

Vote Your Values: A Call to Christian Citizenship

Proverbs 29:2

Introduction: Election Day is almost here, and if you don't believe that America is the land of promise, just listen to some of the politicians: Promise, Promise, Promise. A 4 year old tugged on her dad who had been watching political ads, begging him to stop and read her a fairy tale. Weary of seeing all these endless campaign ads, he agreed and started reading the fairy tale, but she interrupted him, looked up into his face and asked: "Daddy, do all fairy tales begin with: 'Once Upon a Time?'" He responded, "No sweetheart, most fairy tales begin with: 'And when I'm elected...'" Sad but true.

I heard one preacher say that if Christopher Columbus were around today, he could have been the greatest politician of all time. When he left he didn't know where he was going. When he got here, he didn't know where he was. When he went back, he didn't know where he'd been. And he did it all on somebody else's money!

Well there are politicians, and there are statesmen and we have too many of the former and not enough of the latter. We need statesmen who will lead, not based on the opinion polls, but based on biblical principle and what is best for the American people. Our Scripture for today is Prov. 29:2 (NKJV), and it says: "When the godly are in authority, the people rejoice. But when the wicked are in power, they groan."

Now in America, for the godly to be in authority we have to vote for them. That's pretty simple, huh? Elections are a basic part of how our government works. In fact, government is one of the three institutions God established along with the family and the church. Paul states in Romans 13:1 that "the (governmental) authorities that exist have been established by God." Question: Since God established the institution of government, would He then tell His people to stay out of it? No. God expects us to get involved, make a positive impact, and lead the way to real and lasting change - just as Christians have done since the settlement and founding of this nation.

I. Christians Founding and Shaping Our Nation

Did you know that the first representative assembly in America convened in the church at Jamestown in 1619, "to establish one equal and uniform government over all Virginia " which would provide "just laws for the happy guiding and governing of the people there inhabiting."[\[1\]](#)

When the Pilgrims came one year later in 1620, they were blown off course and didn't make it to Virginia where they would be governed by the King's charter. So they decided to draw up their own self-governing document, the first created in America , called the Mayflower Compact. It begins: "In the name of God," and gave this reason for their coming: "For the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith."[\[2\]](#) We are talking about the positive influence of Christians on American culture and government.

You may know that Connecticut is called the Constitution state because the first Constitution in America was enacted in 1639, called the *Fundamental Orders of Connecticut*, but did you know that it was based upon Pastor Thomas Hooker's sermon on Deut. 1:13.[\[3\]](#) Did you know that the first education law was passed in Massachusetts in 1641 for the purpose of ensuring that

children would be able to read and understand the Scriptures?[\[4\]](#) Did you know that the first university in America, Harvard, was named for *Reverend* John Harvard, or that it was founded to train ministers and that for over 150 years it was distinctly Christian in its mission?[\[5\]](#)

Did you know that the first hospitals in America were founded mostly by Christians?[\[6\]](#) That it was the Quakers in Pennsylvania and Puritan ministers of New England who led the fight against slavery in America?[\[7\]](#) Did you know that 93% of our founding fathers who voted for the Declaration of Independence and crafted our Constitution were professing Orthodox Christians?[\[8\]](#) And that even of the handful who were not orthodox Christians, each one respected Biblical morality as the basis for our laws and valued public religion for maintaining order and civility.

In fact, President George Washington said that the twin pillars essential for supporting a successful society are morality and religion.[\[9\]](#) What kind of religion? Was it just any kind? John Adams, our second President, clarified that when he declared that "The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were... the general principles of Christianity."[\[10\]](#)

Again, we're talking about Christians founding, molding, and shaping America. Did you know that our form of government reflects biblical principle? In fact, representative government is based upon Exodus 18:21, which says: "Select capable men from all the people--men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain--and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens." Our system of checks and balances between the branches of government is based on the doctrine of the sinfulness of man - that "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). In fact, the three branches come from Isaiah 33:22: "The Lord is our Judge (judicial branch), the Lord is our Lawgiver (legislative branch), the Lord is our King (executive branch); it is He who will save us."

So when you look back you find that Christians have been involved the founding and the shaping of American culture and government. And it is the devil's lie we believe when we conclude: "Well there is separation between church and state, so we ought not get involved in politics." Well nobody wants a national, tax supported, state church and nobody wants the state control the churches, which is what the First Amendment refers to. But does that mean that God and government are to stay separate? Well that's not what the Founders believed or practiced. Does that mean that there is to be no influence from Christians on the culture and government? Well Jesus said: "You are the salt of the earth...you are the light of the world" (Matt. 5:13 -16). Is there any area of reality where we are supposed to withhold our positive influence and witness? No. We need to bring our Christian faith and values to bear on our culture and our government - just as we have done from the beginning.

