

Much has been written in the past decade about the separation of church and state. What began as a protection of the church from the state, has been reversed in recent years. It seems as though many Americans (though I don't believe the majority), feel threatened by the organized church and want there to be clear boundaries around the 'state', protecting it from the church. While I am troubled by recent judicial decisions in California (legalizing same-sex marriages and forbidding the freedom of parents to home-school), I rest at night knowing that my God, the only living God, is still on the throne, and there is really no way to eliminate him from our governmental system.

One clarification is needed as we start this discussion. I think in today's vernacular, most people equate the 'state' as any branch of organized government, while the 'church' is deemed anything 'religious' or 'spiritual'. For today's writing, I will continue with this definition of the 'state', while limiting the 'church' to Bible-based Christianity.

The main point I would like to make today is that there can really be no separation of our government, or any government for that matter, from God. God is ultimately in control of everything. While his work is most recognized to Americans in the lives of prominent Christians that point to him boldly (Tony Dungy after the Superbowl win), the fact is, if God really is omnipotent (all powerful), omniscient (all knowing), and everywhere (omnipresent), then he is ultimately in control of every decision being made by both Christians and non-Christians in all forms of government. God's word is plain that God blesses those that seek him and he blesses countries that will confess their faults and humbly seek his forgiveness and blessings.

God's influence in our country is manifest through many avenues. First of all, God gives wisdom to those that seek it from him. Many of our country's leaders, profess Christ, and seek his guidance. Secondly, God has numbered each of our days. Not only is the length of our life set by him, but each step of the way and even each breath that we take, has been provided by our creator. We will never know how many important decisions in our history have been affected by the health of the government officials at the time of the voting. Each of us knows that we have good days when we feel great and are on top of our game. We also have other days that we feel so badly that we wish we were dead. Undoubtedly, this would affect our decision making, our boldness in standing for our principles, and ultimately the outcome of the decision...a decision that might effect the direction of our country.

Knowing that God is leading our country during this time where He seems to be silent seems impossible to reconcile. What is our responsibility? It is easy to become complacent and fatalistic when viewing recent decisions. First of all, we are blessed to have the freedom to vote for our government. Please exercise this freedom any chance you get. Obviously, this includes voting in elections but it also includes voicing your opinions throughout the year. Our officials depend on our votes to continue in their office. If you are concerned about an upcoming decision, send a message to the official so that they know how you feel. Secondly, pray. Pray for wisdom for our officials. Pray that those officials that are seeking God would have boldness and strength to stand for their beliefs. Pray that God would continue to bless our country.

In summary, we are blessed to live in a country that provides each us with tremendous freedom. Wouldn't it be great (I really don't think it would be great) if we lived in a country dictated by a leader that completely agreed with 'me'. Since we are a blend of many beliefs, our country will always be in a state of flux. Sometimes, the flow will appear to go in 'our' direction and other times, it will appear to drift away from God. All the while, however, our God is really King. I, for one, am glad and eternally grateful that my God is working, even when he appears to be silent.