

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

P.O. BOX 750 · MADISON, WI 53701 · (608) 256-8900 · WWW.FFRF.ORG

June 11, 2019

VIA EMAIL & U.S. MAIL: mayor@coffeecountytn.org

The Honorable Gary Cordell
Coffee County Mayor's Office
1329 McArthur Street
Suite 1
Manchester, TN 37355

Re: Abuse of office, discrimination, ethics issues - Craig Northcott

Dear Mayor Cordell:

I am writing on behalf of the Freedom From Religion Foundation to alert you to concerns regarding Coffee County District Attorney Craig Northcott abusing his office. FFRF is a nationwide nonprofit with more than 31,000 members, including more than 400 in Tennessee. FFRF protects the constitutional separation between state and church, and educates the public about matters related to nontheism.

Several Tennesseans alerted FFRF to alarming statements and public admissions by Northcott on two occasions: (1) Northcott's presentation at the 2018 Chafer Theological Seminary Pastors' Conference entitled, "The Local Church's Role in Government"¹; and (2) Northcott's anti-Muslim, pro-Christian, anti-Constitutional rant on Facebook, issued from an official government page.²

Northcott has repeatedly violated the Constitution. He is using a government office to promote his personal religion, discriminating in the administration of justice (by his own admission), spreading mistruths, and generally bringing the office he temporarily occupies into disrepute. His open bias casts doubt on every criminal prosecution of a non-Christian or LGBTQ resident under his watch. He is unfit for office and should resign or be removed. So long as he remains in office, his actions create legal liability for the County.

¹ Mar. 13, 2018, available at <https://vimeo.com/259966755> with copy available by request to FFRF.

² This rant is discussed below, with reference to enclosed screenshots.

Northcott is abusing a public office to promote his personal religion.

Northcott seems to think he was elected to enforce his unique interpretation of his god’s law. Northcott misunderstands both the Office of District Attorney—a secular office that “has no particle of spiritual jurisdiction,” to borrow from Alexander Hamilton³—and the constitutional limits of that office.

The Supreme Court has said time and again that the First Amendment “mandates governmental neutrality between religion and religion, and between religion and nonreligion.” *McCreary Cty., Ky. v. Am. Civil Liberties Union of Ky.*, 545 U.S. 844, 860 (2005); *Wallace v. Jaffree*, 472 U.S. 38, 53 (1985); *Epperson v. Arkansas*, 393 U.S. 97, 104 (1968); *Everson v. Bd. of Educ. of Ewing*, 330 U.S. 1, 15–16 (1947).

Promoting one’s personal religion using a government office and title gives the impression that the government supports and endorses Northcott’s religious message—a message of Christian nationalism. This tells “nonadherents that they are outsiders, not full members of the political community, and [sends] an accompanying message to adherents that they are insiders, favored members” *Santa Fe Indep. Sch. Dist. v. Doe*, 530 U.S. 290, 309–10 (2000) (quoting *Lynch v. Donnelly*, 465 U.S. 668, 688 (1984) (O’Connor, J., concurring)). The specific content of Northcott’s Facebook remarks and the seminary presentation reinforced this exclusionary message.

Northcott has used his official “@CraigNorthcottDA” Facebook page to preach and evangelize.⁴ The account bears all the hallmarks of an official government page: it includes the official title (even in the handle), lists Northcott’s position as “government official,” and describes his role (again highlighting the fact that he is abusing a public office to promote his personal religion):

I am honored to serve Tennessee’s 14th Judicial District as its District Attorney General. I strive to achieve justice in every case in a professional and efficient manner. I will do all that I can to hold everyone accountable by balancing the Biblical principles of righteousness and mercy.⁵

³ *The Federalist* #69.

⁴ The name of this Facebook page is “Craig Northcott District Attorney 14th Judicial District” and was previously available at <https://www.facebook.com/CraigNorthcottDA>. See enclosed screenshots.