II. Christians Voting in America

Again, one of the basic ways we can have a positive influence is to vote. Think about it. When we vote, we help determine who will lead our nation, make our laws, and protect our freedoms. So voting is a simple act with a significant impact. Founding Father Samuel Adams said: "Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote... that he is executing one of the

most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country."[\[11\]](#)
Many of the Founding Fathers considered voting as a sacred responsibility.

Voting is a privilege, a freedom, and an opportunity that millions in other parts of the world can only dream about. Yet, many Americans strangely choose not to vote. Less than half of those eligible to vote actually do so in any given election. In fact, out of 60 plus million evangelical Christians in America , nearly half failed to vote in the 2004 election![\[12\]](#)

American citizens may offer many reasons why they do or do not vote, but Christ-followers have a compelling motivation. Jesus said: "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's" (Matt. 22:21). In order to obey the commands of Christ, Americans of faith must participate in government, and in America , that includes the democratic process of voting.

If you and I do not actively participate, then we are not fulfilling the totality of Jesus' command to render to Caesar (Matt. 22:21). In fact, when Christians retreat from the arena of government, we allow Satan to prevail in a place where Christ commanded us to make an impact as Salt and Light (Matt. 5:13 -16). Here's an old proverb that is still true today: "Bad politicians are elected by good people who don't vote." Christians need to vote!

III. Christians Voting Our Values

However, don't just vote for the sake of voting. Take it one step further and *vote your values*. Unfortunately, many believers don't even consider their Christian values when voting, often choosing candidates whose positions are at odds with their own beliefs, convictions, and values. A study by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life a few years ago showed that 62% of Americans say their faith has little to do with their voting decisions.[\[13\]](#) That's tragic because Jesus expects us to influence every part of culture and society as salt and light-including the democratic process. Founding Father John Jay was appointed by George Washington as the First Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court, and Jay said: "It is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation, to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."[\[14\]](#)

Obviously, Christian "rulers" would have Christian values, right? Not necessarily. There are a lot of folks who use Christian lingo, but when you look at their positions and votes and their associations, it becomes evident that they do not line up with biblical values. That's why it is so important to do your homework on the candidates. Don't just listen to their campaign rhetoric, look at their records in office. Don't just watch their political ads, look at their positions on the issues. Think about this: Every candidate has his or her own set of values and positions on important issues. Don't you think that where a candidate stands on moral issues is far more important than the party he or she belongs to or the campaign ads and promises? Shouldn't we vote for candidates who share our moral values?

Here's one more point: Don't align yourself too closely with a political party or a politician. That is unwise because we need to be free to call all political parties and politicians to repentance when they step outside of biblical morality and principle. Founding Father Benjamin Rush worked for elected officials from different political parties, and was accused of being a partisan. He is quoted as responding: "I have been alternately called an Aristocrat and a Democrat. I am

neither. I am a *Christocrat*."[\[15\]](#) Our loyalty needs to be first, last, and always with the Lord Jesus Christ. We need to vote His values!

OK, so what are these values? I realize that there are multiple opinions among Bible-believing Christians when it comes to issues such as the economy, national security, energy independence, immigration, etc. Certainly there are important moral and cultural issues with public policy implications that Christians should be concerned about and act on, such as poverty, racial equality, environmental stewardship, etc. However, at this time in American history, let me give you the three values that top my list:

1. The Value of Human Life : Life is precious, miraculous, sacred... created by a loving God who makes every human being unique. King David prayed: "My bones were not hidden from You when I was made in secret, when I was formed in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all [my] days were written in your book and planned before a single one of them began" (Psalm 139:15-16, HCSB). God is the Author and Artist of human life.

Life made in the image of God is also a fundamental human right. According to the Declaration of Independence, "All men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights. Among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." The order is significant. Life is the first God-given right of every human being. If you don't have life, you certainly can't enjoy liberty or pursue happiness.

Unfortunately, our God-given right to life in America has been undermined in our "culture of death." Every day in America, more innocent human beings are put to death than those who died in the 9/11 attacks. Abortion ends the lives of more than 1.3 million unborn children in America every year. Nearly 25% of all pregnancies end in abortion,[\[16\]](#) and the overwhelming majority of those innocent children are simply sacrificed on the altar of convenience. Nearly 50 million babies and counting have been killed by abortion.[\[17\]](#) It is the American Holocaust.

