Living Word Seventh-day Adventist Church

Religious Liberty Newsletter

**Volume 5, Number 1 January 27, 2021**

This month our church is emphasizing the annual Religious Liberty Campaign. More information is available on the Liberty Magazine web [site.](https://www.libertymagazine.org/) The campaign will go on for another six weeks. More information is available in the current church weekly newsletter.

DISCLAIMER: Research may be hazardous to your assumptions.

DISCLAIMER: As religious liberty leader for the church, I take complete responsibility for the contents of this newsletter. I appreciate the independence given to me and want everyone to know the ideas expressed are my own, guided by Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy.

 There are so many things affecting morality in this country that I hardly know where to start. First, there is an issue concerning religious liberty in this country. It should be noted that President Biden is a Catholic. I only say that couched in the framework of prophecy. Anyone reading this should realize that Catholic beliefs are going to play a huge part in last day events.

 On Inauguration Day President Biden and “congressional leaders” went to a mass prior to going to the inauguration. The news media accepted that as a matter-of-fact reality. There was nothing mentioned, and I didn’t expect it, of possible church and state conflict. Think about that. We are now at a time in our nation’s history that there is nothing made in the public discourse about a Catholic president. And, many members of Congress and the Supreme Court are Catholic as well. That kind of influence can obviously have a lot to do with last day events.

*The agencies of evil are combining their forces and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones. Testimonies Vol 9, p 11.*

 Before getting into current events, I want to write a little about history. For most, history means last week. There is little memory collectively in this county abouts things that happened decades ago. Everything is here and now.

Ellen White gave wise advice when she wrote:

In reviewing our **past history**, having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what the Lord has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our **past history**.630 {CCh 359.4}

 Lest we forget, there was another president in our history who was a Catholic. There was much more concern about him then than there is about a Catholic president now. There was so much concern then that then Senator Kennedy went to Dallas on September 12, 1960, three weeks before the election, to make a special appeal to speak to the Greater Dallas Ministerial Association. His [speech](https://usa.usembassy.de/etexts/democrac/66.htm) was very impactful. We need to remember that our nation was founded on the belief that we have a country without a king and a church without a pope. Anti-Catholic sentiment ran high for decades in this country.

In that speech he said in part:

“I believe in an America where the separation of church and state is absolute -- where no Catholic prelate would tell the President (should he be a Catholic) how to act and no Protestant minister would tell his parishioners for whom to vote -- where no church or church school is granted any public funds or political preference -- and where no man is denied public office merely because his religion differs from the President who might appoint him or the people who might elect him.

 I believe in an America that is officially neither Catholic, Protestant nor Jewish -- where no public official either requests or accepts instructions on public policy from the Pope, the National Council of Churches or any other ecclesiastical source -- where no religious body seeks to impose its will directly or indirectly upon the general populace or the public acts of its officials -- and where religious liberty is so indivisible that an act against one church is treated as an act against all.”

 He might not have been elected if he had not made that speech. Influential people were saying that he would only take orders from the pope. An influential Methodist leader said “"No Governor can kiss the papal ring and get within gunshot of the White House." They were different times. In the recent past we have had popes speak to a joint session of Congress and the United Nations General Assembly. To many, there is no understanding of the part the papacy will play in last day events. Others simply don’t care. The net result is that we are being conditioned. It is now normal not to be concerned about religion in politics. And, there has been a rising tide of anti-Christian sentiment brewing for decades as well.

 The irony of this is that the current President, a Catholic, is promoting policies that are antithetical to any Christian belief system.

Here is a sample of news for the past few weeks:

By [Executive Order](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/25/executive-order-on-enabling-all-qualified-americans-to-serve-their-country-in-uniform/), transgender people can serve in the Armed Forces.

Biden’s executive actions during his first week included tying federal education dollars to allowing biological males to play on female [sports teams](https://www.dailysignal.com/2021/01/22/bidenerasedwomen-trends-after-biden-signs-transgender-executive-order/) at schools. In other words, boys can go into girls’ locker rooms to prepare for lacrosse, volleyball (etc) practice. Track competition will be patently unfair when a boy who claims to be a girl, who happens to be six feet tall and muscular, will compete in a 100-yard dash with the average athletic girl. All these changes were made by changing the Title IX Education Amendments of 1972.

The U.S. House of Representatives has adopted [new rules](https://rules.house.gov/sites/democrats.rules.house.gov/files/BILLS-117hresPIH-hres5.pdf) for the conduct and language used by members on the floor and in legislation:

(5) In clause 15(d)(2) of rule XXIII, strike ‘‘father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, husband, wife, father-in-law, or mother-in-law’’ and insert ‘‘parent, child, sibling, spouse, or parent-in19 law’’.

 This is an open, not-so-subtle attempt at changing social standards through language. You may say that brainwashing is too strong a word, but the effect will be the same. This attitude will eventually permeate our culture, ie schools as well. Just think about the word sin for example. How often today do you hear that word? We have little white lies, mistakes, shortcomings, etc. How often is anyone told they are a sinner, even from pulpits in the United States? More on that in the future.

**CONCLUSION**

 This newsletter is a shortened version of issues to follow. In summary, massive changes have occurred in a very short time. Abortion has not even been mentioned here, but it will be mentioned in the future. Purely political issues have been left out. The absolute, overwhelming hypocrisy of a Catholic allowing boys into women’s bathrooms is glaring to anyone with any understanding of Scripture. The fact that there is no outrage or challenge to this is another indicator that the cultural standards, influenced by religion in this country, have been muted if not cancelled altogether. We need to understand these issues and Liberty Magazine always explains these things with clarity.