

Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

September—October, 2004 ☆ Vol. 14, Number 5

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America & Christian Faith

Part II

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Dick Trudell

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In the Works

Candidate survey Voter Registration

Are you interested in becoming involved? CAM is looking for interested and active people to act as liaisons to their church, helping to keep the Christian community informed. Contact CAM at 372-6442.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please call 655-0280, email, or contact our website (see back page)

In our last newsletter we began a two part series on the Christian's involvement in his government, and addressed these four questions:

"Should we as Christian men and women become involved in our government?"

"Is there any scriptural basis for involvement?"

"Isn't politics a dirty business that Christians should stay away from?"

and

"Shouldn't we only be concerned with saving souls?"

We looked at what our forefathers had to say and studied Deuteronomy 17:15 to answer the first two questions with a yes. To answer the last two questions, we looked at what our forefathers had to say and also looked at the Great Commission found in Matthew 29:19-20 to determine that we have a biblical responsibility to be involved in our government.

This month we want to look at two more questions:



"Isn't there a separation between the Church and the State outlined in the our Constitution?"

and

"If, as everyone says, you can't legislate morality, why try?"

What about the separation of Church and State? We hear a lot about this lately. After all, that's in the Constitution, isn't

it? Yes, the fallen Soviet Constitution, not the United States Constitution. What does our constitution really say? Actually it is the First Amendment to the Constitution, the first of ten amendments that comprise our Bill of Rights. It reads in part...

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...

Did you note that the word separation doesn't appear? Well surely the founders of our country knew they had to keep religion out of politics? Let's look at what they said...

"Without a humble imitation of the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion...we can never hope to be a happy nation."

George Washington



Are you Registered to Vote?

The last day to register for the primary is Tuesday, Sept. 7 and the last day to register for the General Election is Monday, October 25. You can register at your Town/City offices or through a Notary Public, or by having a Voter Registration Day at your church.

(Continued from page 1)

“He who shall introduce into public affairs the principles of Christianity will change the face of the world.”

Benjamin Franklin

“ True religion affords to government its surest support.”

George Washington

What did the Court have to say about this?

“It yet remains a problem to be solved in human affairs whether any free government can be permanent where the public worship of God, and the support of religion, constitute no part of the policy or duty of the state in any assignable shape.”

Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story



Okay, but this is Vermont. What did Calvin Coolidge have to say about this?

“The foundations of our society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country.”

Calvin Coolidge

That doesn't sound like separation of Church and State to me.

The first amendment was written to protect the Church from the State, not the State from God's law. It was written so that there would be no state religion, such as was found in England. That's what the first part of the amendment says. Our founders knew the positive benefits of a government based on God's law, and were attempting to insure that the state did not establish its own religion and mold it to its own liking.

The second part of the amendment, “ or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...,” guarantees the freedom that the churches in America have today. The government cannot interfere in the church. Are we seeing a movement to reinterpret the First Amendment today? Are we seeing a government that is moving further and further from God's law?

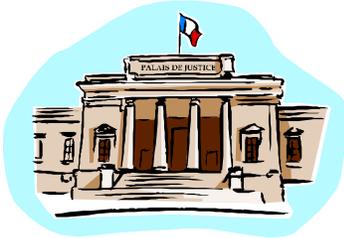
Let's look at the common statement... **“You can't legislate morality!”**

Balderdash! We have laws against murder, stealing, and prostitution to name a few. Don't tell me these aren't moral issues! Unfortunately, we also have the ability to legislate immorality. We have seen this in the legalization of abortion, the passage of same-sex marriage laws, and laws passed to protect pornography

under the guise of free speech and the arts. Listen to what our courts have said in the past

“The happiness of a people and the good order and preservation of civil government essentially depend upon piety, religion and morality...”

United State Supreme Court 1892



“...Religion and morality...are the foundations of all governments. Without these restraints no free government could long exist.”

Pennsylvania Supreme Court 1824

“The purest principles of morality are to be taught. Where are they found? Whoever searches for them must go the source from which a Christian man derives his faith — the Bible.”

