



Strangers  
*and* Friends  
*at the*  
Welcome Table

Contemporary Christianities  
*in the*  
American South

JAMES HUDNUT-BEUMLER

# CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANITIES

IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH

PART III

# FOUR GRAND DIVISIONS CLASSES

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Hospitality &  
Hurricane Katrina  
Responses

Rock of Ages Cleft  
for Me: Southern  
Traditions  
Revisited

Brand New Start:  
Southern Religious  
Innovations

Southern  
Christianities in  
Harmony and  
Conflict

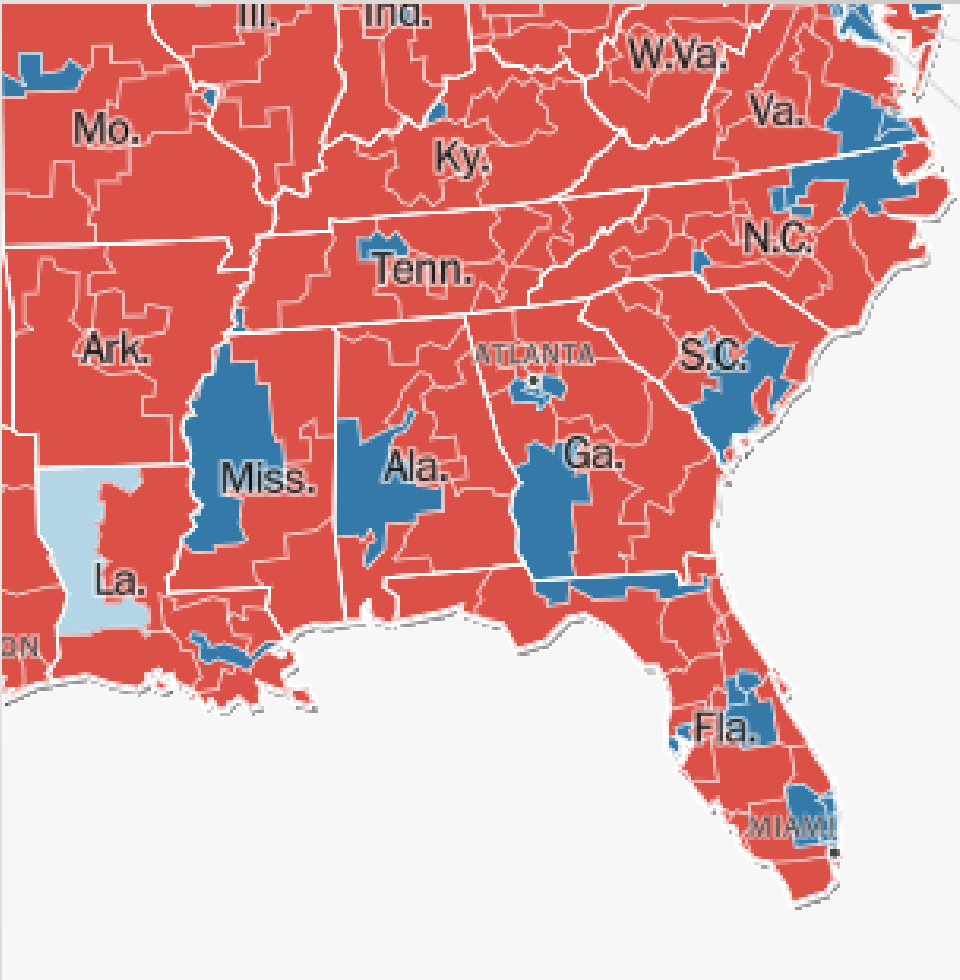
Washed in the  
Blood in the Red  
States: Religion  
and Politics

