

8-1-2015

Christian Resistance & Disobedience today

The Honor of Christ Demanded of the Magistrate:

"Surely no one can doubt whether the foundation of civil government is laid in Divine institution...": With those bold words, this election day discourse demonstrated the Christian background of Early (Colonial) America. The discourse was publicly delivered in front of Governor Jonathan Belcher and the two branches of the Massachusetts legislature (the Council and House of Representatives) on May 28, 1740--the day for the election of the Massachusetts councilors. The discourse, delivered near the end of Governor Belcher's governorship of Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire, was written by William Cooper (1694-1743), who was the associate pastor of the Brattle Street Church

"TRUE indeed, the care of souls is not committed to the civil magistrate, nor may he extend his power to *force* article of faith or modes of worship on the consciences of men---for conscience is exempt from every jurisdiction but Christ's. Yet we must not run into the other extreme and say that the magistrate has *nothing to do* in matters of religion."

"As they [civil rulers] rule *by* Christ, so they are obliged to rule *for* Him, and therefore to protect and encourage the practice of His holy religion..."

"THEY [civil rulers] should openly profess the religion of Christ, publicly espouse His cause, and zealously promote it as far as ever their authority and influence will reach, and should strenuously set themselves against everything that is opposite to His interest..."

"We have been saying, GOD has in kindness to men appointed that they should be governed by men; yet, He has been too good and kind to leave them to be governed by men according to their arbitrary will and pleasure. The end of government is the public peace and safety; when therefore this is neglected, and the ordinance of government only made an engine of tyranny and oppression; when the Constitution is subverted, the liberties and properties of the people invaded, their religion and laws made a sacrifice to the superstition, ambition, or covetousness of the prince that is over them;...every man is under higher and earlier engagements to the community in general than he is to the supreme magistrate [ruler]."

"They [rulers] must not...persecute His [Christ's] saints, silence His ministers, hinder the free exercise of His holy religion, or do anything that may obstruct the work of the Gospel..."

"And though GOD has not prescribed any one form of government in Scripture, yet He has therein given general rules to be observed by all that are in government. The civil magistrate's commission is thus limited by the great Monarch of the world: 'He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God' (2 Samuel 23:3)."

"And that they [rulers] may not be unmindful of the duties of their station, He has appointed another order of men to be their faithful and humble monitors: I mean, the ministers of religion. For ministers are as truly the magistrates' teachers, as magistrates are their governors. And as we must put our people 'in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates' (Titus 3:1), so we must put magistrates in mind to be subject to the Lord Jesus Christ and use their power in a subserviency to the interests of His kingdom."

"CHRISTIAN magistrates [rulers] must employ their power for the advancement of Christ's kingdom."

Whitefield said about the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg: "I rejoiced in seeing such a place in America. It may be of excellent use, if learning Christ be made one end of their studies, and arts and sciences only introduced and pursued as subservient to that. For want of this, most of our English schools and Universities have sunk into mere seminaries of paganism. Young men's heads are stuffed with heathen mythology, and Christ or Christianity is scarcely so much as named amongst them; so that when they come to be converted, they are obliged to undo what they have been doing for many years. Revive, O Lord, a primitive [early Christian] spirit, and then we may hope for some primitive schools to be erected and encouraged amongst us."

1. GRENADA, Miss. -- In a letter to the board of supervisors, Grenada County Circuit Clerk Linda Barnette announced her resignation on Tuesday, citing the Supreme Court's decision [to legalize same-sex marriage](#).

Barnette has been the circuit clerk for 24 years, and announced that her resignation is effective immediately.

"The Supreme Court's decision violates my core values as a Christian," she wrote. "My final authority is the Bible. I cannot in all good conscience issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples under my name because the Bible clearly teaches that homosexuality is contrary to God's plan and purpose for marriage and family."

2. Simpson County Circuit Clerk's office

3. In Jones County, Circuit Clerk Bart Gavin said same-sex marriage licenses were not being issued on Tuesday. He said he and a group of "concerned circuit clerks" will be in Jackson on Wednesday to meet with the Attorney General for clarification on some of the issues facing the circuit clerks' offices.

4. [Texas sued](#) the United States and the Department of Labor on March 18, challenging the Labor Department's definition of spouse under the Family and Medical Leave Act, to include same-sex unions from out-of-state.

Paxton said O'Connor "rightfully stopped this unconstitutional" rule from taking effect, saying that Texas will "continue to defend our sovereignty in this case" to stop the Obama administration's "effort to override our laws via federal rulemaking."

"No federal agency has the power to rewrite the laws of Congress, and the Department of Labor's regulatory attempt to redefine marriage in Texas infringes upon our state sovereignty and violates the U.S. Constitution," Paxton said in a statement Friday.

"Furthermore, it would essentially strong-arm employers to choose to either violate federal regulations or state law."

5. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton [issued a statement Sunday](#) saying state workers can refuse to issue same-sex marriage licenses if doing so is contrary to his or her religious beliefs. "(Judges and other state workers) may claim that the government cannot force them to conduct same-sex wedding ceremonies over their religious objections," [Paxton said in the statement](#).

6. In Louisiana, Attorney General James "Buddy" Caldwell said in a statement that the Supreme Court's decision had nothing requiring it to be effective immediately.

"There is a delay. It's usually around 20 to 25 days," said Louise Bond, Ouachita Parish clerk of court. "We've been told not to issue anything until we hear back from our counsel on that."