

THE UNSHAKABLE KINGDOM #31

“The Choice Before Us”

I. Introduction

A. A Catholic Priest Speaks Out

Fr. Ed Meeks Video (3:20)

1. I thank God when the men of God speak up for God on political issues God cares about!

George Whitefield (1714-1770)

“I love those that thunder out the Word! The Christian world is in a deep sleep; nothing but a loud shout can awaken them out of it. It is high time for Thy ministers, O God, to lift up their voices like a trumpet.”

a. This how it used to be:

John Mitchell Mason (1770-1829)

About this time of year, 200 years ago, John Mitchell Mason, the Provost of Columbia College preached a message about this time of year entitled, “A Voice of Warning to Christians on the Ensuing Election of the President of the United States”.

2. In his book “The Role of Pastors & Christians in Civil Government”, David Barton gives us a history lesson...

David Barton

“In earlier generations, American ministers stood in the pulpit and called candidates by name, set forth their positions, compared them to the Bible, and then advised that the Christian should or should not vote for a candidate or party based on what the candidate said compared with what the Bible said.”

David Barton

“Today, this type of sermon might make many listeners uncomfortable, but it shouldn’t. Not only was this a traditional practice of American pulpits, it was also a traditional practice set forth in the scriptures.”

3. Today, I will run the risk of making people uncomfortable because I believe America, as we have known her, is in great danger of being overturned.

4. In this election, we have come to a crossroad, a life and death decision similar to the choice Moses set before the people back in the Book of Deuteronomy:

Deuteronomy 30:19

This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, so that you and your children may live.

5. Notice that “The Choice Before Us” is life or death; blessing or cursing; and that what we do will affect our children and their children.

II. The Choice Before Us

A. Analyzing the Choice: Republican or Democrat?

Rev. Mark Creech

“This is a time of great testing for our country. We are now at a tipping point, and the differences between the candidates and the two parties represented couldn’t be more precise.”

1. Testimony: Something has changed. The Democrat political party has moved so far left into socialism that the difference

2. In his excellent book, *Politics According to the Bible*, American theologian Wayne Grudem comments on the makeup of the 2 major political parties:

Wayne Grudem in “Politics According to the Bible”

“There is a significant difference in the religious beliefs of Republicans and Democrats taken as a whole. Conservative evangelicals, who tend to believe that the Bible is God’s Word in its entirety, have tended to align with Republican principles. So have others whose religious views lead them to believe in absolute moral right and wrong, such as Roman Catholics, Mormons, and more traditional Jews.”

Wayne Grudem

“But people who have no religious belief at all, or who do not believe that we can know what God has told us with regard to moral standards, tend to be moral relativists, and this aligns them much more closely with the Democratic Party and its emphasis on allowing people to choose abortion or choose homosexual marriage and so forth.”

3. We have to be careful here to note he is analyzing the religious beliefs of the 2 parties ‘taken as a whole’. He is not saying all Republicans are Christians or that no Democrats are Christians; he is saying that conservative evangelicals along with those who believe in absolute moral right and wrong generally tend to align with the Republican Party.

4. In other words, as we have been teaching you, it is impossible to separate religion and theology from politics!

Wayne Grudem

“The differences between Democrats and Republicans today have great significance. These differences are not accidental, but stem from differing convictions about several moral and theological issues. Of course, some insist our system of laws must somehow be religiously or morally neutral. The truth is such neutrality is completely impossible. No system of government operates in a vacuum.”

5. The polar opposite position of the 2 political parties today can be explained by their different views of God.

a. The late D. James Kennedy pastored Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, FL for 47 years until his death 3 years ago.; he explained it this way:

Rev. D. James Kennedy

Every nation in history, without exception, has been founded upon some theistic or anti-theistic foundation – whether you go back to the ancient pagan nations of Egypt, Babylonia, Syria or Rome, or consider the modern nations today of England, Italy, the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, China or any of the countries, including the U.S. All have been built upon some theistic or anti-theistic foundation.”

Dr. D. James Kennedy

“Out of this theistic or anti-theistic foundation there inevitably grows a set of ethics or morals. These grow out of the religious substratum or foundation; out of these sets of ethics or morals there grows or is enacted or codified, legislation. All legislation is simply the enactment of some ethical standard that grows out of some religious foundation.”

b. Laws that legalized abortion and same-sex marriage were the enactment of a new ethical standard that grew out of the religious ideas of humanism; where man is no longer subject to the law of God but has become a law unto himself.

Dr. D. James Kennedy

“When we understand this, which is so utterly fundamental to understanding the world in which we live, we see through some of the big lies we’ve heard so frequently in our time, such as, ‘You can’t legislate morality.’ How many times have we heard that, as if that were true as the fact that the sun rises in the morning?”

