REPORT TO A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTOR

In your letter of January 22, you express concern that I'm using the Advocates to promote my own religious views. Indeed, you decided to withdraw as a donor.

I can see you feel betrayed, and given that feeling you're certainly right to withdraw support. I feel distress, however, because I've explicitly tried to avoid misusing the Advocates to promote my religious beliefs. But your letter is testimony that I have not been careful enough. I'll try harder.

I presume the source of your dismay is our recent publication, Discovering Self-Government: A Bible-Based Study Guide. The study guide is "religious" in that it uses Christian scripture and theology to help Christians see libertarianism is completely compatible with their faith. This is important for two reasons:

1. In order to be victorious, our ideas of liberty must replace the ideas of coercion in all groups, including Christian leaders and laity. This booklet helps us reach them. In the two test groups that have been conducted using the study guide, 9 of the 11 Christian participants became libertarians. The approach works.
2. Can you name a group that is in more need of liberty enlightenment than Christians? In 1600 years of holding state power, Christians have caused human misery with crusades, inquisitions and pogroms on a scale rivaled only by the socialists.

But it is not the intent of the study guide to promote a particular spiritual system. In fact, I hope to publish additional study guides to help people of other strong belief systems or strong single issue orientation to evaluate libertarianism with an open mind. Each study guide can address the specific questions, cite the respected authorities, and use the unique jargon of the particular market segment, be it liberals, conservatives, homosexuals, gunners, high schoolers, Catholics, Mormons or Objectivists.

Maybe you can help with the next targeted outreach piece. Can you suggest a target group? Could you write a guide or brochure? Help in the funding?

We Advocates want to reach all people with the freedom philosophy. We chose to print a study guide for Bible-based Christians for the mere expedient reason that the author, Virgil Swearingen, had written it and made it available to us.

Hopefully, this erases your concern and you can resume financial support. We'll put it to good use inventing new and better ways for libertarians to get others to encounter, evaluate, and -- if appropriate -- embrace our ideas.

Marshall Fritz, January 28, 1987

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