

After the disasterous Nov. 6 election, we have to change

by Randy Bright <http://www.tulsabeacon.com/?p=6418>

What a kick in the gut it was last Tuesday evening when Ohio was called for Obama and the race for the Presidency was over. I turned to my wife and told her that we had just become a socialist country. Suddenly, America didn't feel special anymore.

I didn't say that to be dramatic. It wasn't hyperbole. We really have become a socialist country, because now there are no real restraints on Obama and the Democrats to keep them from implementing Obamacare and giving the EPA and dozens of other government agencies free rein to create even more regulations, ones that will be written by bureaucrats instead of our legislature. Even Speaker Boehner, who had pledged to repeal Obamacare, is already backpedaling.

I had hoped that Romney would win by a landslide, as some pundits were predicting, but I really believed that he would win by only a point or two. I was sickened by the slim margin that Obama won by, because it tells me that it would have taken only a little more for it to have turned out in Romney's favor. What is even more sickening is that if one demographic group had voted in greater numbers, it could have easily put Romney over the top, and that group is Christians.

It is disturbing that only 57 percent of Protestant Christians that voted did so for Romney. In addition, 78 percent of the evangelical Christians vote was for Romney and 48 percent of the Catholic vote for was Romney. And only about half of Christians are even registered to vote? Of those who did vote for Obama, and knowing what Obama and the Democrats stand for (abortion, gay marriage, fiscal irresponsibility, disrespect for personal and property rights - just to name a few), what were any of them doing voting for Obama? I simply don't accept the premise that they were willing to vote for a Marxist because Romney was a Mormon.

I think that the problem is much deeper than that. If the Church (meaning Protestants, evangelicals and Catholics) were more spiritually aligned with God, they would not have even considered voting for Obama.

I know that I am about to step on the toes of my Christian brethren, and it may even make some of them angry to suggest that many of the congregations in this country just don't resemble the Church that Jesus began. I am not being judgmental, and I am as guilty as any, but it has been my observation over perhaps that last two decades that churches have become less concerned with remaining true to the Bible or their own particular dogma than they are with attracting more people and more talent to their particular congregations.

Well, if you have been going to church for over the last 50 years as I have, you would say that is nothing new. Churches have always been competing with each other, but what we are left with now is different than it was fifty years ago.

Since the 1954 Johnson Amendment was passed, pastors have been afraid to include anything political in their sermons or in their education classes out of the fear of losing their tax exempt status, so for the last 58 years, Christians in this country have been presented with a model that fortifies the myth of separation of church and state, so much so that we now have several generations who believe that we should live our lives differently within the church walls than we do outside them. This has led to several denominations that bear little resemblance to their predecessors, and have become largely secular. Other are following the same path.

Many of our churches are becoming entertainment venues, allowing churchgoers to observe worship rather than participate in it. We have substituted the quiet time we used to have for reflection and self-examination in our church services with concerts, we have substituted teachers of the Word of God with pre-recorded lessons that are more entertaining, and we have substituted sermons filled with politically incorrect honesty with carefully worded sermons designed to spare feelings and avoid prosecution or lawsuits. And in many cases, we have eliminated Christian education altogether. This has made the Church weak and Christians even weaker in their faith.

Don't get me wrong. I am not criticizing anything done with pure motives, but Scripture warns us that even the "elect" will be fooled. How easily it was done in this last election simply because a large portion of Christians in this country are so spiritually immature and ignorant. Obviously, there are other reasons why the election went the way it did, but Christians could have made the difference in this one, and it would have made this country and the world a safer place. Now we have to deal with the consequences.

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