⁵ See enclosed screenshot #1, previously available at https://www.facebook.com/pg/CraigNorthcottDA/about/?ref=page_internal.

While the page has recently been either deleted or made private,⁶ Northcott has made it clear that he intends to continue abusing his public position to promote his personal religious beliefs.

In a publicly posted series of Facebook messages, Northcott recently ranted about his views on the propriety of using his public office to evangelize. In the climax of his diatribe, Northcott restated his position in seven points. In point #4, he wrote:

If I have to remain silent and not give a defense of the Gospel, I don't want my job. That said, clearly, I am not required to make that decision because I didn't give up my God given right to freedom of religion or speech when I took office.⁷

Northcott's other messages to the public similarly endorse his personal religion. Prior to being deleted or made private, the four most recent posts⁸ on this Facebook page were all religious and quoted the bible heavily. Northcott used the "District Attorney" title in the posts and wrote about official government business. For instance, when discussing the state attorneys general conference on recidivism, he wrote, "As I listened to the presenters, I realized that God's Word is the only answer. Although presented in secular terms, the conclusion was that the only way to reduce the likelihood of criminal reoffending is to return to respecting and honoring God's divinely inspired institutions."⁹ He argued on this official channel that recidivism declines with "an understanding and application of God's Word. This comes from each individual's acceptance of Christ's work on the cross, learning His Word and consistent application of His Word in their life."¹⁰ This is not only promoting religion on an official government page, but also planning how to use a government office to promote his religion in other ways as well.

Northcott has similarly demonstrated his fundamental misunderstanding of both the law and the duties of a public official through his presentation at the Chafer

⁶ While Northcott's constitutional violations extend beyond what he has written on this Facebook page, deleting the page is at least a solution to those religious endorsements. On the other hand, preserving the page but making it privately accessible does *not* cure the constitutional violations. Limiting a District Attorney's official government page to that DA's preferred constituents is unconstitutional. *See, e.g., Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia Univ. v. Trump*, 1:17-cv-05205 (S.D.N.Y. May 23, 2018) (appeal pending) (holding that the President violates the Constitution by blocking constituents from his Twitter account).

⁷ *See* enclosed screenshot #2.

⁸ May 27, May 18, Apr. 21, 2019, and Aug. 28, 2018; *see* enclosed screenshots #3-#6.

⁹ *See* enclosed screenshot #6.

¹⁰ *Id.*

Theological Seminary Pastors' Conference, where he was introduced as District Attorney and proceeded to advocate for his religious beliefs in that capacity. Anyone is free, of course, to attend church, worship, and even preach while acting as a private citizen. But that is not what Northcott chose to do. Instead of preaching as *Mr. Northcott* he instead elected to preach as *District Attorney Northcott*. In his personal capacity he can freely exercise his religion as he sees fit. In his official capacity as an officer of the government, he is bound by the Establishment Clause and cannot abuse that office to promote his personal religion. The power, title, resources, and prestige of the Office of District Attorney cannot be used to “defen[d] the Gospel.”¹¹

Northcott admitted to discriminating in the administration of justice and failing to provide equal protection under the law.

In the course of the seminary presentation Q&A, Northcott made it clear that, when administering justice in Coffee County, he discriminates in the name of his god. First, by disparately enforcing the law against LGBTQ citizens. He openly admitted to violating the Fourteenth Amendment, refusing to give equal protection of the laws to a certain class of citizens. Second, by looking to biblical law to determine who should receive the death penalty. Third, his Facebook disquisition shows that there is little chance that Muslim residents will receive fair and impartial justice in Coffee County. And it's not just Muslims—any non-Christian reading his remarks or hearing his talk would immediately understand that only Northcott's fellow Christians will be treated fairly and justly in Coffee County; non-Christians are second-class citizens. These stated policies are attributable to the County.

Northcott admits to discriminating against LGBTQ victims of domestic abuse.

