

Return America

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SHOULD MINISTERS BE INVOLVED IN POLITICS?

We frequently hear the statement *“Churches should not be involved in politics”*. We also often hear the phrase *“separation of church and state”*. What are the historical facts about the role of church and state?

First of all, from the Biblical point of view, almost every major leader in the Scriptures played some role in politics. Moses went to the political head of his day and gave the Exodus declaration. Elijah stood in the presence of Ahab and announced the drought because of Baal worship. Nathan the prophet announced to David the results of his sin. Ezra, Nehemiah, and Haggai worked both with the political and spiritual heads to bring about the return and restoration of Jerusalem. Daniel defied the political head of his day. John the Baptist lost his head because he dared to stand against the sin of the king. The early church was threatened by the authorities for preaching the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Their conclusion was *“we ought to obey God rather than men”*. The list goes on of those who reached outside their parish to touch the political heads of their day.

Second, our history is filled with illustrations of the role pastors played in government. Around 1740, Dr. Jonathan Mayhew preached a powerful sermon on *“Concerning unlimited submission and no-resistance to the higher powers.”* George Washington and Samuel Adams, among others, were present for that soul stirring sermon. In essence, Dr. Mayhew stated that there are times when resistance to government is needful. George Whitefield came from England and preached from Maine to Georgia. His message moved that generation of people, especially the political heads. Benjamin Franklin printed his sermons. Jonathan Edwards was one of the most brilliant men of that era. He



wrote his first theological paper at the age of ten. His sermons moved the hearts of that generation, especially those in the political world. Election day was quite different than today. Before the populace voted, they attended special church services to hear the man of God expound the truths of Scripture. They challenged the people to vote for those who best represented Scriptural values. *“Election day sermons”* can be found in the libraries of Harvard and Yale. Twenty-nine of the signers of the Declaration Of Independence held theology degrees.

Some pastors of that era were called the *“Black Regiment”*. After filling their pulpits, they taught their congregation of men the techniques of fighting. Those they trained became known as the *“minutemen”*. It was their blood that flooded the ground in Lexington, Massachusetts.

Peter Muhlenberg came under the influence of Patrick Henry. His passion for his country was stirred to action. On Sunday morning, he challenged his church about the price of freedom. At the close of the service, he pulled off his black clerical robe and displayed a bright revolutionary uniform. Pastor Muhlenberg challenged his men to fight for freedom. Many of his men joined him. Together they joined General George Washington and fought many notable battles of that era victoriously.

Many would have us believe that the phrase *“separation of church and state”* is found in our legal documents. The phrase originated in a letter President Jefferson sent to the Danbury Baptists. Jefferson did not mean that the church should play no role in government. Jefferson worshipped in the United States Capitol Building. The largest church in Washington was housed within the Capitol Building, with an average attendance of 2,000 people per Sunday. Jefferson founded at least two other churches in federal buildings in Washington.



Dr. Ron Baity, President

NEWSLETTER SPOTLIGHT

- SHOULD MINISTERS BE INVOLVED IN POLITICS
- THE FOUNDERS OF THIS NATION HAD A DIFFERENT MINDSET
- COULD WE BE LIVING ON BORROWED TIME
- NEW SUPPORTING CHURCHES
- UPCOMING SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

MARRIAGE PETITION

Please go to our web site and sign our Marriage Petition.

Our web address is: www.returnamerica.org

THE FOUNDERS OF THIS NATION HAD A DIFFERENT MINDSET

It is difficult to comprehend America to be the same nation our forefathers envisioned. Their preserved writings reveal their dependence upon the Sacred Word of God. Mr. Fisher Ames, author of the house language for the First Amendment, stated; *“[Why] should not the Bible regain the place it once held as a school book? Its morals are pure, its examples captivating and noble. The reverence for the Sacred Book that is thus early impressed lasts long; and probably if not impressed in in-*

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“THE FOUNDERS...” (CONT.)

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fancy, never takes firm hold of the mind.” Mr. John Adams also affirmed his belief in the Scriptures: “Suppose a nation in some distant region should take the Bible for their only law book and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there exhibited...What a Eutopia, what a Paradise would this region be. I have examined all [religions] ...and the result is that the Bible is the best Book in the world. It contains more of my little philosophy than all the libraries I have seen.” Mr. Andrew Jackson stated: “That book sir, is the Rock upon which our Republic rests.” Mr. Benjamin Rush, signer of the Declaration of Independence, stated: “I have alternately been called an Aristocrat and a Democrat. I am neither. I am a Christocrat.”

The purpose of Return America is to build a network of churches and individuals to educate, motivate, and mobilize citizens in a united effort in promoting Judeo-Christian values; to educate and influence government in these principles upon which our state and nation were founded.



NEW SUPPORTING CHURCHES

We are thankful for the following churches who have placed Return America in their missions budget

New Grace Baptist Church
Thomasville, N C

UPCOMING SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

May 12, 2010

New Heights Baptist Church
Trinity, NC
7 pm

May 31-June 3, 2010

Opening Prayer at NC Legislature
Raleigh, NC

A THOUGHT ABOUT RECENT ELECTIONS

We almost weep when we consider some of the most recent election results. We have watched those who oppose the “Marriage Amendment” and “One Nation Under God” get re-elected by a landslide. It becomes very obvious that many people are either uninformed or simply don't care. We have also watched some in leadership positions refuse to inform their people about the issues of this day. We are reminded of Martin Niemoller who said it best:

“In Germany they first came for the Communists,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist.

Then they came for the Jews,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew.

Then they came for the trade unionists,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Catholics,
and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant.

Then they came for me —
and by that time no one was left to speak up.”

What action will it take to awaken this generation? We are no longer on a playing field. We are now on the battlefield. It is time for those who profess and confess their faith in Jesus Christ and love for America to find the front lines and get involved before we are overtaken by the enemy. It is not enough to say “amen” in the pew! We are spending too much time arranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. In the Words of the Prophet; “*Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not: yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth not.*” (Hosea 7:9) While a minority of illiterates change our marriage laws and decree that the National Day of Prayer is unconstitutional, the salt sits idly in the shaker. While darkness engulfs our land, the church-- which should be the light-- turns out its lights on Sunday nights and joins the ranks of the enemy. In many places Dr. Jack Frost fills the pulpit while his parishioners skate down the frozen isles of modernism, skepticism, and compromise. The world is “churchie” and the church is worldly. Political correctness is the catch phrase of the day. We are told not to offend other religions, yet we are greatly offended when our Judeo-Christian values are trampled upon. Our window of opportunity is closing. Most don't want it to be so but cannot get out of their comfortable positions long enough to bring about change. We either change or we will be changed. We either fight for our precious freedoms or lose them by default. We either wake up or sleep through the revolution of socialism that is being waged against us. Romans 13:11: “*And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.*”

WEB SITE

You may contact us through our web site at www.returnamerica.org.