



CULTURE IMPACT TEAM

Resource Manual



How to Establish a Ministry at Your Church

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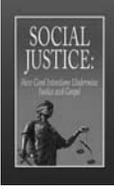
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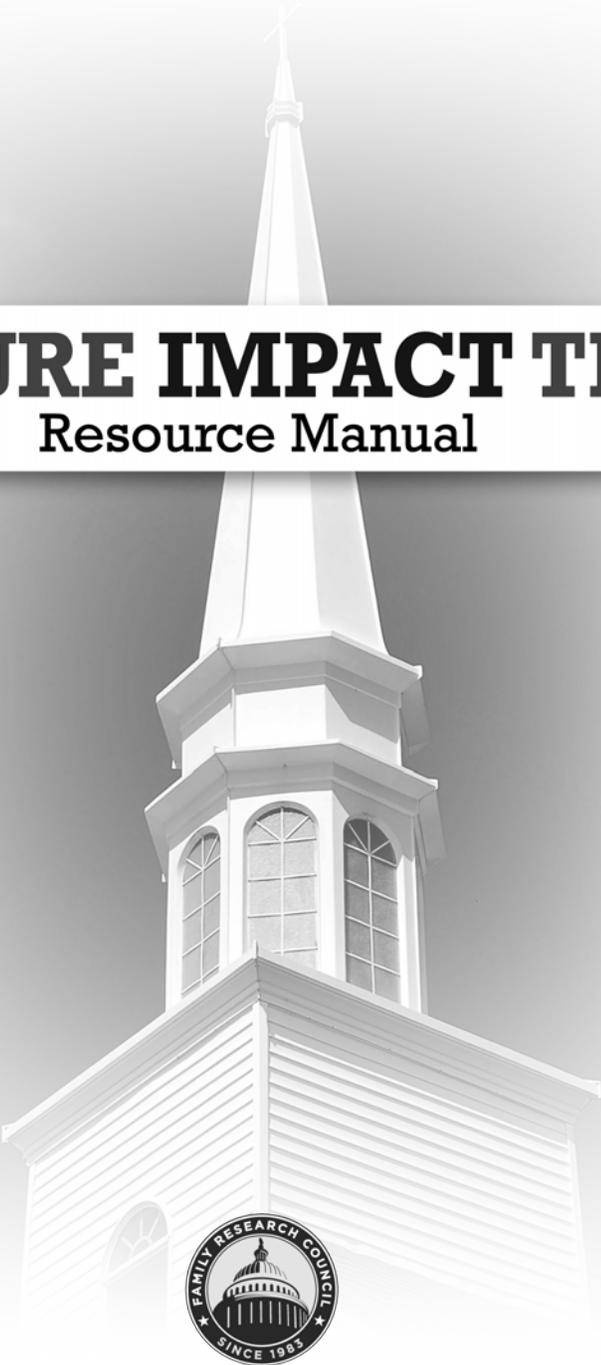
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Dr. Kenyn Cureton
Vice President for Church Ministries

Culture Impact Team Manual

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INTRODUCTION

Christians are dual citizens. We are citizens of the Kingdom of God by faith in Jesus Christ (Phil. 3:20). We are also citizens of an earthly "kingdom." Consequently, we have obligations in both realms. Jesus commanded: "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's" (Matt. 22:21). As citizens of God's Kingdom, we are to serve Jesus above all others as the King of Kings. As citizens of America, we are to submit to the civil government and obey the just laws of the land as a positive witness (1 Peter 2:15-17; Rom. 13:1-7). If the laws of the two kingdoms come into clear conflict, then as Peter and the Apostles put it: "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). Our allegiance is first, last and always to Christ and his Kingdom, but we also have a responsibility as citizens of our nation.

Unlike citizens of the Roman Empire, Americans are blessed to have, as Abraham Lincoln put it, a "government of the people, by the people, and for the people." Have you noticed that the original parchment of the Constitution begins "We the People" in big, bold letters? The bottom line: Our American form of government requires our active involvement. How can we "give to Caesar what is Caesar's" as citizens in America today? By praying for our officials, engaging government policy by speaking out on moral and social issues, voting for candidates and laws that promote righteousness and justice, paying taxes, serving in the military, holding public office, etc. The point is that we can obey Christ and serve as Christian citizens.

Not only do we have a dual citizenship, but we have been given dual commissions. Most Christians know about the "Great Commission" to take the Good News about Jesus to everyone, everywhere and to help those who receive the message become fully devoted followers of Christ (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8, etc). Fewer believers are aware of the "Cultural Commission," which is the practical application of the first instructions God gave humankind. God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them have dominion over...all the earth... God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it..." (Gen. 1:26, 28). From the beginning, God delegated the development of culture and society to humankind.

Obviously, Adam and Eve sinned, thus we are all sinners by nature and by choice, and therefore all the cultures and societies we populate and shape are infected with sinful perspectives and values. Yet the Cultural Commission is still God's mandate. In fact, we are commanded by Christ to be the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world" (Matt. 5:13-16). Simply, we are to resist the rot and dispel the darkness in every sphere of reality. We are to counter the pernicious and pervasive sinful influences in our culture by our own persistent and persuasive influence upon every part of the created order with the righteous and winsome values of the Kingdom. As Paul put it: "Don't be overcome with evil, overcome evil with good" (Rom. 12:21). This includes exerting a positive influence on public policy and government because of the profound impact on our lives.

Not only do we have dual citizenship and dual commissions, but Jesus gave us two Great Commandments: Love God with all our heart, soul, and mind and love our neighbor as ourselves (Matt. 22:37-40). If we love God and love our neighbor, we will take seriously our dual citizenship and the dual commissions. Loving our neighbor certainly includes sharing the Good News, but it also means that we will actively promote the common good in the context of our community, state, and nation.

Respecting the basic human right to life, strengthening marriage and the family as the foundation of society, and protecting the right to practice one's faith freely and publicly – all contribute to the civility and wellness of a people. In part, we can accomplish those goals by advocating for public policies and seeking to elect public servants that best line up with these Kingdom values. The consequences are significant: “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people groan” (Prov. 29:2). So there is a great need for the church to assume an active role in protecting human life from conception to natural death, shoring up biblical marriage, and defending religious liberty.

If we don't do it, who will? And hasn't that been the problem over the past 50 years? The Church has been mostly missing in action, and the cultural consequences have become intolerable. In the absence of Christians taking their dual citizenship seriously, obeying the dual commissions faithfully, and attempting to follow the dual commandments devotedly, the devil's crowd has taken over key places of influence in our culture largely by default, even in a nation where professing Christians are still in the majority. The solution is for God's people to return to Him (2 Chron. 7:14) and to function as the salt and light as Jesus expects. For more on the biblical worldview supporting such a ministry in the local church, see the “Biblical Basis” tab.

This manual is designed to equip a team of concerned Christians, commissioned by their pastoral leadership, to help encourage their local church toward exerting a more effective Christian influence as the salt of the earth and light of the world, especially in the public arena. The suggestions offered in this manual are meant to assist both leaders and members to create a Culture Impact Team and mobilize their local church, but they are only suggestions. Every individual Pastor and believer, each Culture Impact Team and church must earnestly seek the Lord's will in their unique expression of what Jesus meant by “salt” and “light.”

We hope this manual will prove useful not only for churches taking the first steps toward cultural engagement but also for those fellowships that are already experienced at applying Christian principles to the culture. In short, this manual offers practical help for all who are serious about making a positive impact on their community, their state, and our nation.

About Family Research Council

Since 1983, Family Research Council (FRC) has advanced faith, family and freedom in public policy and public opinion. FRC's team of seasoned experts promotes these core

values through policy research, public education on Capitol Hill and in the media, and grassroots mobilization. We review legislation, meet with policymakers, publish books and pamphlets, build coalitions, testify before Congress, and maintain a powerful presence in print and broadcast media. Through our outreach to pastors, we equip churches to transform the culture. Strategically located in Washington, D.C., FRC is the leading voice for the family in our nation's halls of power. FRC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For more information, please visit us on the web at www.FRC.org or call 1-800-225-4008.

I. CASTING THE VISION

With all the diversity in the body of Christ, the churches that are having the greatest impact for the common good typically share a common conviction: there is no substitute for obeying the Great Commission and the Cultural Commission. The body of Christ must provide persuasive moral influence in the public arena as the “salt” and must engage in personal evangelism as the “light.” There is no plan B. There is something else these successful churches often share in common: More often than not, the churches that are reaching people for Christ have an intentional plan for evangelism and the churches making a positive impact on the moral health of their community have a ministry team devoted to this purpose as an official part of their ministry structure.

These ministry teams are known by various different names—Christian Citizenship Committees, Salt & Light Groups, Moral Concerns Ministries, Current Issues Councils, etc.—but their function is the same: to provide in-house leadership for congregational response to the moral and social issues that impact the community, state and nation. We’ve chosen to call these groups Culture Impact Teams (CIT). Regardless of what you call yours, helping you to establish an effective one in your church is the desired outcome of this manual.

The Culture Impact Team in the Local Church

Why a team and not just an individual? While a passionate individual can have success, a team can best accomplish the goal of mobilizing the entire membership to engage in informed activism. There are several spiritual and practical reasons for this approach, such as biblical accountability, maximum effectiveness, and utter survival. Consider Solomon’s wisdom: “Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken” (Ecclesiastes 4:12). Christians working together in the local church tend to be more influential in the long run than those trying to go it alone.

What are some of the values of a successful Culture Impact Team? Consider the following:

1. Depend on God’s wisdom and strength and not themselves.
2. Submit to pastoral authority instead of acting independently.
3. Apply biblical principles to moral issues instead of giving in to partisan politics.
4. Pray for elected leaders and all those in authority before criticizing them.
5. Speak the truth in love.

There are numerous roles and responsibilities that a CIT could fulfill in your church. We suggest four fundamental areas on which to concentrate. Basically, it is the CIT’s responsibility to:

1. *Inform* the church leadership and congregation about the moral issues being debated and acted on in the public arena;

2. *Equip* the membership as to how they can engage these issues;
3. *Alert* them when prayer and action is needed;
4. *Mobilize* them for various forms of action with a goal of making a positive impact for the greater good.

Let's look at each one more in depth.

1. Informing

And this I pray, that your love may abound more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ. Philippians 1:9-10

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Hosea 4:6

The initial role of the CIT is educator. Clarifying Christian duties toward the community and providing your church with accurate and pertinent information on moral issues should be first on your agenda. "Why should Christians be concerned about social issues?" "What exactly should we be concerned about?" Answering these questions is your top priority.

Busyness is pandemic in our culture; most people just cannot find the time to stay informed. Ministers are notoriously overworked and far too busy to keep up on every social issue. The CIT is first and foremost a friend to the pastor. By supplying your leadership with the information to direct the congregation in matters of public policy, you will provide a desperately needed service. If your information is consistently balanced, thorough, and reliable you will win both gratitude and confidence. This confidence from your pastor is perhaps the single most necessary ingredient for the success of the CIT. Consider the church leadership your primary constituency. You will serve the church best by serving the leadership well.

Lack of time is also a big reason why church members may be uninvolved in the public square. This factor, along with a lack of reliable information, prevents the confidence they need to get involved. Under the guidance of the pastor, your second priority should be to educate the congregation both on current moral concerns and on the basic matters of Christian citizenship.

Your church probably has a committee devoted to evangelism or missions whose job it is partly to remind folks that every believer has a role in fulfilling the Great Commission. Likewise, while orchestrating church involvement in social issues, the CIT also reminds the congregation that every Christian has a responsibility here as well. Many Christians today are woefully misinformed about the ramifications of their faith in the public arena. Your presence helps the pastor to teach the congregation about these things. By informing and modeling the role of the Christian in society, you help to disciple the body of Christ!

The resources found in this manual will assist you to accomplish your two primary responsibilities as educator: to give your church reliable information on the moral issues of the day, and to disciple them into a fuller expression of their faith in action as the salt and light.

2. Equipping

All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service. Ephesians 4:11-12

Education is the first step in the discipleship of the Christian. But once informed, the question then becomes "What should we do?" "How do we respond?" The second role of the CIT is to equip, to provide the resources necessary for action. Merely knowing that I should do something is not enough to get me out of the pew and into action; you must also provide tools and show me how to get involved. It is not uncommon for the novice to experience an overwhelming sense of frustration when confronting the magnitude of today's problems. In order to prevent the typical swing from apathy to futility, folks need to have a useful response for information you share.

"Whom should I call?" "Where should we go?" "Are there any experts who can help us?" "Are there any organizations that specialize in this "arena?" "Has anyone dealt with this before?" The CIT must expect these types of questions and offer opportunities for involvement whenever a concern is shared. The good news is that there is no need to re-invent the wheel; most social issues that your church will face have already been dealt with effectively by folks no braver than you! Therefore, your job is not to be a resident expert on everything from A to Z, but a resource center for the church, the Team with the connections. The information in the Appendices of this manual and the Family Research Council's (www.FRC.org) family of websites (like www.CultureImpact.org and www.iVoteValues.org) will be very helpful in knowing where to turn to equip your congregation for effective action.

Again, the pastor is your foremost responsibility here. When it comes to taking action as a congregation, the pastoral leadership will be the ones to make the final decision; but you should educate and equip them. Pray regularly and specifically for wisdom and power as a Team. Schedule time to pray with the pastor. And when the opportunity comes to step out as a congregation, be an advisor. Recommending a course of action is yet another way to help the church leadership do their jobs. Knowing that you have already identified helpful resources and time-tested ways to be involved will further encourage your pastor's confidence in you, not to mention your own self-assurance.