Dr. D. James Kennedy

“The truth of the matter is, my friends, you can’t legislate anything but morality. We pass laws because something is moral or immoral. We have laws against killing because it’s immoral to kill. We have laws against rape because it’s immoral to rape. We have laws against child abuse because it’s immoral to abuse children.”

6. Once we had laws that protected the unborn and traditional marriage; now we have laws legalizing abortion and same-sex marriage. What happened? The change of laws reflected a change in morality.

7. The choice before us is more than political; it is spiritual.

B. A Letter to the President

1. On June 6 of this year, the Washington Post published an ‘open letter’ written by Italian Archbishop Carlo Viganò to President Donald J. Trump.

You can read the whole letter here:

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/opinion/archbishop-viganos-powerful-letter-to-president-trump-eternal-struggle-between-good-and-evil-playing-out-right-now>

2. This priest pulls no punches in his description of our political problems as nothing less than spiritual warfare.

Archbishop Carlo Vigano

Mr. President,

In recent months we have been witnessing the formation of two opposing sides that I would call *Biblical*: the children of light and the children of darkness.

These two sides, which have a *Biblical* nature, follow the clear separation between the offspring of the Woman and the offspring of the Serpent.

Bishop Carlo Vigano

On the one hand there are those who, although they have a thousand defects and weaknesses, are motivated by the desire to do good, to be honest, to raise a family, to engage in work, to give prosperity to their homeland, to help the needy, and, in obedience to the Law of God, to merit the Kingdom of Heaven.

Bishop Carlo Vigano

“On the other hand, there are those who serve themselves, who do not hold any moral principles, who want to demolish the family and the nation, exploit workers to make themselves unduly wealthy, foment internal divisions and wars, and accumulate power and money: for them the fallacious illusion of temporal well-being will one day – if they do not repent – yield to the terrible fate that awaits them, far from God, in eternal damnation.”

Bishop Carlo Vigano

“In society, Mr. President, these two opposing realities co-exist as eternal enemies, just as God and Satan are eternal enemies.”

2. It is amazing that in an hour when many American pulpits are silent on the subject of politics, God would raise up an Italian Roman Catholic Archbishop to expose the spiritual warfare being waged in Washington; and the world takes notice when a man of God is not afraid to speak the truth to power.

Michelle Boorstein

The Washington Post

Archbishop Vigano has been a lightning rod in the Catholic Church since 2018, when he wrote a bombshell letter calling on Pope Francis to resign and listed a raft of top church officials he alleged had — along with Francis —

covered up clergy sexual misconduct...He named many names — including cardinals and bishops — “.

3. Vigano The corruption in the Catholic Church under this Pope, who is an advocate for Marxist causes, continued this week when he stunned the world with his endorsement of same sex marriage.

Pope Francis

“Homosexual people have the right to be in a family. They are children of God. What we have to have is a civil union law; that way they are legally covered.”

a. The world was watching...

USA TODAY/Joshua Bote 10/21/20

Pope Francis' stunning endorsement of same-sex civil unions is not wholly unexpected, though for many LGBTQ advocates, it is a welcome message to the world's 1.2 billion Roman Catholics.

USA TODAY

10/21/20

Catholics, as a whole, generally are among one of the more accepting sects of Christianity when it comes to same-sex unions. A Pew survey found that more than half of Catholics in the United States, along with Mainline Protestants and Orthodox Christians, support same-sex marriage.

b. One those pleased by the Pope's announcement was the Executive Director of 'New Ways Ministry', an LGBTQ movement within the Church:

Francis DeBernardo

Executive Director/New Ways Ministry, LGBTQ-centered Catholic ministry

"In the church, change happens step by step, and as Catholics around the world become more used to supporting lesbian and gay couples, they and their leaders will soon see that it makes no sense not to recognize and bless these relationships in church."

4. On the other side of the aisle, once again, was a Vigano, a man not afraid to rebuke his own Pope:

Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano

“As Catholics, we are called to side with those who defend life, the natural family, and national sovereignty. We thought that we had the Vicar of Christ at our side. We painfully acknowledge that, in this epochal clash, he...has chosen to side with the Enemy.”

5. We must fact the fact that many American ministers have failed to speak out against the attack on traditional marriage.

a. Our friend David Fowler is President of the Family Action Council of Tennessee; he wrote this in an email this week:

David Fowler

My heart breaks more and more every day, like that of Jeremiah, when I think of ministers, many unwittingly and some who are informed, carrying out and willing to carry out the state’s ‘policy’ on marriage that says men and women are interchangeable.

