



Chronicles of Diversity

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Contact

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Good Stewards

We are told that people wise, America is a divided land. Of course it depends upon who we are listening to, what makes us divided. But aware of the Biblical principle that a house divided against itself cannot stand, we should probably pay a little more attention not only to the significance of those differences, but the motives of those who try to bring separation for their own gain.

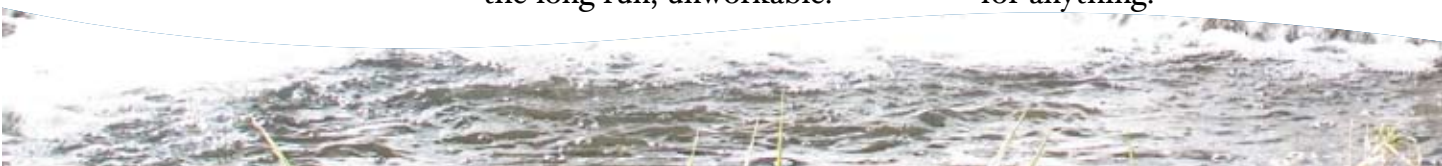
When you think of this division process, one of the first things that comes to mind is our politics. In Washington State we are finally litigating and I did say litigating our election for governor that should have been settled in November. That's approaching seven months.

In the United States Senate, it looks like a band of fourteen Senators has averted the nuclear option regarding federal judges. But as of this writing the details are still fluid and perhaps, over the long run, unworkable.

We also are the people of the red and blue counties, made so famous in our last Presidential elections.

President Bush seems to have nothing but a big business, corporate solution to all the nation's woes. Social Security needs private investment accounts. However, it is still up in the ether whether what will remain after this adjustment is either social or security. Furthermore, he seems to believe there is no problem that less taxes, free corporate markets and trade can not rectify.

On the other side of the political scale Democrats have become prophets of relative obstructionism and proud of it. There doesn't seem to be anything that meets with their approval except obstructing any change which might some day hurt their political influence. Since they can't stand for something they also can't stand for anything.



Leadership has become a term not for the social good, but the political agenda.

We developed our whole series of phylogenesis based upon the development of human community diversity by our interaction with our natural environment. We began with Jefferson's concept of "Nature and Nature's God," in the Declaration of Independence, as America's true religious heritage.

If we truly are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights like life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and by extension certain other natural and specific gifts, are we being good stewards of these rights and gifts by the way we now function in our society?

The history of fallen sinful man is marred with times of war, offset with times of peace. We now live in a world of continual warfare. I am not talking about the war in Afghanistan, Iraq, or the so called War on Terror. I am talking about our war on civility.

It seems that we have made the criteria for our self worth, both as an individual, and as a community, by just how big a bastards we can make the other guys think we are. Since this is a Christian message, I thought a great deal about using bastard, instead of a more politically correct term. But I could come up with no such expression.

Bastard in the historical context, is the illegitimate offspring of two unmarried parents. Of course, in our current society of political correctness and situational ethics, the term really is undefined in this context. And perhaps that is why society is degraded to this level of hostility. Political, moral, and social law are defined by what I can get for myself and my group. We feel we have no right to any cultural inheritance, therefore we must create our own worth by just how vulgar we can make others perceive our hostility.

It would be nice to say that the only place to get away from the bastards is in church, but that is really not the case, because even Christians carry that moral baggage to church with them on Sunday, and in many, if not most cases, they carry it home with them after church is over.

If the gospel of Jesus Christ's crucifixion, death, and resurrection is not preached continually, we cannot comprehend in the proper context, what it means to be a Christian. So instead of being a bastard adopted by God and His grace into His eternal family, we leave hoping Jesus in my heart will sustain me as I go through the week. Or that my relationship with Jesus will be strong enough to get me through the day.

Of course the only way that will occur is by the stuff I do for God, or get from God. However, that is not the true Gospel, that saved a bastard, in all senses like me. Therefore, Protestant evangelicalism, even with its hostility problem with Roman Catholicism, has pretty much the same prescription for life, except without a reasoned systematic theology, or even a historic Christian creed.

As long as anyone operates within a system of law only, they can not be a good or true steward of their personal or community gifts. Sloppy agape, or cheap grace can only give you a sloppy or cheap stewardship model. Costly grace and love is the only basis for a specific revelation of good stewardship.

God has given us creation, natural law and common grace, as a visual revelation of Himself. For the most part we flee from it, because of our lack of understanding of the specific grace only found within the Bible. This true specific revelation of God, is not found in the Quran, or the writings of any other religious leader foreign or domestic, historical or contemporary.

However, each year millions of people flee the city to get closer to God than they feel in their urban life. This is true because while the witness of natural law is awesome, the witness of common grace is even more powerful. For those millions of people, this witness of God and His grace is more powerful than any message of the church, because the message of creation is eternal, and the message of the church is perceived as temporal. Probably because that is the message most churches preach.

