

THE EVANGELICAL OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SQUARE

No, Social Conservatism is not a Mental Illness

Roland Weisbrot, January 17th, 2016

Nowadays, professing social conservatism usually gets you a response like this:



“How could anyone still believe that?!? It’s 2017!!!”

“Do you want to send us back to the dark ages?!?”

“Those views are extinct, get over it.”

“What is wrong with you?!?”

Sound familiar? Well it certainly does to me. I simply cannot count how many times I have been told this, or a variation of this, by some angry person who would rather shut me down by demeaning me or insinuating that I am unintelligent than engage in dialogue or rational debate. I think Mark Steyn captures the rhetoric rightly in his book *After America* when he comments that it is “far easier to pronounce your side of the table the objective truth, and therefore any opposing argument is not a disagreement about policy or

philosophy or economics, but merely evidence of Nazism, racism, or mental retardation.”

Shocking as it may be to some individuals, having socially conservative views on issues such as abortion, marriage, and church-state relations does not make you mentally ill, nor does it mean that you are some uneducated, unenlightened reject. There are many well-educated social conservatives in the world today, people that hold respectable positions and have contributed to society in numerous ways. These people are not evil, cold-hearted, bitter, or angry, they just have a different way of viewing the world and society. A concept that one would think the “Progressives” who pride themselves in celebrating “diversity” would understand and respect; alas, that is not the case.

I think what bothers me most is just how smug some of these “Progressives” are. They truly believe that they are the culmination of human thought and that they alone hold the keys to enlightenment and a better world. Quite simply, **they cannot comprehend** that another view may be right; that maybe, just maybe, **we have not progressed but regressed as a society**. Furthermore, as any historian worth his or her salt knows, not paying attention to the past and learning from the mistakes of your ancestors is usually a catastrophic error. Whole civilizations rise and fall based on being able to learn from their mistakes.

Quite frankly, if social conservatives do not get more vociferous soon and just keep allowing people to tread all over our right to hold and espouse our beliefs, then we inch closer and closer to a day where our views will be silenced. Stepping away from the fight does not solve the issue, nor does it make it go away. **If too much ground is conceded there will be nothing left to stand on.** We must be bold, we must be courageous, and we must be willing to endure the wrath of those who wish us gone.