Prov. 24:11-12 says: "Rescue those being led away to death, hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say: "We knew nothing about this." Does not He who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not He who guards your life know it? Will He not repay each person according to what he has done?" We need to rise up, stand up, speak out and take action! Why? Because abortion is wrong! It is pre-meditated murder! It violates the 6th Commandment in Exodus 20:13.[\[18\]](#) And I want you to know that God hates it. Proverbs 6:16 -17--"There are six things that the Lord hates, seven are an abomination to Him: a proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood." God hates the shedding of innocent blood! And His ears are filled with the cries of the unborn being slain in this nation, and there will be a day of reckoning!

Consequently, I believe it is our duty as followers of Christ and citizens of America to find out where the candidates stand on the biblical value of life. Ask what their position is on abortion, cloning, embryo-destructive stem cell experimentation, and euthanasia. Find out which candidates are aligned with pro-abortion groups like NARAL and tax-payer funded abortion provider Planned Parenthood. Find out how they vote or intend to vote on these life issues like Born Alive Infant Protection Act, Partial Birth Ban, Freedom of Choice Act, Embryonic Stem

Cell Research, etc. As believers, we ought to support the value of human life above the value of tax policy, energy policy, foreign policy, and any other policy. The value of Life. Secondly...

2. The Value of Traditional Family : Marriage between one man and one woman is essential. Basic. Necessary. The family is the basic building block of society, and the first institution created by God. Genesis 1:27: "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them." In fact, the two genders were meant to complete each other physically, emotionally, and in every other way. In Genesis 2:24, God further declares: "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh." Also, both genders are needed for a healthy home. As Dr. James Dobson notes, "More than ten thousand studies have concluded that kids do best when they are raised by mothers and fathers."[\[19\]](#)

In both OT and NT, one man and one woman in a marriage covenant relationship for life is the divine pattern. And when a marriage follows God's design, it is good for everyone - men, women, children, the community, the country, and the world. Think about it. Every civilization in history is built upon the institution of marriage. It is the foundation. The welfare of children, the propagation of the faith, the wellbeing of society, and the orderliness of civilization are all dependent upon the stability of marriage according to the divine pattern. When this God-given pattern is undermined, the whole superstructure of society becomes unstable. Any deviation from the divine pattern invites disaster.

Heterosexuality is the divine pattern, but homosexuality is a deceptive perversion. The Word of God, which does not err, is abundantly clear. Leviticus 18:22 says: "You are not to sleep with a man as with a woman; it is detestable." Leviticus 20:13a says: "If a man sleeps with a man as with a woman, they have both committed an abomination..." Homosexuality is an abomination to God. This is the strongest biblical word for the denunciation of sin, the proof of which is in God's judgment upon Sodom and Gomorrah , which were destroyed in a hail of fire and brimstone (Gen. 19).

Some say: "Well, that's Old Testament, but Jesus never said anything about homosexuality." I would disagree. Jesus essentially condemned homosexuality by affirming the divine pattern for marriage. In Matthew 19:4-6 Jesus is quoting from Genesis 1 and 2, and clearly stated that marriage is between one man and one woman, and that what God has joined together, let no man separate" (v 6). So if Jesus said marriage is between one man and one woman, it follows logically that marriage cannot be between two men or two women. In affirming God's pattern for marriage, Jesus rejected the deceptive perversion of homosexuality.

And today, the divine pattern, the sacred institution of marriage is under attack by radical homosexuals and their allies in the courts, who are seeking to redefine it. Three states, MA, CA, and CT, now have same-sex "marriage" because a handful of judges decreed it, not because "We the People" voted for it. In fact, we are only one Supreme Court decision away from legalizing same-sex marriage all across America .

OK, let's just ask the question: Why not same-sex "marriage?" What damage could be done by the courts allowing two consenting adults of the same gender to join in a relationship and

sanction it as "marriage?" We already know the answer to that question. Take a look at the Scandinavian countries that embraced de-facto gay marriage back in the '90s. The vast majority of couples there are choosing to simply live together instead of getting married, figuring that if marriage means *anything* then marriage means *nothing*. In Norway, there are reports of upwards of 60-80 percent of firstborn children conceived out of wedlock.[\[20\]](#) The results of the Scandinavian experiment have been devastating. Do we really want that for America ?