United States Supreme Court 1844

Does this sound like a Court that felt you couldn't legislate morality? What about one of our famous lawyers?

“Moral habits ... cannot sagely be trusted on any other

foundation than religious principle, nor any government be secure which is not supported by moral habits ... Whatever makes men good Christians, makes them good citizens.”

Daniel Webster

We most certainly do legislate morality. Every law made is a statement representing a particular moral view. As Christians we have to be diligent to make those moral statements consistent with God's word.

The Christian Action Ministry hopes these series of articles has encouraged you to become more involved in the social issues of today. If you are feeling the urge to become involved in your society, you couldn't have picked a better time. We are entering another political season and the importance of Christian involvement should be understood by all. In this issue we list the questions in our bi-annual questionnaire we are sending to candidates. Feel free to contact your representative and encourage them to respond. If you are not registered to vote, your first action should be voter registration (See the box on Page 1). Contact CAM if you are willing to assist us in this year's efforts.

Dick Trudell is a Board member of the Christian Action Ministry Network and a member of Community Bible Church in South Burlington.



“Without God there is no virtue because there is no prompting of the conscience ... without God there is a coarsening of the society; without God democracy will not and cannot endure. If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a Nation gone under.”

**President Ronald Reagan
August 23, 1984**

The Remnant Nine Percent

By
Kay Trudell

Nine percent of Christians in America in 2004 believe **all** of the following Biblical worldview principles:

- God is all-powerful (omnipotent) and all-knowing (omniscient).
- God is the Creator of the universe, and still rules it today.
- Jesus Christ lived a sinless life.
- Absolute moral truth exists.
- Absolute truth is defined by the Bible.
- Salvation is a gift of God that cannot be “earned” through your own efforts.
- Satan (the devil) is real.
- The Bible is accurate in all of its teachings (for example: the Trinity, Jesus’ divinity, His crucifixion for our sins, resurrection, and ascent into heaven, the existence of both heaven and hell, man’s fallen nature, the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman, sexual relations being reserved for heterosexual marriage, the sanctity of human life, etc.)
- Christians living today have a responsibility to openly share their faith in Christ with other people (to witness).

Only nine percent of conservative, born again American Christians believe all of

the above. The shocking conclusion we can draw from these statistics is that we Christians in America today have lost our solid Biblical foundation. Instead, we are adopting the same watered-down, morally relativistic view of the world held by non-Christians. Our feet are not planted on a rock-solid Biblical foundation. We are compromising, post-modern, moral relativists, with one foot in the church and one foot in the world. We are so worried about being politically correct and inoffensive that ninety-one percent of us cannot be told apart from the world we are trying to reach for Jesus.

“Surely these statistics cannot apply to us,” you might be thinking. Most of the readers of this newsletter are not liberal mainline Protestants. We are serious believers. These statistics couldn’t possibly be about us.

Unfortunately, these conclusions are about us. According to Dr. James Dobson, whose organization *Focus on the Family* reported the results of the above poll, this is what the belief system of Americans who identify themselves as serious, born-again Christians looks like. According to Dobson, this recent survey, conducted by the well-respected Barna Research Group, “determined that only **four percent** of all Americans held

a Biblical worldview.” When these same questions were asked of people who identified themselves as serious, born again Christians, “the results were a dismal **nine percent**”. Other polls taken during the past ten years have shown that the beliefs of born-again Christians overall do not substantially differ from non-Christians. We are divorcing, aborting our babies, viewing pornography, and softening in our views about the sanctity of marriage, sex before marriage, and homosexuality, to name only a few areas of concern. Instead of being guided by the Bible, we are being guided by (1) our feelings; (2) relativism instead of absolute truth; (3) political correctness; and (4) material concerns. We are becoming “tolerant” instead of holy. A worldview, according to an article in the July-August 2004 issue of *Focus on the Family* magazine, is “...the framework from which we view reality and make sense of life and the world.” The article goes on to ask how a Christian’s worldview can become diluted. It happens because every day we Christians are exposed to the books, music, radio, television, newspapers, movies, magazines, video games, art, and unbiblical worldviews presented by secular teachers, professors, judges, lawyers, scientists, and politicians. We either succumb to the appeal of these worldviews,

or surrender because we grow weary of defending absolute truth.