In answering a question about how, as a Christian district attorney, he should deal with prosecuting clerks like Kim Davis, Northcott explained that the Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell* should have impacted his role as DA, but that he refused to let it do so (he also lied to the congregation about that decision, but we'll get to that below.) Specifically, Northcott explained that he will not recognize domestic violence when it occurs in an LGBTQ relationship:

So the social engineers on the Supreme Court decided that we now have homosexual marriage. I disagree with them. What do I do with domestic assaults? On the one hand I don't prosecute them because I don't recognize it as marriage. On the other hand, if I don't prosecute them

¹¹ Chafer Theological Seminary Pastors' Conference, available at <https://vimeo.com/259966755>.

then the sinner, the immoral guy, gets less punishment. What do you do? Where I came down . . . the reason there's enhanced punishment on domestic violence is to recognize and protect the sanctity of marriage. And I say, 'there's no marriage to protect,' so I don't prosecute them as domestics. That is one of many decisions like that"¹²

This is wrong twice. First, because the Tennessee legislature and courts have been clear that the purposes of enhanced punishment for domestic abusers is to protect the victim, not the sanctity of marriage. This is spelled out clearly in the law itself¹³ and courts have been equally clear; for instance, "another purpose set out by the legislature is to prevent further harm to the victim."¹⁴ The legislature also wanted to right a wrong: "in the past law enforcement agencies have treated domestic abuse crimes differently than crimes resulting in the same harm but occurring between strangers."¹⁵ In other words, in using his religion to guide his public duty, Northcott is undercutting the explicit purpose of the legislature and subverting the will of the people. This failure at the most basic interpretation of legislative purpose also shows that Northcott is incompetent and unfit for office.

More importantly, this is wrong because it is discrimination. Despite Northcott's claim to the contrary, prosecutorial discretion "is not unfettered" and in particular, the decision to prosecute may not be deliberately based upon an unjustifiable standard such as "race, religion or other arbitrary classification." *Wayte v. United States*, 470 U.S. 598, 607–08 (1985) (citations omitted). *See also Gardenhire v. Schubert*, 205 F.3d 303, 319 (6th Cir. 2000). Northcott has indicated that it is the official policy of the Coffee County DA to treat LGBTQ victims of domestic abuse differently from

¹² Chafer Theological Seminary Pastors' Conference, Beginning at 56:55. Northcott began with a discourse on prosecutorial discretion: "DAs have what's called prosecutorial discretion. . . . Y'all give us a lot of authority whether you know it or not. You give us a lot of authority. We can choose to prosecute anything or we can choose not to prosecute anything, up to and including murder. It's our choice. Unfettered. . . . So to deal with that you elect a good Christian man as DA. . . . How can homosexual marriage deal with criminal aspect [sic]? . . . There's a sub-category of assault called domestic assault. . . . A domestic assault carries more punishment."

¹³ T.C.A. § 36-3-618 "The purpose of this part is to recognize the seriousness of domestic abuse as a crime and to assure that the law provides a victim of domestic abuse with enhanced protection from domestic abuse. A further purpose of this chapter is to recognize that in the past law enforcement agencies have treated domestic abuse crimes differently than crimes resulting in the same harm but occurring between strangers. Thus, the general assembly intends that the official response to domestic abuse shall stress enforcing the laws to protect the victim and prevent further harm to the victim, and the official response shall communicate the attitude that violent behavior is not excused or tolerated."

¹⁴ *Clark v. Crow*, 37 S.W.3d 919, 924 (Tenn. Ct. App. 2000).

¹⁵ T. C. A. § 36-3-618.

heterosexual victims of abuse because of his religious belief. He has admitted to illegal discrimination, and using the Office of District Attorney to carry out that discrimination.

Northcott uses his religious beliefs to determine who gets the death penalty.

