

GROWING IN THE GOSPEL

**THE FLIP: WHEN DID JESUS'
LIBERAL TEACHINGS BECOME
CONSERVATIVE VALUES?**

Why are his teachings becoming liberal values again?

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***WHY ARE HIS TEACHINGS
BECOMING LIBERAL VALUES
AGAIN?***

When do liberal cultural ideas become conservative cultural ideas? This question is the underlying question that must be answered to be able to ponder how Jesus' teaching became conservative, and today these teachings are becoming liberal. The first step in answering this question is to define both terms. Conservatism is a following of traditional values and institutions that have been established by society, and it resists change. Liberalism is opposing the current values of the society but is also

tolerant of conservative ideas but not bound to conservative thinking.

How long does it take for liberal values to become conservative values? That is a difficult question to answer. The timeframe is dependent upon what the changes are and how open the society becomes to the new values. An example from the past is the American Civil War. The GOP political party started under President Thomas Jefferson. The official formation was in 1854. The GOP was considered to be a liberal political party. It will not be easy for many readers to accept that today's GOP political party was anything but conservatives. In the

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early to mid 1800s CE, they were considered liberals because they were the political party that supported the abolition of slavery.

This practice was considered an acceptable part of society in the United States' southern states until the Emancipation Proclamation and the thirteenth amendment to the Constitution. The Democrat party was the conservative political party before and during the Civil War. The movie "Lincoln" offers a window into the politics of slavery in the northern states during the war. The Democrats opposed the passing of the thirteenth amendment in Congress. It passed the House of

Representatives because the Republican majority convinced several Democrats to vote for the thirteenth amendment. The amendment was a challenge to the traditions of the day. The liberal Republicans fought against society's traditional views.

A flip started to occur when the thirteenth amendment was passed. When did the Republican party become the conservative party? The GOP became conservatives when their demands for changes to the traditions of the society were put in place. Their once liberal views became the fabric of society; the liberal views were now defined as

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conservative traditions of society. It can be said that the liberal GOP tore wholes in the fabric of society. That fabric was the traditional values of that day. The ending of slavery was a tear into that societal fabric. Today no one would disagree that society would not tolerate a return to the pre-Civil War traditional values. Over the second half of the nineteenth century, the policies and ideas of the GOP became the fabric of society. By the beginning of World War I, the fabric was changed entirely to the liberal views expressed by the GOP. When that happened, the GOP became conservatives. Why? Because their values became the fabric of society. The GOP was no longer trying to implement ideas

and values that were different than what society considered traditional. The liberal ideas of the nineteenth century had become the traditional ideas at the beginning of the twentieth century. The flip had occurred.

By the beginning of World War I, the "new" traditions of the liberal GOP were now traditional values. The Democratic party became the liberals. At the beginning of the flip, the Democratic party wanted to change things back to the way they were in the nineteenth century. Society did not agree, and the new traditions were in place. When President Woodrow Wilson took office,

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he tried to implement socialism. Socialism was considered a liberal idea, then as it is today. Why? Because the traditional fabric of today's society is based on capitalism. Being a conservative means to support the traditional fabric of society, no matter how long they were in place. The new traditional fabric was more vulnerable to damage because these traditional values were not long in place.

So, how long does a value or view have to be in place for it to become traditional? My experience with businesses and nonprofit organizations has taught me that if a new idea or

concept is implemented and occurs on a specific time per week, or per month, or even once a year, at least twice in the same manner, it becomes an accepted tradition. That is not to say that every time something new is introduced that it becomes a part of the fabric of the organization or society. Nevertheless, if persistence wins, the new idea quickly becomes an old idea. For example, a church starts a new event. The new event is a church dinner dance. At first, the event is viewed as a liberal idea because it has never been done before. It is not a tradition of the church. The older members of the church will voice their disapproval of anything new. Older church members, in general, are

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conservative and rigid. They do not like change. The dinner dance was a yearly event, and after two years, the rigid conservatives could not wait until the dinner dance coming up on the church calendar. The liberal dinner dance became the conservative dinner dance.

