

Evangelical Leader Supports 'Gay' Civil Unions **Claims Christians Should 'Give Biblical Point Of View A Different Slant'**

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Note from Pastor Kevin Lea: It is very clear that many wolves have put on sheep's clothing and infiltrated the "Church" and its supposed Evangelical organizations. The Apostle Paul warned us that it would be so. This article is followed by another one a few days later talking about Mr. Cizik's resignation. I pray that he will someday come to a sincere saving knowledge of Jesus and thus no longer lean on his own understanding and accept the Word of God as a final authority. These articles go along with our study last week in Daniel, Chapter 8; regarding the church of today becoming 'Hellenized'.

Acts 20:28-31 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears." (NKJ)

Prov 3:5-7 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil. (NKJ)



Richard Cizik (photo: National Association of Evangelicals)

An influential evangelical leader is coming under fire for saying in a **National Public Radio** interview he believes in homosexual civil unions and that Christians who oppose same-sex marriage and abortion may still find reasons to support Obama.

Richard Cizik is chief lobbyist and vice president for governmental affairs for the **National Association of Evangelicals**, representing 45,000 U.S. churches from 59 denominations. He told NPR Dec. 2 he is "shifting" on "gay" marriage, he has an aversion to Sarah Palin and that he voted for Obama in the Virginia primary, **LifeNews** reported.

"I happen to think in the primary he was the best choice," Cizik said.

Cizik refused to reveal which candidate received his vote in the general election, but in a September interview with the **Colorado Independent**, Cizik expressed disapproval of John McCain's campaign. McCain "is not the John McCain of 2000. ... He seems to be waffling on issue after issue," he said.

Cizik told NPR a candidate's character and party values are more significant to him than specific issues such as abortion and same-sex marriage.

"It would be possible for evangelicals to disagree with Barack Obama on same sex marriage and abortion and yet vote for him."

Cizik, named one of Time's most influential people, called Palin's stance on the environment "ignorance." He also said she lacked humility, unlike Obama. Prior to the election, he told the Independent, "Not everyone in the evangelical movement is fawning over Sarah Palin."

When NPR asked Cizik about whether his views could change on "gay" marriage, he said, "I'm shifting I have to admit. In other words I would willingly say that I believe in civil unions. I don't officially support redefining marriage from its traditional definition, I don't think."

According to the report, Cizik suggested Christians should redirect their focus away from the debate about "gay" marriage.

"Maybe we need to reevaluate this and look at it a little differently," he told NPR. "I'm always looking for ways to reframe issues. Give the biblical point of view a different slant."

Ingrid Schlueter, co-host of *Crosstalk Radio*, said Cizik appears to be more concerned with appeasing NPR's listeners than supporting Christian principles.

"As an adoptive parent of two children given life by their birth mothers, I find it abhorrent that Mr. Cizik would sanction Christian support for the most radically pro-abortion president in the history of the nation," she said. "The moral anarchy in America worsens daily largely due to the refusal of evangelical Christians to stand for biblical truth in all areas of life. Those who are at war with God, the author of life, should be publicly confronted by evangelical Christians. Instead, they are aided and abetted in their evil by craven leaders like Cizik."

Evangelical Leader Resigns Amid Controversial Comments

Jim Brown and Jody Brown - OneNewsNow - 12/12/2008 7:00:00 AM
<http://www.onenewsnow.com/Church/Default.aspx?id=350822>

The controversial Washington lobbyist for the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) has resigned after he created a stir by expressing support for homosexual civil unions.

Richard Cizik has resigned as vice president for governmental affairs for the NAE. In a statement to NAE board members, acting president Leith Anderson cited "a loss of trust in his [Cizik's] credibility as a spokesperson among leaders and constituencies."

On December 2, Cizik acknowledged -- during an interview on National Public Radio's *Fresh Air* -- that he voted for Barack Obama in the Virginia primary, and suggested that Christians should not be afraid to vote for candidates who support abortion and same-sex "marriage." He also admitted on that broadcast that he was "shifting" on the issue of marriage and that he supports homosexual civil unions.

In addition, Cizik has found himself at odds with most evangelicals on the issue of global warming, which he believes is a climate crisis created by human activity.

Mark Tooley with the Washington-based *Institute on Religion & Democracy* welcomes Cizik's departure from the NAE. "Cizik has been very outspoken and in some ways 'off the reservation' for the last five or six years in terms of his



global warming activism, which the board of NAE had initially somewhat disavowed -- but that had not discouraged him," he notes.

"So it left the impression that the board and the president of NAE were somewhat passive and that Richard Cizik pretty much could say and do almost whatever he wanted to do in Washington. But clearly that was not the case -- at least this time."

Tooley says Cizik's support for same-sex civil unions appears to be the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back.

Reaction to Cizik's comments

In an interview before Cizik resigned, Tooley said he found it especially troubling that Cizik would consider the issue of same-sex marriage an evolving one for evangelicals, and in particular, younger evangelicals.

"The National Association of Evangelicals has official positions strongly supporting traditional marriage and opposing same-sex marriage, and certainly by implication same-sex civil unions," he pointed out. "So it seemed to be a very clear case where Cizik was ignoring the very obvious and official positions of his own organization, for which he is supposed to be the chief spokesman and lobbyist in Washington."

Tooley was not alone in his criticism. Wendy Wright, president of Concerned Women for America, considered Cizik's views to be "not anywhere close to biblical orthodoxy, traditional Christian theology, nor the bulk of Evangelicals who ground their faith in the Bible." She suggested that may be why the NAE vice president shared them on a forum to which most of his supposed "constituents" do not listen.

At least one Christian radio commentator delivered some biting criticism of Cizik in the wake of his remarks, suggesting that the NAE officer's comments are one of the reasons for the moral decay in America. "The moral anarchy in America worsens daily largely do the refusal of evangelical Christians to stand for biblical truth in all areas of life," said Ingrid Schlueter, co-host of *Crosstalk America*. "Those who are at war with God, the author of life, should be publicly confronted by evangelical Christians. Instead, they are aided and abetted in their evil by craven leaders like Cizik."

Earlier this week, *The Christian Post* published an interview with NAE acting president Leith Anderson, who suggested that listeners were confused by Cizik's words. His vice president's comments, Anderson admitted, "did not appropriately reflect the positions of the [NAE] and its constituents. Our...stand on marriage, abortion, and other biblical values is long, clear, and unchanged."

TIME magazine had named Cizik one of its top 100 most influential people in the world for 2008.