

Raising George Washingtons

by Kimberly Fletcher



(Contains excerpts from *WOMEN: America's Last Best Hope*)

A few years ago, I had a conversation with a friend who had asked about Homemakers for America. I shared our mission with her which is *"to empower moms to raise patriots and promote liberty for the healing of America."*

My friend then looked at me and said, "Oh, I didn't know it was political. I don't get involved in politics." I was quite surprised by her comment and confused as to how she thought preserving freedom and building a nation of informed citizens was political and she went on to explain that politics was too cynical and petty, full of mudslinging and accusations. "I just don't get involved in that," she said.

Again, I was confused because political mudslinging has nothing to do with the mission and purpose of Moms for America. As I conversed further with my friend I realized that the reason she, like so many Americans—particularly Christians, don't get involved in elections, public policy issues, or even defending liberty and the Constitution is because we are confusing civic responsibility with politics and they are ***not*** the same thing. I have (based on my own personal experiences) compiled some definitions to clarify the difference.

Politics is a product of pride, worldliness, and a lust for power. That is why so many of us cringe when we hear the word "politician" and look down our noses on the profession as beneath us—and it is. But politics is not what I am addressing here—civic responsibility is and there *is* a difference.

Civic responsibility is that duty which every American has as a citizen of this country, to respect the law, preserve the U.S. Constitution, be involved in our communities, safeguard the Republic, watch over our government, and seek out and elect good leaders to represent us. Politics is the result of what happens when not enough of us *fulfill* that duty.

So that leads us to the perpetrators of politics—the politicians!

A Politician is a person who lusts for power, is obsessed with self-importance, and motivated by greed. Politicians have been groomed in politics. They learn the artful craftiness of deceit, the clever tactics of scheming to get gain and win votes, and the cunning methods of distraction, distortion, denial and blame shifting. Politicians will say and do

whatever it takes to keep and add to their power. They are motivated by self-preservation and personal gain, and put their own interests above the people they serve. Politicians will vote for anything they feel benefits them regardless of how their constituents feel or whether or not it is in the best interest of the country. Politicians are self-serving individuals who hold little regard for God or country and feel no loyalty or affection for the people they serve. Not very Christ-like attributes are they?

A statesman on the other hand is a person of integrity and high moral character, who possesses a strong desire to serve others, recognizes his/her imperfections and strives to overcome them to be the best person he/she can be. Statesmen have been trained in humanity. They learn the moral code of right and wrong, the positive attributes of honesty, humility, patriotism, accepting responsibility, and the selfless standards of love thy neighbor, the golden rule, and country before self. Statesmen are people of faith who believe in a supreme being and a future state of rewards and punishments. They research issues carefully and do their best to vote in the best interest of the Republic and the people they represent—even if it means losing votes. Statesmen cherish freedom and liberty, have a deep affection and concern for those they serve and feel a profound sense of duty and loyalty to their Country. They live their faith, reverence God, and respect the faith of others.

Now that you've read these definitions I want you to ask yourself—do you want politicians serving in Congress or Statesmen? What about city councils, school boards, the media?

I think you would agree that we need Statesmen in all spectrums of society—in our schools teaching our children, in the media presenting the news, in our elected offices serving the people. And if this is what we want, then we need to begin with us. We need to be statesmen and we need to be raising Statesmen in our homes.

Do you want your children to be Politicians or Statesmen? If your answer is a politician then just keep sending your children out to the world every day to be taught and influenced by politicians. But if you want your children to be Statesmen, then you must become a greater influence in your children's lives to combat the insurmountable influences raging against them from a world of degeneracy, deceit and corruption.

George Washington proclaimed, "All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her." What an endorsement that is! George Washington was the great and humble man he was because of the influence of his dear mother. That is the power of our influence today.

If we want our children to be Statesmen then we have got to be that influence in their lives. If we want them to know their history and heritage and develop a love of country, we need to be instilling it in them because they aren't getting it anywhere else. Our children aren't born with a love and respect for America and liberty simply because they are born here. We need to teach and inspire them by the things we read to them, the experiences we provide for them, and most of all by our example.

If our children are patriots, it is because we raised patriots in our homes. If our children

know and understand the Constitution, it is because we taught them. If our children embrace freedom and love their country, it is because we instilled that love in them through our own examples.

Barbara Bush once said, "Our success as a society depends not on what happens in the White House, but what happens inside your house."

So we must decide here and now will our house be a house of Politicians or a home full of Statesmen? If America is to survive with all the beauty that made her great, then we need to be raising George Washingtons in our homes. That is the greatest contribution we can make to liberty and our beloved country.

We are the hope of the future. What we build in our homes today will be the foundation for tomorrow. We must stay firmly rooted in the principles and values that made America great because while the rest of the world is grooming politicians, we are raising George Washingtons!

Discussion Questions

- ★ *Have you ever had the perspective of Kimberly's friend who didn't want to get involved in "politics"? Or, have you had others express the same opinion to you?*
- ★ *Why is civic responsibility important to you?*
- ★ *What do you think is generally misunderstood about civic responsibility?*
- ★ *What does Kimberly define as the difference between a politician and a statesman?*
- ★ *Do any examples come to mind of politicians or statesmen that fit Kimberly's descriptions?*
- ★ *What do statesmen protect that politicians don't?*
- ★ *What do we need to do to lead our children by example to become like statesmen (and stateswomen)?*