



# THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF THE JUDEO-CHRISTIAN ETHIC

By

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Gary Cornell, 2013

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Published by Zondervan Grand Rapids, Michigan

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## PREFACE

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Throughout recorded history empires and nations have risen and fallen. They sometimes fell due to the barbarians breaking down the city gates. More often than not however, they fell because of moral decay from within their own hearts. The United States is facing the moral decay that has brought so many of history's empires crashing down. It is the hope and prayer of Godly men and women that America will be different. One way to change our fate is to turn back to the moral principles that God the Father established in what we call the Judeo-Christian Ethic.

These seven principles are taken from the *American Patriot's Bible*. These thoughts and ideals symbolize the desire that God has for how each of us are to live our life.

They are also the foundation upon which the United States was established. Unfortunately, it has drifted away from this foundation. Our culture has been slowly turning away from the truth of God's Word and indeed our own history. Revisionist history has infiltrated our schools and our daily life. Americans of today are being taught things about our Founding Fathers that are at least misleading, and at worst, out and out lies.

When men such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin sought to establish this new experiment in the way a nation was governed, they based it upon the truths of God's Holy Bible and the tried and true historical facts. Although some were not of the true Christian faith they understood the basic truths of morality, compassion, hard work, considering these ethics to be more important than themselves. They knew that if each man tried to go his own way the nation would fall.

Today our leaders are often far from the ideals of what made this the greatest and most blessed nation the world has ever seen. They are being driven by special interest groups, each one concerned for only what they want. Our political leaders legislate on how many votes a piece of legislation will get them. Our country is in a moral dilemma.

Study these seven principles and think about how they affect your own world view, turn to the Lord God in prayer and seek his guidance on how you should think and act, and vote as a good Christian and a loyal American.



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## PRINCIPLE #1

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# THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE

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### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

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It means that every human being has great value. Every human being deserves respect and protection.

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### WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

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The Holy Scriptures are filled with examples of how man has acted without respect toward his fellow man.

Scriptures tell us that wickedness of mankind had become so great that God was grieved that he had even made man.

Genesis 6:5 The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

So God destroyed mankind by the great flood saving only Noah and his family along with the animals within the ark.

Mankind was given a second chance, but once again our fallen nature took control of our hearts.

The story of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19, further shows the depravity of man. The people of these cities were consumed with lust of all kinds including homosexuality.

Abraham pleaded with the Lord to spare the cities for the sake of only ten righteous people. But there were not ten righteous people within those two wicked cities, and they were destroyed by God except for Lot and his daughters.

The pagan cultures of the time worshipped many gods. Some of the practices involved the degrading of men and women through prostitution and homosexuality,

and even child sacrifice. But God in Leviticus 18:1, warned his chosen people to not act in the detestable ways of their neighbors.

Matthew 22:39- "Love your neighbor as yourself."

God has always been calling on his people to treat each other as brothers and sisters in him, with love and respect. However in many cases we have failed to listen.

Mankind, throughout history has seldom loved others as we love ourselves. Man has failed many times to show respect or to give protection to those who are defenseless.

Beginning with the very first murder when Cain slew his brother Abel:

Genesis 4:8 Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

The story of Moses tells how Pharaoh in Egypt abused the Israelites and treated them as slaves, even ordering all the male children to be killed at birth because he feared them, (Exodus 1: 15-22). But the midwives feared God and did not kill the male children.

In Matthew 2:16, King Herod, fearing that he would be replaced by the new born king Jesus, ordered all male children in the vicinity of Bethlehem killed who were two years old and younger.

*Exodus 20:13 You shall not Murder.*

God declared that man should not take the life of another unjustly.

So we see with just a few references how cheaply man has regarded his fellow man. Is this the plan God has for his children? Certainly not!

The Lord God declares his love throughout his Holy Scripture.

Scripture is very clear on how God sees us, but mankind is of a fallen nature and many refuse to believe what God has prepared for them.

*Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.*

*God's Word says that man is created in the very image of God and is superior to all other life on this earth.*



*Psalm 139:13-16 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, <sup>16</sup> your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*

As you can see, Scripture declares that life starts at conception, not at birth. God has fearfully and wonderfully made each and every one of his children, and that includes every child, even handicapped children.

*Jeremiah 29: 11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord," plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

Clearly the Lord has plans for every one of his children. He sees value in all of mankind, and we should also see that value.

*Romans 12: 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is- his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

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## THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE IN HISTORY

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Throughout history the principle of human dignity has been ignored and abused. The fallen nature of mankind has allowed for nations and empires to kill and enslave millions.

History records the terror of the Roman Empire with its gladiatorial games, slavery, and the persecution of Christians. The empires of the Aztecs and others in the Americas used human sacrifice in the worship of their false gods. The slavery issue plagued the United States and led to a destructive civil war. The holocaust committed by Nazi Germany, and today's own holocaust of the unborn, shows that man has failed to treat his neighbor as himself.

This is not God's will or plan for us. History shows that nations and people who fail to embrace God's Holy Word will not long endure.

However, throughout history there have been men and women who have "stood in the gap" and struggled to end the evil man has for his fellow man.

## THE AMERICAN FOUNDATION

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The idea of “dignity of human life” was not always applied in the colonization of the “New World.”

From the first discovery of the “New World” by Christopher Columbus and others, the treatment of Native Americans has not always been handled with justice. Native Americans and later Africans were enslaved to work on labor intense crops like sugar and tobacco.

Native Americans were driven from their land and the empires of the Aztecs and the Incas were destroyed in the quest for gold. In contrast to this type of action, some groups such as the Plymouth Colony, the people we know as the Pilgrims, had a generally good relationship with Native Americans.

However, as the colonies grew and the demand for new cash crops like tobacco, sugar and cotton increased, the need for cheap labor brought more and more slaves into the “New World.”

At the beginning of our nation a group of idealistic men came together in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. These men came from all thirteen colonies and became known as the Continental Congress. They came together because of abuses of power, by an unjust government back in England.

From this group of men came the foundations upon which our nation was formed; ideals which speak of the Dignity of Human Life and God’s will for all men and nations.

The First Continental Congress met from September 5<sup>th</sup> until October 26<sup>th</sup> 1774 in Philadelphia. On October 14<sup>th</sup> they adopted a document known as the Declaration and Resolves of the First Continental Congress.

The first resolve declares “That they are entitled to life, liberty and property: and they have never ceded to any foreign power whatever, a right to dispose of either without their consent.” <sup>1</sup>

This declared their natural (God Given) rights to live free and content as citizens of England.

By the time the Second Continental Congress met the following year, the situation was such that separation from England was seen as the only alternative. Congress used the ideas from the First Congress to draft the basic building block of our nation, the Declaration of Independence.

This document was drafted by a committee but was primarily written by Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, contains what some historians may be the most perfectly crafted thought in the English language.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”<sup>2</sup>

What do these words mean? What does it say about the men who so carefully crafted them?

***We hold***                      All of us believe

***Truths***                         Conforming to reality

***Self-evident***                Clear to the vision and understanding;  
Evident without proof or reasoning;  
Common knowledge

***Equal***                            Exactly the same, like in value, quality, status or position

***Endowed***                      A gift of nature, given by God

***Creator***                        God the Father

***Unalienable***                Beyond the power of any government to remove

***Rights***                         Just claim, justice, power or privilege

<b><i>Among these</i></b>	There are more than just three
<b><i>Life</i></b>	An individual human existence, created by God to be lived to His glory
<b><i>Liberty</i></b>	Free from slavery, bondage, imprisonment or control by another
<b><i>Pursuit</i></b>	To seek or chase after something
<b><i>Happiness</i></b>	A state of well-being, satisfaction, prosperity, bliss

This sentence encompasses all these thoughts and intents, and sums up what the Founding Fathers of this nation believed.

In signing their names to this radical document they were committing treason, which was punishable by death. These men placed their fortunes and their very lives on the line. If they were not completely in agreement they would not have signed the document. Revisionist historians have been trying to weaken these words arguing over intent, but the Founder's themselves speak louder than any of us.

Consider John Hancock of Massachusetts, who as President of the Congress signed his name on this treasonous document nearly a month ahead any of the other delegates. Copies with his name on them were sent to England. Then there is Maryland's Charles Carroll of Carrollton, who added his hometown so he could be found by British authorities if any hanging was to be done.

Benjamin Franklin summed up the gravity of their actions when before he signed he said, "***We must, indeed, all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately.***"<sup>3</sup>

Although these men sometimes disagreed politically and held different religious beliefs, they were united in their belief in independence. These men truly believed in the idea of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

## BUT WHAT ABOUT SLAVERY?

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This was the biggest problem that the Founders faced after the Revolutionary War. Slavery and its after affects still plague our nation.

Slavery had been the law of the land throughout our history, and many of those we know as Founding Fathers owned slaves. But the majority did not and they worked to end this evil practice.

This practice had been brought to the New World by European powers and any attempt to end it was barred. The Colony of Virginia, had for instance, tried in 1772 to end the importation of new slaves, but English authorities killed this measure. <sup>4</sup>

Much has been said about the supposed hypocrisy on the part of the Founders who called for an end of the practice while still owning slaves. Slavery had long been the normal practice in the colonies, and many of these men were wealthy landowners who had been raised with this practice. They saw the end of slavery as something to be accomplished over time since the economy of the south, and in many cases their own livelihoods, were involved.

It is much like a person who knows addition to drugs or alcohol is wrong, but needs time and help to break it. What is clear however is that the end of slavery was in sight when the Founding Fathers began to pass these laws.

After our independence was won, state after state in the north took steps to abolished slavery. Massachusetts and Pennsylvania did so in 1780, followed by Connecticut and Rhode Island in 1784. Next was Vermont in 1786 and New Hampshire in 1792, followed by New York in 1799 and New Jersey in 1804. Although these laws did not end slavery, they did stop the introduction of new slaves, and slavery in the northern states disappeared over a period years. Where a fresh start could be made, they took steps to bar slavery, from the beginning.

Indeed, one of the first acts of the new government was the enacting of the Northwest Ordinance on July 13, 1787. This act allowed for the eventual addition to the union of the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin.

This act was passed while the country was being governed under the Articles of Confederation. Congress passed the act by a vote of eight states to none with a delegate vote of 17 to 1. It is interesting to note that five of the states that voted, Virginia, Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia were all slaveholding states at the time of the Civil War. The only no vote came from a delegate from New York. <sup>5</sup>

Article 6 of the ordinance states, “***There shall be neither slavery or involuntary servitude in the said territory, otherwise than in punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted: Provided always, That any person escaping into the same, from whom labor or service is lawfully claimed in any one of the original states, such fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor or service as aforesaid.***” <sup>6</sup>

This act, which was in force for two years, had to be passed again by Congress to give it force under the new Constitution. After further consideration by Congress, it was passed again without change. It signed into law on August 7<sup>th</sup> 1789 by our first Constitutional President, George Washington, himself a slave owner. <sup>7</sup>

While it is true that because of property laws, runaway slaves could be captured and returned to slavery, that fact does not take away from the steps being taken to secure the ***Dignity of all Human Life.***

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#### WHAT DOES THE CONSTITUTION SAY ABOUT SLAVERY?

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Slavery already existing within the states was something that many wanted to protect. The strongest support for slavery came from the Southern states where slavery was most important to the economy.

So the Constitution speaks for protecting the slave holder’s rights in a couple of places. But what does it really say?

In Article I Section 2, paragraph 3 it says, “***Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other persons.***” <sup>8</sup>

What does that passage say? In choosing Representatives for Congress, free people and indentured servants count as a whole person. Indians are not counted or taxed, and slaves count as three-fifths of a person. Were the Founders guilty of believing that black people were worth only three- fifths of a white person?

The answer to that is no. This was a compromise that was arrived at to reduce the political power of slaveholding states. The slave states would have been happy to count all their slaves, but were restricted to counting only three-fifths. It is also interesting to know that the three-fifths rule applied only to slaves and not to free blacks; they were counted as all other free persons were.

Article IV Section 2, paragraph 3 states, “***No person held to service or labor in one State under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or***

*regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due.”* <sup>9</sup>

What does this say? This passage calls for the return of all runaways. Just reaching a non- slaveholding State did not mean they were free. They could be and were captured and returned to slavery.

Does this show that the Founders were heartless and cruel toward black slaves? The answer again is no. Paragraph 3 must be viewed in light of paragraphs 1 and 2 of Section 2.

Paragraph 1 says, ***“The citizens of each State shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States.”*** <sup>10</sup>

This gives all Americans the same rights in all the States. It protects one’s liberty as well as his property. Unfortunately slaves were viewed by many as property.

Paragraph 2 says, ***“A person charged in any State with treason, felony, or other crime, who shall flee from justice and be found in another State, shall on demand of the executive authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up to be removed to the State having jurisdiction of the crime.”*** <sup>11</sup>

What does this mean? This allowed for extradition of criminals, so they could not cross a State line and escape justice. It also prevented a possible problem where a slave state could refuse to give up some criminals because a non- slave holding state refused to give up a runaway slave.

So it seems clear that the Founders included these compromises to protect all Americans and get the Constitution passed. Critics may say they should have abolished slavery once and for all, but they were not able to do that at the beginning of our nation. However, as it has been shown, they began to work toward the abolition of slavery from the very beginning.

