

# God's Side

A look at some of the current cultural issues from a Biblical perspective

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# God's Side

## The motivation

Earlier this year (2019), Mayor Pete Buttigieg made the comment that God was not on the Republican's side. I hope that was not news to anyone who heard him or is aware of his comment. It is absolutely true! If one were to make an argument about sides, one might say that God is on Israel's side. Nevertheless, they experienced His judgment when they weren't on His side. I raise the issue because it misses the point. If one accepts the Bible as God's word to humanity, the question is not whose side is God on, but rather who is on God's side. These observations are made on what leadership is doing, not on what any individual says or claims. It should be observed that there are a lot of well-meaning Christians who are not on God's side. They support people, ideas, and values that are in opposition to what the Bible says.

It is important that the church understand God's side. Peter declared in 1 Peter 4:17, "for it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?" We need to take God's concerns and perspectives seriously. The world needs to see a vibrant church speak God's truth. To a lost world, we need to represent God's love and grace. This is of particular relevance given the intense nature of these issues. It is the responsibility of the Holy Spirit to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8). However, if one claims that they are a Christian and believe the Bible, there is a different approach. Paul instructed Timothy,

Reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths (2 Tim. 4:2-4).

We need to be on His side and represent His values in the world.

It might be of value to define the word "Christian." I think there are at least three different groups that use the word. First, there are those who believe what the Bible says and are depending on Jesus' death on the cross to forgive their sins. Second, there is a group that is a part of an historic Christian group. These may or may not believe the Bible. Third, there is a group that lets their politics define their beliefs, not the Bible.

This is written to clarify what the Bible says.

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## Introduction

We are called, as those who believe in the Bible, to be salt and light in the world (Matt. 5:13-16). We are to reflect God's design and order for the world. He has a plan that will enable humanity to get the most out of life. As an ambassador of God's kingdom, we are to represent God's goal of righteousness (2 Cor. 5:20-21). If we claim to accept the Bible as God's revelation but do not endorse its values, we are aiding and abetting the enemy. Being salt and light is not about making people okay with themselves on their way to a godless eternity.

These observations are on what the Bible says about various cultural issues. You may find that you agree or disagree with them. However, it is important to remember that God is the same forever (Heb. 13:8). This is a discussion of God's side; it is not about what people think or even believe regarding these issues. Some people may even believe all these things and yet vote and support people who reject all of them. The Bible is very clear on these issues that are politically divisive; however, they do not divide the church unless people choose to disagree with God. In that case, one should consider what is one's relationship with God. So, if there is some confusion about God's side, I want to state clearly what the Bible says on several of the current hot topics.

When Israel left Egypt, they spent some time at Mount Sinai. There, at least two very significant things happened related to this discussion. The first was that Moses received the Ten Commandments from God. The second was their creation of the gold calf to worship rather than the God that brought them out of Egypt. In Moses' challenge to the people, he asked the question, "Who is on the Lord's side" (Exodus 32:26). In the midst of American's rejection of God's values, the same question needs to be asked of the church and those who claim to be Christians or believers in the Bible. Who is on the Lord's side? Being on the Lord's side requires the knowledge of what that is. Thus, this information is being provided. Next, it requires some kind of action, even if it is only to support those who pursue God's side. You may not like them, but that is a separate issue from supporting God's side. Your support needs to be with those with whom your broader Biblical values agree. You are not looking for a new best friend, someone with whom you want to spend time, or a perfect person.

Here are some leaders that God has chosen to use. Abraham was not a stellar example of marital fidelity or truthfulness. Moses was a murderer and coward. David had marital issues, planned and executed a premeditated death, unwilling to punish the guilty, and sought his own agenda rather than God's. Peter questioned Jesus' need to die and arrogantly bragged about his willingness to die with Him. These are Biblical examples and there are many in recent history that one wonders why God would use them. The people God uses are not necessarily model citizens of this world or the next. It's about God's agenda and God's side.

