



THE INFORMER

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WHY A NATION IN TURMOIL MUST CHOOSE CIVILITY

Continue to pray that there will be peaceful resolve to very serious problems in the U.S. Read what Kay Coles James, President of the Heritage Foundation, has to say about the climate of debate in the U.S.

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.
Eph 4:31-32

"In 1961, I participated in what a Richmond, Va., newspaper called "one of the most ambitious experiments in race-mixing the South had seen." With the nation in turmoil, 25 other black students and I helped integrate an all-white junior high school.

Outside the school, we faced angry crowds determined to prevent us from getting a quality education in peace. Inside, we were constantly afraid of being confronted by the white toughs who took special joy in threatening us black kids. We were just 12 years old at the time, and we felt outnumbered, intimidated and overwhelmed.

I'll never forget the day one of them made good on his threats. I was descending a large stairway when he pushed me from behind hard. I fell down the stone stairs, landing at the bottom with my shins and back badly bruised. Not done, the bully kicked my books all over the hall as his friends heckled and laughed at me.

And that's when an amazing thing happened.

One of the white girls in the crowd stepped forward and began helping me gather my books. She continued even as her friends turned on her and called her horrible names. Unfazed, she walked me down the hall to the nurse's office. She didn't say much, but she said enough to make it clear the boy who pushed me didn't speak or act for her and many others like her.

I've thought of that girl a lot this summer. Because her courage and kindness are so at odds with what's happened to Kirstjen Nielsen, Mitch McConnell and Brett Kavanaugh.

Nielsen is the secretary of Homeland Security. As such, she has been directly involved in one of the hottest issues of the day: illegal immigration. On June 20, she was quietly eating dinner at a D.C. restaurant when members of the Democratic Socialists of America approached her table and started chanting and heckling her. "Fascist pig!" one called her. "You're a villain!" another yelled. And then they ran her out of the restaurant.

Senate Majority Leader McConnell, R-Ky., found himself in a similar situation on several occasions. In addition to the name-calling and insults, he received an ominous threat: "We know where you live!" one protester bellowed.

Sadly, this behavior is being encouraged by some of our leaders. For example, Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., told agitators, "If you see anybody from that Cabinet in a restaurant, in a department store, at a gasoline station, you get out and you create a crowd and you push back on them, and you tell them they're not welcome anymore, anywhere."

Now, being able to learn in peace and being able to eat or shop in peace are obviously different things. But there are unsettling similarities, too.

Angry crowds that heckle and threaten are not trying to change hearts and win minds they're trying to impose their will through intimidation. Worse, they can easily become violent....

And these are just a few of the many uncivil things said about this very civil jurist.

My friend Donna Brazile once said, "A government of, by, and for the people requires that people talk to people, that we can agree to disagree but do so in civility." Donna and I disagree about many approaches to public policy. But we strongly agree about being able to do so in a calm, respectful and civil manner.

With the nation once again in turmoil, more Americans in public and in private life alike need to choose civility. Instead of ugly rancor, we should show respect. Instead of closed minds, we should have open hearts. And when called on to do so, we need to demonstrate our own quiet courage.

It worked in a Richmond stairway. Isn't it time we try it as a nation?" (Excerpts from Kay Coles James article on the [Heritage Foundation](#) web site.)

LABOR DEPARTMENT PROTECTS RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Offer thanks to the Lord for bringing this new policy forward for all citizens! The protection of religious freedom is vital to maintaining a healthy republic. Pray into some of the religious freedom advances of this Trump Administration--download our Special Report Prayer Guide [HERE](#).

In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. (Eph 3:12)

The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) announced a new policy directive on Friday which focused on protecting religious freedom. The directive instructs OFCCP staff – in all their activities – to take into account recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions and White House executive orders that protect religious freedom.

The Supreme Court issued rulings in 2014, 2017 and 2018 that safeguard the broad freedoms and anti-discrimination protections that must be afforded religion-exercising organizations and individuals under the U.S. Constitution and federal law. The [directive](#) refers to cases such as Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc., Trinity Lutheran Church v. Pauley and Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission, all in which Liberty Counsel filed amicus briefs at the High Court.

Additionally, President Donald J. Trump has issued executive orders reinforcing the administration's commitment to robust protections for religious freedom, as well as ensuring a level playing field for faith-based organizations to compete for federal grants, contracts, programs and other funding opportunities.

"I commend the Trump administration and the Department of Labor for taking a strong stand in this new policy directive to protect the religious freedom of individuals and organizations under federal law and the U.S. Constitution," said Mat Staver, Founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel. "People of faith should not have to set aside their sincerely held religious beliefs to appease others."

Liberty Counsel is an international nonprofit, litigation, education, and policy organization dedicated to advancing religious freedom, the sanctity of life, and the family since 1989, by providing pro bono assistance and representation on these and related topics. (News release from the [Liberty Counsel](#))

AN 11-YEAR-OLD CHANGED ELECTION RESULTS ON A REPLICA FLORIDA STATE WEBSITE

Pray that there will be a greater increase in our voting machine security and voter registration processes throughout the U.S. IFA has amazing new resources to help you specifically pray for your precinct. [CLICK HERE](#) to discover the free tools.