Take a look at Massachusetts, which has had same-sex "marriage" by court order since 2003, and consider the impact on public school children. In one elementary school, a transsexual was invited into a 1st grade class to give details of his operation. [\[21\]](#) In another elementary school, children were assigned to play gays in a school skit. Two girls were to hold hands and pretend to be lesbians. One boy's line was: "It's natural to be attracted to the same sex." [\[22\]](#) A Lexington, Massachusetts school "treated" their second graders to a book entitled *King and King*, which is a colorful 29-page children's book in which a prince searches for a wife, only in the end to choose another prince. The story ends with the two princes "marrying" and living "happily ever after." On the last page, the princes -- now kings -- even share a kiss. [\[23\]](#) This was read to 7 year olds! Writing in the leading homosexual magazine, *The Advocate*, lesbian author Patricia Nell Warren, said this: "It is the first fact of civilization; whoever captures the kids owns the future." [\[24\]](#) That's true. So do we really want the homosexual agenda pushed on our children?

Consequently, where a candidate stands on protecting the value of traditional marriage is absolutely critical. Find out which candidates are aligned with the pro-homosexual groups like the Human Rights Campaign and GLAAD. Find out where the candidates stand on the Defense of Marriage Act, on State Marriage Amendments, and on a Federal Marriage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Find out where they stand on the value of traditional family. Life, Family, and thirdly...

3. The Value of Religious Freedom : Freedom is inspiring, liberating, and it is priceless. Gal. 5:1 says: "*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.*" Freedom must be guarded. Protected. Defended. True freedom only comes at a great cost, price, and sacrifice. And that is not only true spiritually with the death of Christ to set us free from slavery to sin, but it is true nationally. We are engaged in a war against Islamo-Fascist terrorism. And there is no substitute for victory because the alternative is unthinkable. The fight for freedom is never over. We must fight to win it, and then we must fight to keep it. And fight we have for over 237 years. That's why we should honor the brave and intrepid souls who serve in our military and never let their sacrifices be in vain.

One of the most basic of freedoms fought for and won is found in the First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."[\[25\]](#) Unfortunately, our freedom is under fire in America today. The U.S. Supreme Court has ignored the original intent of the Founding Fathers, trashed four centuries of America's Judeo-Christian heritage, and turned a statement in one of Thomas Jefferson's private letters on its head in declaring a two-way "Wall of Separation" between church and state.

The Result: Religious influences must be removed from public institutions. The High Court outlawed public prayer in the schools in 1962,[\[26\]](#) out went public Bible reading in 1963,[\[27\]](#) and in 1980, down came the Ten Commandments from school house walls![\[28\]](#) This agenda of radical secularization has not only been zealously prosecuted by the activist courts, but by extension, the various public entities, school boards, educators, and teachers - some on purpose and others out of fear. Today in America , if you have faith you may not be allowed to have freedom.

- Liberals in Congress have passed a Hate Crimes law that elevates the sinful sexual lifestyle choice of 3% of the population [\[29\]](#) to the level of a Civil Right, ignoring the fact those who oppose homosexuality on biblical grounds will eventually be silenced or threatened with prosecution.
- A Methodist Camp in New Jersey lost its tax exempt status for refusing to allow two lesbians to have a same-sex ceremony on their property.[\[30\]](#)
- A Christian couple who runs a photography business in NM declined to photograph a same sex commitment ceremony and were charged with "sexual orientation discrimination" and had to pay over \$6,000 in attorney's fees of the lesbians.[\[31\]](#)
- The California Supreme Court demanded that doctors with religious objections to lesbian households *must* nonetheless assist lesbian women in artificially conceiving a child.[\[32\]](#)
- A New York public school told a Kindergarten student that she could not pray over her lunch: "God is great, God is good, let us thank Him for our food."[\[33\]](#)
- A Federal Court ruled that when a student asks, the teacher cannot answer whose birthday is being celebrated at Christmas.[\[34\]](#)
- A Public School teacher confiscated two Middle School student's Bibles, called them "garbage," and threw them into the trash can.[\[35\]](#)
- The 3rd Circuit Court ruled that a NJ high school coach cannot kneel and bow his head because the Court doesn't want his posture to be misconstrued as prayer.[\[36\]](#)

Our first amendment freedom of religion is under vicious assault today. George Washington in his Farewell Address said: "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of Patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great Pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of Men and Citizens."[\[37\]](#) Nobody ought to claim to be a good citizen, a patriot who takes Christianity out of culture, God out of government.