In response to a question about imposing the death penalty for first degree murder Northcott explained: “I’ve got two things that I have to evaluate in death penalty cases, primarily, and whether I would seek it. First is, does God’s standard call for it? . . . So if we’re talking first degree murder, it meets God’s standard for death penalty.”¹⁶

“God’s standard” is entirely irrelevant when the state is determining who to execute. This is a gross violation of his public duty. Northcott may not use the DA’s office to impose what he interprets to be his god’s standards for capital punishment on the people of Coffee County. He must be removed from office.

Northcott openly disparaged Muslim and non-Christian residents.

Northcott has demonstrated a deep pro-Christian, anti-Muslim bias in comments he made unashamedly on the official District Attorney Facebook page. For instance:

- “I pray that the Lord opens your eyes to the need to defend His Gospel and not the lie of Islam or any other idolatrous system.”¹⁷
- That he “will work for our community, but standing firm in God’s Truth which directly opposed to Islam will always be at the center of my position.”¹⁸
- “You stated that Islam worships the same god as Christians and worship Christ the same as Christians. This is blasphemy.”¹⁹
- “Frankly I find it extremely offensive that you chose Easter weekend to be an apologist for Islam. Let’s celebrate the facts that Christ died for the sins of all humanity and, as proof that God The Father declared Christ’s work on the cross a complete payment for our sins, God the Father raised Christ from the dead. Christ is now ascended and seated at the Father’s right hand. Whoever believes these historical facts is saved and will spend all eternity in Heaven

¹⁶ Chafer Theological Seminary Pastors’ Conference, at 1:08:45.

¹⁷ See enclosed screenshot #2.

¹⁸ *TN Holler*, “Special Prosecutor On Casada/Jones Case Says ‘Islam Is Evil’, And ‘No Constitutional Rights’ Only Rights From The ‘One True God’,” May 16, 2019 available at <http://tnholler.com/2019/05/special-prosecutor-on-casada-jones-case-says-islam-is-evil-and-no-constitutional-rights-only-rights-from-the-one-true-god/>.

¹⁹ See enclosed screenshot #7.

with God. This is the message we need to be discussing and sharing with our Muslim neighbors.”²⁰

At the pastor’s conference, he spoke of “atheism, humanism, Muslims,” as “others” and “the enemy” and “champing at the bit to take over our government.”²¹

Northcott clearly communicated to the public, on an official channel, that Muslims have no chance at fairness in the Coffee County justice system. He will not protect non-Christians or LGBTQ Americans in Coffee County. He is a Christian nationalist who openly views non-Christians as his enemy and is unfit for any public office in the United States, let alone for an office charged with upholding the law and Constitution.

Northcott is spreading mistruths about the law and the Constitution he swore to uphold, while using the title and resources of the office.

“The Local Church’s Role in Government” presentation was Christian nationalism at its worst. There were too many errors to catalog here. None were new—they are the old standards of Christian nationalism. And all are debunked in the book I recently wrote on the subject. FFRF would be happy to provide Northcott a copy of *The Founding Myth: Why Christian Nationalism is Un-American*, so that he can educate himself and stop spreading such misinformation.

However, amid the flood of fabrications, a few corrections to the record are necessary. Northcott, who swore to uphold the Constitution and the rights it enshrines, repeatedly claims our rights come from his god. In point 3 of his angry Facebook summation, he argued:

“There are no constitutional rights. There are God given rights protected by the constitution. If you don’t believe in the one true God, there is nothing to protect. No one other than God has given us any rights.”²²

Perhaps this sentiment is why he willingly admitted to violating the Fourteenth Amendment rights of Coffee County residents.

The god-given rights fallacy misapprehends the Declaration of Independence and Jefferson’s view of natural law. It is also dangerous. I’ve written about this

²⁰ See enclosed screenshot #8.

²¹ Chafer Theological Seminary Pastors’ Conference, at 53:06.