For anyone to be a good steward of all that God has given us, we must build that specific revelation upon God's creation itself. Not a paper airplane we can construct ourselves, as in a recent sermon illustration I received. Our paper airplane will not get us to heaven, or make us good stewards, but the revelation of the wildflower, or a thunder storm,

coupled with the grace of the true gospel will take us a lot further down that stewardship path.

Now for those millions who try to find God in nature, and do to an extent they don't find in established religion, we quickly come to the relationship of our evangelical president with the environment. It is perceived by most that, "Dubya never saw an oil well he didn't love."

We have now moved back into the divided house that began this article.

Probably the most amusing advertisements now on American television are the green ads being run by General Electric. One has a dancing Indian? elephant in a South American? rain forest, because GE is now building more environmentally friendly jet engines and locomotives, could only have been designed by a highly paid advertising firm. The chances that any of us will ever be in the market for a green not just painted railroad locomotive is virtually zero. But being perceived as an environmentally friendly large corporation has suddenly become part of the American corporate structure.

I suppose that is a good thing, in contrast to the rape, pillage, and plunder mentality large corporations have had through out the development of American culture. Our problem is that many of these millions of metis natural folks think this will, or may save the earth.

But in the eternal sense the earth is too far gone to be saved. Even Jesus Christ will eventually start from scratch again. But that doesn't mean that there are not some things good stewardship requires in this world and at this time.

I said last week that Business Ecology is an oxymoron in our perception. I might add so is a green large corporation. But that does not mean that all large corporations are the devil incarnate, nor does it mean that they can really get elephants to dance, except in computer animation.

Large corporations fill a niche in a diverse society, just as does responsible government, small business, social, and religious organizations. The problem is when responsible government becomes a proponent of anything goes, and

economies of scale become of means towards obtaining monopolistic power, and profits reign at the expense of every other responsibility. Therein lies the weakness of laissez faire capitalism. Carried to the extreme it becomes naturally cancerous, and the only potential check on that is government in some sense.

But we really don't live in a world of nation states in the traditional sense anymore. And this is somewhat illustrated in our divided house. We really live in a world of corporate feudalism, with each corporation creating and maintaining its independent monetary supply common stock , convertible into national currency, dependent upon the outmoded political entity in which this capital is to be utilized.

I must suspect that GE's elaborate green public relations campaign has as much to do with stock price influences as it does to being more earth friendly. I may like Fox News fair and balanced approach better than PBS and its liberal bend, but to think that any of my news is truly independent of bias is completely naïve and personally dangerous. My selection on how and where I obtain my news greatly affects my perception of the divided house, and will eventually effect the house nation itself.

Good Stewardship requires that you have enough metis to always hold in tension natural creation and economic interests. What economic interests don't understand, because they divide themselves from creation, is that eventually natural law and common grace is going to win in the battle over humanistic self interest, and we are not talking about geologic time.

The recent Presidential election and the red and blue state and county maps points to that truth. What the culture of the blue areas don't understand, whether you are politically liberal, conservative, or middle of the road, is that this expression of natural law and common grace is now taking place and changing not the natural landscape of America, but its political one.

If you are a Mother Earth environmentalist it means that irresponsible, non sustainable development is going to continue to be harder and harder to sustain, and you have a part to play in that change. If you are a Christian with strong biblical beliefs it means that you are going to have

to build your Christian revelation, upon natural law and common grace rather than on American evangelical religious paradigms.

Truly good stewardship requires a basic understanding of both natural law and common grace and specific biblical revelation. The modern concept of green really only apply in areas in which water is always abundant. But the concept of good stewardship requires that wonder springs in the desert be managed to allow God's natural diversity to develop around that pool of water. What we need to realize is that includes us, with the rest of the critters, and this means utilizing the spring by not polluting our only source of water.

I leave for Montana in a few hours to begin a complex task of trying to put together a series of enterprises that will one day be a model of good stewardship, at least to the extent I can understand this concept both from an economic and an environmental sense. It will be a significant undertaking designed to help reduce the divisions in our political, environmental, and religious houses. Houses might make sense to us, but the earth is really the only house we know, division and conflict while natural by man's sin, is not by God's design.

Our last six Chronicles of Diversity articles:

Metis Economics: Unconscious conscience; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metisunconscience4-13-5.pdf>

Metis Economics: Dog Tales; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metisdogtales4-20-5.pdf>

Metis Economics: Urbane Urban; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metisurbaneurban4-27-5.pdf>

Metis Economics: Eclectic Flowers; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metiselecticflowers5-4-5.pdf>

Rare Breed; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/rarebreed5-11-5.pdf>

Creation College; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/creationcollege5-18-5.pdf>