

**Random thoughts on
Jesus and John Wayne:
How white Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith
and Fractured a Nation
Book by Kristin Kobes
Thoughts by William Gasarch**

Random thoughts

1. The main problem I have with these Christian-Macho movements is they claim there is only ONE way for men to be, and one way for women to be. Here are some hard questions for them:

Do we fire gay Farsi-translators? So whats more important WINNING a WAR (or a football game) or NOT having gay people.

Do we allow women to use their skills to help us WIN?

What about men who are UNABLE to do sports (e.g., handicapped). (This was addressed later in the book— it has lead to some such men leaving the women.)

2. The book raised the point of which came first: They read the bible and said MEN SHOULD.. and WOMEN SHOULD or They they decided what their policy is and then find SOME bible verse for it. (Last chapter- only 12% use the Bible for a guide on immigration policy.)
3. That evangelicals turned a blind Eye to Trumps moral problems lead me to say OH- for Clinton they cared, but Trump they didn't? How can they explain that away? But the reality is stranger: Throughout the movement (including during the Clinton years) they were very forgiving of men who had affairs or abused women. So when they were criticizing Clinton they were hypocritical THEN, not later when they excused Trump. They also didn't care about John Wayne's womanizing or Reagan's divorce.
4. The way they excused men's bad behavior (Chapter: Evangelical Mulligans) was really bad so i wonder if even they believed it. Here are some:

If a man has an affair its his wives fault for not making herself available sexually. (They even used this with cocaine-snorting homosexual Ted Haggard.)

For Roy Moore: Its okay for a 35 year old to pursue a 14 year old since Joseph has 35 when Mary has 14.

5. There was initially more variety to the movement. The Promise Keepers and some other had some positive aspects:

Keeping promises to their wives

Trying to recruit black people.

Care about the poor.

Care about Christian's being prosecuted.

but somehow this all got evaporated as the fringe took over the middle.

6. I have a less good opinion of Billy Graham now, and Chuck Colson- as they seemed to buy into some of this crap.

7. I am always amused at Christian who are scared of Sharia Law when actually they would AGREE with Sharia law:

Against Blasphemy and Apostasy Against LGBT rights (to put it mildly) Terrorism is justified (Jan 6) Domestic Violence is fine Subjugation of women is fine Women get less inheritance Women are to blame for rape

8. For them it seems that abortion is more about keeping a women bare-foot and pregnant then about dignity of life.

9. The range of issues they had opinions on varies how connected it is to Religion.

Here is a list in categories

- (a) Can be somewhat traced to the bible: Women's roles, Anti-Gay, Anti-Abortion, Restraint of Sexual Activity.
- (b) Can be traced to infusing Christianity with a Macho Spirit: Anti Gun Control, Pro Military, Pro Cops , Libertarian (Gov help makes us weak.)
- (c) Seems to not be connected to religion or Macho: Racism (This may come out of Pro-Cops) , Lost Cause false history, Anti-Vax, Global Warming is a Hoax (This may be related to Libertarianism.)

10. They truly do not want religious or political freedom. So I wonder: The people who claim to think that Obama was not born in America, or that Trump won the election- do they REALLY believe it, or do they believe that their cause is so just that its okay to lie to achieve it.
11. The attitude that women should be subservient was bad for many reasons
 - (a) Leads to women not living up to their full potential- again, some want to be mothers, but some want to be ramsey theorists.
 - (b) Pastors and other leaders having affairs, abusing their power.
 - (c) Pastors urging women to stay with their abusive husbands. Reminds me of the laws on spouse abuse in Russia.
12. What is obvious to me and Darling is that these are just the kind of people that Jesus would criticize! See next point.
13. This point wasn't in the book that much: the leaders were making LOTS of money off of the block. Jesus chased the money changers out of the temple.
14. I'm surprised they made so much money since their materials seem very repetitive. Reminds me- I have heard that the Music business makes money whenever the medium changes: OH, I have to get this Vinyl record I have on CD! on Streaming. Perhaps the same here.
15. These people do not seem to know any history which would tell them they are on the wrong side of history.
16. With several of them getting divorced and (I am sure) having pre-marital sex, have they changed their stance on those issues?
17. At one time a law school could deny admittance to someone just because they are a women. Would Phyllis S have objected to those laws?
18. When they say Religious Freedom they seem to only mean for Christianity.

19. The movement seems to be very ecumenical- I like that! There is discussions between different Protestant branches and (I think) with Catholics. I heard (not in this book) that Orthodox Jews and the Moral Majority worked together on some issues. More recently a crazy Cons Catholic Church and a crazy Orth Jewish temple joined forces to sue the gov over Vaccine Mandates. So they get along! I do see this as positive and wonder if they will one day team up with devout Muslims. I also wonder how this happened— what were the turning points?