²² See enclosed screenshot #7.

extensively, including for Religion New Service.²³ History has shown us that what is given by a god can be taken away by those who claim to speak with or for that god. Slavery was God's will, until it wasn't. Segregation and anti-miscegenation laws were meant to keep the races separate, as God intended.

God-given rights are problematic because they depend solely on a particular individual's interpretation of his god's word. Perhaps the interpreter adheres to some higher authority, such as a pope or an author of the bible. But at the end of that line of spiritual authority, a human being is claiming to know "God's will," in this instance, a District Attorney. Northcott's belief is suddenly given the weight of divine law. This is no more than a fallible human claiming divine sanction.

Rights are not bestowed—not by magistrates, kings, or even by gods. Rights are asserted. Once they are asserted they must be defended. Our Constitution asserts certain human rights. It never mentions a god. District Attorneys swore to play a role in defending those rights. Instead, Northcott admits to violating them and excuses these breaches by pointing to his own interpretation of his god's will.

Northcott misquotes the founders and denigrates the American wall of separation. There were plenty of small errors in Northcott's presentation at the 2018 Chafer Theological Seminary Pastors' Conference. For instance, Northcott misattributed a John Quincy Adams quote to his father, John Adams, and butchered it in the process.²⁴ Sloppy fact-checking, especially coming from a DA.

Northcott also highlighted a (genuine) John Adams quote and another from George Washington, both discussing "religion and morality." Christian nationalists like Northcott regularly use these quotes. It's so common I included both in *The Founding Myth*. Northcott fails to understand that the quotes show that the founders viewed religion and morality as two distinct concepts and, in the end, actually disprove the very point he's trying to make. The founders believed that religion was important to ensure moral behavior for the masses but not for

²³ "The Bill of Rights, Thomas Jefferson, and the danger of 'God-given rights,'" *Religion News Service* (Dec. 15, 2017), available at religionnews.com/2017/12/15/the-bill-of-rights-thomas-jefferson-and-the-danger-of-god-given-rights/.

²⁴ Chafer Theological Seminary Pastors' Conference, at 42:45. As far as we can tell from a brief survey, there is no original for this letter. Only a reprint in *The Historical Magazine* Vol IV, no. 7 (July 1860 issue) at 193–94 (New York: Charles B. Richardson & Co, 1860), available at archive.org/stream/historicalmagaziv4morr#page/194/mode/1up/.

themselves—the educated elite. This means that the founders were moral without religion. It means they built a government using their own morality, not religion.²⁵

In other words, the quotes disprove Northcott's claim about "the lie that is fed us regarding the separation of church and state."²⁶ The "wall of separation between church and state" is no lie. It is an American invention and something that every American—especially our elected officials—should treat with pride and reverence. Instead, Northcott treats it with contempt and argues that the church should be the government. That was the import of his presentation:

The local church is the foundation for the proper establishment and implementation of all governments. Why? It's a divine institution and the local church is God's mechanism . . . if the church fails, government fails.²⁷

It needs to be stated plainly: This is un-American. It's almost as if Northcott has never bothered to read the Constitution he swore an oath to uphold. The first three words, "We the People," show how very wrong he is. The United States government does not derive its power from a deity, but from the people. Northcott's view is so wrong, so fundamentally flawed, that it shows him to be unfit for the office he holds.

Northcott deliberately misrepresents Supreme Court opinions to the public.

Other misrepresentations by Northcott are ethically problematic. For instance, in the same answer during which he admitted to discriminating against LGBTQ victims of domestic abuse, Northcott completely misrepresented both the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court's opinion in the marriage equality decision, *Obergefell*:

"five people in black dresses rule us . . . If you ever read their opinion, they don't base it on the Constitution, they don't base it upon law, they don't base it on anything—they start in the very first paragraph saying, 'We think it's a better public policy for homosexual marriage to be legitimized, therefore, we're gonna rule this way.' That's what they said, at the very beginning."²⁸

²⁵ For more on this, see chapter 2 of *The Founding Myth: Why Christian Nationalism is Un-American*.