David Fowler

We, your people, Oh God, are allowing what you have called holy and undefiled to be profaned and the distinction between the two blurred by civil law. And, worse yet, the church is helping ‘teach’ people a new way of thinking about marriage and about male and female when we carry out this ungodly policy *for the state*.

b. Then he closes with an important point about how all laws passed are moral laws; that the laws we pass reveal our moral condition.

David Fowler

The law is always teaching, teaching, teaching...everyone who will never enter a church’s door...they are learning...they are seeing the church lend its imprimatur to this profane way of understanding marriage.

c. Here he is speaking of ministers who support same sex marriage the church that can’t tell the difference between the holy and the profane.

Ezekiel 44:23

"And they shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the unholy, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.

d. When we fail God in the pulpit we profane His name, as was the case in Israel in the days of the prophet Ezekiel...

Ezekiel 22:26-27

Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them.

6. Any church or minister that supports same sex marriage has profaned God among the people; and the same can be said to those who fail to safeguard the sanctity of life.

C. Safeguarding the Sanctity of Life

1. It is inconceivable to me that anyone who calls themselves a Christian could possibly vote for any politician who supports abortion.

2. The Bible clearly teaches us that human life begins at conception.

Psalms 139:13-16

For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.

My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.

Isaiah 44:2 NKJV

Thus says the Lord who made you and formed you from the womb, who will help you: 'Fear not, O Jacob My servant...

NCV

This is what the Lord says, who made you, who formed you in your mother's body...

Isaiah 44:24

Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, and He who formed you from the womb: "I am the Lord, who makes all things..."

Jeremiah 1:4-5

Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew you; and before you came out of the womb I sanctified you and I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

3. These words were written long before medical science confirmed that human life begins at conception.

BY THE TIME AN UNBORN CHILD IS...

**18 days; a baby's heart beats
42 days; brain waves detected
52 days; hiccups and yawns
8 weeks; all organs function
9 weeks; has fingerprints
10 weeks; can feel pain
12 weeks; can smile**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"Destruction of the embryo in the mother's womb is a violation of the right to live, which God has bestowed upon this nascent life...and that is nothing but murder."

'nascent'-just coming into existence and beginning to display signs of future potential

Mother Teresa

"Abortion kills twice. It kills the body of the baby and it kills the conscience of the mother. Abortion is profoundly anti-women. Three quarters of its victims are women: half the babies and all the mothers."

4. Abortion is murder. It cannot be justified just because it is legal.

Abraham Lincoln

"No law can give me the right to do that which is wrong."

5. Abortion is wrong whether legal or not. But for the first time since 1973, there is a good chance to overturn Roe v. Wade; one more vote on the court is all we need. Yet the polls tell us many Christians will vote for the party that would keep it in place.

III. Close

A. The Choice Before Us

1. I'd like to close with some quotes from Gary DeMar's book, "God and Government".

Gary DeMar, "God and Government"

"The battle today is over lordship. The issue of politics today is the issue of sovereignty. Who is the Lord of all of life to whom man must give his total allegiance, Christ or Caesar? The answer to this question is the difference between liberty and slavery, justice and tyranny. Is this to be a Christian nation or a humanistic nation?"

Gary DeMar

"The only faithful answer that a Bible-believing Christian can give is Psalm 33:12: 'Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord'. And Isaiah 33:2: 'For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; He will save us.' If Scripture speaks to civil government [and it does], then civil government must be called upon to acknowledge the Lord of Scripture and be reconstructed according to His demands."

Gary DeMar

"Generally speaking, one side in the race for power believes this, while the other side either denies it or feigns to possess faith. This is not an oversimplification of the matter but an irrefutable fact."

Gary DeMar

"The political choice in front of us is either Christ or chaos. Either our grand tower of freedom, which is severely listing, will stand or fall. The project to save our Republic will largely depend on whether American Christians vote and vote biblically."

2. It is time to cast out the spirit of 'political correctness' and love people enough to tell them truth before it is too late.

William Wilberforce

"If you love someone who is ruining their life because of faulty thinking, and you don't do anything about it because you are afraid of what others might

think, it would seem that rather than being loving, you are in fact being heartless.”

3. The choice before us has never been clearer; but whichever way it goes, the words of Thomas Jefferson hold true:

Thomas Jefferson

“The government you elect is the government you deserve.”

4. Let me close with where we began:

Deuteronomy 30:19

I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live...

And then He tells us how to do it!

Deuteronomy 30:20

You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life. And if you love and obey the Lord, you will live long in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

Closing Prayer

Ephesians 6:10-20

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of

God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints —

Ephesians 6:19-20

And pray for me, and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Amen!