

Email to Reverend Parson's of the Paid Political Advertisement that was sent to the Richmond Free Press

On Tue, Oct 30, 2012 at 3:51 PM, Senator Donald McEachin <district09@senate.virginia.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Reverend Parson,

Please see below a letter in response to your stance on the upcoming Presidential election. A copy of this letter has also been sent to the Richmond Free Press.

Sincerely,

Jediah Jones
Legislative Assistant
9th Senatorial District
[804.698.7509](tel:804.698.7509) (office)

Dear Reverend Parson,

I greet you in the perfect, powerful and precious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. I read with great interest a recent article in the Richmond Free Press that highlighted your current political activities. You are quoted as saying that you are pro-life, and anti-same sex marriage. You urge people "Don't vote party or race, vote Bible." You go on to suggest that the Democratic Party is antithetical to what Christians believe. Given your comments, I would pose a few questions for your consideration.

The first question I would pose to you is how many verses in the Bible mention or discuss abortion? The answer, of course, is that nowhere in the Bible is abortion mentioned. I do not mean to suggest that God does not have an opinion on that issue. However, I do suggest that since it does not appear anywhere in our Holy Writ, perhaps that is an issue that he wants to deal privately with his daughters and sons as he draws them closer to him. Consequently, it seems to me that neither you nor I and certainly not the state has any business telling a woman how to approach the issue of abortion.

My second question, is how many times are gay relationships mentioned in the Bible? The answer of course is perhaps as many as three times. Perhaps the most well known of these verses come from Leviticus 18:20 and Leviticus 22:13. The problem for Christians who focus on these two verses, is that they tend to ignore the other verses. For example, I doubt that you are in favor of putting to death adulterers or children who curse their parents. Yet, death is the Leviticus punishment for such behavior. Moreover, Leviticus prohibits wearing garments made of different materials and the harvesting of fruit trees in under five years. Round haircuts and tattoos are forbidden. Simply, put

Rev. Parson, where does one draw the line? How do you come to the conclusion to stress portions of Leviticus and not other portions of that same text?

My next question is: how many verses in the Bible talk about poverty? Both Bob Edgar, the author of *Middle Church*, and Linda Seger, the author of *Jesus Rode A Donkey*, agree that the answer is over 2,000. At least 500 of those direct government behavior towards those less fortunate. I believe the primary concern of both the Hebrew Prophets and the Christ was how we as a society treated those who live in the margins. It is also worth noting that the poor in the time of the Prophets and the Christ were the working poor, people who were trying to eke out an existence on the hot plains of Judea and Israel.

With this in mind, the overwhelming number of Biblical verses and exhortations to help the poor, I would hope you would acknowledge that the Democratic Party is concerned with the working poor. The Democratic Party has fought for government to help those who try, but struggle.

The party has demonstrated this concern by the establishment of Obamacare, by its concern for the minimum wage, its protection of Medicare and other safety net programs. On the other hand, what we have seen from the other party is an all out attack on these safety net programs. The budget proposed by Paul Ryan, the Republican Vice Presidential candidate, has been heavily criticized by any number of Christian and other faith based groups.

I would hope that you would concede that no candidate or political party has a corner on God. Finally, Rev. Parson are you really asking people to elevate 3 verses from the Bible over 2,000? To my mind the great weight of authority as articulated in the Bible suggests that we ought to be concerned about the well being of those who live in the margins.

Yours In Christ,

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