3. Alerting

Now as for you, son of man, I have appointed you a watchman... Ezekiel 33:7

For if the bugle produces an indistinct sound, who will prepare himself for battle? 1 Corinthians 14:8

Sometimes informing and equipping must then lead to a call to action. Far too many opportunities for Christian influence in the public square have been lost due to someone being asleep at the wheel. The third role of the CIT requires perhaps the most diligence and discernment. This is the role of watchman, sounding the alarm when the time comes for the church to take action. As the passage in 1st Corinthians puts it, the alert must be clear. The need to be both timely and accurate is obvious. It is no less important to have a well thought out plan of action. Above these three things there must be adequate prayer.

Submission to church leadership is critical at this point (Heb. 13:17). Your role as watchman is to bring both the alert and your recommendation to the attention of the leadership. But the decision to act lies with the one in authority. The actual call to arms is where most church leaders grow wary. If you have been reliable and responsible up to this point, it will likely translate into permission to move forward. However, if the leadership is not comfortable with moving forward, continue to build the relationship. Don't get discouraged. Continue providing intelligence reports and pray that the pastor will take the next step of allowing for an alert to the church.

CAUTION: The call to action can be the most overused function of the CIT. Sounding too many alarms, like the story of the boy who cried "Wolf!," is perhaps even worse than no alarm at all. Ill timed or imprudent battle cries are to be avoided at all costs. Deciding when and what to alert the congregation about is a crucial matter for prayer in the CIT and with the pastor. It is quite common for those who get immersed in social issues to develop a sense of urgency not shared by others less familiar with the subject. This deep sense of urgency can be a liability, intimidating to those who are "outside" the situation. The CIT must exercise restraint in its capacity as watchman, showing prayerful wisdom over when, how often and in what fashion they will sound the alarm. When done correctly, however, the importance of this role is difficult to overestimate.

4. Mobilizing

And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly. Romans 12:6

... make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Philippians 2:2

Once the church leadership has agreed to a course of action, the pastor may return the ball to your court. The task at hand is then mobilization: to coordinate church

involvement through the duration of a project. In some cases this role remains in the hands of the pastor, but they will often delegate to the CIT the responsibility of guiding the congregation through the particular involvement. Publicizing the action or event, coordinating volunteers, arranging for materials - these are types of activities that will require some administrative skill.

Knowing that this responsibility may be yours could help to moderate the frequency and ambition of your "alarms," but this is also a very rewarding function of the CIT. Seeing the church in action and watching the joy people experience as a result of actually being salt and light in the community is very satisfying indeed. And, of course, the more timely and appropriate the involvement (i.e. the better you fulfill your role), the more likely your church will be to participate the next time! Inform, Equip, Alert and Mobilize: these are the basic ways in which the CIT can serve the body of Christ.

The Culture Impact Team in the Community

There are friends both inside and outside the church ready and willing to help. Another significant role of the CIT is to enlist those friends to join the effort to advance faith, family and freedom. This is the role of liaison; acting as the link to other churches and organizations.

To assist you in this task, FRC provides resources for churches on its website such as regular Bulletin Inserts on various topics that can serve the educational purpose of your CIT. FRC focuses primarily on what is going on in Washington, DC, and it is important that you or members of the CIT sign up for free updates on national matters (www.frc.org). FRC's sister organization, Family Research Council Action, provides voter guides and other channels of action concerning elections and pending legislation. It is also important to keep up to speed on moral issues in your state, so locate your state Family Policy Council and subscribe to their communications as well. For information about legal issues impacting culture and religious liberty, the Alliance Defense Fund (www.alliancedefensefund.org) provides free email informational services.

By acting in liaison with the FRC and other organizations in the state, the CIT can tap into a nationwide network. As we mentioned before, there is no need to re-invent the wheel; most social issues that your church will face have already been dealt with effectively. A liaison does not need to be an expert on everything, but serve as a resource for the church.

As you develop your CIT, different members of the Team could be responsible for monitoring certain sources of information and relaying it to the proper person on the Team whose function is dissemination of the information. The goal is to encourage synergy, where the total effect of cooperative action is greater than the sum of individual efforts.

II. GETTING STARTED

So far, we have summarized the vision of the CIT in the church and in the greater network of pro-family groups. Now we turn to the nuts and bolts of creating such a Team in your church.

Form the Team

The most basic prerequisite for any sort of Culture Impact Team is getting the consent and blessing of the pastor and church leadership. This is not to say that a pastor must run the Team or even attend every meeting, but submitting to pastoral authority is a biblical necessity (Heb. 13:17). Of course, it also stands to reason that the church which most exemplifies a respect for moral authority has the best chance of promoting it in the community. Therefore, the pastor must give assent to the establishment of the Team and be consulted on major undertakings for maximum effectiveness.

Pastor Generated: There are a variety of ways to start a Culture Impact Team in your church. The pastor may be the catalyst that gets it started. Given the great demands placed upon most pastors, we recommend that a qualified church member be identified to chair the Team. As mentioned above, however, a system of pastoral accountability must guide the Team in fulfilling its responsibilities. Churches with a team of pastors will want to designate one of the pastoral leadership team to be the point person relating to the CIT.

Team leadership requirements may be different from what characterizes the stereotypical "activist." While the Lord has blessed some people with a tremendous amount of energy and tenacity, the most important qualifications of a CIT leader should include depth of spiritual maturity, a servant heart, a gift for consensus building and no overt tendencies toward rebellion or fruitless confrontation (1 Tim. 3:2-12, Titus 1:6-9). Political "flamethrowers" will be more destructive than helpful.

People Generated: If you are a member who is feeling the call to increase the cultural engagement of your church, you might first want to identify other church members who share your concern. Support may be as close as your church's pro-life group, home-school network, or Bible study. The next step is to approach your pastor. Perhaps you would want to broach the topic of cultural engagement by going through this manual together. You may also wish to present the material about a Biblical Basis for engagement that you have been provided in the tab or consider inviting some of the church leadership to view Lesson 9 of *The Truth Project* (see www.TheTruthProject.org) on "The State."

Regardless of whether you are pastor or church member, leader or follower, novice or veteran, prayer is the order of the day, both in identifying folks who share the vision and in approaching those who may have less affinity for the social dimensions of Christianity. Unless all these undertakings begin and continue through the power of the Holy Spirit, they will be of little eternal value and may actually do more harm than good!

Develop a Statement of Mission/Purpose

Before outlining specific functions of the members of the CIT, we suggest that you prayerfully craft a mission/purpose statement. It might be helpful to look over some sample statements:

“To improve and enhance the witness of Jesus Christ in the area of government, politics, and social issues.”

Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa, CA Salt & Light Ministry

Inspired by God, our vision is an American society that affirms and practices Judeo-Christian values rooted in biblical authority. Empowered by God, our mission is to awaken, inform, energize, equip, and mobilize Christians to be the catalysts for the biblically-based transformation of their families, churches, communities, and the nation.

First Baptist Church, Lebanon, TN, IMPACT Team

“The Watchmen Ministry is a non-partisan information center providing resources that promote good government according to Biblical principles without any political party affiliation.”

Calvary Chapel Chino Hills, CA, Watchmen Ministry

“Our Mission is to promote and protect Judeo-Christian values by educating and uniting the Church to be able to engage our community in the issues of the day.”

Bell Shoals Baptist Church, Brandon, FL, Community Issues Council

“The purpose of this ministry is to educate Christians about current events, to examine those events from a Biblical perspective, and to pray for our leaders and our country.”

Horizon Christian Fellowship, San Diego, CA, Salt & Light Ministry

"Our ministry is to inform on local, state, national and moral issues touching our daily lives."

First Baptist Church of Orlando, FL, Current Issues Council

A couple more detailed statements may be found in the “Samples” tab. Obviously, the mission/purpose statement for your CIT should be adapted to your particular congregation.

Organize the Members

Team structure is first determined by size. In a small church the Team may not be much larger than you; but if there are many interested people, the group may decide to organize either functionally or topically. If folks have general concerns and specific skills, you may divide labor functionally with roles such as team leader, researcher, editor, and event coordinator. If you have more people with specific concerns and general skills, you may divide labor topically under categories, such as abortion, sex education, religious freedom, etc.

Most groups incorporate both function and topic into their organization. Because three of your four fundamental responsibilities entail gathering and disseminating information, it makes sense that you have people with gifts in those areas. Someone must have the duty of leading the group and serving as a liaison to the pastor or one the pastoral staff. Someone needs to keep up to date on the issues. There also ought to be someone with writing skills in the group, since you will often need to present your information in written form (bulletin announcements, webpages, newsletters, etc.).

Specifically, here are some suggestions toward establishing job descriptions for Team members:

Leadership: Under the leadership of the pastor, the Team leader will be responsible for directing the team to accomplish the Culture Impact Team's mission of defending and advancing faith, family, and freedom. The Team leader will prioritize mission tasks, administrate team personnel, and oversee allocation of budget resources.

Skill Set: Must be able to see the big picture, good communicator/vision caster, organizer, and encourager.

Communications: These Team members will handle e-mail and social network communications through Facebook and Twitter as well as statements, releases, articles, editorials, interviews, and advertising. They will also assist the Pastor with coordinating and executing local and/or regional events, conferences, rallies, keynote addresses, campaigns, meet-ups, etc.

Skill Set: Must be good at written and verbal communication.

Research: These Team members will primarily do research on local, state, and national moral issues and share information with Team members in strategy meetings for further dissemination to the congregation and community. They will also assist the pastor by providing essential data regarding key issues and submitting written recommendations regarding key issues that might warrant public (i.e., pulpit) exposure. The goal is to provide the pastor with concise, brief and well-written information about the issues for prayerful consideration.

Skill Set: Must be tech savvy, conversant with movement websites, and able to prioritize multiple issues.

Mobilization: These team members will encourage grassroots participation and involvement in general mission tasks, such as signing up for the church's e-mail Impact network, subscribing to Impact News, petition drives, church-based, non-partisan voter registration, etc. However, there will also be encouragement toward involvement in pregnancy support centers, school board meetings, civil government gatherings, public office, service projects that show the love of Jesus in practical ways, etc. This will not only include enlistment of local church members, but also reaching out to other like-minded churches and Christian leaders in the area.

Skill Set: Must be a people person, good communicator, and not afraid to ask, enlist, delegate, and manage.

Strategy: All team members will be expected to help develop creative strategies for equipping the local church both to understand the critical moral issues and to engage their culture and community with biblical values.

Regarding the formal relationship of the Team to the church, a lot depends on your type of church government. In general, these committees tend to fall under the umbrella of Christian Education/Adult Ministries (since education and discipleship are essential) or Missions/Outreach (since social action is so closely related to evangelism). Discussion with the pastor should provide direction on how the Team is to fit into the organization of the church.

Develop a Budget

Churches who are committing to creating a CIT should consider committing a budget line item to facilitate the church's cultural impact ministry. Basically, entry level churches may want to start with 1% of undesignated receipts. Intermediate level churches may want to add another 1% for the state Family Policy Council (or like-minded state-wide group). Advanced level churches could add yet another 1% designated for the national Family Research Council.

In other words, a model formula would be as follows:

- 1% for the local church Culture Impact Team
- 1% for the state Family Policy Council (or Comparable Group).
- 1% for the national Family Research Council

Again, these are only suggestions. Churches may want to designate a dollar amount or even give higher percentages. It is up to each local church as to what investment they are willing to make in order to positively impact the culture.

Set Up a Culture Impact Center

Basically, this will be a resource center for church members. Having a designated location in the church will provide visibility for the ministry and give people an opportunity to become informed and, in turn, become involved. You can provide action alerts to church members who are interested, and church members can, in turn, call or write their governmental officials. You can also promote your ministry, identify prayer needs, allow people to sign up for action items, and answer questions regarding the issues. You can also host petition drives, offer voter registration, and provide voter guides for the members of our church.

You can begin with something as simple as setting up a table in the church. A step up would be a spindle or rack full of resources. The ultimate would be a booth presence. If you are interested, Family Research Council has some different types for purchase. When you purchase a Culture Impact Center, FRC will send an initial set of Policy Pamphlets. Afterward, they can be ordered for a nominal donation. An Order Form for three different types of Culture Impact Centers can be found in the pocket of the manual.

Begin Strategy Meetings

Again, size and structure play a large role in how your strategy meetings will be handled. In general, you may wish to start with a meeting every other week. Some CITs might meet as often as once a week, but at least once a month. The internet has made group communication without physical meetings more possible than in the past. The Lord's blessing and guidance should be invoked at the beginning of every gathering, and the essence of what takes place should be recorded by someone acting as secretary. These minutes should be kept on file for future reference, and a report should be sent to the pastoral staff.

Prepare an agenda beforehand in respect for your own time and that of your fellow Team members. It should always allow time for prayer, review of the minutes from the previous meeting, updates on current issues and projects, discussion of pending issues, and prayerful planning of action items for the church. In discussing information brought to the meetings, small groups may wish to proceed informally. However, larger groups may find it helpful to consult a meeting guideline, such as the popular *Roberts' Rules of Order*.

III. MOVING FORWARD

Now that we have laid the basic biblical foundations and offered some practical steps toward getting started, let's explore some of the means of staying informed, some methods of communication, a few examples of projects, and the legal guidelines that will prove to be helpful as you move forward with this ministry.

Stay Informed

If you have been following social and moral issues for a while, you probably have a pretty good idea what issues your CIT will address. If this is your first serious consideration of social involvement, you will want to start by becoming apprised of the shared concerns and relevant issues in your community. Either way, getting and staying informed is a high priority for the CIT.