## God's Creation

There are only two options for the explanation of the universe's existence. Neither are supported by science. One is evolution and the other is creation. It is impossible to duplicate either of these options in a laboratory; therefore, not science. One of them actually rejects science. Evolution has to deny both the laws of science and the proofs of science to be true. Laws in science are always true, all of the time, everywhere. It is a law of science that everything is moving from a state of order to disorder. They also state that energy is waning. Evolution contradicts both of these. Science has proven that life does not spontaneously generate. Evolution has to declare that in this case what has been proven must not be true.

Nothing about creation denies science. Science in the middle ages began because people believed that a God of order would create orderly and therefore it could be understood. Science was a search for God's order. One of the theories in the 1800s about how God created was proposed by Darwin. He fully expected within his lifetime that the transitional life forms would be found. When there were no discoveries of any kind that could support transitional life forms, he declared his theory to be false.

For those who believe the Bible, creation is a foundational necessity. It explains why the world exists and why is humanity here. It sets in motion the underlying challenge of humanity and God's provision. This reveals some of the nature of God and man. While God's expectations and judgment are revealed, the clearest declaration comes later.

Related to God, creation, humanity, and judgment, there are these verses in Romans 1:18-25.

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.

25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

This analysis and judgment by God of humanity continues through chapter 3 where it is found "all have sinned" (verse 23). A God driven view of solutions requires a God driven understanding of the problems. It is important to understand that salvation and judgment or condemnation are two separate issues. Biblically, according to Romans 1 (verses above), judgment is a result of rejecting the Creator and His design. Salvation or freedom from condemnation is a result of being in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1). This means, as expressed in

Galatians 2:20 that I don't live my life but He lives His life in me. If He is living in us, we support His values and His agenda.

Humanity continues to suppress the truth; they make it relative; and prefer to accept lies as truth. While there are other ways to understand creation than a literal 6 days, none of them allow for a rejection of God's design, values, and plan.

The proof of Romans 1 can be found in those who idolatrously worship Mother Earth. It can be found in the confident assertions the proof of time plus chance is just around the corner. Supposedly wise proclamations that demonstrate their foolishness. The rejection of God was met by many with great hope as the Russian revolution happened in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, its foolishness was demonstrated in the collapse of the Soviet Union in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Galatians 6:7 says, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap." When man sows the foolishness of rejecting the God of creation, he will experience the consequences.

## God's plan for life

Let me share what the Bible says about the unborn. Psalm 139:13 & 16, "For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them." Life is God's choice. Life is more than the accidental merger of sperm and egg. No human being has the right to indiscriminately terminate the life that God has formed.

Human life is more than mere physical existence. We carry the image of God. The concept of morality is a unique human characteristic. The idea of right and wrong only exists with humans. The animal kingdom does not have qualms about killing. They don't give any thought to the needs of other species. Humanity is unique. Survival is not the motivating drive for most humans, as it is for animals. Humanity lives in a world of choice rather than instinct. Life is a gift from God and should be treasured both for ourselves as well as others. When we are willing to behave no better than the animals, we are willing to kill for our own self-interest even if it is our child.

Life is more than the time span between birth and death. Because man has an eternal component, life must be lived beyond space and time. In fact, Jesus says that He is life (John 14:6). He declared that He came so that we might have an abundant life (John 10:10). In the same verse He also said that the enemy seeks to kill, steal, and destroy. God's design is life; the enemy's design is to take life.

Those who support the termination of the unborn or the optional death of those who chose to actively end a life are not supporting God's plan or design. The richness of life is not defined by the stuff we have. The essentials of a great life are found in relationships. We have become aware that most of the disfunction in this world is rooted in troubled relationships.

Jesus encouraged His followers to love one another (John 13:34-35). Killing the unborn is not an act of love. Killing the ill physically or emotionally is not an act of love. Advocating the destruction of those with whom you disagree is not an act of love, but hate. Life and love go hand-in-hand. When people don't love, they are willing to kill. God's plan is for life. Logic would conclude if someone's heart stops beating and they are pronounced dead, then when a baby's heart starts beating, they should be pronounced alive. Political Christians want to make life an issue of breathing. They can kill the unborn baby because it is not alive. This is in total disagreement with common sense and Psalm 139 quoted above.