²⁶ Chafer Theological Seminary Pastors' Conference, at 41:45.

²⁷ Chafer Theological Seminary Pastors' Conference, at 49:00.

²⁸ Of course, this is a lie. The *Obergefell* majority opinion begins by clearly stating the right it vindicates is based in the Constitution. Those are literally the first words: "The Constitution promises liberty to all within its reach, a liberty that includes certain specific rights that allow persons, within a lawful realm, to define and express their identity. The petitioners in these cases seek to find that liberty by marrying someone of the same sex and having their marriages deemed

This lie borders on professional misconduct. In other instances, Northcott's professional misconduct is undeniable.

Professional misconduct: manifesting bias in a manner that is prejudicial to the administration of justice.

As you know, "It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to . . . engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice."²⁹ Comment 3 to that rule makes it clear that Northcott's behavior and admissions amount to professional misconduct: "A lawyer who, in the course of representing a client, knowingly manifests, by words or conduct, bias or prejudice based on race, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, or socio economic status violates paragraph (d) when such actions are prejudicial to the administration of justice."³⁰ As such, we are opening a grievance with the state bar.

Conclusion

Northcott is unfit to hold any public office, and certainly unfit for the Office of District Attorney. So long as he remains in office, with the power to establish law enforcement policies on behalf of Coffee County, the County remains liable for his unconstitutional conduct. The County should call for Northcott's resignation and do everything within its power to communicate to its residents that the Constitution, not Northcott's personal god, remains the supreme law of the land. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Andrew L. Seidel
Director of Strategic Response

cc: Hon. Craig Northcott, Via Email Only: ccnorthcott@tndagc.org

lawful on the same terms and conditions as marriages between persons of the opposite sex." *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 135 S. Ct. 2584, 2593, 192 L. Ed. 2d 609 (2015). "Public policy" is not mentioned until some 19 pages into the opinion, and only then to point out that when religious opposition to marriage equality "becomes enacted law and public policy, the necessary consequence is to put the imprimatur of the State itself on an exclusion that soon demeans or stigmatizes those whose own liberty is then denied" and that that is not permitted "[u]nder the Constitution." *Id.* at 2602. The majority continues, "The right of same-sex couples to marry that is part of the liberty promised by the Fourteenth Amendment is derived, too, from that Amendment's guarantee of the equal protection of the laws." *Id.*

²⁹ Tenn. R. Prof'l Cond. 8.4(d).

³⁰ Tenn. R. Prof'l Cond. 8.4, comment 3.

Screenshot #1

CRAIG NORTHCOTT
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Ensuring Safety Without Sacrificing Freedom

Craig Northcott
District Attorney
14th Judicial District
@CraigNorthcottDA

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CONTACT INFO

- m.me/CraigNorthcottDA
- electcraignorthcott@gmail.com

MORE INFO

- Hometown**
Tullahoma, TN
- About**
Coffee County deserves strong leadership from its top law enforcement officer and I strive to bring that each and every day that I serve this community
- Biography**
I am honored to serve Tennessee's 14th Judicial District as its District Attorney General. I strive to achieve justice in every case in a professional and efficient manner. I will do all that I can to hold everyone accountable by balancing the Biblical principles of righteousness and mercy. Each situation will be evaluated on its own merits and treated appropriately. I welcome the input of anyone with concerns as it is your job to hold me accountable as I serve this community. Thank you for this privilege.
- Political views**
Conservative
- Gender**
Male
- Government Official**

Screenshot #2

facebook.com

4) I will not be silenced by implications that I am not and can not do my job correctly if I don't agree with you. If I have to remain silent and not give a defense of the Gospel, I don't want my job. That said, clearly, I am not required to make that decision because I didn't give up my God given right to freedom of religion or speech when I took office.

