**Interreligious Political Strategies**

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When Thomas Jefferson learned in 1802 that “pacific” and “feeble” Spain was about to retrocede New Orleans to friendly but ill-tempered and “restlessness” France, he confided that such a condition would render it necessary for the United States to resort to a form of “unholy alliance” in “marry[ing] [themselves] to the British fleet and nation” which they had separated from less than thirty years earlier.

I would like to use his words as a framework to our discussion on US interreligious political strategies, which Evangelical activist Francis Schaeffer (1980) has called “co-belligerence”. Of particular interest to us will be the questions of marriage, LGBT rights and religious freedom in recent sociopolitical standoffs in the United States.

Our goal will be to illustrate the fact that setbacks and limits in traditional interreligious political strategies open on fronts for new, even “unholy,” alliances which ultimately help churches to further carry weight in US politics.