God's plan was for human life to fill the planet. After He created mankind, He told them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth" (Gen. 1:28). As is typical of humanity, they tend to ignore God's directives thinking they know better. In this case, they did not "fill the earth." They chose to remain as a single collective. That takes us to the story of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11:8 where God confused their language and scattered them to various parts of the planet. To be on God's side, one must support the broadest concept of expanding human life, not restricting it.

## God's design for human relationships

Let's start at the beginning. Genesis 1:27 says, "God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." This is a clear statement of there being only two sexes. God created humanity in two versions; one is male and the other is female. It is binary; one or the other. This observation has been made by every culture in recorded history. This is a truth issue which science and X/Y chromosomes confirms.

For those who claim to follow Jesus, He said in Matthew 19:4, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female." He affirms that male and female was the creator's design. This is the underlying truth for two more of the issues that will be addressed. It is the basis for marriage and the necessity for family. It is the reality for God's relational design.

In chapter two of Genesis, it is written, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). Marriage is between a man and a woman. Back in Genesis 1:28, God gave instructions to humanity, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." While this verse raises more issues than God's intent for male and female, it is the sexual relationship between male and female that enables the fulfillment of multiplying. It is the binary sexual relationship that allows for the propagation of humanity. It is God's design. Children were to be the by-product of a committed relationship between a man and a woman.

From a Biblical perspective, a committed binary sexual relationship is the only moral option. It declares all other sexual options as wrong, immoral, and perverse. These are fornication, adultery, and homosexuality. The Bible takes a harsher state on some of the perversions of God's design than it does on others. Each of these, in their own way, is destructive to society, culture, and civilization. History shows a common pattern. Cultures start with strong families. At some point there is a move to marital infidelity which is followed by an increasing sexual immorality. Eventually, there is an open encouragement of perversion. At that point, cultures collapse, most often by military conquest.

In this context, even if one were to say these are religious values but I follow science, it is also the only viable scientific option. Evolution speaks to the survival of the species and natural selection for that purpose. Both history and science document that a binary sexuality is the only option for the continuance of a society or more broadly of humanity.

Some sex relationships are condemned in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. That spans the time of the Egyptians, Babylonians and Persians, Greeks, and the Romans. The Bible's clear declarations are not due to ignorance or culture. The writers of the Bible did not live in isolation from the world. Across this time frame of history, they consistently declared God's design and consequences.

One of the clearest passages regarding the consequences is in Genesis 19:4-5. It says,

Before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter; and they called to Lot and said to him "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them."

The city was destroyed for this behavior. While this is a story about an event which happened at a specific place and time, the brimstone aspect of the story has been confirmed by archeologists. It underscores the consequences for rejecting God's design in human relationship.

If we are going to be on God's side, we need to support those who will advocate for binary relations as the norm. Freedom can only exist in the context of morality, specifically sexual morality. Perversion is the evidence of the moral rot of a society. When perversion gets normalized and promoted, it signals God's judgment is coming soon.

## God's design for government

Previously, it was discussed that God's plan for humanity was to live in the context of a nation. Remember that these thoughts are being articulated for those who say they believe in the Bible. Their voice needs to be heard by all citizens, especially those who want to be leaders.

Jesus said in Matthew 22:21, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's." Every country currently or that has ever existed had boundaries. Borders are under the ruling government. It is and has been illegal to enter a country without permission. By not enforcing the established laws regarding the border, it encourages further lawlessness. It rejects the value of "the rule of law," an undergirding concept of freedom. It favors law-breakers and penalizes citizens. Citizens are illegally taxed to support those who are breaking the law. Governments should operate for the common good. It is never in the common good to encourage the rejection of a nation's duly-enacted laws. If the laws are unjust, the legal process needs to be followed to change them. This is necessary if one values freedom over tyranny.