5) You didn't initiate a discussion about freedom of religion. Your post trying to reframe our discussion is specious at best and a common ploy of the desperate in a debate. I never said that someone isn't free to exercise their religion. However, to deny the fact that there is a political component with Islam is just denying reality and history. To deny that their religion teaches hate is also a denial of the truth. I refuse to do that.

6) I am extremely interested in what someone believes that holds a leadership position in an organization in which I am involved. Promoting idolatry and suggesting that you speak for that organization while you do so is also troubling.

7) If you truly wish to be informed, I would recommend that you go to www.tilproject.com. Learn from a former Muslim who lived inside of Islam and knows what it really means.

I pray that the Lord opens your eyes to the need to defend His Gospel and not the lie of Islam or any other idolatrous system.



Screenshot #3



Craig Northcott District Attorney 14th Judicial District



May 27 at 10:47 AM

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil, cling to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Romans 12:9-10.

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13

By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 1 John 3:16

My family and I spent last week in Washington DC during our planned family vacation. As part of that, we spent a half a day at Arlington National Cemetery remembering those that gave all to protect the freedoms bestowed upon us by God and cherished by the founding principles of this Country. I am no photographer but I took this picture during my visit. The vastness of the sacrifice is an awesome and emotional experience while there.

The above verses explain why so many are willing to sacrifice for our freedoms, even those they didn't know or agree with. They abhorred evil and died to stop it. They loved us with brotherly affection. They acted upon this love by giving their life to protect ours and our ability to live freely. My family and I are forever grateful for their commitment and sacrifice.

Most importantly, they emulated Christ. He gave His life so that we may have eternal life. Through faith in His death on the cross, burial and resurrection, we are granted eternal life and freedom from sin in Heaven with God. He gave His life as payment for the due penalty for our sins so that we may have spiritual life.

Thank you for all those that sacrificed for me and all other citizens of this great Country so that we may serve our Lord and Savior in freedom.

Thank you for dying to protect all of our God given rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Thank you for your commitment to protect these rights for even those who disagree with you and me. Thank you is not enough but it is all that I have to give. Thank you.



Craig Northcott District Attorney 14th Judicial District

Send Message

Government Official

Screenshot #4



Craig Northcott District Attorney 14th Judicial District



May 18 at 7:58 PM · 🌐

Thank you to everyone for the outpouring of support that you have shown me over the past couple of days. It has been truly humbling. I am honored to serve as your District Attorney. Rest assured, I am not resigning. If they figured I would apologize for calling hate in any form evil, they miscalculated. If they expect me to denounce my faith because of their tactics, they are going to be disappointed.

A couple of Scriptures have come to mind as I have been dealing with this. 1 Peter 2:20-21 is the main one that kept coming to the forefront of my mind. This minor tribulation is nothing compared to what many others suffer daily and certainly insignificant to the suffering that our Lord and Savior endured so that I and everyone else can be redeemed through faith in Christ's substitutionary death, burial and resurrection. I have also been reminded how important our daily walk with the Lord is. Hopefully, when the next attack comes, 1 Peter 2:12, 15 can be said to apply to me.

Thank you again for your support and allowing me to serve as your District Attorney.

Screenshot #5



Craig Northcott District Attorney 14th Judicial District

April 21 · 🌐

"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received that Christ died for our sins in accordance with Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to Scriptures....And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins." 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 17

"Blessed be the God and Father of Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials." 1 Peter 1:3-6

"For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life." Romans 5:10

We all have a God that sacrificed for us. God the Father gave His Son to die for us. God the Son humbled Himself and took the form of man to fulfill His Father's plan by physically dying on the cross for us but, more importantly, spiritually dying for us by taking the due penalty for all of humanity's sins upon Himself. Through faith in this act, we are spared the penalty of our sins.

Through His resurrection and life, we have been given the ability to live free from the power of sin in our life if we chose to live by faith through the power of God the Holy Spirit instead of the power of the flesh. We have eternal life now and Christ has given us the power to receive that benefit now through His death and resurrection even (or especially) in the face of life's many trials both big and small.