For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord, but also in the eyes of man. (2 Cor 8:21)

An 11-year-old boy was able to hack into a replica of the Florida state election website and change voting results found there in under 10 minutes during the world's largest yearly hacking convention, DEFCON 26, organizers of the event said.

Thousands of adult hackers attend the convention annually, while this year a group of children attempted to hack 13 imitation websites linked to voting in presidential battleground states.

The boy, who was identified by DEFCON officials as Emmett Brewer, accessed a replica of the Florida secretary of state's website. He was one of about 50 children between the ages of 8 and 16 who were taking part in the so-called "DEFCON Voting Machine Hacking Village," a portion of which allowed kids the chance to manipulate party names, candidate names and vote count totals.

Here's the DefCon Voting Machine Hacking Village roundup of discoveries for the day! Day 1 / Part 1 pic.twitter.com/ovQs7uX7jK — DEFCON VotingVillage (@VotingVillageDC) August 11, 2018

Nico Sell, the co-founder of the the non-profit r00tz Asylum, which teaches children how to become hackers and helped organize the event, said an 11-year-old girl also managed to make changes to the same Florida replica website in about 15 minutes, tripling the number of votes found there.

Sell said more than 30 children hacked a variety of other similar state replica websites in under a half hour.

"These are very accurate replicas of all of the sites," Sell told the PBS NewsHour on Sunday. "These things should not be easy enough for an 8-year-old kid to hack within 30 minutes, it's negligent for us as a society."

Sell said the idea for the event began last year, after adult hackers were able to access similar voting sites in less than five minutes.

"So this year we decided to bring the voting village to the kids as well," she said.

About 50 children participated in the DEFCON hacking event for children on Friday and Saturday. More than 30 of them were able to hack into replicas of secretaries of states, where vote tallies are posted....

"To me that statement says that the secretaries of states are not taking this seriously. Although it's not the real voting results it's the results that get released to the public. And that could cause complete chaos," she said. "The site may be a replica but the vulnerabilities that these kids were exploiting were not replicas, they're the real thing."

"I think the general public does not understand how large a threat this is, and how serious a situation that we're in right now with our democracy," she said.

Matt Blaze, a professor of computer and information science at the University of Pennsylvania who helped organize the "hacking village," said that thousands of adults including voting security experts also tried to access voting machines and other voting software currently being used in U.S. elections today to become "more knowledgeable about voter technology."... (Excerpts from Michael D. Regan article - Michael D. Regan is an Associate Multimedia Producer for [PBS NewsHour Weekend](#).)

THE CASE FOR ACTIVELY PRESERVING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Pray that the eyes of Americans, especially Millenials and Gen Z, are opened to the dangers of socialism/communism.

Having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, (Eph 1:18)

Many Christians believe that socialism/communism is no problem to the Christian faith. Many support the current atmosphere of democratic socialism, progressivism, and liberal thought, believing it is in alignment with the principles of Christ. They cite Christ's nonviolence, the Apostle Paul's take on submitting to government, and Acts 2:44, "And all that believed were together and had (shared) all things in common," as Biblical justification. This is foolishness. Communism and its derivatives are anything but nonviolent. Submitting to evil is not what Paul meant. Early Christians lovingly had all things in common—they were not forced to do so by a government. The very nature of communism is against God.

A story by AP's Yanan Wang in China underscores the communist/socialist threat to Christianity. Wang writes: "Under President Xi Jinping, China's most powerful leader since Mao Zedong, believers are

seeing their freedoms shrink dramatically even as the country undergoes a religious revival. Experts and activists say that as he consolidates his power, Xi is waging the most severe systematic suppression of Christianity in the country since religious freedom was written into the Chinese constitution in 1982. The crackdown on Christianity is part of a broader push by Xi to “Sinicize” all the nation’s religions by infusing them with “Chinese characteristics” such as loyalty to the Communist Party.”

Wang reports, “This spring, a five-year plan to “Sinicize” Christianity in particular was introduced, along with new rules on religious affairs. Over the last several months, local governments across the country have shut down hundreds of private Christian “house churches.” A statement last week from 47 in Beijing alone said they had faced “unprecedented” harassment since February.” Now, let’s look at what is happening in America under the influence of socialist politicians and communistic advocacy groups. While it is not nearly as severe as in China, Christianity in the United States is under fire. Christians adhering to scriptural principles and faith values are considered extremists, bigots, homophobes and more.

Christians are ridiculed by the left. Moreover, Christians are hated and demonized by leftists. You see, the Communist Manifesto states: “...Communism abolishes eternal truths, it abolishes all religion, and all morality, instead of constituting them on a new basis; it therefore acts in contradiction to all past historical experience.” What can be more clear? When we look at what is occurring here in America, the visceral by the socialist left against anything suggesting a moral code, is there any doubt that electing more leftist will result in a continuation toward soft tyranny, and outright persecution of Christians? We have a say in this because we have a vote. Those in China do not because communism disenfranchises them. We need to pray for the persecuted church AND take action that our country preserves and defends religious freedom. (Bill Wilson - [The Daily Jot](#))