Fortunately, you need neither a large budget nor a staff of researchers to stay informed, since there are many organizations with full-time staff to do that job for you. Most of their newsletters are relatively inexpensive or free. Local libraries may also carry books and periodicals helpful to your work. An effective CIT will have a regular flow of information from a variety of sources. The Online Resources represent a growing list of websites that offer both a general overview of the issues and deeper research on particular topics. In fact, as you are reading the list, it will likely already be out of date! However, we offer these in hopes that you will find what you need:

Find Your Elected Officials

Visit Family Research Council www.frc.org/contact-elected-officials

President:

www.whitehouse.gov and email @ president@whitehouse.gov

Congress:

Representatives <https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>

Senators http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

Pro-Family Organizations and Research Sources:

American Family Association www.afa.net

Concerned Women for America www.cwfa.org

Eagle Forum www.eagleforum.org

Family Research Council www.frc.org

Focus on the Family www.family.org

Legal Organizations:

Alliance Defense Fund www.alliancedefensefund.org

American Center for Law and Justice www.acjl.org

American Family Association Law Center www.afa.net/clp

Christian Law Association www.christianlaw.org

Liberty Counsel www.lc.org

Liberty Legal Institute www.libertylegal.org

Prayer Organizations:

Congressional Prayer Caucus www.prayercaucus.com

Intercessors for America www.ifapray.org

National Day of Prayer Task Force www.nationaldayofprayer.org

Anti-Pornography Groups:

Citizens for Community Values www.ccv.org

Morality In Media www.moralityinmedia.org

PornHarms.com

Girls Against Porn www.girlsagainstporn.com

Black History:

African American Perspectives <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/aap/aaphome.html>

Freedmen's Bureau Online <http://freedmensbureau.com>

Harper's Weekly <http://blackhistory.harpsweek.com>

Neglected Voices (Biographies and Speeches of the first African American Congressmen)
<http://www1.law.nyu.edu/davisp/neglectedvoices/index2.html>

Education:

Christian Educators Association www.ceai.org

Gateways to Better Education www.gtbe.org

Home School Legal Defense Association www.HSLDA.org

National Association of Christian Educators/Citizens for Excellence in Education
www.nace-cee.org

The Center for Education Reform www.edreform.com

Environmental Issues:

The Cornwall Alliance www.cornwallalliance.org

Founding Fathers:

Wallbuilders www.wallbuilders.com

Journals of the Continental Congress <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwjc.html>

Annals of Congress <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwac.html>

State Charters and Constitutions http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/statech.asp

The Federalist Papers <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fedpapers.html>

Online Library of Liberty www.ll.libertyfund.org/

Religion and the Founding of the American Republic from the Library of Congress
<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/religion/>

Thomas Historical Documents <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdoxmainpg.html>

Benjamin Franklin Autobiography www.earlyamerica.com/lives/franklin/

Benjamin Franklin Papers www.franklinpapers.org/franklin/

Benjamin Rush Essays www.deila.dickinson.edu/theirownwords/browseauthor.htm#grs

George Washington Papers www.lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/GW/gwhome.html

George Washington Writings www.etext.virginia.edu/washington/fitzpatrick

James Madison Notes on Debates in the Federal Convention of 1787 and Addresses
www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/presiden/madispap.htm

James Madison Papers www.memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/madison_papers/

James Wilson Works www.deila.dickinson.edu/theirownwords/title/0006.htm

John Adams Family Papers www.masshist.org/digitaladams/aea/

John Adams Papers and Addresses www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/presiden/adampap.htm

John Dickinson Political Writings www.deila.dickinson.edu/theirownwords/browseauthor.htm#def

John Jay Papers www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/digital/jay/

John Quincy Adams Diaries www.masshist.org/jqadiaries/

Samuel Adams Writings (Vols. 2-4)

<http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/gutbook/author?name=Adams%2C%20Samuel%2C%20172-1803>

Thomas Jefferson Papers http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/jefferson_papers/

Origins:

Answers in Genesis www.answersingenesis.org

Discovery Institute www.discoveryinstitute.org

Institute for Creation Research www.icr.org

Pro-Life Groups:

American Life League www.all.org

Care Net www.care-net.org

Americans United For Life www.unitedforlife.org

Heartbeat International www.heartbeatinternational.org

Life Issues Institute www.lifeissues.org

Life Dynamics www.lifedynamics.com

National Right to Life www.nrlc.org

Priests For Life www.priestsforlife.org

Prolife.Org www.prolife.org

Psalm 139 Project www.faithandfamily.com

Pastors:

Family Research Council's Watchmen Pastors www.WatchmenPastors.org

Focus on the Family's Parsonage www.parsonage.org

Worldview Resources:

The Truth Project www.thetruthproject.org

Chuck Colson Center for Worldview Studies www.colsoncenter.org/wfp-home

Worldview Weekend www.worldviewweekend.com

Summit Ministries www.summit.org

While you may entrust the state and national pro-family organizations to provide information about their respective spheres of responsibility, the local scene is yours to monitor! As you grow, look for someone to follow meetings of the school board and city council (these are often broadcast live over local cable channels).

Communicate with the Congregation

With the alarming number of moral issues being debated in the public arena, it is imperative the Culture Impact Team provide clear and accurate information that will equip church members for their role as salt and light. So it is useful to consider the various ways to communicate with the congregation. Remember that the object is certainly not for the Team to end up doing everything on its own or even on behalf of the congregation, but to get the whole church involved. This may be accomplished in a variety of ways, all of which involve regular communication with the congregation. The most obvious is an announcement from the pulpit by the pastor. This vehicle carries perhaps the greatest weight, but be careful! Pulpit announcements should be used

sparingly so that it has greater effect at those times when you really do need the "big guns." There are other ways of setting up your regular dialogue with the congregation:

Email Blasts: One of the fastest and most cost effective means of communicating with the members of the congregation is by email. You should seek to get the pastor's approval for obtaining addresses from interested members and communicating through that means. Just be mindful that everyone is just as busy as you are and we all fight information overload. Keep communications short and simple and only send them when action is desperately needed. All of the Team members would work to cultivate the list, but only one of the Team members should work to maintain it and send to it.

Bulletin Inserts: Bulletin inserts arguably provide the broadest coverage of the congregation since almost everyone who comes to church will read one. A frequent drawback is the small amount of space available, but there may also be topical and stylistic limitations (e.g., modesty may prevent mention of certain concerns). Still, this can be an effective line of communication. Bulletin inserts are also available from Family Research Council (see http://www.watchmenpastors.org/resource_bulletins), state Family Policy Councils, and even from some denominational organizations. There are several examples in the Sample tab.

Church Publications (Digital and Print): Church web sites and blogs are becoming an option for groups of modest means in this age of electronic publishing. If your church already has an established print newsletter, online newsletter, blog or e-mail blast, you might consider seeking a regular column in it or including an insert; or you could start your own. Many of the pro-family groups listed in the resource section permit churches to forward and even reproduce their articles and publications under special arrangements. In this way, a very impressive publication can be assembled by a rather small team.

Relational Networks: Leaders of adult classes are a natural network within the church. Sometimes a bulletin insert or flyer may not be appropriate for the whole church to see (given that children will read it), so it could be more effective to distribute them through the adult Bible study groups instead. Building a relationship between the CIT and the various Bible study groups within your congregation is another way of getting the message out.

Small Group Studies: Keeping in mind the need to make disciples, the CIT could work with the Christian Education department to plan an adult education series on Christian social responsibilities. It could be something as pre-packaged as *The Truth Project* trainings or another video driven study, like Rick Warren and Chuck Colson's *Wide Angle*. Or you may want to develop a small group discipleship study on what the Bible says about the moral issues being debated in the public arena. For a more tailored message, someone from your state's Family Policy Council could be asked to speak to your congregation about current issues or a speaker from Wallbuilders could come and speak about our Judeo-Christian heritage. Or you could have representatives of local

prison ministries, drug and alcohol rehabilitation ministries, pregnancy resource centers, adoption ministries, sexual addition ministries, and the list goes on.

Start Some Basic Projects

Praying for Elected Officials: Entry level projects for your include informing the congregation (with pastoral approval!) about who their elected officials are and reminding them of the biblical exhortation to pray faithfully for these public servants (1 Tim. 2:1-4). One of the first steps of the new Team could be the creation of a list naming all of your elected officials, from local school board all the way up to the White House (include address, phone numbers, and web pages if possible). This information may be obtained from your local library or registrar of voters (listed in the phone book) or through simple internet searches (see www.frc.org/contact-elected-officials). You may then provide the list for the congregation and update it appropriately.

Contacting Elected Officials: Once your church is comfortable praying for their elected officials, the next step would be to find out where they stand on the moral issues, and begin contacting them. Contact information for the President and Congress appears below:

Contact the President: Phone: Comment Line (202) 456-1111; Switchboard (202) 456-1414; Website: www.whitehouse.gov ; E-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

Addressing Correspondence to the President:

The Honorable (full name)
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Contact your U.S. Representative or Senator: Phone: (202) 224-3121 and ask for your U.S. Representative's and/or Senator's office; Websites: www.house.gov ; www.senate.gov .

Addressing Correspondence to a Senator:

The Honorable (full name)
__(Rm.#)__(name of)Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Addressing Correspondence to a Representative:

The Honorable (full name)
__(Rm.#)__(name of)House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Unfortunately, there is no shortage of issues your congregation can begin calling and writing their representatives about. Get fully informed about what they stand for, and then contact them by:

- E-Mail: You may find your senators and representative directly from Family Research Council's website. In most cases, you may also e-mail your elected officials directly. When writing an e-mail, follow the guidelines for letter writing given below.
- Phone Call: Remember that telephone calls are usually taken by a staff member, not the member of Congress.
 1. Identification: Identify yourself to the person who answers the phone, then ask to speak with the aide who handles the issue about which you wish to comment.
 2. Specification: After identifying yourself, tell the aide you would like to leave a brief message, specifying the reason for your call, such as: "Please tell Representative/Senator (Name) that I support/oppose (H.R.____/S.____)."
 3. Justification: You will also want to state reasons for your support or opposition to the bill.
 4. Clarification: Ask for your representative's or senators' position on the bill. You may also request a written response to your phone call.
 5. Gratification: Thank the person before hanging up.
- Letter: Remember these 4 guidelines as you write elected officials:
 1. Be Polite: When addressing the official, be sure to use the right title: Dear Representative or Dear Senator. When writing to the Chair of a Committee or the Speaker of the House, it is proper to address them as: Mr. Chairman or Madam Chairwoman, and Mr. Speaker or Madam Speaker.
 2. Be purposeful: State your purpose in the first paragraph of the letter. If your letter pertains to a specific piece of legislation, identify it accordingly, e.g., House bill: H. R. _____, Senate bill: S._____.
 3. Be Practical: Get to the point, include key information, use an example to support your position, address only one issue, and, if possible, keep the letter to one page.
 4. Be Pleasant: Remember who you are and whose you are. There is an old country saying that as a lot of truth: You can catch more bees with honey than

- FAX: Use the same guidelines as for letter writing. Remember, one page!
- Personal Visit: Sometimes the best way to lobby your elected official isn't with an e-mail, phone-call, letter, or fax, but with a personal visit. Here are 7-Up's of a personal visit.¹
 1. *Call up.* Make an appointment with your official's office, either the home district office, state office, or the office in Washington. If the official isn't available for a meeting, the scheduler may refer you to an assistant who deals with the issue you're concerned with. If that happens, don't be discouraged because officials rely on their personnel to be their information gatherers and gatekeepers.
 2. *Pray up.* Pray for God's wisdom in how to approach the official, for the words to speak, and for openness on the part of the official (Neh. 2:4).
 3. *Study up.* Consult For Faith & Family's website, and other sources for brief, concise, information on the issue in order to get handle on the most important points to make. Know your issue well enough to keep your conversation brief, since you may not have much time to make your case (Prov. 15:28a).
 4. *Dress up.* The commercials say: "Image is everything." It is not everything, but when meeting an official it is important. Being well dressed communicates confidence and respect—confidence in yourself and respect for the official (Esther 5:1-2).
 5. *Speak up.* As much as is possible, make your point in a compelling, winsome way (Prov. 22:11), and restraint the desire to become angry and combative (James 1:20). If the official is a believer, use Scripture, if not, don't. The Bible is true in every realm of reality; therefore there are all kinds of statistics to back it up. So use the evidence for your argument, not just a verse.
 6. *Close up.* Fifteen to twenty minutes is sufficient time if you're prepared well. Be sure to close the deal by making a specific request: "Will you co-sponsor this?" "Will you vote for this?" "Will you oppose that?" (Neh. 2:5-8). Once you've made your points, leave some information with the official, and express your appreciation for a hearing— and leave.
 7. *Follow up.* Less than a week after your meeting, send a brief note: 1) thanking the official for his or her time, and 2) restating your point.

If we are going to make a positive impact on the direction of America, we must let our elected officials know how we stand on the issues and what we expect of them as our representatives. The laws they pass today will set the course for your community's tomorrow and your nation's future! Make sure your voice is heard. Sharing the truth in love can affect their decisions.

¹ Adapted from Concerned Women for America's Penny Nance and her "how to" for training lobbyists.