The years leading up to the Civil War were tumultuous as the nation struggled over the issue of slavery. New States both slave and free entered the Union.

But progress was being made toward the eventual abolition of slavery. Several laws were enacted beginning in 1794 which regulated the slave trade. They included the law prohibiting the importation of new slaves into the United States and its territories was (passed by Congress on March 2, 1807, which took effect on January 1, 1808). This was one more step toward the eventual elimination of this terrible practice. <sup>12</sup>

Following the terrible ordeal of the Civil War the nation ratified the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 1865 which says, Section 1. ***“Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime***

***whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction.***"<sup>13</sup> Slavery was over in the United States of America, and what began with the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, had come full circle.

Did the end of slavery bring about total equality of all people in the United States? The answer is no; the nation has been struggling with the aftermath of slavery since the Civil War. But great strides have been made; every citizen of this country has the protection of ***life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.***<sup>14</sup>

What is the second great cause that speaks to the ***Dignity of Human Life?***

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## THE ABORTION DEBATE

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Abortion has always been with us but has, until recent history, been looked upon with distain. Unfortunately some over- populated countries like China have turned to radical means to control their population. In American history abortion had always been illegal and something that was done in secret.

Slavery and abortion have a common aspect; the idea of "rights." In the slavery debate it was "states' rights," whether or not the state could keep a human being as a slave. Could the state control the very existence of a person? With abortion it becomes "individual rights." Can a woman, kill the unborn child she is carrying within her body? In both cases do the "rights" of the more powerful overcome the "rights" of the weak?

The era of the 1960's and 70's was one of much social upheaval. The civil rights movement brought advancements to African-Americans, many of which were long overdue. Following close behind was the feminist movement, in which the more radical portions of it saw the role of women as being virtual slaves.

On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1973 the United States Supreme Court legalized abortion with the landmark decision in the case of Roe vs. Wade.

The court ruled that an unborn child is neither a human being nor a person, and therefore is not protected by the Constitution.

A fetus was not seen as a separate entity, but as part of the woman's body, so the woman's right to privacy included her right to terminate her pregnancy. The Court also said the State's interest in unborn life was not sufficient enough to outlaw abortion.<sup>15</sup>



Also on January 22, 1973, in the case of Doe vs. Bolton, the Court ruled that the health of the mother was “paramount” in abortion cases. <sup>16</sup> “Health” has come to be defined as almost anything; emotional distress, depression, age, marital and economic status. But the medical procedure of abortion is not without its own risks to the health of the woman.

Over the years since 1973 other rulings have added to the problem, such as partial birth abortion, a cruel late trimester procedure which partially delivers the child before ending it’s life. This procedure had become a “political football” kicked back and forth by Presidential order, depending on which political party is in power. However, the Congress passed the **Partial Birth Abortion Act of 2003**, which banned the procedure on November 5, 2003. This law was fought all the way to the Supreme Court, which upheld the law in a 5-4 decision on April 18, 2007. <sup>17</sup>

Where do we Americans stand after so many years of this holocaust? Since 1973 over 40 million abortions have been performed in the United States. Polls show that a majority of Americans still respond that they support abortion, but the percentage is closer. Although they still support the idea, about 50% of people say it is murder when asked. Many of the states have laws that say a murder of a pregnant woman is a double homicide. <sup>18</sup> Clearly this defines the unborn child as a living human being.

We need to understand the issue to stop our confusion.

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## THE ARGUMENTS

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### **1. *When does life begin?***

God declares in his Holy Scripture that life begins at conception.

*Psalm 139: 13-16 13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.*

Modern science now knows that at the very instant of conception life begins. Long before the mother even knows she is pregnant the child in her womb is growing at an incredible pace.

18 days- the heart is forming and eyes are beginning to develop.

21 days- blood is flowing through the child’s body

28 days- arms and legs are being formed

35 days- the mouth, ears and nose begin to take shape

40 days- brain waves and heart beats are detectable

42 days- the skeleton has been formed

By the end of the first trimester (3 months) the child is complete, and will only grow larger and stronger for the next six months. <sup>19</sup>

The four main differences between a pre-born child and a newly born child are described by Scott Klusendorf founder and president of the Life Training Institute, with the acronym SLED.

*Size* - Does how big you are determine who or what you are?

*Level of Development* - Are 20 year-old people more human than ten-year-old people, since they are bigger and stronger?

*Environment* - Does being inside of something determine your humanity? Are you less of a human inside your house or car? Does being located within your mother's womb cancel who and what you are?

*Degree of Dependency* - Does being dependent on another determine one's humanity? Is an elderly Alzheimer's patient or someone on kidney dialysis no longer a human being? A child of two is much more dependent than a child of ten, but both need others to survive. <sup>20</sup>

The question is not about how big you are, how strong and smart you are, or even how inconvenient you are to others. All humans have the same rights.

In the *Declaration of Independence*, the Founding Fathers declared that **...we are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life...** <sup>21</sup>

Pro Abortion advocates argue over when life becomes viable and try to deny what modern science can now clearly see. But they are only deceiving themselves.

Realistically, what else can an embryo be? If it is not aborted, and allowed to be born, will it be a puppy or a tree? Maybe, if not aborted it will just be a little extra weight to be exercised away. This is pretty silly, but so is the argument that the unborn child is not life.

## ***2. It is a woman's rights issue.***

While a democratic- republic gives its citizens many individual rights; it does not give one citizen the right to arbitrarily take the life of another.

The Lord says in Exodus 20:13, *"You shall not murder"*.

The extreme feminist point of view is that women can't be equal to men because they may become pregnant. So to guarantee a woman's right to fully participate in

social, political and economic life, she must be able to control her life through abortion. <sup>22</sup>

This logic says that women are inferior to men in their physical makeup, so to remain in the peak physical condition they must be allowed to murder their children. How ridiculous!

Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906), was a famous leader for women's rights in the early years of the movement, but she abhorred child murder of any kind. <sup>23</sup>

Margaret Sanger (1879-1966), a sexual freedom advocate, advocated abortion as a method of eugenics. That is the science of trying to breed a more perfect race. She also saw abortion as a way for women to gain sexual freedom and a better economic lifestyle. After World War Two, and the Nazi Master Race and Holocaust were revealed, Sanger and her followers lost support. They reemerged as the Planned Parenthood Federation, tying abortion to other legitimate women's issues. <sup>24</sup>

Dr. Bernard Nathanson, one of the founding members of the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL Pro-Choice America), said in the 1960's that he and others in the abortion movement deliberately linked abortion to the Women' Rights Movement. This was so abortion could move forward, not on its own merits but on the merits of women's rights. Dr. Nathanson, who helped in at least 75,000 abortions from his own admission, is now very much pro-life. <sup>25</sup>

Ironically, Alice Paul (1885-1977), who helped women gain their voting rights with passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1920, and who drafted the original version of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) a landmark feminist document, called abortion the "ultimate exploitation of women." <sup>26</sup>

The ERA Amendment to the U.S. Constitution failed to gain passage by the required 38 states and expired un-ratified in 1982 , but since then women have gained many long deserved rights. Killing innocent children however, should not be one. It should be noted that not all supporters of women's rights advocate abortion.

As Americans we give up many personal rights for the good of society in order to protect everyone. There are laws which prohibit a person from shouting "Fire" in a crowd theatre, even though this violates the freedom of speech. We should certainly therefore, not look upon the murder of an unborn child as a right to be protected.

Further, Christians are called on to surrender our rights to Christ and let him direct our life.

There is the argument that the unwanted child is part of the mother's body, and that she has the right to control her own body. That may be a valid argument if the unborn child truly was part of her.

Every living person has their own DNA, and fingerprints. That means that not only the mother have her very own one of a kind genetic code, but so does the child she is carrying. They are two separate human beings. The mother does not have two heads and four hands and feet; she is only supporting the child until the birth.

In many states there are laws protecting an unborn victim of a violent act, such as alcohol and drug abuse even by the mother. Congress recognized this by passing the Unborn Victims of Violence Act in 2004. The act states in part, ***“If someone intentionally kills or attempts to kill the unborn child... be punished... for intentionally killing or attempting to kill a human being.”***<sup>27</sup>

Ironically this means if the mother on her way to get a legal abortion is attacked in the parking lot and the baby dies, the criminal is guilty of murder. But if she is not attacked and goes into the clinic and receives the abortion then it was just a medical procedure.<sup>28</sup> Amazing!

### ***3. Unwanted babies would be abused.***

Since 1973, the number of reported abuse cases has actually risen substantially from 167,000 in 1973 to over 900,000 in 2001. Perhaps it is the cheapening of human life that is responsible for this increase in child abuse.

Abortion advocates, Peter Singer and Helga Kuhse, state in their book *Should the Baby Live? The Problem with Handicapped Infants*, that perhaps a period of 28 days after birth might be allowed before an infant has the same right to life as others. With thinking like this is it any wonder child abuse is on the rise?

There is no reason for many of the unwanted and abused children since there are thousands of loving couples who are eager to adopt, and are turning to foreign countries to find children. The problem is organizations like Planned Parenthood rarely recommend adoption as an alternative to abortion.

### ***4. I can't care for a child with a disability.***

Diagnoses of infant deformities usually come from sonograms and amniocentesis. While both are effective medical procedures, mistakes and misdiagnoses do occur.

There are some advocates of abortion who say it's okay to abort a deformed or disabled infant since this will spare the family of an added burden and may allow for the birth of a second more healthy and happy child. Nazi Germany practiced this by killing the handicapped since they were useless to Hitler's "Master Race".

There are those like Peter Singer, an ethics professor at Princeton University, who maintain that "fully functioning" people have more important rights than infants.

You could take their warped logic to its next step and say the elderly and disabled among society also have reduced rights. <sup>29</sup>

Only God knows the plans he has for each of his children, and even disabled children can live a productive life.

As God declares in *Jeremiah 29:11*, “***For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future***”.

### ***5. Does Abortion harm a Woman’s Physical or Mental Health.***

In testimony before a Senate Sub-Committee in 2004, Dr. Elizabeth Shadigan from the University of Michigan School of Medicine, testified that abortion increases the rates for breast cancer and placenta previa, where the placenta blocks the cervix, causing many problems during the pregnancy. The rates of pre-term births and maternal suicide are also higher. <sup>30</sup>

Statistically, all types of death are higher for women who have had an induced abortion. There are many studies which show much high risks of pregnancy related problems in women who have had an abortion.

The Elliot Institute, which conducts research into the impact of abortion on women, families and society, reported that a study revealed women who abort are five times more likely to abuse drugs. <sup>31</sup>

Studies show many women who have aborted a child suffer from mental and emotional trauma due to the abortion.

There are very few reported deaths due to abortion since the death rarely occurs during the procedure. Most deaths are the result of complications *after* the abortion and they are usually listed as sepsis (blood poisoning) or some other cause. It is not in the interest of the abortion clinics to report these deaths. Although we cannot put a number on these deaths, they are certainly higher than the few that are reported.

The Elliot Institute also reports that studies show over 90% of women say they were not given enough information to make an informed decision. Over 80% say they would not have aborted their child if they had not been pressured into it by others, including abortion providers. Further, over 80% say they would have carried the child to full term if they had received support from their family and the child’s father. <sup>32</sup>

Certainly every woman deserves the very best.

### ***6. What About Rape, Incest and the Life of the Mother?***

In the rare case of the life of the mother being in jeopardy (less than 1%), the life that can be saved should be saved. The tragic death of the child is not due to an intentional abortion but to the saving of the one who could be saved. <sup>33</sup>

While the Bible does not address this issue directly, Jewish tradition provides for it. Many times the mother is not really in a life threatening condition when these types of abortions take place.

Again, in the rare cases of rape and incest, which are indeed a terrible ordeal for the woman, will killing the innocent result of the crime, undo it?

Many women report an unwanted pregnancy to be the result of rape to avoid condemnation. Even Norma McCorvey the young woman known as Roe in the case of Roe vs. Wade, later admitted she had lied about being raped. Ms. McCorvey has since turned to the Pro-Life side and has petitioned the Supreme Court to reverse their ruling. <sup>34</sup>

The fact is the vast majority of pregnancies are the result of two willing participants. The idea of abortion as birth control is an abomination before God.

### ***7. Is Birth Control the same as Abortion?***

It has been said that the practice of birth control makes pro-lifers hypocrites, but there are fundamental differences. Sperm and unfertilized eggs are just like any other cell in your body. On their own they have no ability to become anything else. It is only when they are joined together and conception occurs, that life begins, and once this happens a human being is created. Preventing this joining from occurring is a matter of conscience and some religious denominations forbid it. But either way it is certainly not the same as taking a human being's life. <sup>35</sup>

## FINAL THOUGHTS

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The two greatest gifts our Father in Heaven, gave us is the gift of life and the gift of salvation. As followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is our responsibility to protect human life.

But our society does not see abortion as a sin any more than the slaveholders saw their practice as being sinful.

Every civilized society throughout history has had laws prohibiting a citizen from killing another for their own comfort and convenience. But the killing of children through abortion, has become the law of the land.

It is certainly not God's will for his children, since he holds all life as precious. He loved us so much that he sent his only son Jesus Christ who willingly sacrificed himself, to give us eternal life and to take away our sin.

Can we be forgiven of this great sin? Certainly we can, if we repent and change our ways.