Consequently, where a candidate stands on religious freedom and particularly on judicial philosophy is absolutely critical to our ability to continue to have freedom of speech and freedom of conscience in our business dealings and freedom of worship. So find out which candidates are aligned with groups like the ACLU and Americans for Separation of Church and State, who seek

to remove all public expressions of religion. Find out which candidates who are for Hate Crimes laws and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which will infringe on our freedoms as Christians. Find out which candidates are in favor of protecting and even restoring America 's Judeo-Christian heritage. Find out where the candidates stand on our First Amendment right to religious freedom.

Conclusion: So these are my top three values as a values voter: Life, Family, and Freedom. Those are the values that I will use to evaluate each of the candidates. But the big question facing Christians in America on the eve of the election is this: Are we going to let God guide our vote or leave our faith outside the voting booth? Are we going to vote biblical values or pocketbook promises? Are we willing to trade our godly heritage and priceless birthright in this nation for what amounts to Esau's quick bowl of beans? Are we willing to set aside the values of life, family, and freedom in favor of some of these lesser issues? That's what it comes down to, right there. Just imagine the difference Bible-believing Christians can make on the moral health of our country, the character of its leadership, and the direction of our nation if we simply live our values and vote our values.

So let us resolve here and now not to let evil men triumph simply because good men have done nothing. Let us seize this moment, rise to the challenge, and take a bold stand for life, for family, and for freedom in this election. Let us pledge anew that our allegiance is not to the culture or to any campaign, but to Christ alone. Let us renew our vow to be the salt that stings but heals, to be the light that exposes but shines the way to our only hope for real change, and that is in Jesus Christ!

Invitation: The values of life, family, and freedom are a part of the Good News of Jesus Christ, who said: "I have come that you might have Life and have it to the full" (John 10:10) because He is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6). He came to make things right between us and God so that we could be adopted into God's family. And both eternal life and belonging to God's family were made possible when He died on the cross and 3 days later arose from the grave to set us free from sin and its consequences. And the Bible says: "For whom the Son sets free, is free indeed" (John 8:36). If you want experience genuine life, real family, and true freedom, then turn from your sin and your self and trust Jesus as Lord and Savior.

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[1] Ed Crews, "Voting in Early America " as found at <http://www.history.org/Foundation/journal/Spring07/elections.cfm>

[2] William Bradford, *Of Plimoth Plantation: 1620-1647*, Samuel Eliot Morison, ed. (New York: Random House, 1981), 83-84.

[3] From Henry Wolcott's "Notes on Sermons," manuscript notebook, Hooker Family Memorial, MS 73132 transcribed by Douglas H. Shepherd as found in the *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, 1:20.

[4] Old Deluder Satan Law of Massachusetts Bay , 1642 and in Connecticut , 1647 as found in *The Code of 1650 - Being a Compilation of the Earliest Laws and Orders of the General Court of Connecticut* (Hartford: Silus Andrus, 1822), 92-94.

[5] Cotton Mather, *The Great Works of Christ in America or Magnalia Christi Americana* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1979), Vol. 2:10. We can learn a lot about Harvard by looking at some of its earliest rules, such as the Laws and Statutes for Students of Harvard College, 1643, which begins by stating: "Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well the main end of his life and studies is *to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life* (John 17:3)." See Rules for Harvard University , 1643, from " New England 's First Fruits," *The Annals of America*, 1:176 (emphasis in original).

[6] Alvin J. Schmidt, *How Christianity Changed the World* (Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 2005), 159-160.

[7] *Ibid.*, 279-81 for the New England ministers who led the charge. On the Quakers, see <http://www.religion-online.org/showchapter.asp?title=1663&C=1665>.

[8] Dr. M. E. Bradford, *A Worthy Company* (Marlborough, NH: Plymouth Rock Foundation, 1982), iv-v.

[9] Farewell Address on September 17, 17 96 as found in James D. Richardson, ed., *A Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Presidents 1789-1897*, 10 vols. (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1897, 1899; Washington, D.C.: Bureau of National Literature and Art, 1789-1902, 11 vols., 1907, 1910), 1:213-224.

[10] John Adams, *The Works of John Adams* (1856), 10:45, to Thomas Jefferson on June 28, 18 13 .

[11] Samuel Adams, *The Writings of Samuel Adams*, Harry Alonzo Cushing, editor (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1907), 4:256, originally in the *Boston Gazette* on April 16, 17 81 .