Conduct Voter Registration: Alert the congregation about upcoming elections and register them to vote. If the members of your church are not registered to vote, which is quite often the case in churches across America, then they are not equipped to do the most basic thing they can do to be salt and light: cast an informed vote. The iVoteValues.org website enables the visitor to begin the voter registration process online, consider the values we should use to evaluate candidates, view the political party platforms, examine the legal Do's and Don'ts about holding a voter registration drive in your church, etc. The website also contains everything needed for a Christian Citizenship Sunday, including a patriotic message, PowerPoint, Bulletin Insert, brief videos, etc., so please consult that resource and download the free materials or you can purchase a Voter Impact Toolkit, a \$20 value, for only a nominal shipping and handling donation of \$5.00. Visit www.ivotevalues.org/resources for ordering information.

We recommend that you do a Christian Citizenship Sunday at least once a year, close to July 4, and conduct voter registration. We also ask that consideration be given to having recurring voter registration efforts during election years, especially 6-8 weeks prior to an important election. There is a helpful Voter Resource Guide tab at the back of this manual that contains everything you need and is supported by the www.iVoteValues.org website.

Use the resources from iVoteValues.org on that Sunday, announce from the pulpit that today is "Christian Citizenship Sunday," either hand out the voter registration forms in the pews or have volunteers staff a table with the forms, collect the forms that are filled out and mail them to your county election commission office or drop them off. That's really all there is to it! It may seem like a simple thing, but getting believers registered to vote is one of the most important things your Team can do to equip your church members to be salt and light in the public arena.

Equip the Congregation to Vote their Biblical Values: As Election Day draws near, you may encourage responsible voting by distributing non-partisan Voter Guides, which provide the candidates' stance on pertinent issues (see www.frcaction.org for Voter Guides). However, the Bible is the ultimate "Voter Guide" when it comes to moral issues and selecting leaders. Exodus 18:21, says: "But 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."

Remind the church that we not only have a responsibility to vote, but more than that we are also held to a higher standard of voting. Rather than having a blind allegiance to a political party, we must take the time to investigate the issues as well as the candidates. We must discern if they are in alignment with the values of the word of God. Point out what God's word says about:

ABORTION: God made us in his image, He has known us, and cared for us from all eternity; therefore life is sacred. Psalm 139:13: *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.* Exodus 20:13: *You shall not murder.*

Should a woman have control over the life in her body? Ezekiel 18:4: *Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine ...* 1 Peter 2:16: *[Live] as free [men], not using your liberty as a cloak for [evil] ...* (See also I Corinthians 6:19-20)

Should a child who might be born deformed or handicapped be aborted? Exodus 4:11: *The Lord said to him, 'Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord?'* Romans 9:20: *But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, 'Why did You make me like this?'*

Should a child conceived as a result of rape or incest be aborted? Deuteronomy 24:16: *The fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall the children put to death for their fathers.*

Should we create and destroy human embryos in order to obtain stem cells? Jeremiah 1:5: *Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.*

Question: Will the candidate/proposition for which you plan to vote protect the lives of pre-born children?

DECENCY: God's word tells us to avoid every appearance of evil (1 Thess. 5:22). Certainly, pornography and sexually oriented businesses are harmful to individuals, marriages, and the family, and therefore our society. Romans 12:1: *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living holy sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.* Matthew 5:28: *But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.* (See also Romans 13:13-14; 1 Corinthians 6:13b; Revelation 2:20-23)

Question: Will the candidate/proposition strive to remove pornography and sexually oriented businesses from our community?

EDUCATION: God has delegated to parents and grandparents the primary responsibility of educating their children. Psalm 78:5: *He commanded our fathers, that they should [teach the commandments] to their children.* (See also Proverbs 22:6, Deuteronomy 6:6-9, Psalm 78:5-7, and Titus 2:1-8).

Question: Does the candidate/proposition promote giving parents the choice to decide where their child should go to school?

ENVIRONMENT: God has given us dominion over the creation as His stewards; we are not equal to or subject to the rest of creation. Genesis 1:26: *Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them have dominion over...all the earth...*

Question: Does the candidate/proposition seek to be a wise steward of the creation or push for punitive measures based on a radical agenda that will end up causing hardship on people?

FAMILY: God ordained the family as the basic building block of a healthy society. Jesus said in Matthew 19:4-9 *“Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”* They said to Him, *“Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?”* He said to them, *“Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality,^[d] and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”*

Question: Does the candidate/proposition promote healthy marriages and families and discourage no-fault divorce?

HOMOSEXUALITY: God opposes homosexual behavior. Leviticus 18:22: *You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.* 1 Corinthians 6:9-10: *Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. (See also Romans 1:18-27,32).*

Question: Does the candidate/proposition support or endorse the homosexual movement?

JUDICIAL SELECTION: God desires judges and justices who impartially pursue righteousness and justice. Deuteronomy 16:18-20: *You shall appoint judges and officers ... which the Lord your God gives you ... and they shall judge the people with [righteous] judgment. You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor not take a bribe...* (See also 1Samuel 6:7).

Question: Will the judge for whom you vote or support make the law his/her own? What core values do they possess that might influence their judgments?

POVERTY: God has charged believers (not government institutions) to help the poor and widows and orphans. Deuteronomy 15:7-8: *If there is among you a poor man of your brethren, within ... your land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, nor shut your hand from your poor brother, but you shall open your hand wide to him and willingly lend him sufficient for his need, whatever he needs* (See also James 1:27; James 2:15-16).

Question: Does the candidate/proposition support a state/federal welfare system that enslaves the poor, steals their dignity, and promotes immorality?

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY: God has given every human being the basic freedom of being able to relate to and worship Him both privately and publicly, a freedom which is enshrined in our First Amendment. Galatians 5:1: *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.*

Question: Does the candidate/proposition promote religious freedom in the public arena and seek to preserve our nation's Judeo-Christian heritage?

SECURITY: God has given us the right and a responsibility to defend our families, our homes, and our nation. Psalm 144:1: *Blessed be the LORD my Rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle.*

Question: Does the candidate/proposition support the right to defend our families, our property, and our country?

There are many more issues to consider when voting. In fact, check out the Top 25 Policy Goals in a tab at the back of the manual. By way of caution, let it be said that there are probably more issues to be concerned about in the public arena today than any one church could possibly handle. As you begin to organize and operate your CIT, you must prioritize the issues that will command your attention. Start small!

Educating the congregation about one issue and alerting them to a bill in order to contact their legislators might be enough for one month. On the other hand, some issues will prioritize themselves. Local crises will emerge and demand your attention, such as an irresponsible sex education curriculum or the planned construction of a Planned Parenthood Clinic. However, the tyranny of the urgent is a hard master, and every effort should be made to strike a balance between addressing problems and preventing them. The need for prayer and the role of the Holy Spirit in setting the priorities for your CIT cannot be overstated.

Follow Guidelines for Pastors and Churches

Is all of this constitutionally permissible? Yes. Will we endanger our church's non-profit status with the IRS? No, because clear guidelines have been established by the federal government. Taking a stand on moral issues from a biblical perspective, educating your congregation, calling them to action, and exerting grass-roots pressure on officials are all well within the law for churches as tax-exempt organizations. So there is a great deal can be done, more than most churches realize!

Below is a brief outline of "Dos and Don'ts" for churches and pastors at election time, based on requirements by the Federal Election Campaign Act and Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The following are general guidelines. It is always a good idea to seek legal advice as you make specific plans for your church.

What churches MAY DO:

- * Conduct non-partisan voter registration/education drives.
- * Host candidate forums where all are invited and treated impartially.
- * Distribute voting records and candidate surveys in compliance with the neutrality rules set forth by the IRS.
- * Rent a church mailing list (at market value) to a candidate.
- * Publish an ad in the church bulletin for all who request, as long as the ad is purchased at the regular rate for such ads.
- * Publish news stories on political candidates, campaigns, and third-party endorsements of candidates.
- * Invite a political candidate to attend a church service or meeting. Should your church invite a candidate to church service, remember that other candidates for the office, regardless of party, should be given the same opportunity if they request it.
- * Contribute or expend up to 5% of its time or funds in any fiscal year to grassroots lobbying efforts, including contributing to ballot initiative campaigns.

What churches MAY NOT DO:

- * Endorse political candidates or contribute to political candidates or political action committees.
- * Participate in fund-raising projects for political candidates.
- * Make an outright donation of a mailing list to a political candidate.
- * Sell a political ad at a discount rate if no other advertisers are offered discounts.
- * Distribute candidate political statements.
- * Pay to attend a caucus for a state or national political convention.

Consult the Voter Resource Guide tab for a more exhaustive list or visit www.iVotevalues.org, click on church leaders, and then on Legal Dos and Don'ts.

A Special Note about Pastors

As private citizens, pastors have the same rights as all Americans. Pastors may use the pulpit to take a stand on specific legislation, issues, or acts of government. The only place where limits have been set is with specific regard to campaigns and candidates. Basically, pastors can say just about anything from the pulpit except tell people how to vote. Now in their private capacity, they can take a stand on a political campaign and even endorse candidates. However, a pastor should always make it clear that any candidate-oriented efforts are those of a private citizen and not made on behalf of the church. No use of church facilities or resources or employee time should go toward the promotion of a candidate. Church funds must be kept separate from political campaign activities.

Churches and pastors with any questions should contact the Alliance Defense Fund (www.alliancedefensefund.org) regarding its Pulpit Initiative and Church Project. For

election sermons and sermons on Christian Citizenship, visit our website for pastors:
www.WatchmenPastors.org and click on Resource Arsenal.

IV. MAKING AN IMPACT

We have attempted to cast a vision for the Culture Impact Team, talked about how to get started, and gave some pointers on moving forward. Finally, here are some coaching tips on how you can continue to make an impact over the long haul in this challenging ministry.

Maintain Priorities

With all that can be done to advance Kingdom values in the public arena, make sure there is still time in your day for personal worship, prayer, and Bible study. In the resource section, there are links to online devotionals that can be helpful, but nothing beats a humble heart before an open Bible. And while you are trying to “save the world,” don’t forget to spend time with your family. They will help you with perspective. Finally, find some people with whom you can be honest and open about your spiritual life for the sake of balance and accountability. Keep your priorities!

Avoid Burnout

The ministry of cultural engagement can be exasperating and exhausting, so there looms the specter of burnout. Remember: You were never meant to do everything! Moses tried it, and it didn’t work, so his wise father-in-law Jethro counseled him to delegate some of the work (Ex. 18:17-26). So as soon as possible, bring others onto the Team and begin training others both to work with you and after you. Work toward not making yourself indispensable. Again, our work for the Lord should not push out our time with the Lord.

Expect Opposition

You will face opposition from professing Christians and members of the community. Some Christians are so “heavenly minded” that they are of no earthly good and will try to persuade us that we are wasting our time. The reasoning is that Jesus is coming soon and the Bible says that everything is going to get worse before that happens. While there is truth to that, Jesus told parables about servants who were given responsibilities while they were waiting on their master’s return, and they were rewarded according to their faithfulness or punished for their lack thereof (e.g., Luke 12:42-46; Matt. 25:14-30). In fact, Jesus himself said: “As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work” (John 9:4). There is work to do, and as us country folk say: “Daylight is a burnin’!”

On the other hand, some are so “worldly minded” that they see our efforts as unkind or even “hateful” because we confront sinful behavior, policies, laws, politicians, etc. The only way to counter to that is balance. As Paul said, we are to “speak the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15). If we say we oppose abortion, we should also help with the local Pregnancy Support Center. If we say we oppose the homosexual agenda, we should find a way to serve an AIDS Hospice or the like. Jesus was the perfect balance of

Grace and Truth (John 1:14) and he is our model for ministry. Remember, it was the mission of Jesus not only to seek and to save those who are lost (Luke 19:10), but also to expose the works of darkness and to destroy the works of the devil (John 3:19-20; 1 John 3:8). There are many ministries at www.RealCompassion.org that can help those of us with a prophetic, truth-telling personality to stay balanced.

Whether they are “heavenly minded” or “worldly minded,” both kinds of people can and will resist to your efforts, sometimes passively but oftentimes actively. Try to set a course which maintains uncompromising values and reasonable expectations. Any apparent progress or setback you experience should be evaluated on the basis of these two criteria. Remember that your call is to speak the truth in love and be a faithful steward of the gifts, passions and abilities that God has placed in you. Even if you could serve in this ministry flawlessly and with the purest of motives, your efforts would still be opposed, even by some who claim to share your faith in Christ. Don’t become discouraged because of opposition.

Look Heavenward

Lastly, be careful not to overlook the spiritual dimension of the battle in which we are engaged. Question: Who is ultimately behind the efforts to snuff out human life through Abortion and Embryo Destructive Research? Who is behind the efforts to advance the radical homosexual agenda, change the definition of marriage, indoctrinate our children, and even ruin our military? Who is behind the efforts take God out of every public school and government institution and silence our free speech as Christians? Who is behind all of that? Paul makes it crystal clear when he says “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against demonic principalities and powers” (Eph. 6:10-13).

