

Kacer's Korner

“How Do You Identify Yourself?”

When we identify ourselves to someone else, the label we use connotes some characteristic, position or some other feature that helps to associate or distinguish us from others. When I say I'm a husband, a father, an engineer, an elder, a numismatist, an activist – each communicates to the hearer a point of reference for either common ground or conflict. In some circles, what I consider a good label (conservative) is viewed as an epithet by others. No label is totally accurate, and sometimes it can confuse more than clarify depending on one's background. With these caveats, I'm going to tell you how I've described myself for years. Using three words, I'll summarize myself and my approach to applying a Biblical worldview to politics.

First and foremost, I'm a ***Christian***. My relationship to Jesus Christ is the foundation for my earthly and eternal life. God's word, the Bible, is the only infallible word to govern my faith, thought and actions. Because God knows all things and is sovereign in all things, I can trust that He has provided sufficient truth to undergird everything I'm concerned about. This foundation, or interface, between me and the world is called a Biblical worldview. God has provided the perfect lens through which I'm to look at everything. Is it always easy – of course not. My own failings (sin) and limited understanding can get in the way. Given those difficulties, I strive to do everything for the glory of God, whether its caring for my family, voting, or whatever it may be (1 Cor 10:31).

Next, I'm a ***Conservative***. Taking a Biblical worldview and applying it to the world in a manner consistent with God's order for things, and that results in the best for all, is invigorating, rewarding, and challenging. Conservative ideas and principles work. They always have, and always will when they're applied with wisdom, mercy and judged in the light of God's truths. Take government for example. One that is restrained and just, pursues defense with restraint, exercises and encourages fiscal responsibility, protects life, encourages sexual purity, marriage faithfulness, parental responsibility and not licentiousness and perversion, are all demonstrably best when pursued consistent with Biblical standards and principles.

Finally, I lean ***Republican***. Politics is a tool, a tactic, and nothing more. It's a means to accomplish and implement conservative principles for the good of my family, the community and the nation. Political involvement is ignored at our own peril – since many don't share my Biblical values and are very willing to legally impose their “values” on me. Are there more conservative political parties – Yes. Are there major parties with a greater opportunity to implement conservative, Biblically undergirded values – No. Am I pleased with the Republican Party; do I place it on a pedestal; do I stand by it right or wrong; do I believe it has stayed true to its core social, moral, fiscal and limited government principles – No! At

this point, however, the party in power (in California and the federal government) officially supports so much that's vile compared to clear Biblical teaching that the best course for me is to help reform the Republican Party and return it to its core values.

The above order is important. When politics becomes the consuming fire in our lives, we'll end up compromising on values sooner or later. Without a solid Biblical worldview to undergird our lives, we'll fall prey to expediency; an end justifies the means mentality; and ultimately lose sight of whom we're to please. If you claim the name of Christ, be sure your entire life reflects that commitment. If you've cherry-picked which parts of God's truths and principles you accept – repent and reconstruct your values on His eternal truths concerning all of life. And finally, if you've placed politics as the prime motivator of your life, instead of just a tool for righteousness, reassess where your heart is. Your priorities need to be reversed. My identity is never to be centered in a political party, or a man – except the God-man Jesus Christ.

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