

## Jesus Was Not A Liberal.

(The following is an excerpt from a letter I wrote in response to an article in the Gazette. The writer, Warner, like others do, presented Jesus as if he were a political tool. I personally try to remain non-political. Hopefully, that comes through in this writing. Surprisingly, the Gazette has not printed my letter.)

I remember the story of a young boy who wrote "Tiger!" on his pillow with a black marker. When questioned, he told his mother, "Now my pillow is a tiger!" At a young age, children believe that affixing the proper label to something can affect how it is seen. Thus, I cringed when I read John Warner's piece in the Gazette. More political theater bearing the banner of Jesus, marking up Jesus to fit the mold of modern-day political parties.

Warner claims boldly, "Jesus was a liberal. Absolutely and totally a liberal. Not a conservative bone in his body." No, Jesus was not a liberal. The terms "liberal" and "conservative" as defined by contemporary politics do not appear in the Bible. That's anachronism of the worst sort, crafting a "new tradition" idol of Christ, viewing Jesus through an activist's lens, shaping Jesus in one's own appearance.

Friends, you and I both know that the word "liberal" can imply being "morally loose." Jesus was not morally loose with respect to God's law. When Jesus forgave a sinner, he was not accepting their sins but their sincere desire to change, to stop sinning. (cf. Jno. 8:11) Warner went on to write of Jesus, "He broke the rules. On purpose. He flaunted them, in fact, eating with sinners, healing on the Sabbath, [ . . . ], criticizing the establishment." The only "rules" Jesus broke were those traditions created by human beings, the so-called "establishment." These "rules" ("Don't eat with sinners," "Don't do good on the Sabbath") were not God's law but were human in origin. Jesus demolished these traditions to demonstrate that human traditions are not based on God's authority and are vain, invalid in truly honoring him. (cf. Mar. 7:7) To top things off, Warner wrote, "He never asks us to sing pretty songs." Actually, scripture indeed asks Christians to sing songs to honor God. (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17)

Did Jesus die because he was a liberal? Hardly. Jesus knew the motives of those who sought his life, "But now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God." (Jno. 8:40) And why did they hate him? "The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil." (Jno. 7:7)

No, John Warner, no matter how you label them, neither Jesus nor the Prophets were "liberals" in that usage of the word. And no, Ann Coulter, Jesus was not a "conservative" either. True social change, as God would have it, does not happen in the ballot box but in human beings. Please remember how God is honored; It happens when men and women of contrite hearts push human traditions aside and worship him through faith. (Heb. 12:28; Rom. 10:17)