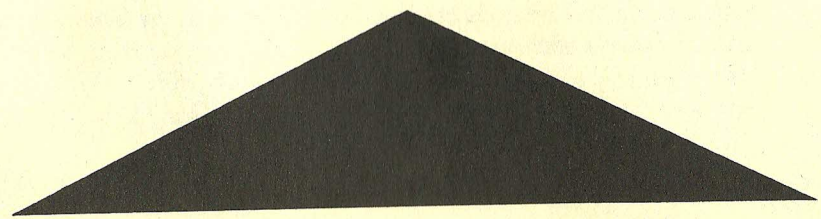


REFORMATION

Lutheran

CHURCH

Invites **You** To
Keep Your Money
And To...



REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Consider Your Ways.

Dear Citizen of Bowie,

Yes, keep your money. Inasmuch as this mass mailing seeks no contributions and is no business venture, we can write with candor and without fear of offending potential contributors. Expenses have been paid for by a small church in Bowie. And we are happy to have the opportunity to address you.

We call you a "citizen of Bowie" emphasizing your membership in a small community in contrast to your national citizenship. (You might also be a "citizen of heaven," a follower of the risen Jesus of Nazareth — the one by whose life the world measures time even unto this year of the Lord [A.D. Anno Domini] 1989. But as this is a *mass mailing*, chances are you are not a Christian — not in the orthodox sense of this term, anyway.)

Regardless of the varying states of our souls and religious proclivities, we citizens have in common the same government. We have a message for you about citizenship, about the Lord of all nations, and about the destiny of our nation, even our city — Bowie.

Let us begin with the truth we confess (which is political as well as religious). There is an ancient summary of the Christian faith called the Nicene Creed, upheld by all orthodox Christians. It begins, "We believe in one God..." and continues with a summary of the three persons in which this God exists: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This Spirit of God has not remained silent but "has spoken through the Prophets."

This Triune God is the only God and His truth is the only Truth, because he created all that exists, including Nature and natural laws. This belief is universal (or catholic) among orthodox Christian Churches through the ages — Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Protestant. In addition, as to personal destiny, we also affirm the Athanasian Creed, which says, "Whoever wants to be saved should above all cling to this catholic faith. One cannot be saved without believing this firmly and faithfully."

What does this "bigotry" mean? It means, negatively, that there are many who by their creeds follow false gods (Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Scientists, Moonies, Hindus, Muslims and Jews). The judgment of the Lord of the Universe rests upon *all* mankind. But He has had mercy through the vicarious death of the Lord Jesus, so that those who trust in this divine Savior — Jesus of Nazareth — will be spared the righteous wrath of the Almighty.

In our post-Christian America such a profession is easily dismissed as a quaint anachronism, left over from a Christian America of the past. But when the confession is asserted seriously, it denies "pluralism" as nothing less than polytheism. It proclaims Christ alone as Lord to whom all the nations must bow and give due homage.

To proclaim Christ as Lord (whose kingdom has come and continues to spread) is to advocate the extension of His law over the affairs of His creatures. Yes, the law of God bespeaks the very nature of God. The law of God discriminates between right and wrong.

The contrast between today's laws and those of our Christian past is stark enough that it should force us to reconsider our prejudices against a "bigoted" Christian society (which *qua* Christian means a society governed by Christian law). A sketch of our condition will suffice: homosexuality, child slaughter, adultery, broken families, pornography, pedophilia.

In times past the clergy taught right from wrong. They agreed with Paul, who by the spirit of God said:

Do not be deceived; neither the immoral, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor robbers will inherit the Kingdom of God. (1 Cor. 6: 9, 10).

But today the apostate clergy of many churches set themselves above God and His word and preach their own heretical version of Christianity. They justify sodomy, fornication and feticide. Cloaked in their woolly vestments, they deceive their flocks — who, perhaps, are willing participants in such blasphemous pseudo-christianity.

We denounce and condemn in the name of Christ those who teach contrary to the law of God, those who refuse to condemn abortion, homosexual acts, and fornication.

We declare that One Nation Under God was better than our present polytheistic nation under the Supreme Court, or under the Barney Franks of the Hill.

The influence of the Puritans, though continuing to wane, was still quite observable to Tocqueville in 19th century America. He observed the "pluralism" within a Christian society along with a unanimity with regard to Christian law and morality:

The sects that exist in the United States are innumerable. They will differ in respect to the worship which is due the Creator; but they all agree in respect to the duties which are due from man to man. Each sect adores the Deity in his own particular manner, but all sects preach the same moral law in the name of God... all the sects of the United States are comprised within the great unity of Christianity, and Christian morality is everywhere the same (Democracy in America).

