



Eric Metaxas' *Letter to the American Church:* A Preface

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(July 31, 2024)

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At the outset of 2024 I mentioned in several Areopagus classes that the upcoming election year could be the most turbulent and chaotic year since 1968. Unfortunately, this prediction is being fulfilled – and we still have a hundred days to go. *Kyrie eleison!*

This election season has been an unmitigated mess. From the outset, we have had two candidates with very problematic personalities and character. But their political agendas and visions for America stand in stark contrast. Personalities aside, what really matters are their policies, their programs, and their priorities.

By all objective standards, Joe Biden has been the most incompetent and corrupt president in U.S. history. Throughout his political career he has been – to borrow a term attributed to Vladimir Lenin – the prototypical “useful idiot” for cultural Marxists who are hell-bent on “fundamentally transforming America.” Kamala Harris, however, is even worse: she is a cultural Marxist! Harris was the most radical left-wing Democrat in the U.S. senate prior to being chosen by Biden as his vice-presidential running-mate in 2020 purely on the bases of her sex and race. Throughout her career in politics, she has had no positive or commendable accomplishments. In that regard she was the prototypical DEI hire. She is also, according to many who have known and worked under her in the past (including 92% of her staff who resigned during her vice-presidential term), a thoroughly repulsive individual – but that takes us back once again to the character and personality issue.

Many Christians are only reluctant supporters of Donald Trump. Many of us much preferred Ron

DeSantis or another Republican candidate. But we have to realize that the future of America hangs in the balance. We are one election away from Barack Obama's vision for “fundamentally (and irreversibly) transforming America” – but certainly not for the better. The Democratic Party's goal is to turn this nation into a secular socialist state that violates virtually every social, political and moral principle upon which this nation was founded. And make no mistake about it: the Democratic agenda is not only radically neo-Marxist – just read their platform – but fundamentally anti-Christian.

As I wrote in my book, *American Crisis*:

For much of my early adult life I sought to be as nonpartisan as possible, realizing that neither party is ideal. But the Democratic Party of the past fifty years – since its lurch leftward in 1972 with the nomination of George McGovern – is not the Democratic Party of FDR or even JFK. The modern Democratic Party is simply the partisan political expression of a secular socialist ideology and the driving force behind virtually all the irrational, immoral, impractical, irresponsible and counter-productive policies and programs that are bankrupting America economically, socially, morally and spiritually. Christians who still identify with the Democratic Party are living in the distant past, totally out of touch with reality and seemingly incapable of connecting the dots.

The Republican Party may be (and often has been) the party of mediocrity, but the Democratic Party is indisputably the party of venality. Mediocrity is a concession to human limitations and fallibility. Venality is a purposeful surrender to the most base and evil impulses in human nature....

Politics is mostly about damage-control – i.e., electing people to public office who will do the least harm – and then holding them accountable....

When a society loses its spiritual and moral bearings, everything becomes dysfunctional. Unlike most contemporary politicians, the Founding Fathers understood that liberty without virtue will inevitably degenerate into chaos, which sets the stage for political tyranny. We haven't yet arrived at "1984", but those who are determined to "fundamentally transform America" understand that the secular socialist vision of a globalistic "Brave New World" is the surest path to "1984". And make no mistake: it is the Democrat Party that is driving the agenda. [Jefrey D. Breshears, *American Crisis: Cultural Marxism and the Culture War* (Centre•Pointe Publishing, 2020, pp. 281-82.)

The moral confusion and corruption in America today has wreaked havoc on our political culture, and over the past fifty years the culture has become increasingly politicized and all the more intense. The secular Left will not compromise, and while its proponents have been (literally) hell-bent on pushing their agenda, many Christians and church leaders avoid the conflict or even deny its existence....

As I recounted in Chapter 8, for much of my early adult life I strove to be scrupulously nonpartisan. Realizing that neither political party has a monopoly on common sense or virtue, I believed there were honorable and admirable leaders in both parties who were worthy of respect. Regrettably, that position has become *passé* as the parties now represent not only two opposing political ideologies but, in many ways, two contrasting worldviews. Ever since the late 1960s the Democratic Party has been pulled farther and farther toward the Left to the point that it advocates a massive cradle-to-grave socialist

welfare state; open borders and "sanctuary cities;" liberalized drug laws; the radical LGBTQ agenda; abortion-on-demand; increased government control over the economy, education and healthcare; and a naive globalistic foreign policy that often reflects the values and interests of the United Nations more than the American people....

In actuality, the main difference in the political parties is that the Republican Party has a base of social conservatives who care about traditional moral values while the Democratic Party functions as the political arm of a radical secular cultural agenda that is absolutely devastating the moral and civic climate in America. Furthermore, the Republican base includes millions of Christians who care passionately about religious liberty. Within the Democratic Party, virtually the only time religious liberty is a priority is when Muslim rights are an issue.... [Ibid, pp.331ff.]

This election – including the issue of election integrity – should be a priority for all of us who care about the kind of society and culture in which our children and grandchildren will live. Many of you have read my article in the most recent **Areopagus Update** newsletter, "**On Loving One's Neighbor as One's Self: The Political Component**" [see below]. We need to emphasize to all of our Christian friends and acquaintances – and especially to Christian leaders – what is at stake in this election. To fail to do so is the very antithesis of "loving others."

As one presidential candidate famously declared fifty years ago, "I would remind you that extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice;... and moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue!"

As Christians we need to stand boldly for what is True, what is Good, and what is Beautiful – regardless of the cost. To do otherwise is not only irresponsible and indefensible, but cowardly.

For more, please see "Loving One's Neighbor as One's Self: The Political Component," at <https://www.theareopagus.org/blog/the-areopagus-update-aug-sep-2024/>