

Wednesday, December 20, 2006

## **POLITICS AND RELIGION**

Our Governor-elect, Deval Patrick, has been holding town meetings all across the State. He has enlisted many business and community leaders to give him input on what the State, cities and towns, schools and businesses need. He has had thousands of suggestions and requests from every quarter. His campaign slogan was "Together we can". He says he is all about participatory democracy and many people are embracing him with enthusiasm (Note: Barack Obama is his clone in many ways). Time will tell how all this plays out. My question is: by what standard will he, as Governor, decide between all these ideas, suggestions and requests? What criteria will he use to determine the wheat from the chaff? What principles will guide his decisions, choices and actual actions? There must be standards, criteria, values and principles. He can not do what everyone wants willy nilly. There must be order and priorities assigned. There will be political pressures and fiscal restraints, but what moral values will govern the Governor? For all the profession of bi-partisanship, Mr Patrick is a social and economic liberal Democrat. That will determine much of what he will do when in Office. Many Christians believe that the values of liberal Democrats are Biblical, e.g.- Mr Patrick is expected to increase State spending on Education, Social and Human services. Many other Christians believe that Mr Patrick will promote non-Biblical values, e.g.- gambling, embryonic stem cell research, abortion, "gay marriage" and much of the involuntary redistribution of wealth to support programs of a socialized welfare State. People may always argue over Religion and Politics, but they are not only essential, they are inseparable. And the latter must be grounded in the former. More specifically, the latter must be grounded in Biblical values and principles. Let the arguments continue- we are in serious trouble if they do not.

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