

Covid Musing-19 – What I think God Want’s – July 8, 2020 – NSMC – Dan Graber

I am aware that many of these musings and reflections are long. But I don’t want to pass on sound bites – unless they are real real good. I do want us to take some time and consider racism and the coronavirus from different perspectives and often – that just takes up space and time. So I’m sorry they tend to be long, but I hope you read them and debate with them, as a few people have. May we can learn some things. And as always – I’m happy to receive your articles, passed on or written by you. Would probably share some of them!

What is interesting about the Coronavirus, besides the novelty of living through a pandemic, and learning all the health and science around this is: It has ripped the blanket off the haves and have nots. We have been “exposed” to many issues we knew about, both in mild and in some cases frightening ways. In some countries more than others. It has exposed the competence as well as the caring or lack of caring of governmental systems and countries leaders.

It has exposed the health and quality of various health systems and safety nets. The irony of so many essential workers being the lowest paid and who really makes an economy work – the workers not billionaires. And other issues have come into plain sight in such a way that we can not in good conscience pretend or dismiss or take the traditional side. Like racism.

So I ran across this post on facebook that I thought was an interesting statement for us to read. It’s not directly about Covid, but it reflects how people are being affected by this pandemic. And it touches on some racist perspectives. Plus compare it against the content of the Bible. Especially Jesus’ teachings. It’s from an American and is focused on America. But apply and compare it to Canada. And as always, if you see an article or writing that you think is worth sharing – please do so.

Copied from Jo Lehman’s post. Per Snopes, written in 2018 by author Lori Gallagher Witt.

Rather long, but I decided to post since it expresses very well how I think, feel, believe. I especially appreciate how she debunks common conservatives’ stereotyped accusations regarding certain so-called liberal beliefs. Shared to me via a friend. The title above is mine – probably presumptions of me! And this is from an American perspective – but I believe it’s biblical and for every country including Canada.

“I’m a liberal, but that doesn't mean what a lot of you apparently think it does. Let's break it down, shall we? Because quite frankly, I'm getting a little tired of being told what I believe and what I stand for. Spoiler alert: not every liberal is the same, though the majority of liberals I know think along roughly these same lines:

1. I believe a country should take care of its weakest members. A country cannot call itself civilized when its children, disabled, sick, and elderly are neglected. PERIOD.

2. I believe healthcare is a right, not a privilege. Somehow that's interpreted as "I believe Obamacare is the end-all, be-all." This is not the case. I'm fully aware that the ACA has problems, that a national healthcare system would require everyone to chip in, and that it's impossible to create one that is devoid of flaws, but I have yet to hear an argument against it that makes "let people die because they can't afford healthcare" a better alternative. I believe healthcare should be far cheaper than it is, and that everyone should have access to it. And no, I'm not opposed to paying higher taxes in the name of making that happen.

3. I believe education should be affordable. It doesn't necessarily have to be free (though it works in other countries so I'm mystified as to why it can't work in the US), but at the end of the day, there is no excuse for students graduating college saddled with five- or six-figure debt.

4. I don't believe your money should be taken from you and given to people who don't want to work. I have literally never encountered anyone who believes this. Ever. I just have a massive moral problem with a society where a handful of people can possess the majority of the wealth while there are people literally starving to death, freezing to death, or dying because they can't afford to go to the doctor. Fair wages, lower housing costs, universal healthcare, affordable education, and the wealthy actually paying their share would go a long way toward alleviating this. Somehow believing that makes me a communist.

5. I don't throw around "I'm willing to pay higher taxes" lightly. If I'm suggesting something that involves paying more, well, it's because I'm fine with paying my share as long as it's actually going to something besides lining corporate pockets or bombing other countries while Americans die without healthcare.

6/7. I believe companies should be required to pay their employees a decent, livable wage. Somehow this is always interpreted as me wanting burger flippers to be able to afford a penthouse apartment and a Mercedes. What it actually means is that no one should have to work three full-time jobs just to keep their head above water. Restaurant servers should not have to rely on tips, multibillion-dollar companies should not have employees on food stamps, workers shouldn't have to work themselves into the ground just to barely make ends meet, and minimum wage should be enough for someone to work 40 hours and live. (Plus, let's end corporate socialism as well as bailouts for the rich and million dollar bonuses.)

8. I don't believe LGBT people should have more rights than you. I just believe they should have the *same* rights as you.

9. I don't believe illegal immigrants should come to America and have the world at their feet, especially since THIS ISN'T WHAT THEY DO (spoiler: undocumented immigrants are ineligible for all those programs they're supposed to be abusing, and if they're "stealing" your job it's because your employer is hiring illegally). I believe there are far more humane ways to handle undocumented immigration than our current practices (i.e., detaining children, splitting up families, ending DACA, etc).

10. I don't believe the government should regulate everything, but since greed is such a driving force in our country, we NEED regulations to prevent cut corners, environmental destruction, tainted food/water, unsafe materials in consumable goods or medical equipment, etc. It's not that I want the government's hands in everything -- I just don't trust people trying to make money to ensure that their products/practices/etc. are actually SAFE. Is the government devoid of shadiness? Of course not. But with those regulations in place, consumers have recourse if they're harmed and companies are liable for medical bills, environmental cleanup, etc. Just kind of seems like common sense when the alternative to government regulation is letting companies bring their bottom line into the equation.

11. I believe our current administration is fascist. Not because I dislike them [or am a 'hater'] or because I can't get over an election, but because I've spent too many years reading and learning about the Third Reich to miss the similarities. Not because any administration I dislike must be Nazis, but because things are actually mirroring authoritarian and fascist regimes of the past.

12. I believe the systemic racism and misogyny in our society is much worse than many people think, and desperately needs to be addressed. Which means those with privilege -- white, straight, male, economic,

etc. -- need to start listening, even if you don't like what you're hearing, so we can start dismantling everything that's causing people to be marginalized.

13. I am not interested in anyone coming after your guns, nor is anyone serving in government. What I am interested in is the enforcement of present laws and enacting new, common sense gun regulations.

14. I believe in so-called political correctness. I prefer to think it's social politeness. If I call you Chuck and you say you prefer to be called Charles I'll call you Charles. It's the polite thing to do. Not because everyone is a delicate snowflake, but because as Maya Angelou put it, when we know better, we do better. When someone tells you that a term or phrase is more accurate/less hurtful than the one you're using, you now know better. So why not do better? How does it hurt you to NOT hurt another person?

15. I believe in funding sustainable energy, including offering education to people currently working in coal or oil so they can change jobs. There are too many sustainable options available for us to continue with coal and oil. Sorry, billionaires. Maybe try investing in something else.

16. I believe that women should not be treated as a separate class of human. They should be paid the same as men who do the same work, should have the same rights as men and should be free from abuse. Why on earth shouldn't they be?

I think that about covers it. Bottom line is that I'm a liberal because I think we should take care of each other. That doesn't mean you should work 80 hours a week so your lazy neighbor can get all your money. It just means I don't believe there is any scenario in which preventable suffering is an acceptable outcome as long as money is available to help those who are less fortunate."