

This open letter was submitted to a Presbyterian Church in America congregation for their October 29, 2006 newsletter.

My Dear Friends,

At the request of those who advocate **Voting by Christians**, I have been asked to write an open letter to you, and I am pleased to do so. At your church, charity and good will are in abundance. I thank God for your fruitful ministry. Week by week my family have been refreshed as we drank from the well that never runs dry.

The subject of voting is again before us. I am a simple Christian who wishes to defeat Amendment 2 that has been placed on the ballot for Tuesday, November 7th.

I am sincerely hoping that you will not be fooled by what is being attempted at this time. Certain very bold and well-heeled strategists, who did not learn their craft from the apostles and prophets, are hoodwinking voters. Ironically, they have attempted this in the "show-me" state of all places. It seems unimaginable. Do I need to tell you that whatever relies on dishonesty must be fundamentally flawed? When asked what He taught, Jesus replied by saying that He had always taught openly. From the outset of His ministry, our Savior taught the apostles that if they were to follow Him they would have to be absolutely transparent. Nathaniel received very high marks simply because he was truly an Israelite, one in whom "there was no guile." [John 1:47b] Of course not everyone understands this or appreciates it. There are people who will not heed the apostle Peter who said that our conversation should be honest. [1 Peter 2:12] This is why any number of Missourians will be voting to approve the cloning of human beings who will be thinking all the while that they are voting against it. Therefore I must venture beyond candor. Now I must be bold: the judges and officials who approved the wording of this amendment should be prosecuted; or if that is not possible they should be exposed publicly. Columnist Robert Novak [10/16/2006] said on radio that "this amendment is a scam."

VOTING IS A GOOD THING

My view about voting reflect the way Reformed Christians have approached this subject. I take comfort in the fact that G&P is a fellowship of believers who joyfully acknowledge that the Reformed faith is the faith of the New Testament.

The voting booth for some Americans is like the "holy of holies." Christians think differently. At the same time the voting booth is a place that Christians will want to frequent. There in that tiny little space, made sacred by the blood of American heroes, Christians can make their voice heard. A Christian who votes becomes a Cicero or a Demosthenes. The declaration that the nation does not have to belong to secular humanists rings out loudly and clearly when Christians vote.

REFORMED CHRISTIANS HAVE ALWAYS TRIED TO RENEW SOCIETY

How have Reformed Christians conducted themselves when it comes to the all important subject of social responsibility? If we consult authorities such as Merle D'Aubigne, the noted French historian [1794-1872], we will discover that Reformed Christians have always exercised a salutary effect on their neighbors. I have the minutes of a conference in which he spoke where he boasted of this. He was certain that Reformed Christians have not allowed the unregenerate to hold sway over the social order. Yes, we cannot redeem the fabric of society. And yes, the world and the church cannot be melded into one. At the same time Reformed Protestants,

because they believe God is a sovereign God, do not have to sit idly by at this time while America follows Europe into what has been called “progressive secularism.”

The favorites of Europe - Nietzsche, Camus and Sartre, are not our heroes. These men, and a few like them, have turned Europe into a Dark Continent. We are not like the Europeans because we are the sons of the Puritans. This is America. Our heroes are John Calvin, Bishop John Hooper, Jonathan Edwards, Samuel Davies and others of their stripe. These worthies knew that there is no such thing as an ideological vacuum. Everyone has a philosophy of life. They appreciated the fact if the Christian way of looking at ethics does not prevail, then what is not Christian must take its place. It will be the wisdom of the world, and it will have on it the taint of hedonism. That same kind of thinking in just the last generation has sent us reeling. What once would have been unthinkable is now a part of our way of life. We can now pay to kill our own children with a charge card. Worse yet if the amendment in question passes we will be able to clone a baby; not in order to embrace her or hear his cries, but just so that we may kill “it” off in order to harvest its parts. Oh dear brothers and sisters, this is really true.