*1 John 1: 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

*Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ...*

God granted life.

*Job 10:12 You gave me life and showed me kindness, and in your providence watched over my spirit.*

Since God grants all life, it is not our right to arbitrarily end it. Unless God performs a miracle and ends the practice of abortion, we as a nation will need a Constitutional amendment to end it.

Allowing each state to decide will bring about the same situation that existed at the time of the Civil War. Some states would allow it while others would not. This would allow women seeking an abortion to travel to an abortion state and the killing would continue.

A Constitutional amendment will not be an easy thing to achieve. Christians around this country will need to stand up and declare our opposition to abortion, in a peaceful manner. We then can call upon the power of the Holy Spirit to work with his unified Church.

Only then can we join our Founding Fathers in declaring that all people have the rights of, "***life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.***" <sup>36</sup>



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## PRINCIPLE #2

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# THE TRADITIONAL MONOGAMOUS FAMILY

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### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

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This means the traditional family unit as it has been defined since the creation of mankind. It includes one man and one woman taking care of the children that God and their union produce.

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### WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

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Since the very beginning when God created the world, he created a man, Adam and a woman Eve, and he joined them together as husband and wife, the first marriage.

*Genesis 2: 7 ...the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*

*Genesis 2:18 The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."*

*Genesis 2:21-24 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh.<sup>22</sup> Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and brought her to the man.*

*<sup>23</sup> The man said,*

*“This is now bone of my bones  
And flesh of my flesh;  
She shall be called ‘woman,  
For she was taken out of man.”*

*<sup>24</sup> For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and they will become one flesh.*

So we see that it was God’s plan from the very beginning that man and woman should be joined in marriage. God gave marriage as a special gift to mankind.

Marriage is not just for convenience; nor was it brought about by any culture. It was instituted by God, and it has three basic aspects:

1. The man leaves his parents and in a public act, promises himself to his wife.
2. The man and woman are joined together by taking responsibility for each other’s welfare and by loving the mate above all others.
3. The two become one flesh in the intimacy and commitment of sexual union that is reserved for marriage.

Strong marriage includes all three of these aspects; that is God’s plan for marriage. <sup>1</sup>

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## WHAT DOES HISTORY SAY ABOUT MARRIAGE?

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Throughout history man has always looked at monogamy as the moral and legal form of marriage. This is not to say that behaviors such as plural marriage, adultery, and homosexuality did not and do not occur. They have always been part of this fallen world. History, however, has never viewed them as being normal accepted behavior.

In fact history has shown that whenever the moral fiber of a society falls, so does that society.

The rite of marriage is found in all societies and religions of the world. In the United States and the Western World it is both religious and secular in nature. The church sees the will of God in marriage, while the government sees marriage as the crucial building block of every successful society.

Government benefits from monogamous marriage in several ways, including;

- *Procreation* - No country could exist without population growth.

- *Child and Spousal Support* - If there were no marriage then there would be no responsibility in these areas, and many would have to be supported by society.
- *Paternity and Survivor Rights* - This is important for the smooth transition of property and legal requirements of the law. <sup>2</sup>

The fact that marriage is not just for those who are faithful to a religious doctrine is shown by the states' legal requirements for every marriage. There are legal requirements such as the couple's age and licenses for both the couple and the official. Marriage can be performed by a minister, a judge, a justice of the peace, or a mayor, but all must be licensed by the state. Anything that falls outside of the legal guidelines is not a legal marriage in the eyes of the state. <sup>3</sup>

Married couples enjoy many secular benefits though marriage, but since homosexual relations have long been seen as being outside the normal practice, same sex couples have been denied those benefits. Things such as inheritances, health insurance, and pension benefits have been denied by the government. Homosexuals have been fighting to change this for over 30 years. <sup>4</sup>

A late 2010 poll by the Pew Research Center and Time magazine found that 39% of those polled felt that marriage was becoming obsolete.

As many as 60% said that they view same sex couples with children as being a legitimate family. The majority of those asked said a family could consist of any relationship, with only 29% saying they felt this was troubling for society. <sup>5</sup>

As morals and beliefs have been eroded, so has the fabric of society. Divorce rates are climbing, and families are crumbling. Children have been abandoned to the so called *progressive thinking*, where everyone can be their own creation and the laws and rules don't necessarily apply to them. What we know as the traditional family is in danger of becoming a thing of the past. What went wrong?

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## THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

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From Adam and Eve, the first family in history, until this nation's very beginnings in the 1770's the traditional monogamous family remained virtually unchanged.

What changed all this was in large part was the Industrial Revolution. Before the Industrial Revolution the vast majority of people worked and lived in the same place. If a man was a farmer then his wife and children worked beside him on the farm. The same was true if he was a butcher, or baker, or a candle stick maker.

The father would teach his trade to his sons, and they would pass it on to their sons. Indeed, we see in Scripture that our Lord Jesus Christ learned the carpenter trade from Joseph, his earthly father . The people of Nazareth, upon hearing Jesus teach said, "*Isn't this the carpenter's son?*" (Matthew 13:55) and in Mark 6:3, "*Isn't this the carpenter?*"

Most businesses were located in the family's home. Trade was conducted in the front portion of the house while the family lived in the rest. This allowed both parents to be involved with the raising of their children. <sup>6</sup>

Mothers taught the daughters how to be a woman and a mother, and fathers taught their sons what it meant to be a man and a husband. Both taught the children the value of family. But once the Industrial Revolution took hold, the traditional family came under attack.

At first whole families went to work either in a larger factory setting or sometimes working piecework at home since they had always worked together. But the new industrial movement was time oriented, not task oriented. Companies began to see the workers as just part of the system. It was no longer about just getting a job done; it was now about getting it done as fast as possible at the lowest cost. <sup>7</sup>

Before long, society began to see problems in how this was affecting the family. Laws were passed restricting the widespread use of women and young children in factories. This had the unintended effect of splitting the family, with the mother at home with the young children, while the father and older children were at the factory.

With the men laboring long hours six or seven days a week in factories turning out the new products that the world was demanding, it became more and more difficult for fathers to spend time with their children. They were no longer enforcing discipline or training the children in their trade or other adult skills. The mother was becoming the main influence within the family. <sup>8</sup>

The traditional role of women also was changing. Out of necessity they became the primary teacher and influence of the family. With men becoming more and more an absentee parent, the family began a slow decline.

Women were also suffering because they were isolated within the home becoming more and more dependent on the wages of their husband. They no longer were learning a family trade which they could in many cases live on if their husband died or became disabled. <sup>9</sup>

During the Colonial times many businesses were run by women, but this began to decline with the coming of industry. The Feminist Movement came into being in large part because of this radical breakdown in what had been the Traditional Monogamous Family. <sup>10</sup>

## THE CHALLENGES TO THE AMERICAN FAMILY

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Let us look at a few of the challenges to family, that our nation has faced and is currently facing.

### DIVORCE

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Divorce has always been with us, but it was never part of God's original plan. In the Old Testament, Scripture speaks of divorce in several places, but in New Testament, Jesus explains the reason for this.

*Matthew 19:8 Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. <sup>9</sup> I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."*

There has been much discussion as to whether or not Jesus allowed remarriage, but that is not the real issue. What Jesus is saying is divorce was allowed only due to our sinful desires and then only in extreme cases.

Throughout history, divorce was a rare occurrence, due to the difficulty in proving sufficient grounds to permit it. But as with many of our social ills, the 1960's brought about new attitudes. The era of the no-fault divorce first appeared in California on January 1, 1970, and eventually the rest of the country followed suit. <sup>11</sup>

Today the divorce rates are skyrocketing as people are entering into marriage with an escape route already planned. We hear about pre-nuptial agreements of the rich and famous, which is going into the marriage planning to fail.

Unfortunately, with our ability through the media, we are aware of every marital problem that celebrities have. This behavior rubs off on us, especially with young people. Many enter into what God intended to last a lifetime with little or no regard for the future. Today's culture is busy promoting divorce and adultery as forms of liberation, where the divorced people are free and better off. But is that the truth?

Some statistics:

- Few divorced fathers even see their children on a regular basis.
- Mothers see the children less due to the need to work in many cases.
- Children in single family homes are six times more likely to be poor.
- Crime and substance abuse are strongly linked to fatherless households.

There are many more statistics which tell of increased levels illness, depression, and even suicide. <sup>12</sup>

So we see that divorce is destroying our families. The saddest part of this story is that the church is no better than the world. "*We have seen the enemy and it is us.*" <sup>13</sup>

## POLYGAMY

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The practice of plural marriage as we know from Scripture existed in the early days of the Bible. Scripture tells us that many of the patriarchs had more than one wife. But they also show that the practice brought only trouble to the people involved. God's word is very clear, calling for his leaders in 1 Timothy 3:2 to be "... *the husband of but one wife...*" and again in Titus 1:6, but mankind has many times ignored it or followed the ways of the world instead.

In the history of the United States there have been several groups that practiced plural marriage in various forms. The best example was the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, better known as the Mormons.

The Mormon Church was started by Joseph Smith, a treasure hunter from New York in 1830. Smith said that he had received a visitation from God and Jesus a few years earlier, in which he was told to start a new church since all the existing churches were wrong.

He claimed an angel named Moroni appeared and told him to dig up some buried golden plates covered with an ancient writing from which he wrote the Book of Mormon. Smith was the only one to see these plates because Moroni took them back to Heaven. <sup>14</sup>

This new faith has many radical doctrines that are completely opposed to traditional Christian doctrine. This cult has very different ideas of who God and Jesus are, and who man is and can be.

This is not the place to debate the many false and crazy doctrines of the cult we know as the Mormon Church, except for their practice of plural marriage known as polygamy.

As Smith moved his followers from New York to Ohio and Missouri, and then to Illinois, they ran into opposition wherever they went. It was polygamy that caused the most trouble.

Smith said it was a direct revelation from God that said for a faithful Mormon man to attain the highest level of Heaven, he must have more than one wife. Smith himself married more than 30 women. On June 27, 1844 Smith was killed by a mob of 200 angry men who stormed the Carthage, Illinois jail cell where he was being held. <sup>15</sup>



Brigham Young took his place as the prophet of the church and led the Mormons to Utah territory. Young reinforced the plural marriage doctrine, and he himself may have had over 50 wives.

The practice was for men only, for women could not have more than one husband. Mormon leaders have said the practice was implemented by God so more children could be born.

Even in the wilderness of the Utah territory, the Federal government tried to stop this practice. Polygamy flourished until 1887, when the United States Congress passed the Edmunds-Tucker bill which required the church to relinquish their property and citizenship if they continued the unlawful practice. The acceptance of Utah as a state was also on the line. <sup>16</sup>

To combat this attack, the Prophet of the Church, Wilford Woodruff, reported a new revelation from God, known as the Great Accommodation. Woodruff said God was putting the practice of polygamy on hold. Even today it remains on hold, and it could be reinstated at any time. <sup>17</sup>

For a number of years there has been a break off group known as the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, which has been practicing polygamy in opposition to both the Mormon Church and the law.

Women who have left the cult within a cult, have said that there is usually only one legal wife. The others are not legally married; only spiritually. Since they are technically single mothers, they are encouraged to get on food stamps, welfare, social security, health care and any other government program. This is called "bleeding the beast," as they like the idea of the federal government funding their illegal practice.

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#### WHAT IS THE PROBLEM WITH POLYGAMY?

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1. First of all it is not and never was God's plan for mankind.

*1 Timothy 3:2 ... the husband of but one wife...*

2. If polygamy were to become the normal way of life, there would fewer wives for the roughly 50 % of the population. If one man has several wives then next guy may have none. Trouble will follow.
3. The "bleeding of the beast" practice.
4. The emotional problems of women and children living in extended families and the competition for position within the family.

Although polygamy was once more widespread, it still exists and continues to disrupt the traditional family.

## THE HOMOSEXUAL STRUGGLE

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A result of the social movements of the 1960's, homosexuals are the latest group to fight for recognition in the mainstream of society. The rallying cry for their position is for tolerance and fairness. But unlike the struggle for the civil rights of black Americans, and to some extent for women, homosexuals are engaged in what God and society has called sin.

Through the Scriptures God views, homosexuality as being morally wrong and completely contrary to His design.

*Leviticus 20:13 "If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable.*

*Romans 1:26-27 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. 27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.*

*I Corinthians 6: 9-10 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.*

So we see that God has set certain standards with homosexuality being ranked high among sinful acts. But in this new era of "tolerance," we are being told to accept not only all people, but also all of their acts.

Regardless of the truth of Scripture and history, if we protest we are branded as hateful sick people.

The "Gay Rights" movement began in the late 1960's and is being linked to the Civil Rights movement for African-Americans, and the Women's Liberation movement, but this is where the problem lies.

Blacks are born black because that is the way God created them. And women are born female for the same reason. God would never create something that is contrary to his nature.

In recent years there has been many scientific studies trying to prove that homosexuals are born homosexual, but there is no scientific evidence to support that idea. In fact it is the opposite. Science has found no “*gay gene*.”<sup>18</sup>

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## HOW DOES THE HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA AFFECT THE FAMILY?

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Homosexuals have been mounting a steady assault on the traditional foundations of this nation.

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## THE CHURCH

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One of the foundations upon which our country was built is the Christian faith. The Founding Fathers drew heavily upon the doctrines and moral teachings of Christianity as they laid down the laws and ideals of the United States.