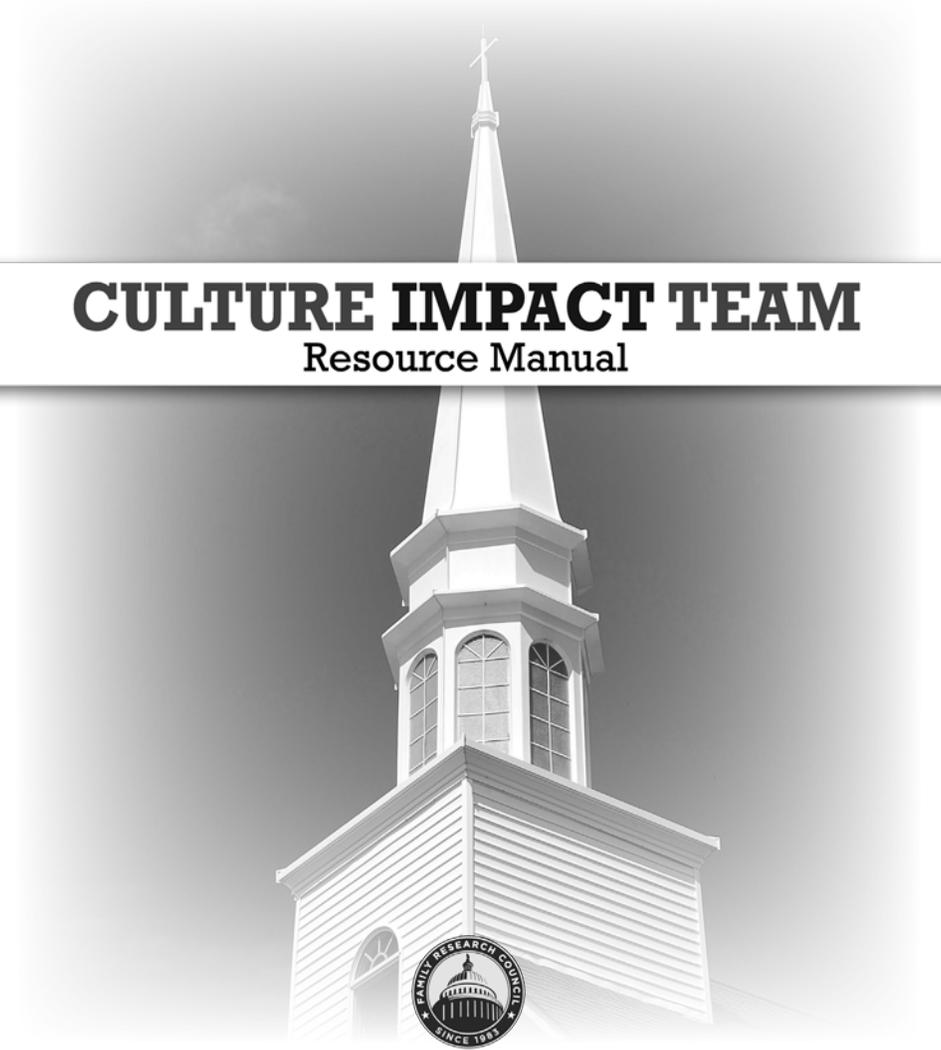
So the real enemy is not the poor deluded souls who are promoting these ungodly agendas. They are simply pawns in the hands of their Malevolent Master. They are lost and they are only doing what lost people do. They need to be introduced to the grace of God in the person of Jesus Christ and set free (See John 8:34-36). The point is that the battle we fight is not just a political battle or merely a cultural battle, this is a spiritual battle. We are up against the organized, mobilized, demonized forces of hell. And to the victor goes the prize of the America our children will inherit, so this is a fight we dare not lose!

But we must fight the battle, first of all, on our knees. Samuel Chadwick stated: "The one concern of the devil is to keep the saints from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, he mocks at our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray." We need to remember that it victory comes not by political “might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord” (Zech 4:6). We need to remember that “some trust in chariots and some trust in horses” like politicians and political parties, but we need to “trust in the name of the Lord our God” (Psalm 20:7). As David said: “I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:1-2). Remember, the battle is the LORD’s!

So devote yourself to prayer. Every great spiritual awakening can be traced to the people of God, in humble and repentant prayer, seeking His face and favor on them and their nation. Make prayer a priority as you undertake the weighty assignment of leading the congregation to be "salt" and "light" in your community. E.M. Bounds declared: "No man can do a great and enduring work for God who is not a man of prayer, and no man can be a man of prayer who does not give much time to praying." Prayer should precede any action.

So with your eyes fixed on the Lord, put your hand to the plow. Guided and empowered by his Spirit, give it all you've got. This is your moment to make an impact on our culture as the stinging salt and the shining light. And never forget: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving" (Col. 3:23-24).

Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.
1 Corinthians 15:58



CULTURE IMPACT TEAM
Resource Manual



How to Establish a Ministry at Your Church

INFORM | IGNITE | IMPACT ★ CULTUREIMPACT.ORG

BIBLICAL BASIS

Biblical Basis: Firm Foundations for Culture Impact Ministry

You are the Salt of the earth. But if the Salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the Light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:13-16

The Culture War has been raging for at least 50 years in America. It is a war against our nation's Christian heritage. It is a war against the biblical accounts of our origins as created human beings. It is a war against our biblical convictions about unborn human life as sacred and precious. It is a war against our biblical beliefs about human sexuality being only for a man and woman in a marriage relationship. It is a war against our biblical values of faith and family. It is a war against our freedom of religious expression. We are at war! Whether or not you are engaging the enemy, he is engaging you!

Why join the battle? It is a foundational biblical truth that God expects His people to join Him on His mission to redeem and transform our lost world. The problem is that many Christians today want to limit that mission to the "saving of the soul" to the exclusion of the "changing of the culture." This narrow understanding of God's mission finds its expression in a kind of "Christian dualism." It is a misconception of reality that on one hand regards church-related activities such as worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and evangelism as spiritually significant and worthy of effort, but on the other hand regards everything else outside this "sacred" realm as "secular" and therefore having no real spiritual significance. Consequently, engaging the culture in the arenas of government, education, entertainment, the arts, media, science, etc. is deemed unimportant and indeed a distraction.

This tendency to erect an impenetrable "wall of separation" between the sacred and the secular is one of the most debilitating problems hindering the contemporary church when it comes to making a "salt and light" impact on our communities, states, and our nation. Indeed, this false approach to Christianity has serious consequences, not the least of which is the secularization of society, since it causes Christians individually and the Church collectively to retreat from engaging the culture as an irrelevant, non-spiritual enterprise. Yet, if we don't take on the responsibility the Lord Jesus gave us to function as Salt and Light in the world, is there any reason why the culture shouldn't become thoroughly corrupt and society shouldn't become plunged in utter spiritual darkness? Here's the bottom line: Because of this falsely erected wall of separation, sincere but misguided believers have handed over the culture and society to the powers of sin and darkness by default.

Not only is this dualism an unbiblical perspective on Christian living, it is in fact a heresy, a doctrine of demons, if you will. For what better strategy could the Devil devise than to convince believers that the soul may belong to God, but society belongs to him? In place of this insidious dualism, we need to recover a biblically based worldview that rightly places all of life under the rule of God.¹

Christian Worldview 101

What is a worldview? A worldview is the “Big Picture”—the basic set of presuppositions, beliefs, convictions from which you look at and make sense of the world. Think of it like a pair of tinted sunglasses that color how the world looks to you. For example, if you look at the value of human life through glasses tinted with the belief that we are the unique creation of a loving God, you will arrive at one view of abortion. However, if your glasses are tinted with the belief that man simply evolved as a result of chance and we are therefore no different than the animals, you will arrive at another view of abortion. Your worldview matters!

What is a Christian worldview? At the core of genuine Christianity is a personal relationship with Jesus as Savior and Lord. What the Lord Jesus expects of His followers is articulated in the Bible. Those core teachings should determine the way we see and understand all reality. So a Christian worldview is a set of presuppositions, beliefs, and convictions shaped by our relationship with Christ and defined by Scripture.

Unfortunately, very few people who claim to be Christians actually have a Christian world view. In fact, only 4% of Americans have a biblical worldview as the basis of their decision-making according to a national survey of 2,033 adults. In the survey, Researcher George Barna used the following criteria to define a biblical worldview:

- Belief that absolute moral truths exist
- Belief that such truth is defined by the Bible
- Belief in six specific religious views:
 - Jesus Christ lived a sinless life
 - God is the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe and He stills rules it today
 - Salvation is a gift from God and cannot be earned
 - Satan is real
 - A Christian has a responsibility to share their faith in Christ with other people
 - The Bible is accurate in all of its teachings.

The survey discovered that only 9% of born again Christians have such a perspective on life. The numbers were even lower among other religious classifications: Protestants (7%), adults who attend mainline Protestant churches (2%) and Catholics (less than

one-half of 1%). The denominations that produced the highest proportions of adults with a biblical worldview were non-denominational Protestant churches (13%), Pentecostal churches (10%) and Baptist churches (8%).²

Again, your worldview matters because belief directly and dramatically impacts behavior. According to Barna's research, adults with a biblical worldview possessed radically different views on morality, held divergent religious beliefs, and demonstrated vastly different lifestyle choices. For example, a comparison between those who have a biblical worldview and those who do not, the former group were 31 times less likely to accept cohabitation (2% versus 62%, respectively); 18 times less likely to endorse drunkenness (2% versus 36%); 15 times less likely to condone homosexual behavior (2% versus 31%); 12 times less likely to accept profanity (3% versus 37%); and 11 times less likely to describe adultery as morally acceptable (4% versus 44%). Also, less than one-half of one percent of those with a biblical worldview said voluntary exposure to pornography was morally acceptable (compared to 39% of other adults), and a similarly miniscule proportion endorsed abortion (compared to 46% of adults who lack a biblical worldview).³

Recovering a Christian Worldview

It is only when you put on your "Christian worldview glasses" that you can see the current culture war for what it really is: A continuation of a cosmic war fought from the beginning of time between the Sovereign Creator and one of His created beings. We know him as Satan—the adversary and archenemy of God. He began as an angel named Lucifer, but he was filled with pride and attempted a heavenly "regime change" (Ezek. 28:12-17; Isa. 14:12-15). In the process, Satan persuaded a third of the angels to join his rebellion against God (Rev. 12:4). So Lucifer, the son of the morning, became Satan, the father of the night. Yet, no sooner than he unsheathed his sword of rebellion against Almighty God, the judgment of God fell on him, and he fell from heaven like lightning (Luke 10:18). When Satan failed to overthrow the Paradise of God in heaven, he then set about to overthrow the Paradise that God created on earth.

In the opening chapters of the Bible, we are introduced to a Triune God (Father, Son, and Spirit) who created the universe in general and Paradise (i.e., The Garden of Eden) in particular (Gen. 1-2). At the same time, we learn of God's creation of mankind in His image and likeness in order to share a love relationship with us and that He might appoint us as "vice-regents" to govern His creation (Gen. 1:26-28). This God-given responsibility and authority to have dominion is all inclusive. As the vice-regents of God, we are to bring His sovereign rule (i.e., His kingdom) to bear on every sphere of our world, not just the sacred, but also the secular. God's dominion is to hold sway over

all human endeavors and institutions, such as religious practice, ethics, education, government, science, medicine, the arts, the environment, entertainment, etc. God created us to apply His rule over every aspect of human life, society, and culture. Some would refer to this as the Cultural Commission or the Cultural Mandate.⁴

That was God's original plan and purpose for mankind. However, Satan carried out a covert operation to deceive Adam and Eve into joining his rebellion against God (Gen. 3:1-7). The consequences of their sin were devastating. Sin separated them from God and marred God's Paradise on earth, introducing disease, disaster, death, destruction, and damnation. God pronounced His righteous judgment on Adam, Eve, and Satan (Gen. 3:14-19). At the same time, He began to reveal His strategic battle plan to redeem mankind and restore His Paradise, a plan that focused on an Individual yet to be born (Gen. 3:15), whom from hindsight we know as Jesus Christ: the seed of the woman and the Son of God.

And yet God's plan also involved calling out a people and a nation through whom He would send His Son. We see this plan surface in the life of Noah with the re-establishment of the Cultural Mandate after the flood (Gen. 9). We see it again in God's calling out of one of Noah's son's descendants named Abram (Gen. 12) to become the father of a nation that would impact the world and bring us the Son of promise. After Moses delivered Abraham's descendants, the children of Israel, out of Egyptian bondage, God thundered His covenant with them from Mt. Sinai (Ex. 19:5-6): "If you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all the nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." So God commissioned the nation of Israel with modeling and sharing God's kingdom rule with the nations. God said that they were to be a "light for the Gentiles that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth" (Isa. 49:6).

A closer look at the details of the covenant reveals that God's kingdom rule was to extend over all facets of life and culture. The Ten Commandments deal not only with our relationship with God, but also with our relationship with others (Ex. 20:1-17). Additional laws and commandments abound that relate not only to religious observance but to education, government, business, all areas of human relationships, etc.

When the nation and their leaders strayed from God's plan, He raised up prophets to confront them and call them back to His original intention. It is vitally important to note that these prophets not only condemned spiritual ills, but societal ills as well. For example, the prophet Amos pronounced equally harsh judgments on those engaged in idolatry (2:4-5) as well as those engaged in unethical business practices (2:6-7). There was no separation of belief and behavior or of the sacred and the secular. The message of the prophets was simply this: every aspect of life must return to its rightful place under the righteous rule of God.

Unfortunately, God's people repeatedly failed to heed God's prophets and follow His plans and purposes. So God disciplined them by allowing their nation to become divided and then be conquered (2 Chron. 36:15-20). However, in the midst of discipline, God reaffirmed His promise of a Coming One who would be a Suffering Servant who would take the punishment for our sins upon Himself (Isa. 42:1-4; 52:13-53:12) and a Son of David who would come in the end time to rule over a renewed Kingdom that would extend to the ends of the earth (Isa. 9:6-7; Jer. 23:5-6; 33:14-16; Mic. 5:2-4; cf. Zech. 9:9 which has both elements).

