

A Shock to the System

Dan Nelson

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Sometimes as a last effort to get a patient's failing heart jump started again, doctors use "the paddles" — a surging blast of electricity forcing energy back into the cardio-system in hopes of re-igniting the body's own mechanisms to then help itself. It's an amazing thing.

In many ways it seems that a large part of our culture received quite a shock this week. I would dare say a potentially lifesaving shock. With the country divided on so many crucial issues and the decision looming over the American public of who would become our next president, emotions were high among many that want to be a part of making a difference in people lives.

People on all sides of the political spectrum, it seems, have ideas on how to make this country better and the willingness to put their talk into action. I respect that. I personally appreciate someone who actually lives what they say they believe more than someone who agrees with me in discussion but doesn't actually live that way. I think that is what Jesus meant when he said, "If you love me, keep My commandments. Why do you say to Me 'Lord, Lord ...' and do not do the things which I command?" People having the freedoms and willingness to live up to their convictions is part of what makes this country great.

One of the things, however, that has occupied a lot of media space and talking points on headline commentary television and radio shows is a commonly held misbelieve that most Americans have thrown God out already. That the overwhelming majority in America are part of this "enlightened way of thinking" that holds to much looser values, muddied definitions of right and wrong, wandering ideals, and wavering opinions of truth. That God is what you make it, that life is how we define it, that nothing is clear and nobody should try to say it is because doing so interferes with my freedom to live freely. That tolerance is the highest ideal, far above right and wrong. And that anyone who still believes the Bible is dangerous, part of the rightwing radical nutty bumpkins that need to be quieted or expelled so the rest of society can get on with progress. It's true. Anyone who says I am exaggerating here or misrepresenting common rhetoric is either dishonest or not tuned in with the mainstream broadcast media these days.

Case in point, according to Fox, CNN, NBC, etc., "everybody" assumed that if more voters would show up to express the views of the American people, it would finally be plain how America really feels about these critical issues and the people who back them. Well, the voters did turn out at the highest level in history and America has spoken. The shock, and I do mean shock, to many people is what the American citizens have said they believe concerning some of the most base issues of morality, life, marriage, and a clear definition of right and wrong. In other words, more people in America still hold to the values taught in the Bible than these liberal news commentators ever

thought possible.

As I watch the confused aftermath on national news channels, it is fascinating to see the responses. Of course, some will never admit error no matter what the facts are. That is always going to be true, even in the church, unfortunately. Others however, seem to genuinely want to uncover what happened. They were so caught off guard with the unexpected; it is difficult for some to understand that there are so many people who do not hold to their loose standard of morality. For some, it seems as though they feel deceived. They have been told so many times that this was the informed, educated and commonly held belief among the people today and the minority of Christians were a roadblock toward progress. Now some people are being forced to look again at everything they hold dear, especially since their values are based on the consensus of the people, and the majority says; we still believe in God, Jesus and the core teachings of the Bible.

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