The conservative event has been occurring for an acceptable length of time, generally without any change. A liberal event is a new one or a radical change to some event that had been occurring for years. So, liberal events and thinking can become conservative events once they start occurring on a cyclic basis.

When does society flip liberalism to conservatism? The answer is when liberal thinking becomes conservative thinking. You may still be wondering about the definitions of liberalism and conservatism. A political definition today will prevent you from seeing this argument. Stop thinking about politics and think about culture. Conservative culture and liberal culture is what I am trying to define before talking about the flip.

So, the "flip" is when society accepts the liberal values as traditional values. When society accepts liberal thinking as the fabric of society, then the flip has

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occurred. Has a flip occurred in America's society today? The complete flip has not occurred, but it has started, and in many parts of the United States, it has occurred.

Let me prove this statement but looking at society's value in the Bible and church. When did the liberal idea of dropping the Bible and Christian values from society begin? That is a difficult question to answer. However, it is evident in the twenty-first-century liberals who want the Bible out of society. One proof is the demand that the Ten Commandments be removed from courthouses. There is resistance to this change, but it is

happening. Once most courthouses remove the Ten Commandments monument, the idea of not having it present will fade from society's memory. So, one day in the future, the idea of putting the Ten Commandments monuments in courthouses will be introduced, and that idea will be called liberal. Not having the Ten Commandments in the courthouse will be a conservative idea at that time.

An argument against Amy Barrett was that she is a devoted Catholic. The Liberal Democrats were against her appointment because of this. Their move is a clear signal that they do not want the

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Bible or God involved in the court. When this concern disappears from future confirmation processes, then the flip on this subject will occur. Liberals today want God out of all aspects of government. If that occurs, and it appears to be happening, then it will become the fabric of the society, and it becomes a conservative view. The once conservatives who wanted the Bible in government will be viewed as having a liberal view on this subject. When this happens, Jesus' teachings, which were considered the fabric of society, will also be removed. Society will consider Jesus' teaching liberal because they will not conform to a godless based society, just like in the early Roman Empire.

Liberals are supposed to be tolerant of all ideas. Many liberal persons today are no longer tolerant of differing ideas. Wait a minute that is a conservatives trait—that was a reason for the free speech movement at Berkley college in California in the 1960s. The students pressed for the ability to say what they thought without fear of reprisal from the college administration, faculty, or civil authorities. The students fought for the need for free speech, a liberal idea, and they won.

During the decades leading up to 2000 CE, the idea of exchanging ideas and the

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tolerance of ideas became an accepted norm of society. During the twenty-first century, many of today's liberals have become intolerant of free speech. On college campuses, unless it is a self-declared "conservative campus," conservative speakers are either not allowed on campus or the faculty and students protest the speaker until the speaker decides that it is not worth the effort. Free speech is a thing of the past on most college campuses. That means that the fabric of the college campus has changed. The liberals took over the campus and changed its fabric. When that happened, the society of the campus flipped. Now the traditional values are different on campuses. You might still

call them liberal views; however, from the definitions given earlier, they are now conservative campus. The traditions of the college campus have changed. The intolerance to having speakers on campus who oppose the college society's new fabric proves that the liberals are now conservatives. They are afraid of change! Their fabric is still considered liberal when viewed from the point of the current American society. Internally they are conservatives. The once conservative student who opposed the liberal changes and desires to change the fabric is now the liberal on campus. The flip has occurred.