Through a miraculous conception and a virgin birth, God the Son finally came in human flesh through the lineage of Abraham and David (Matt. 1:1-23; Luke 2:1-7; John 1:14). However, the primary mission of His first coming was to be a Sinless Suffering Servant who would give His life to redeem us (i.e., buy us back) from our slavery to Satan, sin and its consequences (John 8:34-36). In Jesus' own words: "I came not to be served, but to serve and give my life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:35). It was a mission Satan repeatedly attempted to sabotage (Matt. 2; 4:1-11; 16:21-23; 27:39-43). However, Jesus obediently accomplished this mission by His sacrificial death on the cross. Hebrews 2:14-16 puts His death in the perspective of the Cosmic War: "He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death." Jesus is the "Strong Man" who went into the enemy's house and bound him in order to free his captives (Mark 3:23-27; cf. Luke 4:16-21).

Can we know Jesus' worldview? Yes. The Bible records some of His basic convictions:

- Jesus believed that God as Creator providentially rules over His creation and is in control of its destiny (Matt. 5:45; 19:4; 24:30-36; Mark 13:19; Luke 12:6-7, 22-31; Acts 1:6-7).
- Jesus believed that God made Adam and Eve and their descendants to share in a love relationship with Him and one another (Matt. 6:26-30; 10:31; 19: Mark 12:29-31; Luke 9:23-25; 12:13-21; John 3:16; 10:10; 17:3).
- Jesus believed that all people are sinful, lost, and in need of repentance and salvation (Matt. 7:11; 10:6; 15:24; Mark 2:17; 7:20-23; Luke 13:3; 15:1-31; 19:10; John 3:3).
- Jesus believed that His mission is to fulfill the Old Testament prophecies and promises, proclaim the Good News of the kingdom of God, and bring salvation to humanity and all the earth through His own life, death, resurrection, and ascension (Matt. 5:17-18; 12:28-29; 16:21-23; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; 10:45; Luke 4:16-21, 43; 24:45-47; John 3:14-16).

to oppose God's mission of redemption and restoration (Matt. 4:1-11; 13:36-43; 16:21-23; Mark 1:32-34; 3:23-26; 4:15; Luke 8:26-39; John 6:70-71; 8:44; 10:10a).

- Jesus believed that His followers would face opposition as they continued His mission (Matt. 5:10-12; 10:16-22; John 15:18-16:4), but that they would have an even greater impact than He did, taking the Good News of His Kingdom to the ends of the earth in the power of the Holy Spirit (John 14:12; Acts 1:8).
- Jesus believed that He would return from heaven to reign as King on a restored earth and that His followers would share in this reign with Him (Matt. 19:28; 24:30-31; 25:31-34; Rev. 2:26-27).

When Jesus comes again, His mission will not be to redeem. His mission will be to reign in fulfillment of His role as the Greater Son of David and thus restore the Paradise that was lost. He will rule as absolute Sovereign Lord over all nations, peoples, and cultures (Rev. 11:15). The Revelation to John unfolds how it will come about: After a time of intense tribulation (Rev. 6-18), which will climax under the rule of the beast or Anti-Christ, Jesus Christ will return to establish His kingdom on earth (Rev. 19; cf. Matt. 24:29-31). At His appearing, Christ will defeat the beast and the false prophet, and bind Satan (Rev. 19-20). Also, the dead believers will be resurrected (Rev. 20:4-6), believers who are alive will be caught up and transformed (1 Thess 4:13-17; 1 Cor. 15:50-52), Christ will sit in judgment on our deeds (2 Cor. 5:10), and then all believers will reign with Christ over the nations (Psalm. 2; Rev. 2:26-27; 20:4-6). Following a period of peace and righteousness, there will be a final conflict with Satan, resulting in his ultimate defeat at which point he will be thrown into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:7-10). The Cosmic War will be over. Afterwards, the unrighteous dead will be raised (second resurrection) and judged (Rev. 20:11-15). Finally, Paradise will be restored with a new heavens and a new earth, and the eternal state will begin (Rev. 21-22; cf. Gen. 1-2).

When viewed through the lens of this briefly articulated Christian worldview, the current culture war takes on a new dimension as simply a part of the larger cosmic war of which we are participants. Jesus prayed: "My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you would protect them from the Evil One" (John 17:15). Satan continues to be the sworn enemy of God and His people. As Luther put it, "For still our ancient foe, doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal." Satan has proven that he will use individuals (Matt. 2:13-18; cf. Rev. 12:4; Matt. 4:1-11; cf. 16:21-23), groups (Rev. 2:9; 3:9), and especially those in positions of authority to do his bidding and oppose the coming Kingdom of God (Dan. 10:11-14). However, equipped with God's power, we engage and overcome the enemy when we seek to carry out God's mission (Luke 10:1-20).

Here is the bottom line: We are not simply “citizens concerned about moral issues,” who may feel the need to “get involved” and “make a difference.” Indeed, we are soldiers on a battlefield of a much grander scale fighting in a War that has been waged since the beginning of time with an enemy that desperately seeks to stop God’s kingdom from coming on earth as it is in heaven. While the outcome of this War has already been determined, the end of it will not come until Jesus comes again. In the meantime, we have a battle to fight!

Our Commander in Chief, the Lord Jesus, has called us out, His redeemed people, the Church. We have been given a mission, initially given to Israel (Ex. 19:5-6; 1 Peter 2:9-10), to join Him in His continuing mission to redeem and ultimately restore a lost world. We have been equipped with the indwelling power of God’s Spirit (Acts 1:8), and our Lord’s marching orders are clear: “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matt. 28:18-20).

Our Impact: Salt and Light

We must understand that our mission is not only to partner with God in seeking the salvation of individuals from sin and Satan through their repentance and faith in Jesus (Mark 1:14-15). Our mission is also to help bring individuals under the rule of Christ as Lord (Mark 1:16-20). People under the reign of Christ necessarily have an influence on the family they are a part of as well as the culture and society and nation they live in. Our influence should be an intentional part of our mission.

Jesus illustrated this intentional influence in Matthew 5:13-16. There He uses two metaphors, parables in miniature that are so basic, so fundamental to life to describe the very essence of what we are to do and to be as His followers. We are to impact our world as “Salt” and “Light.”

Salt

Salt is essential to life. Without salt, the fluids in our body could not be kept in proper balance. Consequently, pure salt was a valuable commodity in the ancient world. In the Greek world slaves were bought with salt, and in the Roman world soldiers were paid with salt. We even get our English word “salary” from the Latin *salaria*, meaning salt. If you have ever wondered where the phrase: “He is not worth his salt” came from, now you know. There is an abundance of salt in the world. The oceans contain a 1/4 pound of salt for every gallon of water. If that salt were not present, the oceans would become a rotten cesspool. The Greek writer Homer referred to it as “that divine salt,”

meaning that salt was as essential to maintaining physical life as the divine is for the spiritual life. Salt is essential. When Jesus called us salt (and light), He meant this: "You are indispensable for what I want to do in your world."

Not only is salt indispensable. Its vital function is only performed when it is made available- when it is sacrificed. Salt does what it does in the dissolving; it does what it does by giving of itself. Only when it is dissolved does it perform its function and make an impact. Salt exercises its influence by the sacrifice of itself. We will make an impact on this world only to the extent that we make ourselves available, and give ourselves to be used of God.

Salt penetrates. Take a pinch of salt, sprinkle it in a glass of water, and it will penetrate and permeate the entire glass. Unfortunately, since many have erected that "wall of separation" between the sacred and the secular, they come to church on Sunday and salt the salt and think that is the end of their responsibility. However, Jesus didn't call us to be the Salt of the Sunday School or the Salt of the Sanctuary. Jesus called us to be the Salt of the Earth! As the salt of the earth, we must penetrate and permeate all of it: our neighborhood, our community, our culture, or our society—every human institution and endeavor.

Salt promotes flavor. As salt lends flavor to food, the Christian is to lend flavor to life. From the world's perspective, Christianity takes out all the flavor of life. We do not need to be the bland leading the bland. Jesus was not that way at all. Jesus Himself said: "I have come that you may have life and have it to the full!" (John 10:10b). He was so magnetic and winsome and flavorful, that the common people flocked to hear him. As Jesus brought out the full flavor of life for those around him, so should we as His disciples.

Salt preserves. Salt holds back the corruption and retards the rot. Jesus lived in a day before refrigeration and freezers, so salt was the only thing that prevented food from going bad. Plutarch, the Greek ancient historian, said that meat is a dead body and left to itself it will rot, but salt preserves it and keeps it fresh. So salt, said Plutarch, is like a new soul inserted into a body. Salt preserves from contamination, salt delays decay. As followers of Christ, we must therefore act as a preservative influence, to stem the tide of corruption, to stand against impurity, to defeat the decay, to retard the rottenness of this world. That preservative and preventative influence needs to be brought to bear on entertainment, education, business ethics, the media, politics, the arts--in every level and area of life. Jesus is saying in v 13 that your righteous presence is absolutely essential to prevent decay and rottenness in your world.

Salt purifies. Salt has a medicinal quality to it. Yet while it heals, it hurts. Have you ever gotten salt into a cut or wound? It stings and burns, doesn't it? When the truth of God's word is rubbed into the open wounds of sinful society, it will sting and hurt before it can

heal. The salty prophet Elijah was certainly an irritation to the wicked King Ahab (1 Kings 18:17-18). When you function as salt, your very presence will irritate people who are of the world. Jesus said: "If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you" (John 15:18-19). Salt irritates. It burns even as it purifies.

Salt also becomes polluted (v 13b). Did salt ever lose its saltiness? Yes. In the ancient world salt was often collected in an impure state with other chemicals. As it was subjected to moisture or heat, a reaction would take place that would alter the chemical make-up of the salt so that it was no longer salt! Salt that had lost its savor. What is Jesus saying? Salt-less salt represents our loss of influence by accommodating to the ways of the world, the corruption of the culture, and the sins of society.

Someone has said: "I looked for the church--and found it in the world. I looked for the world and found it in the church." That's more truth than poetry. However, Jesus said we are to be in the world but not of the world (John 17). We are to penetrate the culture, not partake of it. We are to engage the culture, not entertain it. We are to challenge and change the culture, not consume or compromise with it. The judgment Jesus pronounced here is startling. Jesus said: "If the salt has lost its savor it is good for nothing except to throw it out for men to walk on." Salt that lost its saltiness was worthless. When salt loses its salinity, it is irreversible. There is no remedy. There is only one recourse: Throw it out!

Do you know what's wrong in America? Some say: "It's the homosexual activists promoting their agenda!" It's not the homosexual activists. Others say: "It's the abortion advocates promoting the murdering innocents." It's not the abortion advocates. Others say: "It's the liberal educators and renegade judges disrespecting and taking away our Judeo-Christian heritage." It is not liberal educators and renegade judges. Others say: "It's Hollywood and the media promoting ungodly lifestyles." It is not Hollywood and the media. Certainly they are all doing their part, but do you know what the biggest problem is in America? Where a large part of the blame lies? More than any of these others, the blame for the moral crisis in America needs to be laid at the feet of Salt-less Saints. That's where the problem is. The problem is in you, it is in me, it is in your church and my church and in churches all over America. Salt that has lost its savor in a world that is rotting and headed for hell!

Paul Hoffman knows what an impact can be made when we function as the Salt of the earth. Here is his story in his own words:

People ask us why did you persevere in your lawsuit against the Broward County school board-the fifth largest school district in the United States. This is a school board responsible for teaching 225,000 children that it is okay to have anal sex as a birth control measure. Why did you give up your house, your pension plan,

your entire savings account, and your stock account? Why did you do these things when you had taken your own children out of the public school system and put them in a private religious school?

Why did we persevere? Why did we continue a lawsuit until the Broward County school system was forced to publicly acknowledge on the front page of the Miami Herald that they will teach that abstinence until marriage is the expected standard for all school age children; teach the benefits of monogamous, heterosexual marriage,; and stress that abstinence is a sure way, to avoid, unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and other health problems? This was all on the front page of the Miami Herald.

Why did we persevere? I'll tell you why. For twenty years, I lived my life as a homosexual. I know the location of every pornographic book and video store from Palm Beach to Key West. I personally ordered the death of my two unborn children. I am responsible for two abortions. Until I was led to Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, I thought these kinds of things were the way people were supposed to live their lives.

I am here today because God has brought me to this point in time and this place in history to make the Broward County school board change their sex education policy. The Broward County school board taught children not only where they can get an abortion, but how they could get an abortion, how much abortions cost and how they could keep their parents from finding out they were getting an abortion. They can't do that any more in Broward County.

When Jodi and I first started this, we went to attorneys in Broward County. We said, "Please help us. I'm an attorney, but I don't know anything about education law. I don't know what to do. I don't know how to sue the school board. We need your help." One said, "Oh no, we can't help you, we play golf with the school board attorney; we can't help you because there's no money in it." "We can't help you because you can't win." Well, let me tell you something. We won... Every one of you can leave here, go home, and start something. We need to take our country back. We need to take it back from the pornographers, take it back from the abortionists, take it back from the homosexuals, take it back from the people who think that God does not exist. You need to go back to your communities and take our country back in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who washed me clean from my sins so that I can go to Heaven when I die."⁵

God help us to take up the challenge Jesus gave us to be Salt. Not just the Salt of the Sunday School or the Salt of the Sanctuary, but the Salt of the earth. Salt that penetrates and permeates all areas of life—sacred and secular. Salt that preserves society from judgment by preventing the decay and rot of sin. Salt that irritates and

burns our culture even while it purifies and heals. If there were ever a day, if there were ever a time for us to function as the Salt of the earth to make an impact on our world, now is the day, now is the time!

