

The Danger of David Currie's Message

by Ken Casper

David Currie, chair of the Tom Green County Democratic Party, recently penned perhaps his most vitriolic article in the San Angelo Standard Times against conservative and Christian values. My initial reaction was a two-word reply: How sad.

As always there are statements I agree with, and those with which I disagree.

Currie wrote: "I firmly believe that religious liberty, as defined by the Founding Fathers, is the greatest single freedom ever adopted by a government." On that I completely agree.

But then he goes on to say: "Barton will tell you our Founding Fathers were conservative evangelical Christians. He will have you convinced that our Founding Fathers intended for America to officially be a Christian nation, with Christians holding all political offices. He will tell you the separation of church and state is a myth. All this is bad Bible and bad history, and a total misrepresentation of the U.S. Constitution."

First: Barton doesn't claim the Founding Fathers were Evangelical Christians. Most of them were not. But what if they were? Is there something wrong with being an evangelical Christian? Isn't David Currie an evangelical Christian?

Second: "[Barton] will have you convinced our Founding Fathers intended for America to officially be a Christian nation, with Christians holding all political offices." Then why did they specify in the Constitution that no religious test shall be given for office, and why did they make the prohibition against an established religion the first statement in our Bill of Rights? Currie is attacking for the sake of attacking, but what he is saying is patently false.

Third: "[Barton] will tell you the separation of church and state is a myth." Barton doesn't say that at all. Why does Currie feel it necessary to put words in Barton's mouth? Let's be clear. There is a difference between church and religion, a very important difference. The first amendment clearly establishes an absolute separation between church and state. But the

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Speaker has been invited to talk to our community



DAVID CURRIE

I wear quite a few hats in San Angelo, and I love this community. I am writing this article as the retired executive director of Texas Baptists Committed and a

longtime board member of The Interfaith Alliance in Washington, D.C.

I am deeply dismayed that reputable organizations have invited David Barton to speak to our community, because there is nothing reputable about the message he will bring. His message – which he has been proclaiming for over 25 years – is what I have fought against my entire career as a minister committed to upholding the truths of the Bible and as an American committed to the

writings of the Founding Fathers just as clearly declare that religion plays a vital role in good government and good citizenship. To quote George Washington: "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports." And John Adams: "Our Constitution was made for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

"Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's," (Matt 22:21) endorses separation of church and state, but is it absolute? Does it mean a doctor can be a good Christian at church on Sunday, and still be a good Christian on Monday when he complies with a state order to perform a late-term abortion, or that he must assist a patient in committing suicide on demand?

Currie himself goes on to make more statements that are at least questionable. For example: "Separating church and state IS a Christian value." Really? That is certainly not historically true. Historically there was the Holy Roman Empire and the divine right of kings. The British monarch to this day is the head of the Church of England.

Currie is fond of making sweeping statements. "...nearly all wars would end, as most wars have resulted from the efforts of one religious group to impose its faith on others." While I believe other countries would profit domestically and internationally by adopting our First Amendment, I find Currie's assertion at least questionable. Our civil war, WWI and WW2, Korea and Vietnam were not about religion.

Currie writes: "David Barton's message is against everything for which this country stands, as well as what Christ taught in the Scriptures. I urge you to not be fooled by his nonsense that hurts our churches and our country."

Why would a Christian minister be so emphatic about rejecting the "Christian nation" label, while so enthusiastically embracing the "secular" title? This seems to be a perfect example of how Currie's political allegiance has blinded him to the truth. Barton is a conservative; Currie is a liberal. In Currie's eyes, therefore, anything Barton says has to be attacked, not on its merits, but because Currie wants absolute control of the agenda. Truth is irrelevant. The result is that Currie twists himself into knots and contradicts himself in his desperate efforts to discredit his opponents.

Finally, Currie points out that Barton's book, *The Jefferson Lies*, was pulled from the shelves by the publisher because some facts were not fully supported. Note: the facts were not wrong, but some people took exception to the extent of notes on them. A quibble? Yes, but that is what the left does when it doesn't have the truth on its side. A full explanation can be found at: <https://www.wallbuilders.com/downloads/newsletter/DefendingTheJeffersonLiesDavidBartonRespondtohisConservativeCritics.pdf>

The book is available on Amazon in hardback, paperback and Kindle editions.

Dr. Currie started his article by saying he loves this community. I believe him. I do too. I love this community, this state and this country. I took an oath a long time ago to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. My loyalty has never wavered. It never will. I've been blessed to be born in the greatest nation on earth.

Yet I have to repeat my initial assessment of Currie's remarks: how sad. How sad that a retired ordained Christian minister would be so adamant and bitter in his political loyalties that he is willing to slander anyone with whom he disagrees. That Currie doesn't see eye-to-eye with

Barton on some details and issues is understandable, even healthy. It's one of the great strengths and virtues of our constitutional form of government, that we can speak our minds. But freedom of speech doesn't grant the right to lie about people and misrepresent their ideas. In his article, Dr. Currie has come very close to crossing that line. How sad indeed.

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Ken Casper was born and raised in New York City. He joined the Air Force, served in Japan, Vietnam, and Germany as well as various stateside assignments before retiring in San Angelo, Texas. An active member and past-president of the San Angelo TEA Party, Ken is also the author of more than twenty-five novels.
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