*Religion and good morals are the only solid foundation of public liberty and happiness. -- Samuel Adams*

*Our country should be preserved from the dreadful evil of becoming enemies of the religion of the Gospel, which I have no doubt, but would be the introduction of the dissolution of government and the bonds of civil society. -- Elias Boudinot, signer of the Declaration of Independence*

*“The highest story of the American Revolution is this: It connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity.” John Adams, second President of the United States*

This is not to say that this nation has been a place where every American has embraced the Christian faith. However, throughout history, the church has been an anchor in times of trouble, a sanctuary to run to and receive truth and comfort.

***The Church is under attack!*** Today in the name of “tolerance” and “political correctness” many of the mainline Protestant denominations have come under pressure to accept homosexual behavior as normal even though the Holy Scripture clearly says it is not.

There are unrepentant, practicing homosexuals openly serving in ordained offices in several denominations. Practicing homosexuals are even being called as pastors.<sup>19</sup>

Many church congregations are in decline, the Presbyterian Church USA, for example has been reduced since 1965, by over two million, nearly half of its membership. It is losing nearly 50,000 members every year.<sup>20</sup>

Most of this decline is due to the radical homosexual agenda, and though a large part of those people move to non-denominational churches, many others just stop attending.

Sadly the Presbyterians are not alone. Today's church is in danger of no longer being that anchor of Biblical truth and comfort for the American family.

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## MARRIAGE

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The foundation of marriage is also under attack. Homosexuals say that all they want is what all other groups have. But here again it has been shown that they are a group that is based on behavior, not gender or race.

The U.S. government saw the need to protect marriage from the homosexual agenda and did so with DOMA, the Defense of Marriage Act.

The act was passed overwhelmingly by Congress and signed into law by President Bill Clinton on September 21, 1996. The main provisions of DOMA states,

***Section 2. Powers reserved to the states:***

***No State, territory, or possession of the United States, or Indian tribe, shall be required to give effect to any public act, record, or judicial proceeding of any State, territory, possession, or tribe respecting a relationship between persons of the same sex that is treated as a marriage under the laws of such other State, territory, possession, or tribe, or a right or claim arising from such relationship.***

***Section 3. Definition of 'marriage' and 'spouse':***

***In determining the meaning of any Act of Congress, or of any ruling, regulation, or interpretation of the various administrative bureaus and agencies of the United States, the word "marriage" means only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, and the word "spouse" refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or wife.*** <sup>21</sup>

So what is the result of this law? It says the Federal government considers only a union between one man and one woman as being legally binding. This law has of course been challenged in the courts, but so far the Supreme Court has refused to hear the case.

Why did the United States government feel the need to pass such a law? Because the homosexual agenda was moving forward in several states. Indeed there are now legal civil marriages in Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Iowa, and Hawaii. The District of Columbia also has same sex unions. Three other states recognize these acts of other states while not allowing it themselves.

On the other side, as of April 2009, 29 states have enacted constitutional amendments defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman. The Ohio Constitution now states,

### **15.11 Marriage Amendment**

***Only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by this state and its political subdivisions. This state and its political subdivisions shall not create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance or effect of marriage.***

***Adopted November 2, 2004; Proposed by Initiative Petition 22***

Thirteen other states have enacted DOMA or a law similar to it. The sides have been drawn.

Unfortunately the administration of President Barak Obama decided on February 23, 2011, not to defend DOMA in legal challenges. President Obama had made a campaign promise to the homosexual community to repeal DOMA, and thus has never supported the law, even though as President it is his duty to enforce the laws of the nation.

In the Spring, of 2013, the United States Supreme Court is deciding whether or not to strike down part of DOMA as being unconstitutional.

## **FINAL THOUGHTS**

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The Traditional Monogamous Family is certainly under pressure in today's culture. The family should be safe- guarded by government and the church, because both are dependent on its survival.

Our Founding Fathers believed that America needed a "republican marriage" to survive. That is to say, *a self-reliant and child centered couple who had freely chosen each other in a spirit of equality and mutual affection and would pass on to their young not just property but also the qualities needed to live in freedom.* 23

What God has joined together, let not man put asunder.

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## PRINCIPLE #3

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# A NATIONAL WORK ETHIC

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### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

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Ingrained deep within the American spirit is the willingness and the desire to give an honest day's work for an honest day's pay. This nation's greatness is due to the ingenuity and sweat of the working men and women throughout our history.

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### WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

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Our God is always working for our good providing all we need for life. As Scripture says in Genesis 1:1, "*In the beginning God created the heavens and earth.*"<sup>1</sup> After creating everything that exists on the earth plants, animals, mankind, water, mountains everything, he did something.

*Genesis 2:2 By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. <sup>1</sup>*

Scripture says God rested. He did not retire or quit; He is still on the job. The Apostle Paul also showed his work ethic to the church at Ephesus in Acts 20:33-35, "*I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*"

Paul used his skill as a tentmaker to provide for himself and others rather than be a burden to the people he was teaching.

*1 Thessalonians 2:9 Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order to not be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.*

So you see we are expected to be workers and not live on handouts. We are to live productive lives.



Does this mean we as Christians can never retire or quit working? Certainly not, but we are never to retire or quit doing God's work until he calls us home.

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## THE WORK ETHIC IN HISTORY

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Since God is a working God who created the entire universe, and man in his own image, it was always part of His plan that man should work. We are called to reflect his creative activity by cultivating our own creativity. We are to cultivate the world, drawing out its potential and giving it shape and form. <sup>1</sup>

God the first employer, gave Adam, the first employee the first job in history.

*Genesis 2:15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.*

Throughout the history of the world man has worked to tame his environment and make his life easier and more productive. But as man has changed his environment his attitude about work has also undergone great change.

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## THE AMERICAN WORK ETHIC

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In the history of America at least six different types of work ethic can be identified.

1. The Puritan Ethic, mid 1600-early 1700

“Do all for the glory of God.” Work is not a curse but a virtue.

This ethic focuses on individual responsibility and achievement, not at any cost but under the constraints of God's rules and responsibilities found in the Bible.

But even in those days it was difficult for sinful man to submit to God's sovereignty. <sup>2</sup>

2. The Craftsman Ethic, mid 1700 - mid 1800

“God helps those who help themselves.” This ethic maintains that God has given man a set of natural laws which man can use to *properly govern himself*. This ethic fits into the “Enlightened Age” of that time period and has a “Deist” approach. Rather than glorifying God, man is being exalted and work is being secularized. <sup>3</sup>

3. The Entrepreneur Ethic, mid 1800 - mid 1900

“The pursuit of wealth provides incentives for progress.” This ethic maintains that material progress helps everyone enjoy a higher standard of living.

Materialism and greed are key components of this ethic. Legal standards began to replace the Bible as the source of ethical standards. When not everyone prospers, there is increasing alienation between employers and employees. This era saw the rise of labor unions and also the Marxist- Leninist brand of socialism and communism. <sup>4</sup>

4. The Career Ethic, mid 1900 - 1980

“Loyalty to the company is the source of security.” This ethic maintained that to succeed in the “system” you must be a team player, so hitch your career to a growing company and climb the corporate ladder. The work is not ennobling, the employee was just working for payday. <sup>5</sup>

5. The Self-Fulfillment Ethic, 1980 - 2000

In this ethic work is a vehicle for personal happiness, with early retirement as the major goal. Happiness is based on what *you* can get out of it. Greed is healthy, win at all costs. This ethic leads to short cuts and compromises that sometimes are far from God’s ideals. <sup>3</sup>

6. The Ego-eclectic Work Ethic, 2000+

“Whatever works best for me is the right thing to do.” There are no boundaries except self imposed ones. Work is for self -fulfillment found in self-generated goals, regardless of what others think. Individualism is unbridled; as such it works against a productive, character building workplace. <sup>6</sup>

This is not to say that everyone throughout the history of the country has fallen into these categories, but the American work ethic has certainly undergone major changes in the last three hundred plus years.

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## THE PROTESTANT CONNECTION

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There has been an ongoing controversy over the role of the Protestant faith in a national work ethic. In 1904 Max Weber (1864-1920) a German sociologist developed the thesis that modern capitalism has its roots in the self-denying ethos of certain Protestant sects. <sup>7</sup> Since then there have been many economists and sociologists that have fought against this idea.

The idea comes from the medieval Catholic Church, which controlled the people in every aspect of their life. The church taught that all work was inferior to the role of the church. The rise of the Protestant movement changed that. It saw work as being a gift from God and thus was equal in his eyes.

Through the years the work ethic has changed, but history shows that when man has followed the teachings of God, productivity and morality have flourished. When

everyone in the workplace sees their role as important, production and profits have risen. There is little or no stealing or idleness; people take pride in their jobs. When management sees their employees as equals, then working conditions are kept up and everyone benefits.

This idea has been downplayed for many years, but events in Europe over the past 20 or 30 years have caused some to rethink their positions.

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### SECULAR EUROPE? VS. CHRISTIAN AMERICA?

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As Western Europe becomes more and more secular and socialistic, the idea of working hard is becoming a thing of the past. On average, workers in Europe are on the job far less time than their American counterparts. <sup>8</sup>

Europeans take longer vacations, retire earlier, go on strike more often, and work fewer hours. They rely on the government to pay for all these benefits and as the governments are going broke, riots have occurred when cuts have been made. <sup>9</sup>

Max Weber's thesis is being proved in Europe. The countries where the least work is being done turn out to be the mostly Protestant countries. The predominantly Catholic countries fared a little better.<sup>10</sup>

What is going on? The one time Protestant nations have undergone sharp declines in church attendance. Less than 10 percent of people in nations like England, Germany, Holland, and Sweden attend church at least once a month. Catholic Italy and Ireland are hardly any better. Around half of the people in Denmark, Sweden, and Norway told a recent Gallup poll that God was not important to them.<sup>11</sup>

So the decline of religious faith seems to go hand in hand with the decline of a strong work ethic.

In North America 82 percent of respondents told the Gallup Millennium Survey of religious attitudes, that God was very important to them. But does this mean America is on the right track? Many people in America would like to become more like Europe. The church is under attack, and our work ethic is declining.

So what is the answer? We must adopt a Biblical work ethic. Congress cannot pass a law for us; each of us must pass it within our own hearts and minds. We must train our children and retrain ourselves in the ethics of our forefathers.

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### THE BIBLICAL WORK ETHIC <sup>12</sup>

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1. Work is a "Creation Mandate for Mankind." It is to be done under God in obedience to God's laws.

The Biblical view of work is that it is a calling, and it is important. This was one of the distinctives of the Reformation: All work matters.

*Colossians 3 :23-24 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord not for men, <sup>24</sup> since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

2. A proper work ethic is based on proper relationships with God, with family, with supervisors, with subordinates, and with co-workers.

Sinners will always have difficulty in doing this as everything they do is focused on themselves.

*Matthew 22: 37-39 Jesus replied; " Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself."*

3. Work is an opportunity to be a positive image-bearer of God. How you work is more important, and the results will take care of themselves.

God is sovereign and we are completely dependent on him. He has given us rules and principles to use. Our responsibility is to use them properly. The key here is that profit is not always the only or most important measuring stick.

4. Hard work, diligence, respect for property, and thrift are important attributes.

It means going beyond the minimum or even the normal, because you are working for God, as well as your employer, and second best is unsatisfactory. Respect all property since ultimately it belongs to God.

5. The principle of stewardship should guide man's behavior. God is the owner and man is his agent.

Problems occur when man views work not as a stewardship responsibility to God, but only as an opportunity for self-satisfaction and self-aggrandizement.

6. Loyalty, submission to authority, and participatory management are important parts of the Biblical work ethic.

This principle applies to both management and employees. Thus a spirit of cooperation and mutual support should trump any tendency toward selfishness and adversarial positions. A true spirit of trust is fostered instead of a spirit of "trust" based on fear.

7. Fulfillment is based on pleasing God.

This principle covers all the others and replaces our tendency to focus on ourselves. We should always remember that God is in control. This should help us to control our circumstances instead of being controlled by them.

*Romans 8: 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

A proper National Work Ethic is vital to the strength and vitality of the nation. We must all work to uphold it.

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## PRINCIPLE #4

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# THE RIGHT TO A GOD-CENTERED EDUCATION

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### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

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Scripture tells us in Proverbs 1:7, *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,”* The goal of education and knowledge is to understand how things work and why things happen. How can you understand the creation without first knowing the Creator? The answer is you cannot.

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### WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

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We are taught in Scriptures that God puts great importance on educating our children and ourselves, but education should be taught in the right way.

*Deuteronomy 6:6-7 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*

2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 17:7-9 tells us that King Jehoshaphat sent his officials, Levites and priests out into the countryside to teach the people.

*<sup>9</sup> They taught throughout Judah, taking with them the Book of the Law of the Lord; they went around to all the towns of Judah and taught the people.*

*Psalm 78:5 He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children.*

Fear of the Lord is truly the beginning and the end of all knowledge.

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### HOW DOES HISTORY SEE EDUCATION?

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From the time of Christ, education was mostly delivered in the home and only as much as was necessary for the student to function within his profession. After the

fall of the Roman Empire most of the known world fell into a period known as the Dark Ages.

During this time monasteries throughout Europe began to accumulate and protect books and art, waiting for the day when the lights came back on.