It would be easy to assume that immigration is a modern problem. However, the medieval Saint Thomas discussed the problem. One has only to look in his masterpiece, the *Summa Theologica*, in the first part of the second part, question 105, article 3 (I-II, Q. 105, Art. 3). Here, he discusses a nation's obligation to control and approve those who seek to become a functioning part of their country. He uses God's directives to Israel about who could and couldn't become a part of the nation.

God has ordained government. He even has a description of how it is to operate on behalf of the citizens. This is found in Romans 13:1-4.

Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God and those which exist are established by God. Therefore, whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a ministry of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

These verses from the Bible claim that all government is accountable to God. It needs to be a punisher of evil and a rewarder of good from God's perspective. Let's remind ourselves that this was penned during the rule of Nero in the Roman Empire. Nero was a persecutor of Christians and yet they were to be in subjection. To resist authority is to oppose the ordinance of God.

This concept directly applies to immigration. To enter a country without permission is to be a law-breaker. Those who enter illegally reject the governing authority. The government has a Biblical obligation to punish them, not protect and provide for them. Real compassion does not create a burden for someone else either individually or collectively. This flaunting of the nation's laws has allowed the murder, rape, and destruction of property of many citizens. Those who advocate and allow such behavior are aiding and abetting criminal activity. They are enabling the common destruction, not the common good.

It is important to consider the differences in living under a tyranny rather than a representative republic. To have different ideas in a republic is one thing; to openly and viciously attack people because of disagreement is quite another. To advocate that people who have a different opinion do not have a voice in the public square is to promote tyranny and attack freedom. If we agree with the authors of the Declaration of Independence that freedoms come from God, then those who attack freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of assembly, are attacking God and His design.

Individual nations are God's design for government. Globalism, transnationalism, worldwide governance are all contrary to God's plan for civil leadership. It is humanities effort to return to the monolithic governing structure that was contrary to God's directive in Genesis 1 and God's active creation of separate groups in Genesis 11, the tower of Babel. We need to be in agreement with God and support those who support God's design for government.

If we do not advocate for independent, prosperous countries, we are not on God's side. God has a plan and we are either with Him or against Him. We need to support those who are in agreement with God's design for the nations that are a result of being fruitful and multiplying as directed.

## God's compassion and its exercise

A significant issue is compassion. Politically, it is used frequently to brag or condemn. Some want to take money from one group and give it to another and call that compassion while condemning those who think that is wrong. Colossians 3:12 tells us to "put on a heart of compassion." Deuteronomy 4:31 tells us that "God is a compassionate God." So, it is an important Biblical concept; but what is it? Webster defines it as "a suffering with another." Compassionate is defined as "having a temper or disposition to pity." Both of these definitions, as well as the Bible verses, speak to how an individual is to respond. It is person to person. The Deuteronomy verse speaks of God's concern for the individuals in His creation. The Colossians verse speak to how those who follow Jesus and the Bible are to model God's heart of compassion for individuals.

The Bible does not put the government in the position of being compassionate. The government carries a sword (Romans 13:4) for punishment. As considered previously, it is a rewarder of good and a punisher of wrong. From that perspective, it should be obvious that government is not compassionate. Governments are engaged in tasks, not emotions. Spending money from the treasury is a task, not an identification with or concern for. The government does not suffer with another, nor does it have pity.

Particularly in the current form of government, we the people, it is the individual responsibility of the citizen to be compassionate. This is another effort to make someone else or something else responsible for what God has made the individual responsible. The Bible makes even those who have nothing responsible to give to those in need. Consider Ephesians 4:28, "He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need." If we believe the Bible, ones economic condition does not alleviate your responsibility to be compassionate.

Because it is an individual responsibility, it does not create an obligation for someone else. No one has the right to take someone else's money or property to give it to someone perceived to need it. That is still called stealing. An individual in need is not the basis for a "common good" action. The common good supports the values of freedom; the group good supports the value of tyranny. Supporting tyranny should never be confused with a misguided notion of compassion.

