding back and strangling progress. Both of these points of view, when seen as separate entities, is ignorance.

Any living or growing entity, be it plant, animal or social structure, such as a nation, requires a balance of both to sustain its health, growth and propagation. Take for example a tree. A tree cannot survive without the sustenance provided by the established growth. The established roots and branches draw nutrients and water from the earth and established leaves draw energy from the sun. The very life of the tree is dependent on that established growth.

The liberal, or change aspect of the tree is the process and development of new growth. The liberal element is the growing tip of the tree (or nation). It utilizes some of the energy and resources developed by the established growth to promote new growth, higher, wider and stronger. There cannot be any new growth without the support of the established growth.

However, it is also true that if the growing tip is stopped, or even just slowed too much, the tree will gradually lose access to the life

giving energy of the sun. Other growing trees will deny that access. Our tree will slowly wither and die.

Wisdom dictates there be a balanced relationship between the establishment (conservatives) and the growing tip (liberals). Both need to be nurtured and strong to ensure the health of the nation. That balance does not necessarily mean there be a constant moderate stream of activity and growth. While moderation is frequently healthy and beneficial, being fixated in that mode of activity can also inhibit growth or security in conditions that would better be addressed by a more conservative or liberal approach.

Conservative, moderate and liberal politics in the appropriate balance in each situation is the life blood of any body politic and the nation it serves. Imbalance in these political elements is disease. The deliberate imbalance of these elements is a political and a national cancer.