

July 2008

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Politics of Truth

It has become embarrassing to appeal to eternal concepts, embarrassing to state that evil makes its home in the individual human heart before it enters a political system. —Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Over the years, we have submitted an *Issues Survey for Candidates* to thousands of office seekers to facilitate our non-partisan *Voters' Guide*. This season, many hundreds of surveys were mailed from our office, but fewer than expected have been returned so far. Interestingly, a quick response came from a legislator who is openly homosexual. Although his take on nearly every issue differs from ours, we can't help but envy his boldness—something that is often lacking in conservative circles.

It seems people (or candidates) with “evolving” concepts of life v. death, human sexuality, and marriage and family, are proud to promote their shockingly deficient social constructs while those of us with traditional mores are reluctant to even defend ours. An example of a rather reticent conservative comes to mind.

This conservative is seeking public office and promptly returned his candidate questionnaire. But a few days later this same person called to retrieve it—“to make a certain correction”—asking that we return it to him without retaining a copy. Oh, oh. He said it would be mailed back, but alas, his survey was no more.

A few days ago, this candidate paid a surprise visit to our office. Nervously pulling up a chair, he said, “I’m here to apologize. I am embarrassed and ashamed, but I cannot return your survey. I wish it weren’t so, but I fear there are more of ‘them’ than there are of ‘you.’”

It might be his campaign jitters originate at the beachhead of all social issues—abortion. Our candidate is pro-life. So what are his chances of being elected? Do the math. Among 18 incumbent statewide elected officials, only three are known to oppose abortion. Voters in this state give rule to abortion-supporting state executives by a margin of six-to-one.

Our Attorney General knows this. When John Ladenburg, his political rival, recently accused him of being out of sync with Washington voters because he “is a believer in right to life,” Rob McKenna quickly fired back that Ladenburg is incorrect, noting, “I am pro-choice, and I’m on the record as being pro-choice...”¹

Among state legislators, the math is better. More like two-to-one think abortion should be available for a female of any age, any time, for any reason—and paid for by taxpayers as necessary. By nearly the same margin, legislators would not favor a requirement to notify parents if their child is being spirited to a Planned Parenthood office to undergo an abortion.

The odds are also tough for candidates who are concerned that our sex-saturated culture is not just seeping into the schools, but pouring in like a flood.

Last year, one of the most disturbing proposals to ever receive a hearing in Olympia, passed both houses overwhelmingly and was quickly approved by Governor Gregoire.

ESSB 5297, "Sexual health education," forbids schools from offering abstinence-only programs, while adding requirements regarding sexual orientation not to mention inappropriate graphic sexual instructions.

The laughable (but not funny) argument put forth by proponents of the new law is that teaching the purpose for sex rather than the explicit methods thereof, is dangerously irresponsible. Motivating students to choose abstinence and equipping them with the tools to succeed supposedly denies children access to "medically and scientifically accurate information." Even non-conservative voters think the new law is disgusting, but far too few even know about it.

A lot of folks aren't sure what to think about "domestic partnerships" either. Looks like "pretend marriage" to most. Last year, the state legislature passed with the Governor's approval, SSB 5336, a measure granting certain benefits to homosexual couples that heretofore accrued only to a man and woman who are married. Although the subject of the new law is a non-starter in the pulpit and thus the pews (as was the case with Referendum 65), we suspect it soon will be.

Homosexuality has been steadily piped to all branches and levels of government. At City Hall, it comes one ordinance and one executive order at a time. Seattle's mayor, Greg Nickels and King County Executive Ron Sims have been shamefully pro-active in the homosexual movement. Both have attempted to defy state statutes in the area of marriage and family law and have encouraged their constituents to do likewise. They have encountered surprisingly little resistance.

But back to our reticent conservative. Before leaving our office, he added something that helped us to better understand from where he is coming. He said, "I share your values, but I have to be honest. I am not a born-again Christian. My brother is. He is a pastor. He has been praying for me for years. I...I don't know...I'm just not there yet."

No apology necessary. There are plenty of us like you in church. We defer the matter of moral decay to public officials. Ever dwindling, are shepherds who warn their flocks not to sin or to take pleasure in them that do, and to flee from youthful lusts which can open a floodgate of problems that can last a lifetime. Like you, we are seeker-friendly. Not always sure who is listening, we are loath to address, for instance, the obvious correlation between homosexuality and disease and premature death that has been recognized for at least two thousand years.

And, we too, wrestle with a fear of men. We do not want them to leave us for more comforting pastures—where the message is soothing to the ear. Yet in comporting to a broader audience, we may be in danger of aiming for the wide gate of approval rather than the narrow gate of holiness.

A friend and colleague, Dr. Marshall Foster, tells of Abraham Kuyper, a prime minister of Holland in the 1890s who was instrumental in delivering his nation from the clutches of skepticism and modernism while fanning a flame of revival. Said Kuyper:

*"When principles that run against your deepest convictions begin to win the day, then battle is your calling, and peace has become sin; you must, at the price of dearest peace, lay your convictions bare before friend and enemy, with all the fire of your faith."*²

The plain truth is that candidates who openly follow Jesus (is there any other way?) or identify with those who do, are in for a battle. Knowing this, is it likely a person intimidated by our questionnaire will manifest deep wells of conviction and courage once elected?

As Al Boreland might say, "I don't think so, Tim!"

Rick Forcier

¹ Pierce County executive to run against McKenna for Attorney General, Andrew Garber, Seattle Times Olympia bureau, 2/7/2008

² Marshall Foster, *Battle is Your Calling*, Mayflower Institute Journal, July 2008