The Emperor Charlemagne came into power in the year 768, and after solidifying his kingdom, he began to make many positive changes to the old way of doing things. <sup>1</sup>

In 789, Charlemagne fostered a revival of learning and the arts. He decreed that every monastery must have a school for the education of boys in singing, arithmetic, and grammar. <sup>2</sup>

Over the next couple of hundred years education moved slowly and was mostly only for the rich and male population. But around the year 1000, the cathedral schools began to become universities. <sup>3</sup>

This era has been called “Scholasticism” because a distinctive method of scholarship arose, and a unique theology of the Middle Ages appeared. The aim of the Schoolmen, as the teachers were sometimes called, was twofold: to reconcile Christian doctrine and human reason and to arrange the teachings of the church in an orderly system. Living “religiously in a studious manner” was the goal of a medieval education. <sup>4</sup>

Problems can arise from this kind of doctrine since certain faiths can deny a free search for truth. But even allowing for the dominance of the Roman Catholic teachings, the role of the church in education cannot be denied.

After the Protestant Reformation in 1517, a different doctrine was revealing the truth through education.

## EDUCATION IN AMERICA

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The history of Christian education in America dates back to the first colonists. In colonial America education played a central role in society, and Biblical teaching was central to all education. The first schools were started by the church for the purpose of providing Christian education.

The 1647 School Law is based on the Old Deluder Satan Act passed in Massachusetts, which required the teaching, reading, and writing of Scriptures to children in a school setting. This formed the basis of what we know today as public education.

The purpose was to teach children the Bible, since Satan wanted to keep people in ignorance so they would remain in bondage because of the lack of the truth.



As time went on the first colleges began to appear. Nearly all of them were founded by Christian churches. These include Harvard, Princeton, Yale, and Dartmouth. One of the original tenets of Harvard stated that students should be instructed in knowing God, and that Christ is the only foundation of all “*sound knowledge and learning.*”<sup>5</sup>

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## THE FOUNDING FATHERS

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At the beginning of our nation the men who were writing the laws and setting the foundations knew that an educated citizenry was vital to the survival of the republic. They also knew that faith in God was a vital part of education.

Following the victory in the Revolutionary War, one of the first laws that the Congress passed was what has come to be known as the Northwest Ordinance.

The new nation was eager to expand into the wilderness west of the Appalachian mountains. This law set up how this territory would be governed.

The ordinance set up the government in a vast territory that one day would become the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota.

Today many revisionist historians say that Congress was blackmailed into passing this law through the fear of losing a large land sale. While it is true that Congress was broke, that was nothing new. Are we to believe that men who just a few years earlier had risked their fortunes and indeed their very lives, were now frightened and weak willed?

The Northwest Ordinance wasn’t passed quickly in the middle of the night, but through the regular parliamentary procedures. It was passed by a quorum vote of eight states to zero and a delegate vote of 17-1 on July 13, 1787. <sup>6</sup>

It was in force for two years under the Articles of Confederation before the adoption of the Constitution. After the Constitution was passed all laws in effect had to be re-voted on to give them power under the new government.

If there was a problem, here was the chance for Congress to fix it. The Northwest Ordinance passed the House on July 21<sup>st</sup> without opposition following three readings of the bill. The Senate followed suit on August 4<sup>th</sup> 1789.<sup>7</sup> President George Washington signed it into law on August 7<sup>th</sup> 1789.<sup>8</sup> It had passed without yeas or nays which is the equivalent to unanimous passage.

The section that is relevant to this principle is Article 3,

***Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.*** <sup>9</sup>

Thus it appears that the framers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment saw no conflict with this act. Since no one attempted to change it, they must have been in agreement that religion and morality were vital to knowledge and thus to schools in general.

Thomas Paine (1737-1808) patriot, author of “*Common Sense*”, has always been considered as possibly the least religious of all the Founding Fathers. He said in a speech in Paris, France, on Jan. 16,<sup>th</sup> 1797,

*It has been the error of the schools to teach astronomy, and all other sciences and subjects of natural philosophy, as accomplishments only; whereas they should be taught theologically, or with reference to the Being who is the author of them: for all the principles of science are of Divine origin. Man cannot make, or invent, or contrive principles. He can only discover them; and ought to look through the discovery to the Author.*

Later in the same speech he said,

*How then is it, that when we study the works of God in the creation, we stop short and do not think of God? It is from the error of the schools in having taught those subjects as accomplishments only, and thereby separated the study of them from the Being who is author of them. <sup>10</sup>*

Doctor Benjamin Rush (1745-1813) signer of the Declaration of Independence, and “Father of American Medicine”, when asked about the Mode of Education Proper in a Republic, said,

*I shall proceed in the next place, to inquire, what mode of education we shall adopt so as to secure the state all the advantages that are to be derived from proper education of youth; and here I beg leave to remark, that the only foundation for a useful education in a republic is to be laid in religion. Without this there can be no virtue, and without virtue there can be no liberty, and liberty is the object and life of all republican governments. <sup>11</sup>*

Noah Webster, author of the *Dictionary of the American English*, and a number of text books rooted in Christian morality said,

*“In my view, the Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government ought to be instructed.” <sup>12</sup>*

Webster knew that unless the American Republic was rooted in a Christian worldview it would be unequipped to withstand the attacks of the world's philosophies.

The new worldview known as the “Enlightenment” nearly consumed France. The French Revolution attempted to rid the French people of all of their old beliefs, this included belief in God. No one was safe in that bloody chaotic era. Although some of our Founding Fathers like Jefferson and Paine embraced certain ideas of the “Enlightenment” they certainly did not want to see that immoral belief system take root here.

The Founding Fathers, through their statements and the laws they enacted, held that radical thinking at bay until the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century when Americans began to reject Christianity. Anti-Christian and Anti- Republican philosophies began to creep into the American education system.

## THE PROBLEM

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Before the early 1850’s compulsory school attendance did not exist, for most children were taught within their home. Since most children were busy working in the family business, they only learned enough to function in society.

Once compulsory attendance laws went into effect, the Public School System became the primary source of education in America. Not too much changed for the next hundred years for the enemy is patient and ever ready to lay the groundwork necessary to change our lives.

Religious faith was still very evident in the American classroom even into the 1950’s. Many schools started each day with the Lord’s Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, or maybe a Bible verse. Textbooks contained Bible based morality lessons. During this time our schools were not without problems, but they were still among the best in the world.

Cracks began to appear in the 1920’s, such as the famous evolution trial in Dayton, Tennessee. In 1925, a young science teacher named John Scopes was brought to court for violating Tennessee’s law against teaching evolution in the public school. This case was a national sensation with both sides sending high powered attorneys to plead their case.

In the end Scopes was found guilty and fined a small sum. However, the media around the nation clearly sided with evolution and against the Christian community.

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After this a re-evaluation began to move across the public school system in this nation. Today the teaching of creation is outlawed, and evolution is accepted as the absolute truth, without any evidence.

The Supreme Court of the United States weighed in on the issue of religious faith in public schools beginning in 1948 with the Illinois case known as *McCollum v. Board of Education*, where they ruled unconstitutional any set time of prayer in public schools.

In 1962 they ruled in *Engel v. Vitale*, that New York's, state sponsored prayer was unconstitutional. In that case the Court failed to cite a single precedent to justify its stand, a significant change in the bedrock rule of jurisprudence.<sup>14</sup> There were none to cite. They tried to justify their stand by using a statement from James Madison,

*Attempts to enforce... acts obnoxious to so great a proportion of citizens tend to enervate [weaken] the laws in general and to slacken the bands of society.*

The Court ruled school prayer **obnoxious**. But to who?

In 1963 Pennsylvania's *Abington School District v. Schempp* banned all Bible reading from public schools. The displaying of the Ten Commandments was banned in 1980 by the Kentucky case of *Stone v. Graham*.

By taking these stands, the Court undid 170 years of precedent, where since the ratification of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, no court had ever ruled against prayer in any form in any location in the country. <sup>15</sup> How and why has the Supreme Court taken this position?

## SELECTIVE INCORPORATION

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The 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment of the Constitution states, Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;

This was intended to prevent the establishment of a national religion, and to protect the rights of Americans to practice the faith of their choice even in the public arena.

Beginning in the 1940's the Supreme Court began to view their role in a different way. They began to look at the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment which was a civil rights amendment passed in 1868 to protect black Americans against the segregation laws of various states.

The court declared that the purpose of 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment was to limit the states and the federal government, not just on racial civil rights but on various other issues as well. They began to link the 14<sup>th</sup> with the amendments contained in the Bill of Rights. <sup>16</sup>

By linking the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment freedom of religion clause with the equal protection under the law restrictions of the 14<sup>th</sup> the court claimed jurisdiction over local communities. This means that every state and every community was limited, not just the federal government as was originally intended.

The process of subjugating issues from the Bill of Rights to the jurisdiction of the federal courts through the redefined scope of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment is described by the Supreme Court as “selective incorporation.”<sup>17</sup>

What has been the effect of this decision? Justice William Douglas stated in the case *Walz v. Tax Commission* in 1970,

“The result has been a national revolution... reversing the historic position that the foundations of those liberties in the Bill of Rights rested largely in state law...<sup>18</sup>

The “revolution” occasioned by the new interpretation of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment has seen article after article in the Bill of Rights being incorporated into the 14<sup>th</sup> and made applicable to the states.<sup>19</sup>

The Supreme Court has unilaterally reversed the historic position of the Founders.

## WHAT ABOUT THE HISTORIC POSITION?

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One of our Founding Fathers, Samuel Adams, said the Bill of Rights was created because the people wished,

*... to see a line drawn as clearly as may be between the federal powers vested in Congress and distinct sovereignty of the several states upon which the private and personal rights of the citizens depend. Without such distinction there will be danger of the Constitution issuing imperceptibly and gradually into a consolidated government over all the states...*

*The population of the U.S. live in different climates, of different education and manners, possessed of different habits and feelings [and] under one consolidated government cannot long remain free.”<sup>20</sup>*

Simply put, the Founders saw the Bill of Rights as a protection to keep the will of the states from being consolidated and micro- managed by the federal government.

The Congress in 1868 rejected several attempts to link the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment with the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment during the passage of the bill. Clearly they did not intend for the two to be linked.<sup>21</sup>

But since the 1940's the Supreme Court has felt no need to respect historic precedent. Justice William J. Brennan in the *School District of Abington Township v. Schempp, 1963*, the Bible reading case, said,

*"A too literal quest for the advice of the Founding Fathers upon the issues of these cases seems to me futile and misdirected."* <sup>22</sup>

Although some good things have come from the use of "selective incorporation," we as a people need to be vigilant in our oversight of our elected officials. Supreme Court justices serve for life and the President and the Senate have great power in the choosing of the justices. We need to be wise in our votes so that we try to elect people who follow our values.

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## WHERE DO WE STAND?

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Few would argue that our public schools are better or safer today than when our parents were in school. Troubled children and problems have always been a part of public school, but today the trend seems to be on a downward cycle.

Study after study shows children who have a basis in Christian values are much less likely to engage in illegal activities, such as drinking, promiscuous sex, drugs, fighting, and the like. In fact, out of all the students in the United States who engage in these undesirable activities, only 12% are studying Christianity or attending a Christian school. <sup>23</sup>

Today public education seems to be busily engaged in teaching that there are no absolute truths to live by. They fight the activity without changing the underlying problems that are the cause. Instead of instilling proper morals, they are more concerned with not offending some unnamed minority.

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## SOLVING THE PROBLEM

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A school voucher system should be adopted in every school district. Currently in Ohio, parents can obtain a voucher for their child only if that child is stuck in an underachieving school or grade. There is a certain guideline that must be followed.

A voucher means that a parent can remove his child from a poor situation and place the child in any state certified school, even if that school is a private or faith based school. It also means that the state will pay the tuition to send the child, up to the amount it pays for each child to attend public school. Once the child has received the

voucher, it stays with him until graduation from high school, again under certain guidelines.

The benefits:

- It would restore much more parental influence in the training of their children. A Biblically based principle.
- It would establish healthy competition in educational programs with the result being good schools would grow while poor schools would need to improve or close. Pouring more money into broken systems has not been the answer.
- It would allow parents to send their children to schools that support their moral and behavioral values.
- Children are better educated. Studies where vouchers are available prove this out.

Opposition comes from the National Education Association, the largest teacher's union, because they seem to fear the loss of funding. Some oppose vouchers on the grounds of public funds supporting religion. But the Supreme Court has ruled in the Ohio case of *Zelman v. Simmons-Harris 2002*, that the state money was going to the parent, not the school. As such, it does not violate the Establishment Clause of the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment. <sup>25</sup>

The goal of civil government with regard to education should be to produce educated citizens for the next generation. If that is achieved by a voucher system or by home schooling then the government's goal has been reached.

The government should not care if children are educated in a religious school, they should have no part in determining where a child is educated. Parents should have control of their children's education.