Katrina: Faith is  
only as Good as  
What it Does

TWO TOPICS

# WASHED IN THE BLOOD IN THE RED STATES: RELIGION AND POLITICS

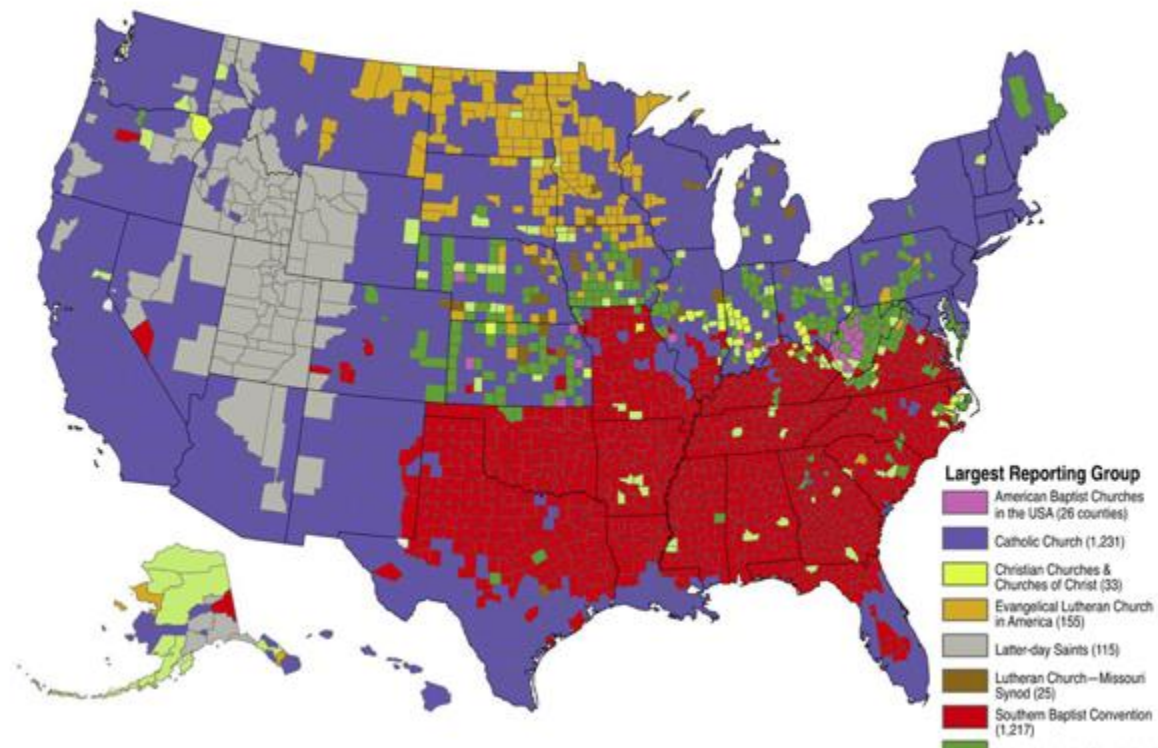
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EASY CONCLUSION:  
CONSERVATIVE  
RELIGION  
BACKS CONSERVATIVE  
POLITICS

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5. Religion Census: Religious Congregations & Membership Study • www.USReligionCensus.org



# EVERYTHING IS A MORAL ISSUE...EXCEPT ROADS

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## State Issues:

Abortion  
Sex Education  
Creationism, Evolution, Textbooks  
Voter Supression  
Racially Inferior Schooling, Testing  
Capital Punishment  
Undocumented Persons  
LGBT rights/Definition of Marriage

## Three Camps:

1. Law and Order, Free Market Conservatives
2. Civil Rights Movement Heirs
3. People who believe their religion makes them better people, but that politics has no place being discussed in church or from the pulpit



# JUSTICE ROY MOORE AND THE BANNER OF CHRISTIAN LIBERTY

“HOW CAN A CHIEF JUSTICE NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD?”

