

Adversity Makes Strange Bedfellows

by John Cobin, Ph.D. for *The Times Examiner*

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An interesting letter is posted on Bob Geiger's website.¹ "Dear Red States...We've decided we're leaving. We intend to form our own country, and we're taking the other Blue States with us. In case you aren't aware, that includes Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois and all the Northeast. We believe this split will be beneficial to the nation, and especially to the people of the new country of New California." Yes, such California leftists want to secede! And why should we object?

The letter continues: "To sum up briefly: You get Texas, Oklahoma and all the slave states. We get stem cell research and the best beaches. We get Elliot Spitzer. You get Ken Lay. We get the Statue of Liberty. You get Dollywood. We get Intel and Microsoft. You get WorldCom. We get Harvard. You get Ole' Miss. We get 85 percent of America's venture capital and entrepreneurs. You get Alabama. We get two-thirds of the tax revenue, you get to make the red states pay their fair share...Please be aware that Nuevo California will be pro-choice and anti-war, and we're going to want all our citizens back from Iraq at once. If you need people to fight, ask your evangelicals [*sic*]. They have kids they're apparently willing to send to their deaths for no purpose, and they don't care if you don't show pictures of their children's caskets coming home. We do wish you success in Iraq, and hope that the WMDs turn up, but we're not willing to spend our resources in Bush's Quagmire [*sic*]."

While I agree with this leftist author regarding Iraq and American foreign policy under Bush, I do not share most of his other views, and I think the statistics he goes on to cite later in the letter are dubious. But that's OK. I will set all my quibbles aside to help him achieve his end. I am ready to form an alliance!

You see, I share a common divorce vision with leftists like him. I do not want to be associated with leftists and they do not want to be associated with rightists. They want to go away from me and I want to go away from them. They want to live under a state of socialism and policies based on leftist principles, and I want to live under liberty, free markets, very limited government, and a constitutional republic *a la* the Founders. They want to form two countries out of one and so do I (if not three countries: West Coast-Hawaii America, Northeast America, and South-Central-West-Alaska America). Like them, I do not want to employ violence to attain this end. We are talking about peaceful secession, including taking on "our share" of the national debt which liberals and neocons have generated. Yes, if paying back money that I should not owe is part of a deal that will make me free without war then I am in favor of it.

William Shakespeare once said that "Adversity makes strange bedfellows." And so here I stand ready to take up a political cause with people who hate me. I am reminded of the success of the gay and lesbian lobby, whose lifestyles and goals I detest in principle, which has succeeded under adversity not unlike that faced by the principled right. As I understand it, militant lesbians do not like gays (or men in general), and the feeling is mutual towards lesbians insofar as gay men are concerned. Yet they found virtue in creating an alliance in order to attain a common goal, especially given that those who would be natural allies turned out to be indifferent, unenthusiastic, or even opponents on occasion.

What a tremendous irony! The far right unites with the left and far left in opposition to centrists and neocons, many of whom fill our churches. Sad to say, those principled of us on the "far right"—constitutionalists, southern nationalists (or perhaps Dixiecrats), principled conservatives, and pro-life libertarians mainly—are not getting much support from neocons, most Republicrats, and certainly not from Demublicans. We have a better chance at success by forming a temporary and very loose alliance with leftists who share similar objectives. Indeed, even people in our own churches despise us and want to be rid of us. Christian brethren are taking sides against us. They do not want secession or to divide the union. By and large, they like the American state and its policies. I would not be surprised if, should the order come from the state to shoot me along with all other right-wing "extremists", then most Evangelicals would comply. Luther, Knox, Jefferson, Sam Adams, and Stonewall Jackson would all be their victims.

¹ <http://bobgeiger.blogspot.com/2005/07/open-letter-to-red-states.html>

The Evangelical church is part of the modern public policy paradox. Those who should be championing the cause of the right are instead becoming mere pawns of the state. They are indifferent to our cause and at times have even stood in as our opponents. Churchgoers, believing that they are “conservatives” and right-leaning, show it by supporting irksome neocon characters like G. W. Bush. And the last thing that conservative church leaders want to do is rock the Republican boat or the security of the *status quo*. They want nothing to do with us “radicals” and “extremists” who extol secession and the politically incorrect portions of the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence.