

ONE NATION UNDER GOD

One Nation Under God: "Unalienable Rights"

Last weekend we had a great lesson civics by PT and on the founding of our nation of America. If you missed it, I urge you to go online to catch it. So how are we doing today, 246 years after our nation was founded? Yes, we have religious freedoms in America, but do we see more God revering, God fearing people in America? Or less so? Are more people coming to Jesus than ever before? Would we say there is a revival happening in our country to turn to Jesus?

I'm gonna be asking this question, and it's rhetorical, in that I want you to reflect upon how things are. This is the question, **How are we doing?** And therefore, I hope you respond with a question to God: **God what do you want me to do about this!** Got it!

This past Wednesday, at our Town Hall, almost every candidate started out as saying they were fed up with how government is leading today.

Even if our founding fathers set the very foundation of our nation on God and Religion, it's not a theocracy. A theocracy is when the religious leaders are the heads of the state. The first amendment states there is freedom of religion. That's what the founding fathers wanted freedom from, the tyranny of the religious establishment of England to dictate their religious beliefs of it's citizens.

And in this America we all live under, one of our unalienable rights, since we are all created equal, is we all have a voice, and no one sovereign can claim to represent God and so our government is of the people, by the people and for the people. I see it as our responsibility, our kuleana, as those who pledge to follow Jesus, to have a voice to speak and represent Jesus' Kingdom values in our world and have a say in how we are to be governed.

So how are we doing collectively as fellow kings, with voices to speak out, in America, with the rights and privilege to have a say in the way we are to be governed, in what kind of morality, what's seen as right and wrong, as Christians we can have in our nation. How are we Christians doing?

However, we have to be sure about this. Enacting laws that represent our morality won't mean we'll see more conversions and followers of Jesus.

We must not look to government as the institution that brings hope to our world. It's Jesus and His coming Kingdom that does. And the good news is this, one thing is for sure is Jesus is the soon and coming King. All earthly nations will pass away and there is an eternal kingdom awaiting us. A kingdom where there will be no wars, no evil, we'll be one family, no suffering, no discrimination.

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So how are we doing in owning our role as Christian in this post Christian culture. We as Christians must place our hope in an eternal kingdom, where Jesus will be king. He promises to return again and He will reign as King. But until then, we, how many of you are American citizens? Most of us are. We live in this country where we have a say in the kind of morality (what is right and wrong) in the way we get to live out our freedoms.

So how do we own our role, what's our responsibilities, our kuleana, as Citizens of Heaven the king of all Kings, Jesus, and residents of America/Hawaii in light of our government we live under. Remember what that the role of government is? To protect!

So we have a say on the kind of protections that we want to live under, in the America we want our kids and our kid's kids to grow up in.

Remember when God was nation building, for his people who crossed into the promised land. He gave them laws to live by: Social, civil, and ceremonial. Now, do we have to follow all those laws today? Why, we don't have a temple and the whole blood sacrificial system no more. So those laws are made complete with Jesus! Thank goodness for you Filipinos. You can be free to eat chocolate meat! Pig cooked in blood! Just no flaunt your freedom.

What the Mosaic laws do:

²⁴ "Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith. ²⁵ And now that the way of faith has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian. ²⁶ For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus," (Galatians 3:24 - 26 NLT).

*"In fact, the Law was to be **our teacher** until Christ came. Then we could have faith and be acceptable to God," (CEV).*

*"Da Rules jalike **one watcha guy** ova kids fo keep um strait. Dass how da Rules bring us to Christ fo us trus him an get um right wit God," (DGASB).*

And the Mosaic laws helped to teach the people how to be God's special people different from all the other nations around them. But as we learned last week, even when God gave His special people laws to live by, they still did what was evil in the Lord's eyes. Nevertheless, the laws showed what was pono and what was not pono, right in God's system of morality.

OUR LAWS BECOME OUR GUARDIANS OF TRUTH, TEACHERS OF TRUTH, One Watcha guy.

Likewise, obviously, we're not kids no more, but many of our laws function as our teacher of morality. Obviously, some laws are more procedural in nature and are important too, laws for how the courts are conducted in criminal and civil matters. But our laws are our guardians, our teachers, of what is pono and not pono. And I ask you how are we doing today?