For governments, it might be more reasonable to understand that the government taking money from one group to give to another is robbery [taking something publicly of value by force], not charity. God makes compassion a person's responsibility, not that of the government. Those on God's side will resist the notion of just talking about compassion or making the government responsible.

The most obvious example of just talking about compassion is the claim that they can end poverty. Jesus said that there would always be the poor. This statement comes when He was chided over allowing His feet to be anointed with some expensive perfume rather than having it sold and given to the poor (Mark 14:7). People who claim that Jesus is wrong should not be making assertions that they are Christian. Concern for the poor is clearly a Biblical value. It requires a personal investment. Meeting the needs of others was used by Paul to encourage thieves to get a job performing what is good (Eph. 4:28). However, it is not the all-consuming or overriding value that drives life. It is one of many issues of which we need to share personally.

## God's economics

It is important to understand the background of these ideas. Marx and Hagel were atheists who rejected the concept of the supernatural. That forms the assumption that life is only in our experiences on earth. As with most manmade governmental/economic theories, it forms its own kind of despotism. At its very core, it rejects Biblical values, standards, and expectations.

The theory is built on the necessity of control. Control is the opposite of freedom. Jesus said that the truth would set us free (John 8:32). In reality, socialism is built on a lie and comes to control. It is built on the same lie that Satan told Eve in the Garden. Humanity can become like God. Humanity can determine right and wrong. Humanity can improve people's lives. Humanity can determine the outcomes in life. Humanity can control who is in charge. Humanity has the right to pick winners and losers. Humanity can determine its own destiny. Socialism is a God rejecting power grab. The fact that Liberation Theology has tried to put a religious face on it doesn't change its core values. It rejects God's grace and substitutes self-righteous works making man the captain of his own fate. That is about as unbiblical as it gets. Those that tried to implement it in the 20<sup>th</sup> century murdered millions of people to silence the opposition.

There is nowhere in the Bible that supports the basic values of socialism. There are no examples of common ownership or equal distribution from a common pool. Abraham and Lot have their own resources even though they live together for a time. When they separated, they took what was theirs. When Israel wandered in the wilderness and collected manna and quail, they only got what they individually collected. If you didn't collect, you didn't eat. Nothing was held in common during the kingdom period of Israel. Everyone got what they worked for.

Someone might make the argument that there was a common purse for the disciples as they traveled with Jesus. However, they returned to their own homes, even their own businesses at times. On the other hand, it illustrates the expected problem from a Biblical perspective that Judas was a thief and stole from it.

This illustrates the Biblical value that everyone is a sinner and falls short of perfection (Rom. 3:23). People generally will pursue their own interests. This is the fundamental reason socialism fails everywhere it is tried. It makes a wrong, unbiblical assumption about humanity.

The other place that those who try to make the case for socialism cite is Acts 4:32. "And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them." Trying to make this a common reality for the church fails at several points. It is not taught, encouraged, or lived anywhere in the New Testament. It has not been implemented successfully within the church or by anyone else. Most importantly, it is contradicted by the story of Ananias and Sapphira in the next chapter of Acts which is at the very same time.

They sold a piece of property and gave part of it to the church. Unfortunately, they claimed that they gave everything. When Peter challenged him, he said they lied to God. The concern was not about giving all or that things should be held in common. Peter said, "While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God (Acts 5:4)." This is the same problem that Judas had; they wanted something that they had not earned. They wanted the recognition of giving everything.

God's side is ownership and personal responsibility. The Bible declares, "If anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either" (2 Thess. 3:10). It is not compassionate to encourage irresponsibility (the previous topic).

## God's Justice

Reparations is an idea that is grounded in values contrary to the Bible. The Bible declares that each is responsible for their own crimes or sins and the consequences are not passed down generationally. It was both this Biblical value and the behavior of European monarchies which made children and families responsible for the father's/husband's decisions. In the book of Ezekiel, it is found,

“The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself” (Ezek. 18:20).