Educational reform through vouchers, charters, faith based, or home schooling, is necessary. But Christians also need to be "salt and light" within the public school system. Christians cannot force a purely Christian curriculum into the public schools of this nation, but we can play a major part in promoting general principles of morality and truth that ultimately come through Biblical principles. <sup>26</sup>

Individual Christians within the public school systems can have an enormous impact just by not hiding their faith. Few individuals can have a greater impact on their school than a Spirit-led believer. <sup>27</sup>

What the schools do today determines what society will be tomorrow. That is why reforming education from pre-schools all the way to the universities is one of the most crucial cultural tasks Christians face. Christians have not only the opportunity for influence within our public schools but also the opportunity to create centers of Christian education and cultural renewal. <sup>28</sup>

Lee Berg of the National Education Association's Center for the Revitalization of Urban Education said, "*When education is not public we no longer have the ability to control what is taught.*"<sup>29</sup> Who should control what is taught to the children of America, a Godless bureaucracy or the parents of the child?

Educational choice is a religious right. Denial of the same is the most serious violation of freedom of conscience in America today.<sup>30</sup>



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## PRINCIPLE #5

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# THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

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### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

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This principle states that if a person or a nation obeys God, observing the moral truths found in the Bible, then that person or nation will be blessed. If they disobey, they will bring punishment upon themselves.

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### WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

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A long time ago, God spoke to Abram in the land of Ur of the Chaldeans. The Lord had said to Abram,

*"Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.*

*<sup>2</sup> "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.*

*<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*

*Genesis 12 1-3*

Abram obeyed God and left all he had known, and went to the land God showed him. But that did not mean he had everything easy from then on. He faced many trials and made many mistakes, but God was with him and leading him through, to the glory of God and his plan.

Scripture tells us in Genesis 15, that later God made a covenant with Abram, promising him a child. Through that child, a great nation would come into being. That great nation was Israel and through Jesus and his sacrifice, we his followers become part of that great blessing.

So is that the end? Unfortunately, Israel and we have fallen short on our end of this great blessing. But God is always calling us back to himself.

In Deuteronomy 28, God gives Israel first his promises and then the result of disobedience. But Israel still fell short.

God again promises in II Chronicles 7:14, *“if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land.”*

So is that the end? Unfortunately, Israel and we have ignored these promises of God to our sorrow. But God is a loving father who is always ready to forgive and take us back.

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## WHAT DOES WORLD HISTORY TELL US?

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Throughout history mankind has wavered in its following of God’s plan for us. The Kingdom of Israel stood or fell depending on the leadership of its king. Later the great empires of the world rose and fell without God. Rome, the greatest of them all, with its awful pagan practices was brought down not only from outside forces but also from inner decay due to a lack of morals. But from this rubble, God’s promise arose with his Church sweeping the known world.

But once again, the Church fell short and evil flourished throughout the world while God’s people fought with each other over doctrine and power. Heresies and false religions abound today. The way of the world is a strong call for the people who are walking without God.

Holy Scripture tells us first in Proverbs 14: 12, *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.”* And then in Matthew 7:13-14, *“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many will enter through it. <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few will find it.”*

Earthly power without God’s leading has always led to destruction. The French Revolution of 1789 sought to remove an abusive government and a corrupt church, but it became so corrupt and abusive that it was worse than what it sought to replace. Revolutionary leaders wanted to remove God from France, and replace religion and faith with the “enlightened” scientific thinking of the day.

Their zeal to eliminate God also eliminated all sense of morality. Soon the guillotine and bayonet ruled, and the people lived in fear. This led to Napoleon seizing power. By 1815 he was defeated and the old order restored.

In 1917 the Bolsheviks seized power in Russia, and soon the worship of the state had become the official religion of the nation. Christianity was driven underground and for the next 70 years the Russian people suffered greatly. Millions were killed in ruthless purges to purify the Communist nation. Freedoms did not exist, and the people went hungry and lived in fear.

By 1989, Communism had fallen and the Russian people and many of their satellite nations were free again. One of the first things to happen was the churches were reopened and in some cases rebuilt. Christianity is still struggling due to a generation which has never heard the Gospel message. But missionaries are bringing God's word to the hungry hearts of the Russian people.

Adolph Hitler and his Nazi Party took control of Germany in 1932 and by 1945, that nation and much of the world was in ruins, and millions were dead. In Germany, God and Christianity was replaced by the occult worship of Hitler and the Aryan Race. All non-Aryans were inferior and fit only to live as slaves or not at all.

Jews, Slavs, the infirm and mentally handicapped along with other undesirable people were murdered in the godless quest to purify the German people. But God brought about the destruction of the Nazi regime, which Hitler said would last a 1000 years, in only 12.

These are only a few examples of what living without God's influence brings about. But there are examples of God's blessing also.

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## HOW DOES AMERICA FIT INTO GOD'S WILL?

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Although the Spanish conquistadors were claiming Central and South America for their own, a hundred years earlier, the English began to settle what is now the United States, in 1607.

Sir Walter Raleigh had tried to establish a colony on the coast of North Carolina in 1585. The colony on Roanoke Island disappeared and remains a mystery to this day. The next attempt came in Virginia.

The Virginia Company was formed and in December, 1606, three ships carrying 144 men set sail to the New World. Who were these men and what was their purpose?

There had been much talk about bringing Christianity to the New World but the make-up of this expedition tells a different story. There was only one minister in the group, Reverend Robert Hunt. <sup>1</sup> Nor was establishing a permanent settlement high on the list since there were no women or children aboard. In fact nearly all were soldiers and aristocrats who had no interest in planting crops and building homes.

Another telltale sign that God's grace was lacking, was that the five-month journey was filled with squabbles and discontent. They landed on May 14, 1607, and they called the settlement, Jamestown in honor of King James I. The choice of the settlement site was poor for a variety of reasons, including poor water and sickly

climate. But the men were not interested in these things; what they were interested in was the search for gold. <sup>2</sup>

The colony had a very poor relationship with the Indians that inhabited the area and were kept alive only by what corn they could buy, beg or steal. After that first hard winter they should have planted as much corn and other crops as they could, but they did not. They were gentlemen, and as such they did not work like common laborers.

It would be nearly 20 years before the Jamestown Colony would plant enough crops to sustain itself. <sup>3</sup>

As the colonists searched for gold and fought with the Indians and each other they also died. When the first relief ship arrived in February 1608, only 38 of the original 144 colonists were alive. <sup>4</sup>

The heavy death rate would continue in the coming years, the second year death rate reached 90 percent! Why did this terrible death rate continue? Could it be that year after year they steadfastly refused to rely on God? Ship after ship arrived filled with new colonists who many of the investors back in England thought were evangelizing the Indians. The problem, was none of these new arrivals was a minister. In 1609, Reverend Hunt died and there was now no one to look after the souls of the colony. <sup>5</sup>

The winter of 1609-1610 was known as the “starving time.” All the livestock had long since been consumed and as desperation set in there was even some cannibalism. <sup>6</sup> Surely God was far from these wretched souls. Relief came in May, 1610, when two ships arrived and found only 60 survivors left from the 480 who were in the colony the previous August. <sup>7</sup>

From then on the fortunes of the colony slowly improved, especially with the discovery of tobacco as a cash crop. But their recovery from the brink of disaster would be slow. Certainly any real trust in God on the part of the settlers had little to do with the final emergence of the Virginia Colony. <sup>8</sup>

By 1622 there were about 1200 settlers spread out on ten plantations outside of sickly Jamestown. Tobacco was their main crop, and there was in the colony still only three ordained ministers. <sup>9</sup>

Looking back, we can see that the Virginia Colony had left God out of their plans and even through all the trouble and death, they did not turn their face toward God.

What about the second colony that England established in America? That one came about by a mistake, or was it divine intervention?

## THE PILGRIMS AND PLYMOUTH COLONY

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The church of 1600 England, was a state church, with the king as its head and the House of Bishops as his advisors. As the official religion of the nation, all doctrine was controlled by the church.

There were, however dissenting voices. Two groups had grown up within the church; the “puritans” and the “separatists.” The puritans were striving to bring about reforms, but at this time they were marginalized and kept from any real power by the church. <sup>10</sup>

The separatists, however were another matter. They believed that the Church of England had become so corrupt that it could not be “purified,” and so they sought separation from it. They believed that Jesus Christ was the true “Head of the Church” and not any man, not even the King.

The Bishops knew that if these “fanatics” were allowed to grow then their authority would be lost. The separatists wanted to reduce worship to “primitive preaching,” teaching, singing, and free praying. This would do away with sixteen centuries of liturgical tradition. <sup>11</sup>

With the permission of King James I, the separatists were persecuted and driven “underground.” Many finally fled England. In 1618, a law was passed stating the any group not willing to conform to ecclesiastical authority must leave the country. <sup>12</sup>

In 1619, one such group of separatists, under the leadership of their elected pastor John Robinson, had been living in Leyden, Holland for nearly twelve years. Life was difficult and the group was not prospering. They began to look to the “New World” as the place God wanted them go.

While the group was working out where they would go, Pastor Robinson, William Brewster and a few others were praying for revelation as to why they were going. Gradually it became clear to them that God was calling them to a new Jerusalem, to build his new temple with their lives. Getting there was not easy. The Virginia Company was nearly bankrupt and not financing new expeditions. <sup>13</sup>

The group found new financiers and set off on July 22, 1620 aboard the ship *Speedwell*. Following Pastor Robinson the group got on their knees in solemn prayer and tearfully asked for God’s blessings. <sup>14</sup>

The first stop was Southampton, England, where they met with the others who were going to America aboard the ship *Mayflower*. In all 121 people were in the group and after starting out two times only to return due to problems with the *Speedwell*, it was decided that only the *Mayflower* would make the trip. About 20 people decided to remain in England, so 102 made the trip.

They sailed on September 6, 1620, and after a long dangerous crossing, they sighted land on November 9, 1620. The colony was supposed to land just south of the Hudson River, at the northern edge of the Virginia Company Charter. Where they landed was many miles to the north on Massachusetts Bay.

This may seem to have been a mistake, or did God, guide them to a place outside of the troubled Virginia Company control?

Landing where they did meant their charter was not valid. So they agreed to a new charter, binding themselves each other and to God. Known as the *Mayflower Compact*, it reaffirmed their loyalty to King James, and stated their purpose:

*... Having undertaken for the Glory of God and Advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the first Colony in the northern parts of Virginia. 15*

The Pilgrims had held closely to God's Word every step of the way, but they still were hard pressed the first couple of years. Many died as they struggled to build shelters, and find enough food that first winter. However, they soon adapted and began to thrive, unlike Jamestown, which in a much better climate had failed to prosper for so many years.

God's blessings to the Pilgrims came in many forms.

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#### GOD'S HAND UPON THE PILGRIMS 16

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1. Just the right people ended up going on the *Mayflower*. Many of the uncommitted were left behind in England due to problems with the ship *Speedwell*.
2. They landed in New England not at the mouth of the Hudson River where they were supposed to land. This placed them outside of the jurisdiction of the much-troubled Virginia Company.

Since they had no charter from the New England Company they were not under the rule of either company. This meant they were free to set up their own government, which they did with the *Mayflower Compact*.

3. Samoset, the first Indian that they made contact with was very friendly and amazingly he spoke English. He had learned the language from the English fishermen who had landed on the coast of Maine over the years.
4. The land upon which the Pilgrims settled was once inhabited by a large warlike tribe, the Patuxets. They killed every white man who dared to land on their shore. However, four years before the Pilgrims arrived the tribe had been totally



wiped out by a mysterious plague, possibly smallpox introduced by European contact.

Other tribes feared this area, so the cleared fields and land belonged to no one. The Pilgrims settled in and were not bothered by unfriendly Indians.

5. Squanto, the second Indian they met also spoke English, as he had been taken captive in 1605 by English sailors.

Later he was sold into slavery in Spain; he was rescued by Catholic friars and introduced to Christianity.

6. Squanto had returned only six months before the Pilgrims arrived. Upon his return, he found all of his people had died of the plague.

He had been living with the Wampanoag Tribe and was in great despair. After learning about the new comers from Samoset, he seemed to come alive. God had given him a mission although he probably did not realize it.

7. Squanto taught the Pilgrims how to plant corn and how to fish, which enabled them to survive. He also helped to negotiate peace with the Wampanoag Tribe.

The Plymouth Colony's success was due mostly to their strong belief in God and his will for their lives. This carried over through the years when the American people chose to follow God.

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## THE GREAT AWAKENING

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By the middle of the 1700's the American colonies had begun to drift away from God. There had been the witch trials of Salem, Massachusetts in the 1690's, and the strict measures of Puritan rule began to dull the Christian zeal of the common man.

However, in 1734, God's lightning began to strike America again, and his first bolt fell in Northampton Massachusetts. It landed on a rather dry monotone Puritan preacher by the name of Jonathan Edwards. <sup>17</sup>

Edwards had been preaching ever-bolder sermons on the need of man to rely on the grace of God rather than our own efforts. The congregation began to become filled with God's Spirit and even visitors to the town began to carry this spirit back home with them. Soon towns all over New England were becoming filled with the "refreshing breezes" of the Holy Spirit once more. <sup>18</sup>

When God decides to move in a major way there is sometimes more than one area He touches. In 1733, a young English man named George Whitefield began to feel God's call to him. He was ordained in 1736 and wherever he preached revival broke

out. However, Whitefield felt his call was to America, so he urged another lightning-touched preacher, John Wesley, to fill the role in England while he sailed to America.