This is our God. This is what we are taking time to emphasize and remember today. I for one am thankful for His love for me. I pray that we remember His love for us in all that we do so that we consistently reflect that love daily in our thoughts, words and actions so that God can use us to draw others to Him. Thank you for overlooking the many times that I fail to meet this goal.

Happy Resurrection Sunday. Glory be to God.



Craig Northcott District Attorney 14th Judicial District



August 28, 2018 · 🌐

I was honored to be selected as one of three district attorneys to represent the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference at Governor Haslam's forum on how to reduce recidivism a couple of weeks ago. As I listened to the presenters, I realized that God's Word is the only answer. Although presented in secular terms, the conclusion was that the only way to reduce the likelihood of criminals reoffending is to return to respecting and honoring God's divinely established institutions.

- 1) Criminals must recognize and accept the wrongness of their behavior i.e. divine institution of personal responsibility/volition
- 2) Criminals need a support system that motivates them to want to do what is right and help them to do so i.e. divine institutions of marriage, family and church
- 3) Criminals must desire to be productive members of society and strive to be so i.e. divine institution of personal responsibility

The conclusion was that most people who comply with the three above principles have a low likelihood of reoffending and that the government needs to provide these things through the criminal justice system. I disagree that the government needs to provide these things. These things come from an understanding and application of God's Word. This comes from each individual's acceptance of Christ's work on the cross, learning His Word and consistent application of His Word in their life. If that is done, the divine institutions will be restored and crime/likelihood of reoffending will be greatly reduced.

Our criminal sentencing laws need to reflect these principles. The criminal justice system can and should help encourage these truths but it can't mandate or provide them. Accountability/punishment is a key component in this and can't be lost in the movement towards mercy and rehabilitation. I hope that my service as DA in general and specifically as a member of the legislative committee will help promote this foundation in our criminal sentencing laws in Tennessee.

Screenshot #7

facebook.com



Daniel Berry

Doug Meyer haha, so now I am a jihadist!

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Craig Northcott

Daniel Berry Let me sum it up and then I am moving on. (I am sure you don't want me to sum it up and just let you reframe the discussion into something that it wasn't but that isn't how discourse works.)

1) You stated that Islam worships the same god as Christians and worship Christ the same as Christians. This is blasphemy. I disagree with this and why I simply responded that you're just wrong on your stance. I didn't want to escalate but you have now done that so I wanted to state why I have taken such a strong position.

2) During this time that we should be focusing on Christ (which as you correctly stated, should be always), you have cited the Quran but never Scripture during all of your comments to me. This is troubling especially from someone who is a Christian.

3) There are no Constitutional rights. There are God given rights protected by the Constitution. If you don't believe in the one true God, there is nothing to protect. No one other than God has given us any rights.

Screenshot #8

facebook.com



Craig Northcott

Daniel Berry Frankly I find it extremely offensive that you chose Easter weekend to be an apologist for Islam. Let's celebrate the fact that Christ died for the sins of all humanity and, as proof that God the Father declared Christ's work on the cross a complete payment for our sins, God the Father raised Christ from the dead. Christ is now ascended and seated at the Father's right hand. Whoever believes these historical facts is saved and will spend all eternity in heaven with God. This is the message that we need to be discussing and sharing with our Muslim neighbors. This is the message that we should be focusing on this weekend and every day.



3 wks Like Reply More



Tyler Lund

Daniel Berry I saw a news article that stated yesterday, "Most millennials don't know what the Holocaust, was".. Now that is scary. They have erased history from curriculums, my generation doesn't read anymore, and are generally, by all accounts seem to be asleep. The dark force and his minions are certainly at work.

3 wks Like Reply More



Tyler Lund

Craig Northcott Happy Easter to you and you're family! That goes to everyone here, as well!



3 wks Like Reply More