The Bible deals with this issue in other places. It often refers to being put to death as this verse begins. However, in this verse the idea of personal responsibility, which arises in many places, is expanded to the whole arena of righteousness (justice) and wickedness.

This is at odds with the foundational values of freedom. The current issues are trying to make people 7, 8, 9 or more generations after the fact responsible for something of which they had no part. By the same token, it tries to benefit the same number of generations for something they did not experience. This is contrary to the value of the “rule of law.” We can see in a country like Zimbabwe that these kinds of actions turned a relatively peaceful and prosperous country to a place of crime and poverty. When people are made to be responsible for things they did not do, it will destroy trust in government. It will create suspicion and fear of others. It causes retaliation. It would even be fair for those who have been wronged for things they did not do to retaliate. It is a presupposition and a blind eye that does not see the innocence of those being victimized by hate built on the past.

Liberation Theology is the religious foundation for this thinking. It is not Biblical or Christian. It takes a secular atheistic perspective and inserts Biblical phrases and proof texts to make it sound as though it has something to do with the Bible. Those who hold this ideology tend to be hate driven, anti-Semitic, divisive, and reject the notion of personal responsibility. This is the foundation for the notion of reparations. It seeks to punish people for things they did not do and reward people who did not experience the offense. This ideology is devoid of Biblical values. They cover their true intentions with a veneer of high-sounding, emotionally charged, and unrelated nonsense. They turn people into victims and blame others for their circumstances. This system of thought is prone to reject Biblical values in terms of the fundamentals of freedom, as well as the moral base for civil society. They often use misleading language to hide their true intentions of dominance and control. Freedom and the things that make for freedom have no part of this mindset.

Those on God's side reject victimhood and all its ancillary pathways of rejecting personal responsibility. We live in a world where bad things happen. Blaming others is a sure road to misery. Happiness is never found in tearing down others, even if they are wrong.

This issue of justice and others discussed bring current relevance to Jesus' words found in the Sermon on the Mount. In Matthew 7:21-23, we read:

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say

to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’”

When Jesus comes to judge the world, there are going to be those who think that have been doing God’s will when from His perspective they have been practicing lawlessness. Advocating for and supporting those who advocate for the destruction of God’s values in the world does not put you on God’s side. You are fundamentally at odds with Him. God’s side clarifies the issues. It is not about the behaviors; it is about values. Do we share and support God’s values when it comes to life, God’s creative design, God’s purpose for government, Biblical compassion, and justice? Do we support those who are in agreement with God’s values? Maybe most importantly, what is Jesus’ analysis of your values and actions? I believe that religious Christians are in the “depart from me” group. They allow political values to supersede God’s values and reject the very core of Biblical Christianity.

Christians are ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor. 5:20). Ambassadors represent the values and interests of those they represent. Ambassadors represent God’s side.

## Current attacks on God's agenda

The House of Representatives is committed to taking away your freedom of religion and freedom of speech. They passed earlier this year the Equality Act. If it became law, it would make this article illegal, even though it simply states what the Bible says. Any group that objects to affirming the Bible is not on God's side. It takes away God given responsibilities to parents. It takes away a church's freedom to advocate God's values. It imposes government controls on freedom. [See *Decision* (ISSN 00H7307), July – August 2019, pages 8-11]

God is not indifferent in regard to sexuality, marriage, the preborn, compassion, and freedom. Regardless of one's religious affiliation, if you believe that the Bible is a revelation from God, you need to be on God's side. You need to stand and support those who are committed to God's side. It is true that God is not on either party's side. Nevertheless, God is looking for those who believe in Him to support and defend His side and not be in opposition to His values.

California's sex education program is intended to normalize perversion. It is to commence in the spring of 2020. This is the final stage of God's judgment as recorded in Romans 1:32. "And although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them." The law makers in California are not on God's side.

Hadassah is a realtor who has been being harassed, targeted, and discriminated against by the Virginia Real Estate Board for including a Bible verse – John 3:16 – on her website and phrases like "Jesus Loves You" in her email signatures. Because of that the Virginia Real Estate Board, a state agency, filed a complaint against Hadassah, accusing her of violating Virginia's fair housing statutes. [from the ACLJ web site] This is an attack on both free speech and freedom of religion.