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A great example comes from the Gospels. Jesus said it is better to put new wine in new wineskins rather than putting new wine in patched wineskins. The old wineskins are a metaphor for the fabric of His society. As new ideas were accepted, the fabric, the old wineskins, were torn. It was patched with new ideas. Over time the old wineskin became patched numerous times. Eventually, the old wineskin would not be recognized. At that point, the old wineskin was useless, and a new wineskin had to be used. The new wineskin becomes the new fabric of society. The liberal views, the patches, became the new views of the society. The liberal view became the traditional conservative view. The people

who wanted the return of the old ways would now be the liberals. The flip occurred. Jesus was tearing into the fabric of Jewish society in His day. Each of His teachings was a new patch on the old wineskin. It took three hundred years for the old wineskin to become patched entirely. After 300 CE, Christianity was no longer the liberal religious movement of the Roman Empire. It was now the traditional religion of the Empire. The Mithras religion, which was the conservative religion of the Empire overnight, became the liberal religion of the Empire. The once liberal church is now the traditional church. The traditional church, once open to new ideas, started to reject any change. The

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church after 300 CE did all that it could to stop any liberal (different) view of Christianity. It took another seven hundred years for the Orthodox movement to split from the Catholic movement. Instead of patches on the old wineskins, the Orthodox church created a new wineskin with its liberal views, thus making the conservative views of the Orthodox church. It took another six hundred years for the liberals called the Protestants to break away from the Catholic church. The patches on the old wineskin did not take, and the new wineskin emerged. In these cases, the flip did not occur. Instead, the liberals walked away from the traditional church and formed its church. The Protestant

church views became its fabric and tradition; thus, it became a conservative church. It does not like to change either. Anyone trying to change the traditions of a Protestant church is charged with being liberals.

For example, John Wesley in England wanted to see some reforms in the Anglican Church of England. When the church refused him many times, he created his denomination called Methodism. During John Wesley's life, he would have been called a liberal, and Methodism was a liberal church. Today the United Methodist Church, which developed out of the English Methodist

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Church, has its fabric. Those people in the church resisting change are called conservative because they hold on to the current fabric. The once liberal fabric of John Wesley's Methodist church in the late 1700s CE is now a conservative fabric in 2020. An example of the flip in action.

The flip of American society started in the 1960s. The liberal movement intensified with the free speech movement. It tore the fabric of society and patched it with their views. By the year 2000 CE, the fabric is old and has many patches on it. The liberals are making their final push to patch the

fabric completely. The flip will be complete in time. The once liberal, leftist movement views and values will become the fabric of American society. The liberals will become conservatives since their views and values will become the traditions of American society. The liberal movement has already decided that free speech is no longer tolerated. They revolt with anger when their views and values are challenged. They already act like conservatives. It will take a few more years for the completion of the flip to occur. The current conservatives will continue to fight the liberals. The liberals have come to the point that they will not tolerate anyone's values or ideas that are different from theirs, and they do not

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give up the fight when they lose. They regroup and pledge to fight until they win. In some areas, conservatives give in to their demands because the conservatives become weary of the fight.

One day the Democrat party will become the conservatives again like in the nineteenth century. The Republicans will become the liberals. The values of society will continue to change. The people who do not cling to the new fabric of society and continue to resist will become the liberals.

The flip phenomenon can be seen on college campuses as already discussed and even in some American churches. The administration of colleges, in general, has been hiring exclusively liberal thinkers. They, in turn, train the young to be liberals. The young are growing up and will become the leaders of tomorrow. They are becoming the leaders of today. They will eventually implement their Socialism and New Green Deal. When this becomes the fabric of society, it will be called the traditional values of society. The flip will have succeeded. It is happening all around us.

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Even if you do not agree with this presentation, I think you can agree that liberal views and values are now apart of society. Same-sex marriages and no-fault divorce are just the starts. Since 2000 CE, liberal views are patching the tares on the fabric of society now that the college kids educated by the liberal colleges have become leaders in society. Whether this is a good thing or not, only time will tell. If you disagree, make a list of the values and ways of society in 1959 CE. Then make a list for 2020 CE. Look for the 2020 CE views that have superseded the 1959 CE values and views. It will become apparent to you that the flip is happening.

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Your notes

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