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Jesus shows up on the scene where the oppressive Roman rule was in place. Also, there was a form of theocracy of the Jewish rules and transitions overseen by the Pharisees and Sadducees. Both were a part of the ruling class of Israel. Good to learn from our master in how he dealt with the governing rulers of his day:

There was a lawyer who asked Jesus which is the most important commandment in the law. He doesn't know he is asking the Son of God the question. Jesus' answer reveals the heart of God in giving the Law of Moses to His people Israel. Let's read together in Matthew.

"When the crowds heard him, they were astounded at his teaching.

But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his reply, they met together to question him again. One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" Jesus replied, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments," (Matthew 22:33 - 40 NLT).

God wants His people first and above all to love Him with every part of their being. The heart and soul and mind describes the centers of emotion, action, and thought. And loving your neighbor as yourself: Loving God and Loving others. This is foundational as all the laws and prophets hang on these. (Show hand gesture)

Sadly, this definition of love has been become now in our culture, acceptance of different morals/tolerance of what "you individually" feel is good or feel what is right.

Love vs. Tolerance:

If I love you, I'm not gonna allow you to live in the ways you feel make you feel good. A gospel of your personal rights of the individual is being preached in America today. From what you are seeing today in society, **How are we doing with Love?**

Jesus modeled true love. He welcomed people to himself regardless of what they did or what they were doing and he gently taught them a better way. "No be like that no more. Jesus was clear about the truth, even when it was not popular, and even when it caused crowds to scatter. He wasn't just trying to build a large following—He was on a mission to share both truth and love in profound ways, ways that still move us today. Tax collector ripping people off, rich young ruler who wasn't willing to give it all away to the poor, woman caught in adultery are just some examples this amazing love, amazing grace of Jesus.

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Remember Jesus came full of Grace and Truth.

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth," (John 1:14 NIV).

What kind of society do we wanna live in? Yes, even America is temporary, but if Jesus said for us to pray, "God, your kingdom come" In other words, you be king ova hea and wat you like happen hea, den gang, yes let's grow in our love for God and each other and help institute laws that will teach God righteousness, God's morality to our country.

Where we can truly say as Hawaii Christians, Ua mau kea ea o ka aina I ka pono, the life of this land shall be perpetuated in righteousness, in Jesus righteousness. This was first made official by King Kamehameha 3 and it is said that his mom, Chieftess Keōpūolani were first spoken 1825 as she was baptized into the Christian faith.

I want you to hear from Marc Cabatcat now. One of NHCO's best Christian historians. As he shares about us as American Christians.

"For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love,"
(Galatians 5:13 NLT).

Take aways: Our Kuleana as Citizens of America, Residents of Hawaii, yet true citizens of heaven, and under the rulership of Jesus:

Respond in one of several ways:

1. Can either confront culture (condemning those who oppose our Kingdom beliefs - as if government has all the solutions), abandon it (be detached), or participate in transforming by living pono with the good news of Jesus and telling everyone about the coming Kingdom and mainly the King Himself.
2. How are we doing in participating in the selection of our government leaders by Voting: (Political parties are all fallible - have their ideology that differ from God's kingdom ways - there is no political party that represents all the values of Jesus perfectly, focus on the person (the person's character and values) If you missed Wed. town hall meeting (go to our NHCO website to watch it)
3. Pray for our leaders
4. Some of you may be called to run for public office (so run)

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5. I'm so new to being a Christian, how can I get one Christian worldview? I'm seeing things from the glasses of society, the voices of many. What should I believe. Well, nhco will offer this class in the early fall, The Truth Project (led by Marc C)

6. Place your trust in our ultimate ruler, our benevolent monarch, Jesus who promises to come back and set up his reign, his rulership, here on earth. This ruler died for you because of love! He knew that he had to sacrifice his life by dying for you so that you could be a part of his special kingdom, forgiving all of us of our wrong doing.

The long-awaited Messiah comes, but He doesn't conquer nations. He conquers the human heart. How? By sacrificing His own liberty. By giving His life, Jesus frees us from sin (what wrong with us) and death.

But why did He start with the individual? Why didn't He confront the evil empire ruling the world? Because—God cannot heal a nation until He first heals the individual souls. How are we doing ohana with this call for us to be agents of aloha with this message?

Temporary salvation may come to a group of people, to a nation, but eternal salvation comes only to the individual who kneels at the foot of the cross, to the one who lays his or her liberty down and accepts God's grace.

In short, we are not saved as a nation. We are saved as individuals. End with an invitation to believe and receive your King. Next to be committed to be kingdom builders (voices of truth and grace for the world).