In this century T.S. Eliot said, "However bigoted the announcement may sound, the Christian can be satisfied with nothing less than a Christian organization of society

— which is not the same thing as society consisting exclusively of devout Christians." We aver that the most just society — for all people, including non-Christians — is one which metes out true justice, viz., by the enforcement of God's righteous laws. (Even a successful thief is happy for laws which prohibit theft so that his booty can be preserved in his possession.)

A return to the Christian foundations of our country, then, must be the goal of anyone who seeks true civilization.

The seventeenth-century Puritan Fathers established distinctively Christian societies. The Connecticut Law Code of 1650 included verbatim excerpts from the books of Exodus, Leviticus and Deuteronomy. Blasphemy, sorcery, adultery, and rape were punished with death. Rebellious children (juvenile delinquents) were to be executed. Tocqueville acknowledged:

The legislation of a rude and half-civilized people was thus applied to an enlightened and moral community. The consequence was that the punishment of death was never more frequently prescribed by statute, and never more rarely enforced.

We, in a "kinder and gentler" age, have progressed beyond such harsh laws. In the name of freedom and liberation we tolerate all manner of perversity. And rather than execute murderers and sodomites, we slaughter children (abortion) and moralize against bootlegging pharmaceutical entrepreneurs (drug dealers). The I.R.S. grants tax-exempt status to satanist "churches" while courts fine churches for excommunicating fornicators.

We declare, as the Scripture says, that the Almighty judges nations. They rise and fall in accordance with His purposes, but also in accordance with submission to His righteous statutes. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." Just as an individual escapes the wrath of God by surrendering to the Lordship of Christ, so also may a nation escape decline and judgment.

We pray for an awakening — a revival. We pray for national repentance. To this end we join our prayers with several churches in Bowie. We have enjoyed working with other churches in the effort to resist childslaughter in our neighborhood. It has been our privilege to be associated with Mt. Oak Methodist, Bowie Alliance, Belcroft Bible Church, Grace Baptist, Cornerstone Assembly of God, Sacred Heart, St Pius, St Edwards and Ascension. Our members have been especially grateful for Grace Baptist and its school. They have also participated in the Cornerstone youth groups. We commend these churches to you as polities that proclaim God's truth and do not set themselves above His Word.

In the course of pursuing the reconstruction of our society, we cannot neglect local reform while hoping for national changes. And it is certainly their own neighborhoods for which citizens will be called to greater account.

For example, we point to the 50,000 Americans who have been arrested over the past 2 years as they blocked the doors of "abortion clinics." In hundreds of neighborhood sites around the country, as few as 1 and as many as 700 people have intervened for the life of the unborn. This action displays the proper response of communities to legalized childslaughter in their neighborhoods. Communities must take responsibility and not plead impotence. They are not bound by lawless edicts from Godless Justices.

Our local civil authorities need not bow to Justice Harry Blackmun — or for that matter to our own abortion enthusiast, Barbara Mikulski. Our local authorities have responsibilities for this municipality.

What can be done? To begin with, this city can be declared by the City Council to be an "Abortion Free Zone." In defiance of Supreme Court edicts, our community can refuse to tolerate legalized childslaughter. That is only a starting point. But in the right direction.

(One depraved city council recently passed a pro-

homosexual resolution which reads: "I, John O. Norquist, Mayor of the City of Milwaukee, do hereby proclaim the period from June 16-27, 1989, to be Milwaukee Gay Lesbian Pride Week throughout the City of Milwaukee. We are proud of who you are." The same tactic — a city resolution — can be used to make a statement in support of what is right instead of what is perverted.)

A few years ago the City Council was urged to pass such a resolution. The milksoppy reply was that this proposal was outside its jurisdiction and therefore impractical. But the establishment of an "abortion free zone" would be no less feasible than Takoma Park's "Nuclear-Free Zone" ordinance of December, 1983. Such ordinances or resolutions reflect the moral standards of the community and possess the teeth that the people are willing to give them.

The first front on which the battle for civilization must be fought is the issue of childslaughter. We commend to you the D.C. Project, November 15-18. Call 202-543-8971. For local involvement in the struggle against childslaughter, contact Project Rescue, Box 550, Bowie, MD 20715.

We welcome your response by mail to our ideas.

Sincerely,

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