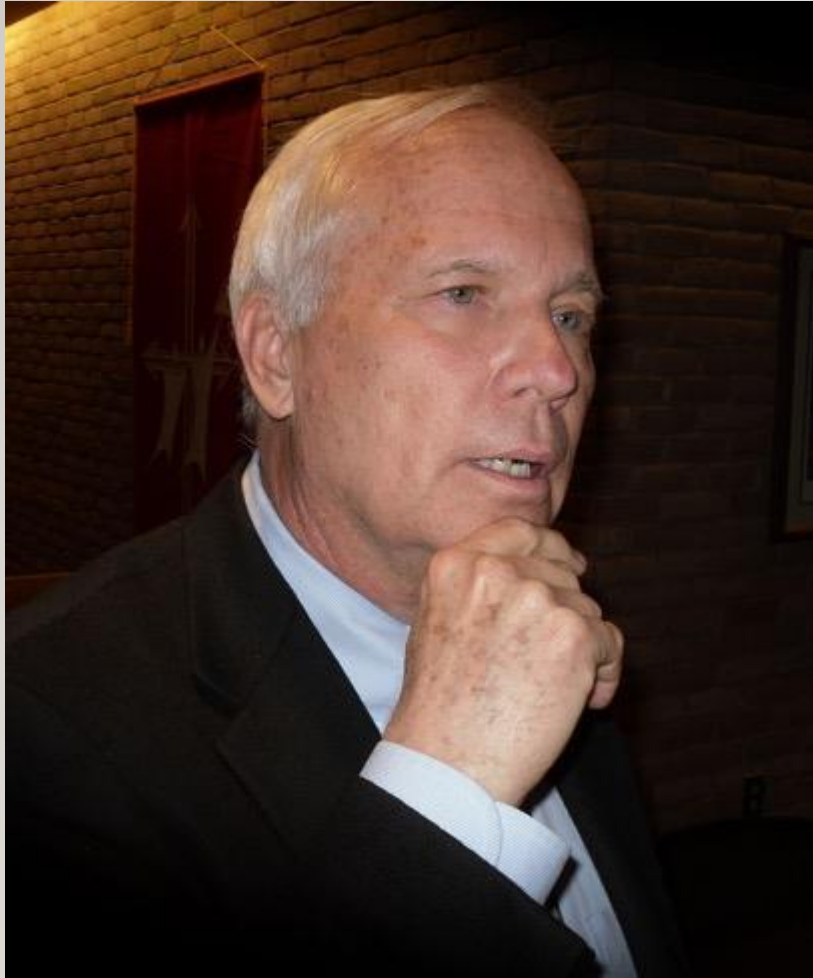
# FOUR ALABAMA BISHOPS WELCOME THE STRANGERS IN THEIR MIDST

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- HB56 makes giving material aid or comfort to illegal aliens a felony (among other things).
- Two Catholic Bishops, the Episcopal Bishop and the Northern Alabama United Methodist Bishop sue in Federal Court, alleging the law infringes their members' obligations as Christians...and win.

“Members of Alabama’s...churches will perpetrate crimes by knowingly providing food, clothing, shelter and transportation to those in need without first insuring compliance....To forbid members of Alabama’s faith communities from providing their services is in violation of their sincere religious belief to help others without reservation.”





## BISHOP WILL WILLIMON RESPONDS TO HATE CALLS

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“The Church has to testify in the midst of a sinful world, with its message as with its order, that it is solely [Jesus Christ’s] property, that it lives and wants to live solely from his comfort and his direction” *The Barmen Declaration (1934)*



## WILLIAM BARBER II, MORAL MONDAYS, AND THE POLITICS OF MASS PROTEST

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“WHERE ARE THE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR'S OF TODAY?”

We hold it to be self-evident that all persons are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, the enjoyment of the fruits of their own labor, and the pursuit of happiness.

All political power is vested in and derived from the people; all government of right originates from the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole.

The people of this State have the inherent, sole, and exclusive right of regulating the internal government and police thereof, and of altering or abolishing their Constitution and form of government whenever it may be necessary to their safety and happiness; but every such right shall be exercised in pursuance of law and consistently with the Constitution of the United States.

The book of Micah asks us, “What does the Lord require of you? But to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.” It is in a spirit of openness to the prophet’s question that we gather here as people of faith and citizens of North Carolina. *Rev. William Barber II, Opening Statement, first Moral Monday, April 29, 2013*



AM I MY BROTHER'S  
KEEPER? YES

VALUES VOTERS,  
ONE AND ALL

# WELCOME TO NEW ORLEANS

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After Katrina:  
Faith is only as Good as What it Does







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WHO CLEANED UP AND WHY?  
DID THE PEOPLE WHO NEEDED THE HELP GET IT?

# STORIES

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- Alice Graham: “What am I doing? I’m taking students, black and white students, into a place that will not receive them.”
- Daniel Swartz: “I think faith and democracy, in many ways, are not the same, but there are elements in common. Genesis gives me the idea that we’re all in this together. And democracy at its best means we’re all in this together.”
- Ben MacLeish: ““We charge them 40 dollars a day per person. 20 dollars goes towards supplies and 20 dollars goes to an indigenous leadership fund, so that I can hire this guy for a week to be the helper, so he can put food on the table for his family and kind of ‘turn back the hearts of fathers to their children’ and provide work in the community.”



# STORIES

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- Eugenia: "It's probably the connection between their faith and their quality of life. You know that a lot of our people have been conditioned that if you live too comfortably, then that's not spiritual. Or, if you're [thinking too much] about the need to have an education, or to have economic equality, then that's not spiritual. They don't understand that when Jesus speaks of having life and having it abundantly it is not just about money, it's about all things—your health, your education, your opportunities, your access."

# STORIES

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- Don Frampton: “the exciting part was we had this work and we knew exactly what to do. We were so focused as a church. We knew why we existed. This is why we’re here. To do this for such a time as this.”
- Rod Dickson-Rishel “When you stand up there and you’re preaching and you say something like ‘We understand about loss’ and you’re looking at someone who is 75 years old and they and their home went back to a slab—nothing. Then they rebuilt and they still live, the community still lives in the same place. They know something about loss.”

# WHERE WAS GOD?

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- Susan Turner: “I can’t imagine how I would have taken it had I not been a Christian. I don’t know, how I would have felt. There may have been some people who felt like God had let them down, but I saw renewed faith in most people.”
- Ben MacLeish: “There are lots of theological angles to the city. For one, there’s a city that resembles the coming kingdom unlike any other city in our country. One day we’ll be at our banqueting table feasting before the Lord and hopefully they’ll be catering out of New Orleans because we’ve got some good fun, some good banquet here. We have an incredible sense of generosity.