The Holy Spirit led Whitefield all over England during 1739, and wherever he preached revival occurred. By the time he sailed for America in August, he may have preached to more people than anyone one in history. <sup>19</sup>

Whitefield took America by storm, preaching to large crowds everywhere he went. In Philadelphia, even the doubting Benjamin Franklin was surprised to hear hymns ringing out from house to house following Whitefield's sermon. <sup>20</sup>

Where Whitefield preached the "refreshing breezes" gave way to a spiritual hurricane. Preachers he influenced, like Jonathon Edwards began to travel and preach the new message to the surrounding towns. <sup>21</sup>

As the "Great Awakening" changed the relationship with God on a personal level, men also began to think about their society and its relationship with God. This new thought carried into the Revolutionary Period and the formation of the United States.

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## THE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

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Our Founding Fathers were a diverse lot. There were free thinkers and agnostics, deists, and devout Christians. However, these men had one thing in common, the knowledge that this nation could not exist without God's moral teachings as the foundation of our democratic republic.

The *Declaration of Independence* refers to God as the Creator of mankind, and giving us rights. <sup>22</sup> The first amendment to the *United States Constitution* guarantees our freedom of religion, not freedom from it. <sup>23</sup>

Indeed this country's first 200 years were filled with Christian teachings. Our laws are based on God's teaching, and our public buildings displayed the *Ten Commandments*, especially our courts. Washington D.C. has religious statuary, and *Scripture* references everywhere you look. Congress has a Chaplain and begins each session with prayer. However, over the past thirty or forty years, things have been changing.

New monuments have been erected commemorating important men and events in the life of our nation, without any reference to God. Religious activities are being banned from the public arena, but does this make America of today, a non-Christian nation? Did the inclusion of those things in the past mean America was under God's grace?

Throughout our history, God has blessed this nation, but we, like Israel of old, have gone through periods where we have strayed, only to be called back again. From the

Jamestown Colony who tried to go without God to the Pilgrims who relied on His many blessings, it is easy to see the difference.

The Great Awakening of the 1740's stirred sleeping Christians and ignited a fire within in them. This movement influenced the men who founded this great nation. By the 1790's however, the Age of Reason with its "enlightened" thinking was beginning to douse our Christian zeal.

The Second Great Awakening of the early 1800's reignited the fire within the church and propelled the message into the west as the country grew. Preachers like James McGready called for revival at camp meetings in the frontier towns, while back east; preachers like Charles G. Finney were stirring the evangelical sentiment against slavery.

Men like Lyman Beecher and his daughter Harriet Beecher Stow, author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, brought the evil of slavery home to the Christian north. The Civil War, as terrible as it was, was necessary to cleanse America of the great evil.

By now, the church in America was being attacked with the evolutionary thinking and once again, the fire was beginning to go out.

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## A GREAT DIVIDE

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After the Civil War, the evangelical Church began to split into two camps, "Public Protestants and Private Protestants." The one group saw the need for social Christianity, to right the wrongs of society through decisive action. While the other group stressed the need for individual conversions, believing if a man's heart was right with God then economic and social problems would take care of themselves. <sup>25</sup>

The major urban revivalist of the post Civil War era was Dwight L. Moody who along with many others, saw the saving of men's souls as their primary task.

In the last part of the 1800's, Christianity was suffering from the hatred bred in the Civil War, the economic troubles and strikes, and the urbanization of America with its rejection of Christian values, especially in the north.

The decisive character of the 50-year period following the Civil War is evident in these two statements.

Reverend Theodore Woolsey, retired President of Yale was asked in 1873, "*In what sense can this country be called a Christian nation?*" He answered, "*In this sense certainly, that the majority of the people believe in Christ and the Gospel, that Christian influences are universal, that our civilization and intellectual culture are built on that foundation ...*"

Is that still true today or is America as a whole more like what the great critic of American ways H.L. Mencken said in 1924, “*Christendom may be defined briefly as that part of the world in which, if any man stands up in public and solemnly swears that he is a Christian, all his auditors will laugh.*”<sup>26</sup>

Unfortunately the secular world of the last one hundred years has indeed been laughing, as the mainline denominations have one by one fallen captive to the social secularism that today’s politically correct world demands.

Is another round of God’s “refreshing breezes” blowing?

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## FINAL THOUGHTS

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The mainline denominational churches are declining due to their acceptance of today’s social causes, like homosexuality and abortion in the guise of tolerance and personal and civil rights.

However, the Holy Spirit is working to open the eyes and hearts of Christians across the nation and the world. Life giving, spirit filled non- denominational churches are growing, and in some denominations local congregations are withdrawing from the old church structures and joining more conservative branches. It remains to be seen if these “refreshing breezes” turn into another “spiritual hurricane.”

In summing up, let’s look at the words of a great American patriot, during a troubled period of our history,

*“In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understandings.*

*In the beginning of the Contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger we daily had prayer in this room for the divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending providence in our favor. To that kind of providence, we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And now have we forgotten that powerful friend? Or do we imagine that we no longer need his assistance?*

*I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth- that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it possible that an empire can rise without his aid?*

*We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings, that”**except the Lord build the house they labour in vain that build it.**” (Psalm 127:1) I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the Builders of Babel.*

*We shall be divided by our partial local interests; our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and bye word down to future ages. And what is worse, mankind may hereafter from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing governments by Human wisdom and leave it to chance, war, and conquest.*

*I therefore beg leave to move-that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the Clergy of this City be requested to officiate in that Service.”<sup>27</sup>*

That long motion was given by Benjamin Franklin on June 28, 1787, during the Constitutional Convention, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, it was not adopted due to a lack of funds. But if Franklin, always thought to be one of the least religious of our Founding Fathers, could see the need for God’s blessings, can’t we?

Is the United States of America under the blessing of God, through the Abrahamic Covenant? We as believers and patriots need to be ever mindful that it is up to each one of us to pray for our nation and its leaders every day. We need to vote as a Christian, not a Republican or Democrat. We should work for what is right and follow God’s will for our own lives so we will be counted among the righteous, the Children of Abraham.

## Chapter Five Footnotes

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pg. 84
2. Ibid, pg. 84
3. Ibid, pg. 89
4. Ibid, pg. 89
5. Ibid, pg. 95-96
6. Ibid, pg. 100
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10. Ibid, pg. 108
11. Ibid, pg. 108
12. Ibid, pg. 109
13. Ibid, pg. 110
14. Ibid, pg. 113
15. The Mayflower Compact, Agreement Between the Settlers at New Plymouth  
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16. *The Light and the Glory*, by Peter Marshall and David Manuel.
17. Ibid, pg. 241
18. Ibid, pg. 241-242
19. Ibid, pg. 246
20. *Church History in Plain Language*, by Bruce L. Shelley, pg. 346
21. Ibid, pg. 346
22. *The Declaration of Independence, July 4<sup>th</sup> 1776*
23. *Constitution of the United States, Bill of Rights, Amendment 1*
24. *Church History in Plain Language*, Shelley, pg. 386-393

25. *Righteous Empire, The Protestant Experience in America*, Martin E. Marty, The Dial Press 1970

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27. Motion to Constitutional Convention, June 28, 1787, Benjamin Franklin

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## PRINCIPLE #6

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# COMMON DECENCY

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### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

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Simply put, this is the belief that a decent nation is made up of decent people. That nation, when faced with any trying or difficult situation, will do the decent, right, and honorable thing.

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### WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

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Scripture is full of passages about loving and respecting your fellow man. Jesus taught in Matthew 22:39 *"Love your neighbor as yourself."*

This was the second greatest commandment. If we truly lived by this rule how many of our personnel, and national problems would disappear?

Perhaps the best example of doing the decent thing found in the Scripture is the *Parable of the Good Samaritan*, found in Luke 10:25-37.

We are familiar with the story of the traveler who was beaten and robbed, and left half dead along the road. First a priest passed by but did nothing to help him; so too did a Levite. They were afraid the injured man might defile them, so they showed no mercy. But then came a Samaritan, a man whom the Jews saw as contemptible, but he showed mercy and helped the stranger. Which of these men displayed "common decency?"



## COMMON DECENCY IN HISTORY

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Unfortunately the practice of common decency has been lacking throughout the history of mankind. Few civilizations and countries have displayed genuine love or respect for their citizens or their neighbors. Conquerors throughout history have destroyed and enslaved their fellow man in order to gain power and riches.

Doing the decent thing was never the goal of people like the Babylonians, the Romans, the Huns, Communists, or the Nazis.

But as the nineteenth century was ending, there arose a new way of thinking. People of the Christian faith began to look at the suffering people of the world in a new and compassionate way. This is not to say there were no caring people previous to the late 1800s, but the rise of missionaries and charitable organizations began to grow during this time.

## THE AMERICAN WAY?

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Since the founding of the United States, many people have believed that God had a special mission for America. This nation has been blessed with abundance that the world has come to envy. However, we Americans have not always been a free giving and just nation.

In our early days the creed of America was one of self-reliance. A man worked for what he got and protected it, even at the cost of his very life. Americans pushed our borders ever westward with the cry of "Manifest Destiny" and our treatment of Native Americans and other nations was poor at best. God, however has always had a different plan. Our God is a relational being. He created man to be in fellowship with him and each other. We are commanded in Matthew 22: 37-39, to *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."*<sup>38</sup> *This is the first and greatest commandment.*<sup>39</sup> *And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself."*

However, our nation struggled through the first two hundred year of its existence dealing with many issues that under-mined the concept of common decency. For the first 80-90 years we allowed the sin of slavery to overshadow God's desire for us. The ideal of "common decency" was lost by many who felt the black man was property, to be used for the benefit and enrichment of others. Even then, there were good and decent men who were willing to fight and die to bring an end to slavery. It took four years of brutal civil war to cleanse the nation of that horrible sin in which many were deceived.

President Abraham Lincoln said it best in his famous Second Inaugural Address, on March 4, 1865,

*.... Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn by the lash shall be paid by another drawn by the sword, as it was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether." 1*

Slavery was abolished at the tremendous cost of over six hundred thousand American lives, and untold millions of dollars. However the cleansing of the United States had only begun. It would take another hundred years until the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s secured those ideals that were fought for during the Civil War. Even today the last vestiges of discrimination are slowly dying away.

The nation has struggled throughout our history with the treatment of Native Americans, and in many ways it parallels the black civil rights movement. Though many Native Americans have blended into modern society, some resist and yearn for the old ways. The United States government however, has put many programs into place to provide the opportunity for success and prosperity to all Native Americans.

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### "THEY'RE COMING TO AMERICA"

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As the lyrics of Neil Diamond's song "America" says,

*On the boats and on the planes  
They're coming to America  
Never looking back again  
They're coming to America 2*

This nation was built through immigration. Starting in the 1840s, wave after wave of mostly European people came here seeking a better life.

They were joined later by thousands of Asian refugees, and they were welcomed in their new land for the most part. There was discrimination and exploitation to be sure. However as they assimilated into the culture of America, they enriched it with the foods and customs they brought with them from around the world. The United States has been called the "Great Melting Pot," and it truly is. It could also be said the America's heart goes out to hurting and oppressed people around the world because we remember from whence we came.

This thought is best summed up in a poem written by Emma Lazarus to help raise money for the building of the pedestal upon which the Statue of Liberty stands in New York harbor. The poem is on a plaque that was placed on the Statue of Liberty in 1903, it reads in part;

*“Bring me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuges of your teeming shore. Send these the homeless, tempest-tost to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”* <sup>3</sup>

These few lines from Emma Lazarus’s poem have, for more than a century, brought hope to millions of distressed people from around the world, and best shows America’s heart for the immigrant.

However, today many are taking advantage of America’s willing spirit. Illegal immigration continues to be a serious problem, especially along our border with Mexico. Millions of people from around the world have legally come and made a new and better life for themselves and their families. Their positive contribution to the wealth and history of this nation are well known; illegal immigration only hurts that great legacy. Many people are arguing on both sides of this serious issue, but keep in mind, “Even the friendliest and most charitable of neighbors is entitled to lock his doors.”

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### AMERICA THE GENEROUS

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By any reasonable standards America is the most caring and generous nation on Earth, probably of all time. This began in earnest following the devastation of the Second World War. At the end of the war there was hardly anywhere on Earth that was untouched by the fighting. Only North and South America escaped the bombings, and only the United States was able and willing to respond.

Europe was reduced to ruins, with nearly every nation bankrupt and struggling to regain their footing. Millions of people were sick, starving, and homeless. For the sake of world peace, and to prevent Communism from further plunging the world into chaos, the United States had to act.

To resolve the problems facing Europe would take a man of stature and vision, and that man was George C. Marshall. General Marshall had led the American military to victory during the war. He was head of the Army, but in reality he was the guiding force of the entire American military and our Allies. He was probably the most influential man in America. George Marshall retired at the end of the war but was soon recalled to government service as Secretary of State under President Harry Truman. It was through his influence and vision that the European Recovery Program, better known as the “Marshall Plan,” came to pass. <sup>4</sup>

Over the next few years the United States sent billions of dollars in aid to the distressed nations of Europe, and through other programs to Japan and other Asian countries. Did the United States benefit by helping our trading partners get back on their feet? Of course it did. It is also true that without this aid many millions would have suffered from hunger and sickness and economic recovery would have taken many more years. It was not without its critics however. The Soviet Union saw it as American economic imperialism. While some in America see foreign aid as a waste of our national resources. The “Marshall Plan” did show that the United States above all other nations on Earth, was willing to be the “Good Samaritan,” showing favor even to its enemies.

