



January 22, 2019

GOD SHOWED UP AT THE MARCH FOR LIFE

Pray for more voices for life among our elected officials. Pray for Christians who are elected officials to be encouraged in their personal faith and emboldened in their public service.

In this confidence let us hold on to the hope that we profess without the slightest hesitation—for he is utterly dependable—and let us think of one another and how we can encourage each other to love and do good deeds. (Heb 10:23-24)

This year IFA spearheaded a new prayer initiative at the March for Life called [iPRAYforLIFE](#). Hopefully, you have seen the advertisements and many articles about pro-life issues in the last few weeks. We have an incredible story to share with you.

Last Thursday's Informer Email asked you if you had prayed for Representative Katrina Jackson, who serves in the Louisiana State House. Many of you posted heartfelt prayers for her [HERE](#). She was one of the elected officials who spoke at the March for Life.

On Friday morning before the March, a group of IFA staffers were waiting in our hotel lobby to meet up and walk over to our prayer tent. We started talking with a woman who was walking through the lobby about her lovely outfit. When she said she was speaking at the March, we realized that it was Representative Jackson. We introduced ourselves and told her that we were praying for her, and not only us, but also that we had sent an email to nearly 90,000 intercessors who were praying for her.

We showed her the email and she was literally taken aback. She was deeply encouraged. Her prayer partner was unable to accompany her to the March—we told her that she had a prayer team of 1000 partnering with her (that's how many of you committed to pray during the March for Life).

We also prayed with her right there in the hotel lobby.

God orchestrated this “chance” meeting for *her* encouragement and for our confirmation that He indeed is hearing our intercessors' prayers and using us!

You can watch her speech at the March for Life HERE: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4775194/life-unite>

POWERFUL MESSAGE FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL PRAYER CAUCUS

Pray for all of our legislators in the 116th Congress and pray for the passage of legislation that will enhance religious freedom in this country.

... for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. (1 Tim 2:2)

No one is in favor of discrimination.

There are several trends emerging that impact your First Amendment Rights.

People are faith are some of the most charitable, helpful, and loving people out there because of the principles they abide by. I want to emphasize these deeply held beliefs and Biblical standards weren't just made up on a whim; rather these are standards God set 6,000 years ago and have been foundational to societies since the beginning of time, until recently. All of the sudden it seems that anyone who adheres to religious tenets and biological fact should be shamed and punished.

The fact of the matter is we are all different. Disagreement doesn't mean hate, it means there is a disagreement on a subject. It's not a rejection of a person, it's a rejection of a behavior or belief. There are people who are so wounded that it's hard to differentiate, and therefore reactions are inflamed. To a person of faith, sharing what is the Biblical standard is a loving way of helping; and living according to this standard is mandatory. It is not meant to be hateful or discriminatory.

The left has been brilliant in their messaging strategy, so much so they have been successful in making well meaning and good people out to be monsters simply for living according to their deeply held beliefs; often rooted in religion and biology. For example, you would think Karen Pence murdered someone by the way the media has portrayed her decision to work at a Christian school that adheres to Biblical standards.

However, in the name of "non-discrimination," our society has embraced a "new normal" that has been very destructive. Depression, opioid use, and suicide are at an all time high in our nation. All the while, there has been an effort to ban anything related to God, prayer and the Bible. Those who don't hold to the same standards lambast those who want to live according to their faith. Things seem to be turned upside-down. Turning to God is the solution.

Now to the reason for this post, there is an onslaught of legislation being put forth in Congress and states that would effectively remove protections for people of faith, increasing punishment for those who live according to their beliefs.

Here are few articles that scratch the surface of the legislative strategy:

1. Pelosi Promises Action on Bill that Would Gut Religious Freedom Restoration Act:

<http://nrb.org/news-room/articles/ft/pelosi-promises-action-bill-would-gut-religious-freedom-restoration-act/>

2. **Do No Harm Act:** <https://thehill.com/opinion/civil-rights/391439-democrats-do-no-harm-act-makes-attacking-religious-liberty-an-election>

3. There is concerted effort to pass laws to ban Christian counselors and religious leaders that have far-reaching consequences. Here's an example; <https://www.heritage.org/civil-society/commentary/anti-first-amendment-bill-poses-imminent-threat-california>

4. Finally, there the innocuously named bills like "Non-discrimination Acts" that add Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity as protected class has created tension between religious freedom and sexual freedom. These protections are causing much distress for those who wish to live out their sincerely held beliefs in business, school, and more. Read more here: <https://www.heritage.org/gender/report/sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity-sogi-laws-are-not-fairness-all>

The church is called to love all. Government has a different role. The church is called to influence government so that the public square remains a place where faith and freedom can thrive.