In order to combat this slide down the slippery slope of secular modernity, the Church desperately needs (1) revival; and (2) uncompromising, fearless preaching from its pulpits, by pastors and lay church leaders, so that the people in the pews understand that if we do not embrace the moral absolutes presented in the Scriptures, we may be overcome by the world. Paul says in **Romans 12:2**: “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind”. God says through **Hosea 4:6** “My people perish for lack of knowledge.” We need to “get back to basics” --- the unadulterated, uncompromising Word of God.

On our faces before God, we must all look into our hearts. Are we part of the backsliding ninety-one percent that is slowly slipping away from the truth of the Bible, or are we part of the remnant nine percent? We must return to our Biblical roots, for the time is short.

Kay Trudell is a Board member of the Christian Action Ministry Network and a member of Community Bible Church in So. Burlington.

“America is like a healthy body and its resistance is threefold; its patriotism, its morality, and its spiritual life. If we can undermine these three areas, America will collapse from within.”

Joseph Stalin

What can I do?



Faith without works is dead
James 2:17

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CAM is asking these questions of the candidates in the General Election.

1. Do you SUPPORT opening each daily legislative session with prayer?
2. Would you SUPPORT allowing the display of the Ten Commandments in public buildings and schools?
3. Would you SUPPORT a law allowing petitions requiring the legislature to vote on an issue (Citizens' Initiative)?
4. Do you SUPPORT the right of private organizations, such as the Boy Scouts, to limit their membership and leadership while still allowing them access to use public facilities?
5. Would you SUPPORT legislation that would prohibit non-resident voter-age students paying non-resident tuition in Vermont from voting in Vermont elections?
6. Do you OPPOSE making physician-assisted suicide legal in Vermont?
7. Funds from the Dr. Dynasaur Program (Prenatal Care) can be used for abortion. Would you SUPPORT changing the law to disallow this?
8. Would you SUPPORT legislation banning abortion in all instances except to save the LIFE of the mother?
9. Medicaid pays for abortions. Would you SUPPORT excluding abortion from any State-funded Health Care Plan?
10. Would you SUPPORT legislation that requires parental involvement (Parental Notification), with provisions for a judicial waiver, prior to performing an abortion on a minor?
11. Would you SUPPORT a woman's right-to-know law requiring abortion providers to supply information on alternatives to abortion, fetal development, and the medical risks to the woman before an abortion can be performed?
12. Do you SUPPORT the pending Federal Constitutional Amendment to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman only, with no state sanctioned benefits or recognition of any other living arrangement as marriage?
13. Do you SUPPORT a Defense of Marriage law (DOMA) that would not recognize same-sex marriage from other States or Countries?
14. Would you VOTE to break up the 6-seat Chittenden Senate District?
15. Do you SUPPORT some form of school choice or voucher system to allow parents to choose the public school for their children?
16. Would you SUPPORT the inclusion of private, Catholic and other religious schools in this choice, protecting their freedom to choose their own curriculum?
17. Would you SUPPORT the inclusion of home schooling in a school choice or voucher system?
18. Do you OPPOSE school-based programs offering access to contraceptives and abortion without explicit parental consent?
19. If passed, the United Nations Earth Charter will affect United States and Vermont sovereignty. Would you OPPOSE any Vermont State resolution endorsing the Earth Charter?
20. Would you SUPPORT a bill eliminating current Vermont law that allows public schools and libraries to possess, show, and distribute pornography to children?
21. Would you OPPOSE legislation that removes references to God and Judeo-Christianity from the State Constitution or other State documents?

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Next Meetings
September 13, 7:00 pm
Community Bible Church
So. Burlington, Vt.
October 4, 7:00 pm
No. Avenue Alliance Church
Burlington, Vt.

Making A Difference in Vermont!



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