



Point of View

Dear Marketplace Friend,

Well, the votes are "in," and tallied.

Not all of the registered voters (*people like you who receive my weekly Point of View*) showed up at the polls (*that would have required that they hit "reply," and then type in their opinion*). I'm trusting that the ones who spoke-up spoke for the rest.

The question was this: for the next 10 weeks (Summer, roughly), would you prefer that **PoV** become a Shank-styled book-a-week review? Or, would you prefer the "ripped from the headlines" treatment of the "news," from yet another (*but mostly biblical*) biased perspective? **Results?**

Here's what you said: just under 75% want books. There were about 20% who said, "headlines!" Then, there were the negotiators, looking for a middle ground (5%): "Why don't you do both?" *Who wins?*

You'll be glad to know: you do. How so? Pretty simple, really: I'll review at least seven books over the 10 weeks; in three weeks I will comment on this Mach 2 moment in history with bizzaro headlines waking us up in the morning to a world that changed while we slept. It's too important to let it pass; we need to frame a response - and, determine our initiatives - based on the conditions surrounding us...

Books? You bet. Next week, I'm going



to introduce you to a powerful little book (just 160 pages; perfect for busy **PoV** types!) written by an author who still has a lot to learn (he's got a lot figured out, but he hasn't figured out who Jesus is, yet). The author: Seth Godin. The book: **Tribes: We Need You to Lead Us**. More on that next week...

Headlines? Where to start? Is there anything to talk about, that Christians who are prone to leadership through influence on those around them need to consider, through the filter of faith?

Examples: just last week, this line was spoken in Cairo, to a rapt international audience: "...I consider it part of my responsibility as President of the United States to fight against negative stereotypes of Islam wherever they appear..." (*Is that in his job description? Did I miss something when I read the Constitution?*). I wonder if he would say this, back home in America: "I consider it part of

my responsibility as President of the United States to fight against negative stereotypes of Christianity wherever they appear..." *Nah, that'll never happen...*

Before he left on his trip, he signed a Presidential Proclamation declaring June, in America, as **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month**. In it, he declares: "I am proud to be the first President to appoint openly LGBT candidates to Senate-confirmed positions in the first 100 days of an Administration... My Administration has partnered with the LGBT community to advance a wide range of initiatives..." In Cairo, he referred - frequently- to the "Holy Koran." *Has he read the "Holy Bible," and what it says in Romans 1 about those LGBT folks' behavior, and what God thinks about it?*

Headlines? How can you do "headlines" while avoiding anything that smacks of "politics?" I may have to veer onto the front page occasionally because the top-of-the-fold stuff is so ingrained in what we hold to be matters of faith (*our President, as Islam's Champion? Proclaim national "pride" for what God calls "Sin?"*). It may be a pretty busy Summer...

Out on the edge, and taking you with me,

Bob Shank

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