Prayer and action is key!

(Reprinted with permission. Author Summer Ingram is the National Director of Prayer and Mobilization with [Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation](#). Click the link to visit their site and get more information about legislation of interest to Christians.)

WHY THE ERA CAN'T BE REVIVED

Pray against this new push for the ERA and against other efforts to force abortion on demand in this country.

But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void.
(Lk 16:17)

... Proponents of the Equal Rights Amendment have claimed that they only need three more states to ratify it, instead of 38 as the Constitution requires. In doing so, they're asking for special treatment, not equal treatment.

In March 1972, Congress sent the ERA to the states. The measure had a seven-year limit, which had been requested by its proponents, for ratification.

The amendment, which read "Equality of rights under law shall not be denied or abridged ... on account of sex," was ratified by 30 states within 12 months. But, in the next six years, only five more states ratified it, because lawmakers learned that the ERA wasn't just about securing equal pay for equal work or enshrining women in the Constitution.

In her 1971 testimony, U.S. Rep. Bella Abzug of New York and an advocate for women's rights, said that the ERA would eliminate "all existing legal distinctions based on sex" and would reject "the assumption that sex is ever a reasonable legal classification."

Thus, under the strict scrutiny of the courts, no law could ban abortion or prohibit the use of tax money to pay for abortion, because only women become pregnant. Tax exemptions for churches that have only male clergy would be illegal. Women could be drafted alongside men to fight in ground combat units. Women-only private facilities, as well as separate boys' and girls' sports teams at public schools, also would be banned. Prisons, hospital rooms and school dorms — as well as private schools — would not be allowed to have separate facilities based on sex.

Every effort to amend the ERA to allow common-sense sex-based distinctions failed. Radical ideology won....

The extension was challenged. In the 1981 case *Idaho v. Freeman*, a federal court ruled that the time limit originally set for ratification was reasonable and that Congress couldn't change it. (The U.S. Supreme Court later declined to hear an appeal of the ruling, ruling the issue moot because the ERA had failed to be ratified.)

Now, some proponents claim that, because the wording on the ERA's seven-year limit is in the amendment's preamble, Congress has the power to change it. But this question was decided decades ago — in the 1939 U.S. Supreme Court decision *Coleman v. Miller*, the court ruled that a time limit for ratification is valid whether it's placed in the preamble or in the body of a resolution. Additionally, 24 states ratified the ERA with the wording on the seven-year limit included. How can those ratifications be valid today, nearly 40 years after the original deadline?...

By 1982, 35 states had ratified the ERA, and five had rescinded their ratifications. In 2017-18, two states — Illinois and Nevada — attempted to resurrect the amendment and ratified it.

Despite these recent political maneuvers, the Virginia General Assembly should acknowledge the facts and stop posturing on a dead ERA. (Excerpts from Bob Marshall article in [The Virginian-Pilot](#))

KAREN PENCE: THE TEACHER AND THE RELIGIOUS TEST

Father, we pray for Karen Pence and her continued work for Your will and presence in our nation's capital with her husband Vice President Pence. Thank you that they are loving and outspoken for You, Lord. Show us how to support them in effective intercession.

See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright— but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness ([Hab 2:4](#))

It was supposed to be a day celebrating religious freedom in America. Instead, liberals decided to show everyone just how much our First Freedom is at risk. For Christians, who've tried to warn people that these last several years were about a lot more than marriage, the attacks on Second Lady Karen Pence certainly seem to prove their point. Three years after *Obergefell*, all of the lies about "love" and "tolerance" have been eclipsed by the court cases, articles, and editorial demonizing people of faith. What Americans see now is the truth: the Left is coming for our freedom. And they have no intention of letting up.

Like Joe Biden's wife, Karen Pence spent years in the classroom. When Mike was in Congress, she taught art at Immanuel Christian School in Virginia -- and no one batted an eye. Of course, that was back in the early 2000s, when the Left's charm offensive on same-sex marriage was still in full swing. We'll be accommodating, they said. We just want to co-exist, they said. Our relationships won't affect you, they said. A handful of years later, "affected" doesn't begin to describe to what happens to conservatives who think differently than the totalitarian Left.

