

Left vs. Right: Political and Religious Divisions

Bible Study Notes 9 Jul 07

"Right" vs. "left"; "conservative" vs. "liberal"; "Democrat" vs. "Republican"- titles have lost their meaning. Our country is in a *religious* war between secular humanists and theists. The secular humanists submit to the created, while theists submit to the *Creator*.

Secular Humanists

Submit to "the creation"
(man's law, self law, animal god, god of imagination)
Wish God out of schools
Wish God's law out of public policy

Theists

Submit to God
Wish God in schools
Wish God's law in public policy

Adrian Rogers says God is gracious. If a country desires Him out of the picture, He will leave. When man replaces divine authority with the authority of corruptible man, man then he becomes his own God.

Paul, under inspiration of the Holy Spirit wrote:

Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. Ro 1:22–32

God has something to say to those who have replaced Him with another authority:

But to the wicked God says:
“What right have you to declare My statutes,
Or take My covenant in your mouth,
Seeing you hate instruction
And cast My words behind you?
When you saw a thief, you consented with him,
And have been a partaker with adulterers.
You give your mouth to evil,
And your tongue frames deceit.
You sit and speak against your brother;
You slander your own mother’s son.
These things you have done, and I kept silent;
You thought that I was altogether like you;
But I will rebuke you,
And set them in order before your eyes.

“Now consider this, you who forget God,
Lest I tear you in pieces,
And there be none to deliver:
Whoever offers praise glorifies Me;
And to him who orders his conduct aright
I will show the salvation of God.” Ps 50:16–23

Charles Stanley argues: “When you say ‘I know what the Bible says, *but...*’ you are mocking God.” Yet, the Bible says that God will not be mocked. He has never been mocked, nor will He ever be:

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart (Ga 6:7–9).

Stanley says if you do not believe that you will suffer the consequences of your sin, scripture says that you are blinded and *deceived* (Ga 6:7). In due time your sin will find you out. If you do not like the harvest in your life, take a step back. What seed did you sew?

John MacArthur says that men cannot fully appreciate the “sinfulness of sin” before a holy God. Sewing in the flesh reaps corruption, but sewing in the Spirit reaps everlasting life, joy and righteousness.

Man is by nature a religious being. He was created to worship God. If he does not worship God, he inevitably fills the void with something else: the god of work, sex, alcohol, gambling, the environment, comfort, security, etc.... Man will not worship *nothing*, he will just worship something else. If he will not worship the Creator God, he

will worship the *creation*.

So why is there such a political divide in the country? Bob Enyart writes:

A young political observer once wondered why American conservatives and liberals separated themselves so distinctly along opposing ideas. Consider these generalities:

Left-Wingers

Support welfare
Support foreign aid
Support high taxes
Support giving children condoms
Support pornographers
Support killing unborn children
Oppose killing murderers
Oppose gun ownership
Weaken America's military
Worship trees

Right-Wingers

Oppose welfare
Oppose foreign aid
Oppose high taxes
Oppose giving children condoms
Oppose pornographers
Oppose killing unborn children
Support killing murders
Support gun ownership
Strengthen America's military
Cut down trees (a renewable resource)

Chart the views of liberals like Hillary Clinton, Ted Kennedy, and Al Gore. They, along with most liberal leaders, agree with the column on the left. Conservative leaders like Howard Philips and Pat Buchanan concur with the issues on the right. The respective supporters of these two camps tend to hold their party line. For example, of these ten issues, millions of liberals will hold to most issues of the left and millions of conservatives will stand for most issues on the right. But why? Why do people line up along such well-defined battle lines? Why is there not an equal number who agree with five issues on the right and five on the left? Why do most leaders who support killing an innocent unborn child oppose killing a guilty murdering rapist? Why does almost everyone who supports welfare also defend a right to exploit women sexually through pornography? ...This political observation makes a good analogy. Patterns of disagreement can reveal much about underlying presuppositions.

Could it be if you miss the plot of the Bible, with its twists that you miss truth and clear thinking altogether? Enyart says, “know the plot, enjoy the twists; know it not, annoy your wits.” Enyart says that the main story of the Bible follows this outline:

1. God created the universe and populated heaven and earth.
2. The rebellion of some angels and all humans resulted in guilt and death.
3. God worked to reconcile with those who love Him and punish all others.¹

¹ Edited Notes: *The Plot* by Bob Enyart

Could it be if you miss main character of the Bible, Jesus, that you miss the ability to discern truth altogether?

Jesus said: I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me (Jn 14:6). How could a religion teach that they have *the way*—the one and only way to heaven in the person of Jesus Christ? How could they discount the values of world religions such as: Hinduism, Buddhism, and Judaism? How could Christians have the audacity to say that only one gospel is true if you are interested in going to heaven? If that offends you or if that is not politically correct enough for you, you'll have to get your own universe. Christians can say that because God said that.

J.Vernon McGee said the Holy Spirit has a ministry in the world. That ministry is to call people out of the world and into the church body of believers. Membership into the kingdom of heaven requires that one is “born again” (Jn. 5). The Holy Spirit today, McGee says, takes the things of God and makes them real to mans.

Stanley says if you have no hunger in your heart for God’s Word, you do not have a hunger for *Him*. If you have no desire for His Word, you do not want to know Him⁶. If He indwells you—if He has saved you and baptized you by His Spirit into the body of believers—you will hunger for the Word of God (1 Jn. 2:5). His sheep know His voice (Jn. 10:27).

MacArthur says that Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount explained to the Jews that their works of righteousness were not enough⁷. The Jews had their own way to heaven and Jesus said that wasn’t enough. Heaven’s standards were too high and the law could not save them. Regarding two ways of life Jesus said: Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it (Mt 7:13–14).

The prophet Jeremiah said that God gives us the choice between life and death: ¶I set before you the way of life and the way of death⁹. The prophet Elijah asked: “How long will you falter between two opinions?” (1 Kings 18:21). Many believe in Jesus. McGee says the devil *believes* in Jesus. But only His followers will enter heaven. Many followed Him, but John.6:66 tells us that many turned back.

Jesus is the crux of the matter, MacArthur says. There is a narrow gate and a narrow way and there is a wide gate with a wide way. MacArthur says the battle is not: religion vs. Paganism or the godless vs. Christianity. There are two kinds of religion in the world: Divine religion and human religion (Luke 18:9). Satan does not put up a sign outside of the church “This is the way to hell.” The Pharisees trusted in themselves. Either you are good enough or Christ is good enough to be your Savior. “By the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified ¹⁰.” There is no other name under heaven which saves (Isa. 43: 11). Salvation is by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8) and that—one and only way—is difficult (Mat. 7:14). There is no such thing as cheap grace. Man is by nature, a religious creature so if he does not worship the Creator God, he will worship *something* (e.g. the

environment, the god of their imagination) or *someone* (e.g. the self) else. There is a place in man's heart meant to be filled by God if he will seek him with all his heart and soul (Deut. 4:29).

6 (Radio Broadcast, Charles Stanley 9 July 2007.)

7 (Radio Broadcast, John MacArthur, 9 July 2007).

8 *The New King James Version*. 1982. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

j Deut. 30:15, 19; Is. 1:19, 20

9 *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Je 21:8). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

10 *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Ro 3:20). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.