

God and Government #5

Resisting Intimidation

“Prominent intellectuals and their equally prominent fellow travelers in the media teach that every value and culture are equally valid, that there is nothing exceptional about the American Experiment, that the right to life and the sanctity of marriage are just “social constructs” we are free to “deconstruct” and abandon, that the idea of God might be a helpful coping device for some but has no place in the public life, that free enterprise causes poverty and destroys the environment, and that the solution to these and virtually every other problem you can think of is an ever more powerful state.” (James Robison and Jay Richards, *Indivisible*, 2012)

Ad hominem: to the man; a form of argument that rests on prejudice rather than on proof, designed to influence feelings rather than intellect.

As we interact with those in our culture we often encounter the *ad hominem* attack. It takes many forms (some of which we will consider) but all of them have one thing in common: they are designed to intimidate rather than actually present an argument. As believers we need to learn to recognize these approaches and respond in a truly Christian manner. Let’s consider some *ad hominem* attacks...

I. You Are Homophobic!

- A. To state that you favor traditional marriage will cause some to call you homophobic. As believers, we consider homosexuals to be sinners like the rest of us and therefore candidates for God’s mercy.
- B. Yet we distinguish between the individual homosexual and the political agenda of the homosexual movement.
- C. Being pro marriage doesn’t any more mean you hate gays than being pro baseball means you hate basketball.
- D. From a Biblical view we believe God created marriage for a man and woman and that the family is a God-ordained institution. A child’s healthy development requires the input of a man and woman which each contribute their unique aspect of the divine image in the child’s development.
- E. Opening the door to gay marriage will open the door to redefining marriage to suit any desired grouping. Some Muslims would like to have multiple wives. Some would want to legalize group marriage. Some will say they should be able to marry their cousin or brother or sister.
- F. Marriage is the foundation of an enduring society as God intended.
- G. “And we could soon reach the day when defending conjugal marriage between a man and a woman will be denounced as bigotry and hatred, and compared with the truly unjust treatment of minorities.” James Robison and Jay Richards, *Indivisible*, Feb. 2012.

II. You Are Islamophobic!

- A. We love the individual Moslem and desire their salvation. We should have compassion on them as they are in the grip of a legalistic religion.
- B. But Islam is more than a religion, it is a worldview and an ideology. It encompasses all areas of life: religious, family, political, judicial, financial and educational. When Islam dominates, the whole culture comes under its domination.
- C. The political agenda of Islamist is dangerous and Sharia law should be resisted in the USA with clarity of thought and vigilance.

III. You Are Xenophobic!

- A. **xen·o·pho·bic** - unreasonably fearful of or hating anyone or anything foreign or strange.
- B. We are accused of fearing Hispanics, Muslims, any foreigners who come to this country. Most Americans are concerned with the violation of the law and then being accused of racism for not embracing those who come to the country illegally.
- C. Multiculturalism suggests that all cultures are equal and that the American Culture is no better than others. The American culture has provided more personal freedom and financial prosperity for more of its people than just about any other culture.
- D. While many Americans would be open to a path to citizenship for aliens, they are concerned that we first close our borders to prevent those who would come here to do us harm from gaining access. Cries of “racist” are the Left’s subterfuge to put us on the defensive about this issue.
- E. Many on the Left believe in Multiculturalism, the idea that all cultures are of equal worth. David Landes, a professor emeritus in economics at Harvard and a retired professor of history at George Washington University, did a study on cultures to see what factor differing cultures were in the wealth of any culture and concluded in an article called *Culture Makes Almost All the Difference* that America’s wealth came largely from its Protestant work ethic: hard work, honesty, seriousness and thrifty use of money and time. He quotes another author who noted that “Protestantism produced a new kind of businessman, one who aimed to live and work in a certain way. It was the *way* that mattered, and riches were at best a by-product.”

IV. You Hate Women!

- A. When some protest against the government providing birth control as a “right,” they are accused of hating women!
- B. In our country, birth control is available at the nearest Planned Parenthood outpost at very little cost. This is another “straw man” argument.
- C. As Christians, we cannot accept the idea that destroying the new life in the womb is a legitimate type of birth control. The debate being raised about the government’s right to impose provision of birth control on businesses whose religious convictions regard this as wrong is not about birth control

but rather about the first amendment which grants us the right to follow our conscience in our religious beliefs.

V. You Hate the Poor!

- A. Conservatives love the rich and hate the poor! That is the accusation. In reality, because we understand human nature, we do not believe you help people by making them dependent on the government and not requiring them to do some work or be involved in some kind of training in order to get work. “If a man will not work, do not let him eat.” This concept, of course, does not apply to those who are unable to work do to sickness or accident.
- B. Until our president recently lifted the requirement for financial aid to those who are seeking work or getting training to be more employable it was required that the individual show evidence of endeavoring to find work. 2 Thes. 3:10