Pause for reflection: What can you do to make an impact as Salt? Organize with like minded people in your church to form a Culture Impact Team. Participate in the debate by writing a letter to the editor about a local moral issue or e-mailing your Congressman about a national moral issue. Start a petition drive on a significant moral issue. Serve on the school board, city council, or run for public office. Volunteer in a pregnancy crisis center, a homeless shelter, a soup kitchen, a senior center. Be a scout leader, a coach, a foster parent, or adoptive parent, etc. Participate in a peaceful protest against abortion on the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade like the March for Life. Contribute (above your tithe) to worthy organizations that are making a positive impact. Take part in the National Day of Prayer. Support and vote for the candidates who best represent biblical morality and principles. The list is endless... what do you plan to do to sprinkle some salt on your world?

Light

Light is also the essence of what we are to do and to be as Christ followers. The Bible tells us plainly that God is love and that God is light (1 John 1:5; 4:16). Jesus said of Himself: "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). Light reveals, light exposes, light illumines, light guides, light warms, light penetrates and conquers the darkness.

Light is essential to life. The light of the sun powers the food chain. It is essential to the process of photosynthesis that enables plants to grow which in turn become our food and food for the animals we use for food. Life cannot exist without light. Again, this points out how indispensable our influence is in the world. Scientifically speaking, light is energy, and energy is the ability to do work. When the light of Jesus Christ shines, things begin to happen. Sin is exposed. The Way of salvation is revealed. Truth is proclaimed. Life is transformed. Light has a tremendous influence, but I want to focus on two areas in particular.

Light reveals. John described Jesus as "the true light that gives light to every man coming into the world." Jesus is the great revealer of truth because He is Truth. Light brings revelation: sometimes negative (exposing sin), sometimes positive (exposing truth). God's word is a flaming torch of divine revelation. The Psalmist said: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). Yet our generation stumbles in the darkness asking: "What is truth?" Our age is "ever learning but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:7), so much so that the vast majority of Americans now believe Satan's lie: "There is no such thing as absolute

truth." In other words: Truth for you may not be truth for me, truth is in the eye of the beholder.

Chuck Colson brilliantly relates the quest for truth back to the Christian worldview:

Genuine Christianity is a way of seeing and comprehending all reality. It is a worldview. The scriptural basis for this understanding is in the creation account, where God spoke everything into being out of nothing (see Gen. 1 and John 1:1-14). Everything that exists came into being at his command and is therefore subject to him, finding its purpose and meaning in him. The implication is that in every topic we investigate, from ethics to economy, to ecology, the truth is found only in relationship to God and his revelation, God created the natural world and natural laws. God created our bodies and the moral laws that keep us healthy. God created our minds and the laws of logic and imagination. God created us as social beings and gave us the principles for social and political institutions. God created the world of beauty and the principles of aesthetics and artistic creation. In every area of life, genuine knowledge means discerning the laws and ordinances by which God has structured creation, and then allowing those laws to shape the way we should live. As the church fathers used to say, all truth is God's truth.

What's more, that comprehensive truth is embodied in Christ, who is our Savior and yet also much more. In the first chapter of John, Christ is called the logos (John 1:1). In the Greek, logos literally means the idea, the word, the rational pattern of creation, the logical order of the universe. The apostle Paul expands on this: "For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible...; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together" (Col. 1:16-17). Jesus himself is the word that God spoke to create the world... Jesus is the origin and end of all things, the Alpha and the Omega. Nothing has meaning apart from him. Nothing exists apart from him. He is the agent of creation, author of all that is and ever will be. Christ is Lord over all of creation, from the human soul to the vast reaches of the cosmos (see Ps. 2; 8; 110; Phil. 2:5-11). When we truly grasp this, we are compelled to see that the Christian faith cannot be reduced to John 3:16 or simple formulas. Christianity cannot be limited to only one component of our lives, a mere religious practice or observance, or even a salvation experience. We are compelled to see Christianity as the all-encompassing truth, the root of everything else. It is ultimate reality.⁶

In our day, we need to let people know that truth is not what I say it is, truth is not what you think it is. Truth is what God's word says it is. Jesus prayed to the Father: "Your word is truth!" (John 17:17). God's word has the answer to every moral crisis we face as a nation. Do you want to know the truth about abortion? The Bible says that God hates the shedding of innocent blood (Prov. 6:17). Do you want to know the truth about homosexuality? The Bible says it is an abomination to the Lord (Lev. 18:22). Do you

want to know the truth about why our education system is failing and why SAT scores are falling and why we have kids killing kids and babies having babies? We've kicked the Light of the world out of the classroom. Psalm 119:130 says: "The unfolding of your words gives light!" We need to be defenders and revealers of the truth. We are to be that light that shines on the path that leads up and out of the darkness and the deception of sin.

Light overcomes. John 1:5 speaks of Christ and says: "The light shineth in the darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not" (KJV). Some understood the light and some did not. Why? Choice. Some agnostics can't understand Christ for the same reason a thief can't find a policeman--they don't want to. However, the KJV does not do John 1:5 justice. The RSV is better: "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." Could not extinguish it (NLT). Could not put it out. All the darkness of this world and of hell itself could not and cannot put out the light of Jesus Christ!

You are the light. Being light is our responsibility as Christ followers. Jesus said: "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12), and then He passed the torch to the Church and said: "You are the light of the world" (Matt. 5:14-16). It is a fundamental principle that we must impact our world as Jesus did, and be lights in the darkness. Literally, v 14 reads: "You and you alone are the light of the world." God is depending on you and me to shine His light in this sin darkened world. We can't pass the buck to anybody else. It is our exclusive responsibility. If we don't shine, who is going to? It is our duty, our privilege, our exclusive responsibility.

It is also an inclusive responsibility. This verse can read: "You, all of you, are the light of the world." There are no pinch hitters, no hired guns in the kingdom of God. Nobody can do it for you. You, every one of you, are the light of the world. I have a sphere of influence you could never have. You have a sphere of influence that I could never have. So the responsibility to reach these people rests squarely upon each of us and all of us. Now I realize this may be intimidating, but God gives all of us certain talents and abilities according to His divine purpose for our lives. You may not have the passion of a Luther, the brilliance of a Calvin, the eloquence of a Spurgeon, the faith of a Mueller, the zeal of a Moody, or the renown of a Billy Graham--but you can shine where God has placed you.

You say: "Well I'm not much, I can't speak well, I can't sing, I don't have a lot of money, I'm not all that smart or gifted." It does not matter-- just let your light shine! Remember, it is not your light, it is His light anyway! God has calibrated your watts. So whether you are a candle glowing softly in a home or a laser beam that can cut the gates of hell off at the hinge, turn on the light! You are important to God or He wouldn't have brought you into this world. God has made an investment in you. He has given you talents and abilities that He expects for you to use to bring Him glory.

Chuck Colson tells about Ron Greer, an ex-offender who once hated all white people, but was radically saved and is now a pastor in Madison, Wisconsin: "Greer was dismissed from his regular job at a fire department for passing out Christian tracts describing homosexuality as a sin. Madison's homosexual activists were enraged and stormed into Greer's church, disrupting the service, throwing condoms at the altar, and shouting obscenities. Ron Greer responded by graciously inviting them to join in the worship service. Later, when the press asked how he had kept his cool, he smiled and said: "I have no more reason to be angry with them than I would with a blind man who stepped on my foot." Precisely. Most of those who object to Christianity are simply spiritually blind and our job is to lovingly bring them into the light."⁷

Light of the world. Don't miss *where* Jesus wants us to make an impact as light. It is the world. One of our greatest obstacles in the Contemporary Church is that the greatest concentration of salt and light is in the Church Building from nine until noon on Sunday morning. I say again, Jesus didn't call us to be the salt of the Sunday School and the light of the Church, but the salt of the earth and the light of the world. The "world" means out in the businesses, the classrooms, the halls of government, the school boards, the neighborhoods and communities—that is where we retard the rot and dispel the darkness. So we need to understand that the Church is not primarily the place of ministry, it is the base of ministry.

Even as Jesus spoke these words, 100 miles to the south near the Dead Sea was the Qumran Community, which produced the Dead Sea Scrolls that were discovered back in 1948. The Qumran Community was made up of men and women who had left Jerusalem and retreated to the desert near the Dead Sea. They said: "We're going to save Jerusalem by getting out of Jerusalem and starting a commune out here in the desert." One of their teachers even wrote a book called the "Sons of Light" about a battle between the sons of light and the sons of darkness. Jesus may well have had these folks in the back of his mind when he spoke these words, for you see it is not by removing ourselves from the world that we can retard the rot and dispel the darkness—it is the very opposite. Our Lord said: "You are to go back to the very world I called you out of and there you are to be salt and light."

Certainly, these are dark days in America. The Bible says that "men love the darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19). Homosexual activists, pro-abortion zealots and opponents of Christianity have joined forces. With the help of the education establishment, hostile media, and entertainment industry together with liberal interest groups (i.e., ACLU, ASCS, PFAW, etc.) and especially the liberal judges who are undermining the Judeo-Christian ethic day by day, they have succeeded in bringing down the light of truth and reason found in God's word, and have plunged our nation in moral darkness. Arnold J. Toynbee, in his multi-volume *Study of History*, concluded that the average civilization was 200 years old when it collapsed. He demonstrated

clearly that out of the previous 21 civilizations that 19 of them were destroyed from within--by atheism, anarchy, materialism, socialism, immorality, etc. America is well over 200 years old, and it may be that the closing chapters if this once great nation are being written today because they are being dominated by the prince of darkness and because there is an appalling absence of light. The sun seems to be setting on America.

Our problem is that we are beginning to get used to the darkness. Several years ago, my dad and I were traveling out to Wyoming for some fly fishing and stopped in Ft. Collins, Colorado. We were hungry when we got there, so we went to a restaurant not far from the motel. We walked out of the bright summer sun and into a steak house where they apparently "loved darkness rather than light." We stumbled into the dim dining area, fumbled for a chair, grumbled that we needed a flashlight to read the menu, and when the food arrived, we ate by faith and not by sight. But you know something, the longer we sat there, the more clearly we could see. They hadn't turned on any more light. We were simply getting used to the dark.

Unfortunately, many Christians are getting used to the dark. There is a slow, subtle, sinister brainwashing process going on whereby we are gradually being desensitized to the dimming conditions of our culture. Little by little, sin has been made to appear less sinful. No more black and white, just a dingy shade of gray. So much so that many in the church today are calling "broad-minded tolerance" what is really peaceful co-existence with evil. There can be no fellowship between light and darkness. There can be no agreement between good and evil. When the world wants you to be broad-minded and tolerant, what they actually want you to do is crucify your conscience and compromise with evil. In this dark day, it is time to take a stand. It is time we stop cursing the darkness and turn on the light! It is time we stop whining and start shining!

Light is not to be hidden. We are to impact our world like light, but I'm afraid that too many Christians suffer from photophobia--they are afraid to shine. They are so fearful of being offensive that they are no longer effective in making a difference in the culture. So they would rather grieve the Holy Spirit than grieve the godless. In fact, many have chosen to become Undercover Christians and Secret Disciples. Notice v 15. Palestinian house usually had only one window, about 18 inches square, if it had one at all. The lamp was a clay boat filled with oil with a floating wick, usually held up by a branch. The bowl spoken of here is an earthenware grain measure. The point is simple: You would not light a lamp just to put it under a clay jar--you don't obscure the light if you want to see. That is silly, it is absurd, it is senseless.

Neither does it make sense to say in your heart: "I belong to Jesus, the Light of the world, and I know He wants me to be a light in my world," and then to deny it by our words and deeds. When you were saved, you were saved to shine! Are you ashamed to share your love for Jesus Christ who loved you so much that He went to the cross for

you? He didn't keep His love for you a secret. He wasn't ashamed to die for you. Do people know that you are a follower of Christ or are you hiding your light under a bowl?

In v 14b he says: A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. What you are and who you are is ultimately self-evident. It is an eternal principle that the essence of what you are and who you are will eventually come out. Ralph Waldo Emerson coined the familiar phrase that "What you are screams so loudly that I cannot hear what you say." Our Lord seated on a hill overlooking the Sea of Galilee probably pointed over at the hill top city of Safed that had a beautiful white washed wall that was visible for miles around. And the point he's making is this: "If you're salt, it will come out. If you're light, it will shine." So don't cower in the darkness--turn on the light!

How do we turn on the light? Look at v 16a. Literally, it says: "Let your light shine in their very faces." Now this is not talking about a kind of Academy Award religion, putting on a show to be seen of men. That is not what Jesus had in mind. Notice he says: "Let your light shine." That involves surrender. Let it happen. See when you get right with God by repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, and when Jesus becomes your Lord, and when you are filled with the controlling influence of the Holy Spirit, you don't have to make yourself shine, you will shine. You don't have to force it, fake it, or manufacture it, just let it happen. If you force it, it will cause a glare and not a glow. Be like Moses who went up on the mountain, and met with God day after day. So much so that the glory of God was reflected in his face, and when he came down the people were terrified. However, he was oblivious to the shine. As the KJV puts it: "He wist not that the skin of his face shone" (Ex. 34:29). He didn't force it, fake it or manufacture it. He just let it happen. Spend time with the eternal Light and you will shine too!

Then notice verse 16b. The word translated as "good" means winsome, attractive, deeds of such pristine moral and spiritual beauty that all who see them will be compelled to give glory to God. I think our Lord had the kind of life He described in the Beatitudes. The kind of life He described in the rest of the Sermon on the Mount. The kind of life He Himself lived. It was a life of winsome, attractive, beautiful deeds that compelled people to give glory to God.