There needs to be some brief comments on racism. If one believes the Bible as God's revelation, one cannot allow themselves to be a racist. Gal. 3:29 says, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." God is not a racist. His people should not be racist. Condemning Israel is racists behavior apparently condoned within the Democratic Party as evidenced by their inability to condemn anti-Semitism by the current House of Representatives.

Sadly, the term racism is currently used in the political and news arena to condemn someone with whom you disagree. I would cite the accusation that Nancy Pelosi was a racist by a freshman representative when she disagreed with her. The word "hate" has also been redefined in the political and new media. In current parlance it is just another term that means nothing more than disagreement. The people with whom you disagree are haters. It is highly more likely that the people using the word hate are the ones expressing their hatred for others.

The rejection of a Biblical world view is intentional, understood, and orchestrated. Christians cannot be intimidated or complacent. God is not negotiating on His design. Those who believe in the Bible must support God's perspectives. Here is a quote about those who are willfully attacking Gods values. "Reality must be suppressed. If the ideology has power, it uses its power to undertake this suppression. It forbids writing or speaking certain facts. Its goal is to

prevent not only expression of thoughts that contradict what ‘must be true,’ but thinking such thoughts. In the end, the result is inevitably the concentration camp, the gulag and the grave. While some Americans have believed in ideologies, America itself never had an official, state ideology - up until now. But what happens today to Americans who suggest that there are differences among ethnic groups, or that the traditional social roles of men and women reflect their different natures, or that homosexuality is morally wrong? If they are public figures, they must grovel in the dirt in endless, canting apologies. If they are university students, they face star chamber courts and possible expulsion. If they are employees of private corporations, they may face loss of their jobs. What was their crime? Contradicting America’s new state ideology of ‘Political Correctness’” (William S. Lind, *Introduction, Political Correctness: A Deceptive and Dangerous Worldview*).

Christianity is under attack. It is a spiritual 9/11. Unfortunately, just like the World Trade Towers, we are seeing the destruction but asking, “Who would do this? To effectively counter any attack, there must be a clear understanding of the enemy. Ultimately, it is hell itself. It is the same enemy that asked Eve in the Garden, “Has God said” (Gen. 3:1). Those who support political correctness in all its forms are enemies of God’s values whether they are doing it intentionally or unintentionally. Christians need a clear-sighted view of God’s values and be willing to stand for them. Our culture is becoming increasingly antichristian and antifreedom. In the final analysis, the problem is not political. It is spiritual. Nevertheless, in a culture that believes or believed in “we the people,” Christians need to be salt and light, engaged in the battle. The battle for freedom today is little different than that of the 1770s. Tyranny is making every effort to crush the spirit of hope and freedom.

On Thursday, September 19, 2019, the Democratic House of Representatives debated for three hours about taking tax exemption away from Bible believing churches and other organization. They were called “haters” because they believe what the Bible says about sexuality and marriage. This is clear evidence that they do not believe in the freedom of religion. The church cannot remain passive about being God’s ambassador in this fallen world.



## Sermon Notes God's Side

### Introduction

#### What is God's side?

Context of Moses' question

Expressed Biblical values

##### 1 – Declared (Ex. 20:2-17)

God – Supreme Being

Idol – object worshiped that was made by man or God

Worship – submissive respect

- No other gods
- No idol worshipping
- God's name
- Sabbath
- Honor parents
- No murder
- No adultery
- No stealing
- No false witness
- No coveting

Rom. 6:14-15; 7:7; 7:12; Gal. 3:24 w/2:16-20

##### 2 – Values

- God's creation
- God's plan for life
- God's design for human relationships
- God's design for government
- God's compassion and its exercise
- God's economics
- God's justice

##### 3 – Today

**Conclusions (2 Chron. 7:14; Daniel 9:4-19)**