Of course, the Pences are not strangers to the other side's viciousness. Every time the media is reminded about the family's faith, they become hysterical all over again -- a scene that played out this week when Karen announced she'd be volunteering at Immanuel Christian this spring. "I am excited to be back in the classroom and doing what I love to do," she said in a statement. "I have missed teaching art, and it's great to return to the school where I taught art for 12 years."

She can't go back there, LGBT activists raged! They reject homosexuality! Yes, well, that's what orthodox Christian schools do. (Not to mention Jewish and Muslim ones too.) Would it have been headline news if Jill Biden taught at a Roman Catholic school? Probably not. Yet, the Left and their media chums are hurling profanity at the Pences for something that, even five years ago, wouldn't have been controversial. Frankly, the only thing that would have been shocking is if Karen worked at a Christian school that didn't act like a Christian school....

To be honest, the Left's real problem isn't that Mike Pence's wife is working at an evangelical school -- but that evangelical schools exist at all. Since they do, the last thing liberals want is for anyone in public office to be associated with them. And despite what you've heard from the forces of intolerance, Immanuel Christian doesn't "ban" anyone from their school. What they do, Chad Greene, points out, "is require a specific set of behavioral and religious belief standards equally applied to everyone. Many in the Christian world make a distinction regarding LGBT people that the left typically refuses to consider, between a person and his actions." As Christians, our behavior doesn't define us -- we define our behavior.

Immanuel is in the business of teaching Christianity. What would be the point of a religious school if it didn't? This "immediate, visceral reaction" shows just how far the Left will go to shame people of faith into silence. Worse, it proves the day they told us was coming is finally here. Back in 2015, during the Obergefell arguments, President Obama's top lawyer, Donald Verrilli pulled back the curtain on the Left's real goal in one surprisingly candid moment. When Justice Samuel Alito pressed the solicitor general on whether same-sex marriage would give the government a weapon to threaten Christian schools, Verrilli seemed uncomfortable but admitted, "It's certainly going to be an issue. I don't deny that. I don't deny that, Justice Alito. It is -- it is going to be an issue."

We haven't seen the Left fully implement their plans, because they haven't had the benefit of another radical president in the White House to build on the liberal legacy of Barack Obama. But we don't have to guess what they'll do if they get one. It's all spelled out in the most recent Democratic National Platform. Religious freedom, as Americans have known it for 233 years, will not be safe in the hands of a movement that is surgically targeting people of faith.

When I talked to the vice president on "Washington Watch" earlier today, he didn't mince words. "Karen and I have been in and around public life for almost two decades, and so -- to be honest -- we're used to the criticism. But the attacks on Christian education by the mainstream media have got to stop. We

cherish the freedom of religion in this country. This administration stands four-square for the freedom of religion of people of all faiths. And to see the mainstream media to criticize my wife because she's choosing to return to the classroom of an elementary Christian school is wrong."

There used to be a consensus in this country that religious liberty was for everyone. When the Religious Freedom Restoration Act came before Congress, only three members voted against it. Over time, some liberals tried to isolate faith -- to churches, Christian schools, or family rooms. You've heard me say before that the Left's hope is to quarantine religion within the four walls of the church. Now, it's becoming clear -- even that won't satisfy them.

"I have always had a problem with the idea that religion is something we must keep to ourselves," Matt Walsh writes in the Daily Wire. "Indeed, the Christian faith requires exactly the opposite. But in the case of Karen Pence and her new employer, they are doing exactly what the Left demanded. This school is merely trying to operate by biblical principles within its own walls and on its own property. It is a Christian school simply being a Christian school. It isn't bothering anyone. It isn't invading anyone's home and lecturing them about their sexual behavior. It isn't preventing anyone from working or living or enjoying their lives. It is just saying, very reasonably, very unobtrusively, 'We are going to conduct ourselves according to Christian moral tradition. If you don't want to accept that moral tradition, then by all means go somewhere else.'"

"This is exactly, precisely, the approach that the Left for years endorsed and insisted upon. But suddenly it's a problem. Suddenly, even Christianity behind closed doors, on private property, in a private school, is a target of outrage and scorn. It was a lie all along. They were never planning to stop outside the walls of our homes and our churches and our schools. That's just what they said to lull us to sleep."

"Now the next phase begins."

[Sign the pledge to pray for Karen Pence](#) who openly lives her faith by biblical truth. (Tony Perkins' [Washington Update](#) is written with the aid of FRC senior writers.)