

God and Government #2

Prov. 29:18 ESV

As Christians, we believe that all men are accountable to God. God is the ultimate Ruler. More specifically, Jesus is Lord – King of kings and Lord of lords. Jesus currently has all authority in heaven and on earth. Every generation for the last 400 years has had those in the Church suggest that their generation was the most immoral, godless generation and surely these are the end times. So far, every generation has been wrong and the nation has been halted in its downward decline by a move of God. It is my contention that if the Church will wake up and be responsible citizens, we will turn our nation around again.

“Two thousand years ago our Lord unleashed upon the world the most powerful world-changing force ever known to man – *the self-governing Christian*. This new man freed from the shackles of sin and guilt and armed with the only weapon that can subdue the earth and its institutions – the Word of God – became the bulwark of a movement that was begun by God Himself and about which Jesus said, “*the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*” (Mt. 16:18). Marshall Foster.

Babylon – Gen. 11:1-9; Cp. Matt. 18:19. The Church.

In order to do this, we need to understand some things about our nation and its founding principles...

I. We Must Train People for Every Area of Life.

- A. Family, Marriage, Child Training
- B. The Church
- C. Education
- D. Media, print and electronic
- E. Arts, Entertainment and Sports – whatever the culture celebrates
- F. The Economy – including innovations in science and technology.
- G. Government
- H. Loren Cunningham quotes.
- I. “Historically, whenever this new creation (the Christian) has understood God’s instructions and has applied them to *all* spheres of life, he has gained dominion over his circumstances. He has progressively proven that “*whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world.*” He is not dominated by history, he shapes it according to God’s will.” Foster

II. My Personal Journey

- A. Raised as Catholic.
- B. Rejected Catholicism (and I thought, Christianity) as a teenager.
- C. Embraced Eastern philosophies and the hippy, drug culture.
- D. Imbibed anti-government attitude of my peers. “The Man, the Military-Industrial Complex.”
- E. Jesus saved me and I began a new life and the renewing of my mind.
- F. Experienced dramatic love for England and then Germany

- G. Experienced dramatic love for my country.
- H. Grew in understanding the Judeo-Christian values that America was founded upon.

III. We Must Challenge the Myth of the Separation of Church and State.

- A. The phrase, "Separation of Church and State," does not appear in the Constitution or the Bill of Rights.
- B. In 1802 the Danbury Baptist wrote then-president Thomas Jefferson about a concern they had. It was rumored that Jefferson was about to announce the selection of one denomination to be the national denomination. Jefferson wrote them back.
- C. "I contemplate with solemn reverence the act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should 'make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof' thus building a wall of separation between Church and State."

IV. We Are in a War of Worldviews

- A. The Liberal View
 - 1. Secularism is an "Ideology, a new closed world view, which functions very much like a new religion... it is a closed *ism*."
 - 2. Utopian forms of government such as socialism and communism have been tried and found wanting yet many liberals still cling to these ideas.
 - 3. In the liberal view, separation of Church and State means something different than that which was intended by Jefferson. It mean- for the most part – keeping Christian views out of the marketplace of ideas.
- B. The Islamic View
 - 1. More than a religion – an ideology. Islam proposes that it will rule the world. When a moderate Muslim was asked why moderate Muslims did not speak up against the jihadists, she replied, "We do not agree with their methods, but we agree with their goals."
 - 2. The more dangerous aspect of jihad is not the militant jihad, but rather the cultural jihad. Islam is invading education, business government and the religious spheres. For the most part they do not assimilate in any country they enter.
- C. The Judeo-Christian View – the values that governed our nation for its first two hundred years have been assaulted for the last fifty years.

V. Many Christians Do Not Hold a Consistent Christian Worldview.

- A. Constantly battered by television, movie and media, they have succumbed to the culture around us and its values.
- B. When Christianity was the dominant world view, America prospered. As Judeo-Christian values have been attacked, crime and family breakdown have been the result.
- C. One sermon a week will not sustain consistent Christian values against the onslaught of the Liberal-influenced culture.

D. A group of sociologists determined that the greatest key to progress was the culture.

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Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint,*
but blessed is he who keeps the law.

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The War of Ideas

2 Cor. 10:3-5

The Scriptures exhort us to bring every thought into the obedience of Christ. There is divine wisdom for every area of life and anything in which we are involved. The question is: Do we know the Biblical values for all of life? In our nation – and in the world, we are facing an amazing clash of worldviews.