Today, America continues to be the most generous of nations, although not everyone believes that. Europe is a very different place today than it was in the 1940s. The United States is not looked on as the benevolent partner as it once was. There are those who for political purposes, try very hard to cast American generosity in a bad light. Their argument is mostly based on the percentage of government giving based on each country’s gross domestic product. In pure numbers of dollars America still leads the world, but because our economy is so large the percentages allow some countries to be ranked ahead of the United States. No matter how much the people of America give, the critics think we should give more.

The Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project at Johns Hopkins University compared international data collected from 1995 through 2002, and came to the conclusion that American charity lagged behind several European nations. However, their data was skewed to include only governmental aid, which the USA still led in raw numbers but was a smaller percentage of our gross national product, as compared to others. <sup>5</sup>

It is easy to dismiss these type of studies since they ignore the enormous amount of private giving. Billions of dollars in foreign aid come from private sources each year. These include foundations, religious congregations, voluntary organizations and private citizens. Private aid amounts to around \$200 per U.S. citizen each year. This does not include investments from businesses or the more controversial military aid. <sup>6</sup>

Using the Hudson Institute’s new Index of Global Philanthropy, we find that the average American is many times more likely to give and volunteer than the average European. <sup>7</sup>

In April 2012, Dr. Carol Adelman, director of the Center for Global Prosperity, reported that in the year 2010, the latest available data showed the private giving from the United States to be \$39 billion. A further \$95.8 billion known as remittances, was sent back home by foreign workers. Business investments totaled another \$161 billion, while the official government aid was \$30.4 billion. <sup>8</sup> No

foreign country even comes close. Why? There are many reasons, some due to the relative greater wealth most Americans enjoy over many parts of the world. However, that is not the whole reason because many nations are very affluent yet do not give. Maybe it is because of a different way of looking at themselves and the world around them.

## THE RELIGIOUS FACTOR

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Why do Americans give so much more than Europeans? Francois Heisbourg, director of the Foundation for Strategic Research ( a Parisian think tank), summarized the differences between Europeans and Americans this way: *“The biblical references in politics, the division of the world between good and evil, these are things [Europeans] don’t get. In a number of areas, it seems to me that we are no longer part of the same civilization.”*

An advisor to the late French President Francois Mitterand, once told the *New York Times*; *“Europe defends a secular vision of the world, whereas the United States has an altogether biblical self- assurance in its transcendent destiny.”*<sup>9</sup>

Although religion certainly plays a large part in why Americans are so generous, not all Americans would be considered to be religious. It seems that being generous toward our fellow man and being willing to help our neighbor in trouble, is part of what being an American is. We seem to remember from where we came. Today, however, it seems as if this attribute is declining. People worldwide, including Americans, are acting more selfish than ever before. Let us hope and pray that in these challenging times we Americans never forget our “Common Decency,” toward others less fortunate.

President Abraham Lincoln, in his Second Inaugural Address, best summed up what should be America’s generous attitude when he said;

*“With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation’s wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.”*<sup>10</sup>

If we strive to fulfill those ideals in our daily lives, then we will fulfill the commandment that our Lord Jesus Christ set forth in Matthew 22:39, *“Love your neighbor as yourself.”*

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## CHAPTER SIX FOOTNOTES

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1. Second Inaugural Address, President Abraham Lincoln , March 4, 1865
2. *America*, by Neil Diamond, *The Jazz Singer* Album, 1980
3. Poem "*The New Colossus*", by Emma Lazarus, 1883
4. *General of the Army, George C. Marshall, Soldier and Statesman*, by Ed Gray, 1990, Chapter 35
5. *Are Americans Generous?*, by Arthur Brooks, Professor at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, article first published in *Philanthropy Magazine*, December 2009
6. *Index of Global Philanthropy*, Hudson Institute's Center for Global Prosperity
7. Ibid
8. Ibid
9. *Are Americans Generous?*, By Arthur Brooks, *Philanthropy Magazine*, December 2009
10. Second Inaugural Address, President Abraham Lincoln, March 4, 1865

# OUR PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY TO GOD

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## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

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Perhaps the greatest restraint against acts of evil toward others is the knowledge that every person and nation will one day give an account for their actions to Almighty God. <sup>1</sup>

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## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

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The Bible records God's desire for relationship with his creation, man. In turn man is called into a close personal relationship with his Creator, a relationship with true accountability. This is also true of nations, since no empire or nation can exist without God's blessing.

We might ask how this can be true of nations that seem far away from God? The truth is we live in a fallen world, where evil exists along with good. Our Lord Jesus taught on this principle in Matthew 13:24-30, the *Parable of the Weeds*. To paraphrase it, Jesus told about a farmer that planted good seed in his field, but later an enemy sowed weeds in his field, so both grew together, the good and the bad. The servants asked if the owner wanted them to pull out the weeds? The owner replied in verse 29, *"No, he answered, "because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup> Let them grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them into bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn."*

So we see that God allows both good and evil to coexist, and at the proper time both will be called into account. One will be gathered to God to live forever in Heaven, but the other will suffer eternal punishment in the fires of Hell.

In the Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 28, God sets his guidelines for proper behavior for his chosen people Israel. Verses 1-14 tell of his blessings for being obedient, while the rest of the chapter reveals his curse for disobedience.

God continues to call out his people in 2 Chronicles 7:14, “. . . if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

As we see God calling nations into accountability, we also are being called individually into that personal relationship.

We read in Romans 14:10-12, “You, then, why do you judge your brother? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat. <sup>11</sup> It is written: ‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord ‘every knee will bow before me, every tongue will confess to God.’  
<sup>12</sup> So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.”

We owe God a personal account of how we used the time and gifts that he gave each of us, and on judgment day all of mankind will give that account. As we see in 2 Corinthians 5:10, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad”.

God is calling and reaching out to his people, imploring them to come into that personal relationship, where through obedience and love he can bless us with his abundant mercy and gifts. For all things come from God the Creator, and once we have that “personal revelation” of who God is, then we can walk through this life as his precious children.

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## ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE WORLD

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Personal accountability throughout history has been changing; there was a time when each man saw his word and actions as being essential to who he was as a man and citizen. That began to change with the coming of the Age of Enlightenment in the late 1700s, and a little later with Darwin’s Theory of Evolution. Both taught that man was supreme and God did not exist. So over time for many, the thought of a personal accountability with God was something unimportant in their lives. Certainly there were exceptions, such as the Great Awakening of the mid 1700s and the Second Great Awakening of the early 1800s. Also, many good Christians continued to walk in the ways of God, but more and more this was seen as a private thing not to be shared.

As nations and many people began to withdraw from the close reliance on God and turn to more reliance on their own strength, people who held close to God became that shining light in the darkness. America has been very blessed with these people



of influence. There were many God fearing active Christians among those we call the Founding Fathers, and their influence is evident in the documents and laws they enacted. Two of these men are the “Father of our Country” George Washington, and later “The Great Emancipator” Abraham Lincoln.

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## TWO AMERICAN PRESIDENTS

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These two men were not perfect people. They had doubts and troubles just like us, but what they did was turn to God for his power during the tremendous struggles they faced. They had Personal Accountability with God.

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### GEORGE WASHINGTON

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George Washington has been described by recent authors as a “lukewarm Episcopalian,” as “not a deeply religious man” or as a Deist. <sup>2</sup> Why do people of today think that Washington was a man of weak or nonexistent faith? The facts tell another story. However, today’s historians seem to have centered their argument on two or three observations. First they say Washington did not pray. The fact is, Washington was a very private man who preferred to spend time alone with God. He wrote more than 100 prayers in his personal correspondence. <sup>3</sup> From the Deist perspective, God is not involved in human history. So if Washington were a Deist, why would he write prayers? <sup>4</sup>

Maybe the most famous example is Washington’s Prayer at Valley Forge. The story goes that during the brutal winter of 1777-78, a British sympathizer named Isaac Potts came across the General praying in the woods. The man went home to his wife and told her the British cause was lost, for he had heard Washington’s prayer and he knew there was no way God would not honor it. This event resulted in the building of the Episcopal Washington Memorial Chapel in Valley Forge in 1903, a postage stamp in 1928, a stained glass window of the scene in the prayer room of the U.S. Capitol, and a bronze rendition of “Washington’s Gethsemane” in the Sub-Treasury Building in New York City. <sup>5</sup>

Modern historians doubt this ever happened, even though there are five different sources of the event, including first-hand accounts. Did it happen? In the strictest sense there are no written accounts from either Washington or Potts, but considering everything we know, it is completely within Washington’s character. <sup>6</sup>

President Ronald Reagan said “*The most sublime picture in American history is of George Washington on his knees in the snow at Valley Forge. That image personifies a people who know it is not enough to depend on our own courage and goodness, we must also seek help from God, our Father and Preserver.*” <sup>7</sup>

A Deist does not accept Scripture since in his belief God would not care enough to impart his word on human beings. However, Washington quoted Scripture

regularly in his writings and public speech. It seems his favorite Scripture was Micah 4:4, *“Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree, and no one will make him afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken”*. A Deist or a non-religious man would probably not have a favorite Scripture verse. <sup>8</sup>

Finally the last point is Communion. Washington was a member of the Vestry of his local Anglican Episcopal Church, and was a regular communicant until the Revolutionary War. He stopped during the war because he was leading a rebellion against the King, the earthly head of the Anglican Church. However, there is evidence that he occasionally received Communion in churches of other denominations.

After the war he did on occasion take Communion in his own denomination. But the war may have affected his conscious in regard to his worthiness. <sup>9</sup>

Contrary to what modern historians write, the evidence is pretty clear that George Washington does not fit the profile of a Deist. The Father of our Country was a Child of God.

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### ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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The faith of Abraham Lincoln has long been debated, during his lifetime as well as today. People have labeled him as an infidel and an atheist. Others have said he was a deeply religious man, who daily sought God’s guidance. Where does the truth lay?

As a young man he definitely went through a time of doubt about the truth of Christianity. Many people in their youth go through a time of questioning, but as they mature they come to believe and understand their need for God. William Herndon, who was Lincoln’s law partner knew him during that time of doubt. When he was asked about Lincoln’s faith after the assassination, he declared, based on his beliefs, that his friend was not and never would be a Christian. Herndon did not understand or could not believe that Lincoln could have been “born again.” <sup>10</sup> How many of our former friends and acquaintances, would feel the same way about us?

One of the charges against Lincoln was the fact that he never joined a church. While that is true, he did regularly attend church during his presidency. One quote attributed to Lincoln spoke of his reasoning;

*“When any church will inscribe over its altar, as its sole qualification for membership, the Savior’s condensed statement of both law and Gospel, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and all thy soul and thy neighbor as thyself;” that church I will join with all my heart and soul.”*

Whether or not Lincoln actually said this is a subject for debate.

However, it does sum up his beliefs. He found the doctrines and dogmas of the various denominations hard to reconcile. In that belief he seems to fit many modern Christians who have left mainline denominations for non-denominational churches.

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The terrible trial of the Civil War and the tragic death of his son Willy in 1862 brought Lincoln into a much deeper relationship with God. Many religious groups and individuals wrote to President Lincoln, and he answered them in tones such as this. Thanking a African-American group from Baltimore for the gift of a Bible, he wrote;

*“In regard to this great book, I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to men. All the good Savior gave to the world was communicated through this book. But for it we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man’s welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it.”* <sup>12</sup>

The evidence of Abraham Lincoln’s faith in God is best summed up by his famous Second Inaugural Address, delivered on March 4, 1865, just a few weeks before his assassination. He said this in regard to the two warring sides;

*“Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God’s assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men’s faces, but let us judge not, that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered. That of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes.”* <sup>13</sup>

Perhaps no other American President has been so free and eloquent in expressing his faith publicly. The evidence seems to be clear, that if Lincoln was not a faithful Christian upon taking the presidency, he certainly was a Christian at the time of his untimely death.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

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God is calling each of us into a personal relationship with Him. To show this fact two of our famous historical figures were used. Does your life match theirs?

Washington belonged to a church which he attended and served in. He prayed regularly and was well versed in God’s Word, which he used in his speech and letters. He had a personal verse of Scripture. He saw his sin and acted upon his convictions, and was reconciled with God.

Lincoln's life was a spiritual journey, one of questions and searching as a young man, and coming to a mature faith later in life. Though he never joined a church, he attended regularly and had a solid understanding of Scripture as well as a firm belief in God. Lincoln had a personal accountability with God, as did Washington.

Do you have a personal relationship with God?

Do you attend a church; and if so are you active in support of that church? Do you spend time with God through prayer?

Do you spend time reading His Word?

Is His Son Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior?

Is Jesus Christ the foundation upon which you live your life?

If not, then today is the day to answer His call, He is standing at the door of your heart and He knocks. Will you open that door?

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## CHAPTER SEVEN FOOTNOTES

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1. The American Patriot's Bible,
2. George Washington's SACRED FIRE, by Peter A. Lillback with Jerry Newcombe  
2006, Pg.25
3. Ibid, Pg. 361
4. Ibid, Pg. 360
5. Ibid, Pg. 395-396
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7. Ibid, Pg. 397
8. Ibid, Pg. 316-317
9. Ibid, Pg. 435-436
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12. Letter by Abraham Lincoln, to an African-American group in Baltimore.  
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