[12] Federal Election Commission, www.fec.gov ; "The American Religious Landscape and the 2004 Presidential Vote: Increased Polarization," John C. Green, Corwin E. Smidt, James L. Guth, and Lyman A. Kellstedt. <http://yuricareport.com>

[13] <http://pewforum.org/docs/?DocID=28>. "Most people (67%) say that their religious beliefs play at least an occasional role in helping them decide what to do in their lives. But far fewer (38%) say religion has the same influence on their voting decisions. Overall, 45% say they frequently find themselves using their religious beliefs to help make choices and decisions on a typical day. But just 22% say they frequently rely on their religious beliefs to help them decide how to vote and 16% say they do so occasionally."

[14] John Jay, *The Correspondence and Public Papers of John Jay*, Henry P. Johnston, ed. (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1890), 4:365.

[15] David Ramsay, *An Eulogium upon Benjamin Rush, M.D.* (Philadelphia: Bradford and Inskeep, 1813), 103.

[16] 2003 Statistics from the Alan Guttmacher Institute. See http://www.agi-usa.org/pubs/abslides/abort_slides.pdf.

[17] "Abortion in the United States : Statistics and Trends," National Right to Life, Internet, <http://nrlc.org/abortion/facts/abortionstats.html>.

[18] When God set forth the final five of the 10 Commandments to protect people's rights and preserve order in society, the first one is a prohibition is against taking someone's life. In fact, the high value God places on human life is the justification for Capital Punishment. See Genesis 9:6, which says: "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by

man shall his blood be shed for in the image of God has God made man." When you murder another person, you have committed a great evil. Why? Because God created man in His image, and your malicious attack against another human being is considered an indirect attack on God Himself. And that crime is worthy of the death penalty. Rom. 13 in the NT talks about the fact that God has ordained government to carry out that penalty-the authority "does not bear the sword for nothing-He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer." Human life is precious in God's sight, the object of his great love. Anyone who takes a life wrongfully, is the object of God's wrath. See also Exod. 21:12-17, 22-23, 29.

[19] James Dobson, *Marriage Under Fire: Why We Must Win This Battle*, (Sisters, OR: Multnomah Publishers, 2004), 54 and endnote 49 on page 120.

[20] Stanley Kurtz, "Death of Marriage in Scandinavia," *Boston Globe*, March 10, 2004, A23.

[21] Michael Chiusano and Isabel Lyman, "Parents' Rights: Educators have been waging a covert war on parents - who are starting to fight back." *National Review*, September 30, 1996.

[22] Ibid.

[23] Michael Foust, "Massachusetts 2nd-grade teacher reads class 'gay marriage' book; administrator backs her," *Baptist Press* April 20, 2006. See the article online at <http://www.bpnews.net/bpnews.asp?ID=23077>.

[24] Patricia Nell Warren, "Future Shock", *The Advocate*, October 3, 1995, 80, as quoted by Paul E. Rondeau, "Selling Homosexuality to America", *Regent University Law Review*, Vol. 14, No. 2, Spring 2002, at p. 470.

[25] *Founding Documents*, 46.

[26] *Engel v. Vitale* 370 U.S. 421, (1962).

[27] *Abingdon School District v. Schempp* 374 U.S. 203, 220-221 (1963).

[28] *Stone v. Graham* 449 U.S. 39 (1980).

[29] According to a May 2008 Hunter College report, funded by the pro-homosexual Human Rights Campaign, only 2.9% of those polled identified themselves as gay, lesbian or bi-sexual. See the full report at the following web address: http://www.hrc.org/documents/Hunter_College_Report.pdf.

[30] <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/18/nyregion/18grove.html>.

[31] <http://www.onenewsnow.com/Legal/Default.aspx?id=75547>.

[32] <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/opinions/documents/S142892.PDF>

[33] Frank J. Murray, "Federal Court Hears Lawsuit Over Kindergarten Christian; New York School may relent, may let tot say grace at meals," *The Washington Times*, June 12, 2002. While the child was eventually allowed to pray, the fact that her prayer was challenged by school officials demonstrates the point.

[34] *Florey v. Sioux Falls School District*, 494 F. Supp. 911 (U.S.D.C., S.D. 1979).

[35] News Release, "School Officials Trash 'Truth for Youth' Bibles and Ten Commandment Covers," *Liberty Counsel*, May 19, 2000.

[36] <http://www.ca3.uscourts.gov/opinarch/063890p.pdf>.

[\[37\]](#) Farewell Address on September 17, 17 96 as found in James D. Richardson, ed., *A Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Presidents 1789-1897*, 10 vols. (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1897, 1899; Washington, D.C.: Bureau of National Literature and Art, 1789-1902, 11 vols., 1907, 1910), 1:213-224.