REFORMED CHRISTIANS DO NOT WITHDRAW FROM SOCIETY

Reformed Christianity which is firmly rooted in history has from the very outset rejected the Anabaptist way of life. For one thing the Anabaptists were not clear about the doctrine of grace, a central doctrine within the Reformed community. Except for the Italian Waldensians, converted to the Reformed faith by the bravest of French missionaries, Anabaptists clung to the notion that salvation results when believers work out their salvation within a closed and separated brotherhood. But separated from what? The answer to that question goes to the heart of Anabaptist thought as it applies to voting.

Anabaptists have taught the whole world that Christians are too pure to have anything to do with the social order, especially when it comes to politics. This is their questionable legacy. I need to mention this because Missouri voters are close to passing a law that will permit human cloning, and that if they do, it will be because Christians did not vote. What requires only a simple majority for it to pass will be permanently chiseled into the Missouri Constitution if Christians stay home on voting day. Since this has been rightly called “clone and kill” amendment, no Christian should have the temerity to say I will pray about this matter; that is I will pray about whether I should vote. If you say that to me I will become confused because on Nov. 7 we are not voting about zoning or taxes. This vote has to do with matters pertaining to life and death - life for children and the death of civilization as we know it. I know that if the real Christians, the ones that have embraced Jesus, turn out on Election Day they will be able by themselves to defeat an amendment that was conceived in the bowels of the Trojan horse.

I have always believed that people do not vote because they are living high on a mountain top far away from sinners and what the Anabaptists referred to as “The Daughter of Babylon,” i.e., government. The Anabaptists must have been confused; however if they realized that after he soundly converted Sergius Paulus, the governor of Cyprus, **Paul never asked him to leave politics**. Instead, and from that moment on as Augustine shows, Paul took for his very own use his name. Saul became Paul. [Acts 13:9-13] I am sure that Paul took his name because his conversion signaled the day when “The kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ.” [Rev. 11:15] Until that time comes we must vote our Christian conscience.

VOTING CHRISTIANS FRIGHTEN SECULAR PROGRESSIVES

The secular community has made a discovery not to their liking. What has alarmed these elites who for fifty years or more have had the final say in just about everything is that large numbers of Evangelicals are beginning to act as if they are Reformed. Evangelicals now know that the founding fathers for the most part were not knaves, but a number of them were naive. They thought that reason without the guidance of faith could be relied on in a secular democracy. They had learned this principally from John Locke [1632-1704]. Was he right? Brothers and sisters, look around you, is this Eden, Arcadia or even Camelot? We do not need as Lincoln said, “a new birth of freedom.” This is not a civil war; it is a war about civilization. We presently have all the freedoms we need. A new birth of **faith** is needed.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

A lot depends on this election. Missouri is about to turn a corner and if it does, it may never find its way home again. Stem cell harvesting and cloning are only the tip of the iceberg. Who knows what evil genius can create because sin has unmitigated boldness. Oh, God help us!

I conclude my letter to you by quoting T. DeWitt Talmage [1812-1900], America's premier preacher and orator. His words are timeless.

"It is absurd to expect that men who have been immersed in political wickedness for thirty or forty years shall come to reformation; and our hope is in the young men who are coming up, that they have patriotic principle and religious principle side by side when they come to the ballot box and cast their vote, and that they swear their allegiance to the government of heaven as well as to the government of the United States. We would have Bunker Hill mean less to them than Calvary, and Lexington mean less to them than Bethlehem. But because there are bad men around the ballot box is no reason why Christian men should retreat from the arena. The last time you should give up your child or forsake your child is when it is surrounded by Choctaw [Indians]; and the last time to surrender the ballot box is when it is surrounded by impurity and dishonesty and all sorts of wickedness."

Is there hope for our cause? There is. But you say that we are outnumbered. Remember what one Puritan said, “One Almighty is better than all the mighties.”

With much affection in the Lord now and always,
Rev. Stephen Apostolos Cakouros