

AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

Sunday, April 2, 2017

Young Adult Sunday School Class | Berean Baptist Church

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One of the great tragedies of this hour is the out-of-bound court system. It has not always been this way. Today, we look at what the courts have said.

I. THE COURTS HAVE MADE SOME BAD DECISIONS IN OUR COUNTRY

- A. In 1980, the Supreme Court concluded that the Ten Commandments were toxic to public education: *"If the posted copies of the Ten Commandments are to have any effect at all, it will be to induce the school children to read, meditate upon, perhaps to venerate and obey, the Commandments...This is not a permissible state objective."* (Stone Vs. Graham, 1980)
- B. In a decision against Judge Roy Moore In 2002, the United States District Court in Alabama stated: *"The state may not acknowledge the sovereignty of the Judeo-Christian God and attribute to that God our religious freedom."* (Glassroth v. Moore, November 18, 2002)
- C. In 1973, the United States Supreme Court decided that the most dangerous place in the world for a baby to live was in the womb of its mother.
- D. The court has upheld that same-sex "marriage" is lawful.
 1. In two 5-4 decisions, the United States Supreme Court has ruled that the person of God and His Scripture are no longer relevant with regard to the institution of marriage. In the place of God, the Court has ruled that the will of men determines what constitutes marriage.
 2. In writing for the majority, Justice Kennedy wrote: *"[The Defense of Marriage Act's] principal effect is to identify a subset of state-sanctioned marriages and make them unequal..."*
 3. The problem with his ruling is that marriage is not state-sanctioned but God-ordained!

II. THE FOUNDING FATHERS HAD A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ABOUT OUR NATION

- A. Our nation's first chief justice, John Jay, said:
 1. *"The most effective means of securing the continuance of our civil and religious liberties is always to remember with reverence and gratitude the Source from which they flow."*

2. *“Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation, to select and prefer Christians for their judges.”*
- B. James Wilson, one of the six original justices appointed by President George Washington to serve on the United States Supreme Court, stated: *“Human Law must rest its authority, ultimately, upon the authority of that law, which is divine...Far from being rivals or enemies, religion and law are twin sisters, friends, and mutual assistants. Indeed, these two sciences run into each other.”*
 - C. John Marshall, America’s longest-serving chief justice (1801-1835), stated: *“The American population is entirely Christian and with us, Christianity and religion are identified. It would be strange, indeed, if with such a people, our institutions did not presuppose Christianity, and did not often refer to it, and express relations with it.”*
 - D. For more than 150 years, our nation’s courts held firm to the founder’s beliefs in God and the Christian faith.

III. THE STATES SUPREME COURTS DECLARED THIS NATION CHRISTIAN

- A. In 1799, the Maryland Supreme Court declared: *“By our form of government, the Christian religion is the established religion; and all sects and denominations of Christians are placed on the same equal footing and are equally entitled to protection in their religious liberty.”*
- B. State supreme courts have asserted that American citizens uphold a moral code.
 1. In 1811, the New York Supreme Court upheld the conviction of a man for blaspheming the Name of Christ: *“Christianity in its enlarged sense as a religion revealed and taught in the Bible, is part and parcel of the law of the land... We are a Christian people and the morality of the country is deeply engrafted upon Christianity.”*
 2. In 1861, the same court ruled that this is a Christian society: *“This fact is everywhere prominent in all our civil and political history, and has been, from the first, recognized and acted upon by the people as well as by constitutional conventions, by legislatures and by courts of justice.”*
- C. In an 1824 case, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court investigated whether Christianity was incorporated into its state law. The Court stated: *“Christianity general Christianity is and always has been a part of the common law...it is irrefragably proved that the laws and institutions of this state are built on the foundation of reverence for Christianity.”*

IV. THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT HAS UPHELD OUR CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

- A. In 1892 in the case of *The United States vs. Church of the Holy Trinity*, the court acknowledged our historical Christian faith: *"No purpose of action against religion can be imputed to any legislation, state or national, because this is a religious people. This is historically true. From the discovery of this continent to the present hour, there is a single voice making this affirmation... These and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a Christian nation. We are a Christian people, and the morality of the country is deeply engrafted upon Christianity."*
- B. In 1844, the court unanimously upheld the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's decision, stating that *"...the laws and institutions of this state are built on the foundation of reverence for Christianity."*
- C. Again, in 1844 the Supreme Court stated that *"Christianity is not to be maliciously and openly reviled and blasphemed against, to the annoyance of believers or the injury of the public."*
- D. The United States Supreme Court has used principles of Biblical law in drawing its conclusions.
 1. In the late 1800s, polygamy was spreading through the Western states.
 2. Arguing on Biblical principles, the court stated: *"Bigamy and polygamy are crimes by the laws of all civilized and Christian countries."*
- E. In latter years, the court has issued declarations affirming its belief in God and His Word.
 1. In 1954, the court stated: *"We are a religious people whose institutions presuppose a Supreme Being."*
 2. It is refreshing to know that the court has not as of yet struck down all of our religious liberties, although they are more bent on doing so than ever before.