

Vol 6

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RELIGION AND POLITICS

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We the people of the United States, in order to  
form ~~perfect~~ a more perfect Union, establish justice,  
insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common  
defense, promote the general welfare, and  
secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves  
and our posterity, do ordain & establish  
this Constitution for the US of A.

## RELIGION AND POLITICS

1. Explanation of the presence of a politician in the pulpit of this church.
  - a. basic principal of our democracy - separation of church and state.
  - b. children still learn of indignities and persecutions of pilgrims
  - c. today protestants persecuted at the hands of other governments.
2. Question naturally arises - aren't we endangering this sacred doctrine of complete separation of church and state.
  - a. there was a time when this question gave me concern.
  - b. convinced that our only hope of preserving both the Church and State lies in the participation in politics of responsible Christians.
3. Clearly the Church should not -
  - a. involve itself in partisan politics.
  - b. should not divide its congregation by dogmatic positions on which men of good faith may reasonably differ.

4. It should -
  - a. encourage its members to find Christian answers to the problems that confront them from day to day.
  - b. we must remember that the Christian faith is the real basis upon which our nation was founded.
  - c. establishment of state church - that was forbidden and was not recognition of God and Christian principles.
  - d. basic documents - Thanksgiving -  
Inauguration.
5. Failure to relate our government to its actual spiritual foundation can eventually lead us to an oppressive State - where the State manufactures its own spiritual values.
6. Question Arises - if this is true - how may we relate our faith to the political processes of our country?
  - a. to answer this - we must compare the precepts of our faith - the teachings of our Lord, Jesus Christ - and the principals and purposes for which government exists

or examine our duties as Christians -  
and as Citizens.

7. From the Scriptures, we observe that through  
out the entire earthly ministry of Christ that  
His heart was full of compassion and understanding

- a. in fact, two-thirds of all the reported  
acts of Christ were acts of healing.
- b. Physical diseases, disturbed minds and  
sorrowful hearts were all healed by the  
touch of the Master's hand because  
He cared.

8. Even after the crucifixion, we find this com-  
passion and understanding of our Lord for the sick, the  
infirm and the poor, for we remember from the Gospel  
of Mark, that when He appeared for the third time,  
he spoke to the eleven disciples and from these words  
we find the real commission of the church: "Go into  
the whole world and preach the ~~goodness.~~ *gospel* *to all*  
*creation*

- a. duty of church and every Christian to tell the  
good news of Jesus.
- b. The church has a healing task - "go into the  
whole world ... by my name they will cast out

devils - they will place their hands on  
the infirm and they will be well.

9. Now then, just as physical diseases, disturbed minds  
and sorrowful hearts were of concern to Christ so are  
they with us as Christians and as citizens of our  
government, the very foundation of which is the Christian  
faith.

a. as you well know, the very reason for the  
existence of our government is to do for the  
people those things that they cannot very well  
do for themselves.

1. people would not pay taxes simply  
because some one told them to.
2. people would not don the uniform  
Vietnam
3. they do these things because they  
know that what we do as a government  
is morally right.

10. But lets take a closer look at the teachings of  
Christ and compare them with the purposes of our  
government.

a. First Miracle.

1. Jesus first launched his campaign or  
ministry at Capernaum in the Synagogue

and there in the Synagogue was a man with a mentally disturbed mind or an "Unclean Mind" or a "man possessed with demons."

The man created a disturbance, and rather than subjecting him to ridicule or scorn - he healed him because he cared. Through all the gospels, we find Jesus concerning himself with those possessed of devils - the mentally disturbed.

11. State's concern with those with mentally disturbed minds. (Nurses concern at Dix)

12. The Aged and infirm:

a. When they came out of the Synagogue, he went with Peter and John into the house of Simon and Andrew. Peter's mother-in-law was in bed with an attack of fever. Immediately they spoke to Jesus about her. He went up to her and took her by the hand and raised her up, and the fever left her, and she attended to their needs.

- b. Nursing homes and homes for the aged - those who have so few joys left in life.

13. Children had a special place in the heart of Christ.

- a. Mark tells us that Jesus took a child and and set him in the midst. Now a child has no influence at all. A child cannot give us things. It is the other way round. A child needs things. A child must have things done for him.
- b. So Jesus says: "If a man welcomes the poor, ordinary people, the people who have no influence and no wealth and no power, the people who need things done for them, he is welcoming me. More than that, he is welcoming God."
- c. The child is typical of the person who needs things, and it is the society of the person who needs things that we must seek.

(Schools, Mentally retarded centers)

"Suffer the little children to come unto me for such is the kingdom of heaven."

14. On an occasion when Jesus had crossed over the Sea of Galilee, a great crowd gathered - one of the ruler of the Synagogue, Jairus by name, came to him, and when he saw him, he threw himself at his feet. He pled with Him "My little daughter is laying at death's door. Come and lay your hands on her, that she may be cured and live." Jesus went and the child arose and began to walk around.

(Blind, Deaf)

15. But his compassion was not along for those of his own kind -

- a. the servant of the Roman Officer was healed as quickly as one of his own.

16. Leprosy - Dread disease - the leper violated the law even by approaching Jesus.

- a. He did not drive away a man who had broken the law.
- b. to Jesus he was not a man who was unclean but he was simply a human soul in need. Having cleansed him, he sent him to fulfill the prescribed ritual.
- c. here we see compassion, power and wisdom all conjoined.

(Prisons)



17. Ceasar and God:

- a. Render to Ceasar those things which belong to Ceasaw and to God those things that belong to God.

18. On the whole the New Testament lays down a number of great principles with regard to the individual Christian and the State.

- a. The State is ordained by God. Without the laws of the State, life would be a chaos. Men cannot live together unless they agree to obey the laws of living together.

(Laws - crime - youth - narcotics.)

Jesus had contempt for the priest and the Levite - they did not rob or beat the man who was wounded - they just passed him by.

There was the servant who was cast into "outer darkness." He did not use in wrongful ways the talent entrusted to him - he simply buried it in the ground and did nothing about it.

Just as Christ condemned the sin of uselessness of those possessed with talents and able to do for themselves and others, He condemned those of us who are able to assist - either through our church or our governments - but do as the priest or Levite, and pass them by.

You know Christ spoke many parables illustrating the judgment of God and many were condemned to eternal death.

But, in no parable, was one flung out into darkness because of some positive wrong.

No real Christian can see an underprivileged child, a mentally retarded child, an afflicted child in real need of assistance without a heavy heart.

We, as Christians, must make sure that our Christian faith remains a part of the foundation and basis of our government.