



“What do you think of ...Donald Trump / Hillary Clinton?”

I’ve fielded this question many times recently. I suppose that it’s a natural question in a presidential election year.

Maybe the best answer I can give is similar to something I came across in an email from the Minnesota Family Council. The subject was a meeting that Christian leaders had with Donald Trump, so the email specifically references Mr. Trump. But the exact same conclusion would apply to Ms. Clinton and those who are wondering whether or not to support her.

Here is the main part of the email::

In June nearly 1,000 Christian leaders from across the nation gathered in New York City for a candid conversation with presumptive nominee, Donald Trump. Among those in attendance was John Helmberger, CEO of Minnesota Family Council.

John Helmberger, along with numerous allies in numerous states joined Trump in New York not to endorse, but to engage in a candid conversation concerning the **convictions that many Christians cherish, want preserved, and are striving to advance in our respective spheres of influence**. Many recognize the significant role the next president will play in shaping future policies on life, family, and religious freedom. These core, non-negotiable issues are central to Minnesota Family Council's mission. Many, including John, attended in order to further discern the intentions of this candidate, to speak into the ongoing conversation, and to highlight pro-life, pro-family, pro-religious freedom policies we believe must be championed.

One of our good friends, Bob Vander Plaats serves as President and CEO of The Family Leader in Iowa. He too attended the gathering and his related article below first appeared on The Family Leader's website....We commend his portrayal of the event and his challenge to believers.

It's Time... to Think Bigger Than Trump

By Bob Vander Plaats

Many reports have come out of the meeting that faith leaders held in New York City on June 21 with presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump. Below are my impressions from this big meeting, but I want to stress at the outset my conclusion of the matter: No matter how big the stage, or the stakes, if the church confines its vision to Mr. Trump, then our vision is not big enough. The good news is ... there is a bigger vision already laid out for us.

What happened in New York

The original intent of the New York City meeting was to be a free-flowing and unscripted dialogue with Mr. Trump. We wanted no media. We desired a safe environment that would lend itself to transparency, so Mr. Trump could see our heart and we could see his... Allow me to report the good things that happened in New York.

First, 1,000 faith leaders journeyed from across the U.S. to discern how to lead our country at this crucial time. Their heart for wisdom and unity was truly encouraging. They politely welcomed Mr. Trump to a conversation, and Mr. Trump honored the faith leaders and their importance in the culture and this election by agreeing to meet. These kinds of conversations between faith leaders and national civic leaders are unique opportunities and a

positive step.

Second, on the issues, Mr. Trump provided hope for these leaders as he spoke boldly for religious liberty, for ending the Johnson Amendment (which threatens churches that engage in politics with losing their tax-exempt status), for standing with Israel, for repealing Obamacare, and for insisting on the appointment of constitutionally minded Supreme Court justices. All of this is good news.

My biggest concern after leaving this meeting, however, is witnessing brothers and sisters in Christ on both sides of the Trump debate disparaging one another in the name of Christ. As big as this event was, and as big as this election is, I encourage all believers to **think bigger**. Tearing apart the church over Trump is defeating the bigger vision for the sake of the smaller.

For our hope – the hope of the believer, the hope of the church, and even America’s best hope – is not in Donald Trump nor Hillary Clinton nor the 2016 election nor any human instrument. **Think bigger!** Our true hope is not in a president or king, but in the King of Kings, and as Ronald Reagan rightly pointed out, “This country hungers for a spiritual revival.”

And the one institution that champions that true hope for revival is not a candidate or political party, but the church. The vision of the church is the vision bigger than even Donald Trump.

The best message that could come out of this meeting in New York is an overwhelming and united embrace of the belief that our true hope for America is in the Bride of Christ, the church. Simply put, **America needs the church to be the church**. Our pulpits must be enflamed with the righteousness Alexis de Tocqueville proclaimed makes America unique. The church, the body of Christ, must be willing to lead with humility and in prayer by seeking God’s heart and by authentically turning from our wicked and indifferent ways (2 Chronicles 7:14). We need revival, and nothing else and no one else will do.

Thus, I encourage all believers, no matter where you are on the Trump spectrum, to **think bigger** and to encourage one another to keep the main thing the main thing – the church’s united mission to proclaim the Cross of Christ! Let us not allow our smaller vision of Donald Trump to so divide the Body of Christ that it compromises or disqualifies us from our true hope.

Be a part of big vision, the call to revival in America. It’s Time!

FOR MORE INFORMATION Visit the “If 7:14” site at <http://www.if714.com/>

So, no matter who you think is the best leader for our country the next four years, keep putting your ultimate hope in Jesus. He’s truly the One who is in control. One of our VBS lessons later this month will focus on “wisdom.” James 1 tells us that God will give wisdom when we ask in faith. Ask Him for wisdom in your voting choices. Most of all ask Him for revival that begins not in the White House, but in you and me and Living Word.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net