Impacting our world as Light is the essence of the Great Commission. We send missionaries to the foreign mission field, and so we should. We need to share the light of the Gospel with those in darkness. However, need I remind you that America is in darkness? America is a mission field. We need to view ourselves as missionaries. And we need to work our mission field using the same methods a foreign missionary would use in a third world country. What method does a foreign missionary use? First, he learns to communicate; he learns the native language. The only way to do that is to live among the people and establish relationships with them. In other words, he doesn't spend all of his time with fellow missionaries. He studies the spiritual beliefs of the people and learns to demonstrate the superiority of Christ and the Christian faith. And

while he may not have many successes at first, sometimes taking months or even years to win the first convert, he realizes it is not his job to be successful, just to be faithful-- God will give the increase.

Turning on the light in our world requires a similar approach. We need to be able to communicate biblical truth in terms that the secular person can understand. We need to get a handle on the spiritual beliefs or lack thereof and show how Christianity is both a superior world-view and way of life. And as much as we enjoy Christian fellowship, we cannot win the lost until we get out among them. We need to form intentional relationships with unbelievers for the purpose of bringing them to Jesus Christ. Do you know some people who are unsaved or unchurched? Love them enough to pray for them, invite them to dinner, take them a desert, drive them to the doctor, keep their kids, pick up their mail, mow their lawn when they are on vacation, etc. Then strike up a conversation about spiritual matters, and let your light shine! Jesus rubbed shoulders with sinners, and we need to do the same for He is our example. He was a beacon of light to those who were stumbling in darkness and now He has passed the torch to us. You are the light of your workplace, your classroom, your community, the light of this world.

Examples abound of people who were lights in their dark world, especially from the time before Communism fell in Eastern Europe. One of the brighter examples of faith was in Romania. You may remember that President Nicolae Ceausescu declared that apple trees would grow pears before socialism would end in Romania. Just weeks later, Ceausescu lay dead and the government was overthrown. The end began in the house of a Protestant pastor whose parishioners surrounded him to protect him from the state police. The pastor was from the city of Timisoara and his name was Laszlo Tokes. At first hundreds, then thousands of people surrounded the pastor's house to defend him.

One of those was a 24 year-old Baptist church worker whose name was Daniel Garva. He got the idea of distributing candles to the ever-growing crowd, thus transforming a protective strategy into a contagious demonstration. That demonstration was the beginning of the end of the communist government. The next day the secret police opened fire on the people. A young girl standing next to Daniel Garva was shot, and while he attempted to comfort her as she lay dying on the sidewalk he, too, was shot in the leg. They took Daniel to what passed for a hospital in Romania, but the bone in his leg was too badly shattered and the doctors had to amputate the leg. When his pastor came to visit him in the hospital, Daniel quickly realized the pastor was trying to console him for his loss. But Daniel stopped him, saying, "I lost a leg, but I am happy. I lit the first light."⁵

Again, don't curse the darkness, turn on the light! Don't whine, shine! Let us take this nation back from the brink of total darkness to the Light of the Gospel--one heart at a time, one home at a time, one city at a time! Let your light so shine before men that

they will see your good works and praise your Father in Heaven until the light of the glory of the Lord covers the earth as the waters cover the sea!

Question for reflection: In every relationship, every encounter, are you dispelling the darkness? Or are you obscuring your witness and rendering it ineffective? Are you a Closet Christian, a Secret Disciple? Jesus said: "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven" (Matt. 10:32-33). He wasn't ashamed to die for you; can you continue to be ashamed to live for Him? Let your light shine!

Salt and Light—Together

Christians must function both as Salt and Light if we would make the impact Jesus intended. Dr. Richard Land offers a brilliant summary of why Salt and Light must work together:

The idea that there are two Gospels, a social Gospel and a spiritual Gospel, was hatched in the pits of hell. There is only one Gospel and it is a whole Gospel for whole people. It is a denial of the Gospel for Christians to seek to feed the hungry and not tell people about the bread of life. It is a denial of the Gospel to seek to house the homeless and not tell them that in our father's house are many mansions. It dishonors the incarnation of our Savior to talk about the bread of life and heaven and be insensitive to the fact that our hearers are hungry and homeless and thirsty.

Jesus has commanded Christians to be both salt and light. Salt is defensive in that it stops the decay and the degradation. Light is offensive: it dispels the darkness and illuminates the path. There are limitations to what the law can do. You can't legislate revival or reformation. However, if revival and reformation occur, they will be reflected in legislation and society's values.

The salt of the law can change actions, but it's only the light of the Gospel that can change attitudes. The salt of the law can change behaviors, but only the light of the Gospel can change beliefs. The salt of the law can change habits, but only the light of the Gospel can change hearts.

Here is the way it's supposed to work. We as Christians share our faith and, when people come to know Jesus as Savior, their worldviews should change. When those with biblically informed worldviews reach critical mass, they then can begin to influence legislation. That's not called a theocracy, that's called the democratic process. It's the way slavery was eventually abolished. It's the way racial segregation was banished from the law. And it's the way Christians can

restore once again to America a biblically based legal system that protects all human life from conception to natural death and everywhere in between.⁸

Being Salt and Light is not an “either/or” it is a “both/and” proposition. If we exercise our influence in the proper balance, we can make a tremendous impact for the Kingdom of God.

Christian Citizenship

We have talked about our impact as Salt and Light, but are there some specific responsibilities that Christians have as Citizens of America? Yes. God established three institutions: the family, the church, and the civil government. Paul states in Rom. 13:1 that “the (governmental) authorities that exist have been established by God.” Therefore we are responsible to the divine institution of government. Jesus put it this way: “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s” (Matt. 22:21). Here are some specific responsibilities:⁸

Pray for your Government. Paul admonished: “I urge then first of all that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth” (1Tim. 2:1-4). We are to pray for our president, our congressmen, our judges, our governors, our mayors, our councilmen, our law enforcement officials, etc.—for all who have a place of authority. We don’t pray that they would continue in their wickedness, but we do pray that God would give them wisdom--wisdom to lead our nation according to Judeo-Christian principles rooted in biblical authority. Above all we pray that they would come to Christ and be saved (v 4). It is only through a relationship with Jesus as Lord that they will lead in such a way that we as believers can live “peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness” (v 2).

Pay respect to your Government. Peter instructed: “Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king who is the supreme authority or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right... Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king” (1 Peter 2:13-14, 17). The Greek word for “submit” means to fall in rank under an authority. Government exists to keep order, and we must submit to the rule of law. Peter says that the authorities are commissioned to punish wrongdoers and commend the do-gooders (v 14; cf. Rom. 13:2-5). Then Peter says that we are to show these authorities respect (v 17).

Sometimes respecting our government is a tall order. However, if we think it is bad in our day, just think about who was in charge when Peter wrote this: Nero. Ever noticed that we name our sons Peter and our dogs Nero? Nero wasn’t exactly a boy scout.

Indeed, Nero was a brutal, wicked ruler who was probably responsible for the deaths of both Peter and Paul. Yet, God's word says that we are to respect the governmental authority, for if we rebel against it, we are in fact rebelling against the God who ordained it (Rom. 13:1-2). We may not have much respect for the man of the office, but we must respect the office of the man.

Now there is a time for civil disobedience. However, that should come only as a last resort, after all other solutions have been tried and all other avenues exhausted, especially in America, which was founded upon Christian principles and biblical laws. However, if the government commands what God condemns, then you are obligated to disobey. When Pharaoh commanded that all the male Hebrew babies were to be put to death at the moment of birth, the midwives responded with civil disobedience, and God blessed them for it (Ex. 2:15-21). When the King Darius made a law against praying to anyone but himself, Daniel responded with civil disobedience, and God blessed him by delivering him from the lions (Dan. 6:1-23). When the Christians in Asia Minor were commanded to burn a pinch of incense and swear: "Caesar is Lord," they refused, threw their incense to the ground in defiance and declared: "Christ is Lord!" Jesus commended them for their civil disobedience (Rev. 2:8-10; 2:13). Finally, the same Peter who wrote that we should submit to the government's authority and respect the king is the same Peter who boldly told the religious rulers of his day who ordered him to stop preaching Jesus: "We must obey God rather than men!" (Acts 5:29).

Pay taxes to your Government. Paul spoke of the government's responsibility to punish evildoers and instructed: "This is why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing" (Rom. 13:6). Be honest. This one hurts, especially come Tax Time. However, when Jesus was asked about paying taxes, He commanded that we are to give to Caesar what is Caesar's" (Matt. 22:21), and He also led by example (Matt. 17:24-27).

Admittedly, there is a lot of waste and questionable spending, especially by the current regime in Washington. Like the Titanic, we have hit an iceberg, we are taking on water, we are still afloat, so some people are still having fun throwing snow balls on the deck, but we are about to drown under a sea of debt and rising taxes unless drastic measures are taken, and the first one is to stop the spending and borrowing against our children's future. The Bible says: "Let no debt remain outstanding..." (Rom. 13:8), but we are amassing debt at an unsustainable rate. Now I know what you are thinking, you've complained but the politicians aren't listening, they don't care, and they are going to do it anyway. But the great thing about America is that if we don't like the way our public officials are spending our hard earned money, we can vote for change, to borrow a phrase.

However, when we think with a cool head for a moment, we actually do benefit from some of the goods and services provided by the government. First of all, we have the

greatest military force in the world and the finest young men and women serving in it. We have law enforcement, roads, schools, libraries, and parks, etc. So pay your taxes but hold your elected officials accountable for how they spend them.

Participate in your Government. In America, we have a representative form of government, but you are a part of it. Our government is a “government of the people, by the people, and for the people.” Therefore, if you do not actively participate, then you are not fulfilling the totality of Jesus’ command to render to Caesar (Matt. 22:21). It does not make sense that God would ordain something (e.g., government), and then tell His people to stay out of it. No. God expects us to get involved. After all, if Christians retreat from this arena, then we have allowed Satan to prevail in the very place where Jesus commanded us to make an impact as salt and light.

There are many forms of participation, such as running for office, campaigning for a candidate, volunteering for the election commission, conducting voter registration, commenting on proposed legislation, etc. Perhaps the most basic form of participation is voting. The sad fact is that only about 1 out of 4 professing Christians vote in a given election. Some would say, “What’s the difference, my one vote doesn’t really count.” Can one vote make a difference? Yes, it can!

- In 1801, one vote in the U.S. House broke the tie between presidential candidates Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr. By the way, Burr was later charged with treason!
- In 1839, one vote made Marcus Morton governor of Massachusetts and earned him the nickname “Landslide.”
- In 1868, one vote saved President Andrew Johnson from being removed from office.
- In 1876, one vote in the Electoral College gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency.
- In 1941, one vote extended the active service provision in the Selective Service Act (Draft) just four months before the attack on Pearl Harbor.
- In 2000, we had one of the most closely contested presidential elections in American history, and some people are still arguing about who won!

Your vote can and does make a difference. So you need to study each candidate’s character, not just his credentials, his positions not just his politics, his principles, not just his party, and weigh each candidate over against God’s word, then vote for the one who most closely represents your Christian values.

Persuade your Government. Decisions are being made by our government on the great moral issues of our day, so we cannot afford to be silent. The Bible says that “You who love the Lord hate evil” (Ps. 97:10) and again, “Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!” (Ps. 107:2). God urged his people: “Shout it aloud! Do not hold back! Raise your voice

like a trumpet! Declare to my people their rebellion, and to the house of Jacob their sins (Isa. 58:1). Moses warned Pharaoh. Nathan confronted King David. Elijah brought accusations against King Ahab. Daniel pronounced judgment on King Nebuchadnezzar. John the Baptist pointed out the sins of King Herod. We must let our voices be heard in the same way. Aligning yourself too closely with a political party or even a politician is unwise, because you need to be free to call all political parties and politicians to repentance when they step outside of biblical morality and principle. As Salt and Light, we are to irritate the rottenness and illumine the darkness. We must make every attempt to persuade our government of the truths of God's word as applied to culture and society.

After our Founding Fathers unanimously approved the Declaration of Independence, and it was later signed, there was a call to celebrate – to fire cannons, to fill the sky with fireworks, and to ring the bells in celebration! And the very first bell they rang was in the belfry of the very hall where they approved the Declaration of Independence to summon the people to hear the first public reading of America's founding document. They rang that bell—we know it as the "Liberty Bell." Where did it get its name? From July the fourth? From the Declaration of Independence? No. The name comes from the Scripture that imprinted on that bell years earlier - Lev. 25:10 - which says: "Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof!" And that is the mission of every believer: to let freedom ring!

Freedom will ring louder, freedom will ring clearer, if Christians all across America will do these 5 things and "give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." Just imagine the impact Christians could have on the direction of our government, the character of its leadership, and the moral health of our nation if we all simply applied biblical principles to every aspect of our lives—including our patriotic duty as Citizen Christians.

¹ A seminal work is that of Francis Schaeffer, *A Christian Manifesto* (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1981). For an excellent recent treatment of the subject, see David K. Naugle, *Worldview: The History of a Concept* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002).

² "A Biblical Worldview Has a Radical Effect on a Person's Life," Barna Research Online, 12-1-03 posting. The site contained this notation: "The data described above are from telephone interviews with a nationwide random sample of 2033 adults conducted during September through November 2003. The maximum margin of sampling error associated with the aggregate sample is ± 2.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level." See also George Barna's book, *Think Like Jesus* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2003).

³ Ibid.

⁴ A term popularized by D. James Kennedy. See his book *Led By the Carpenter* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1999), 4-8.

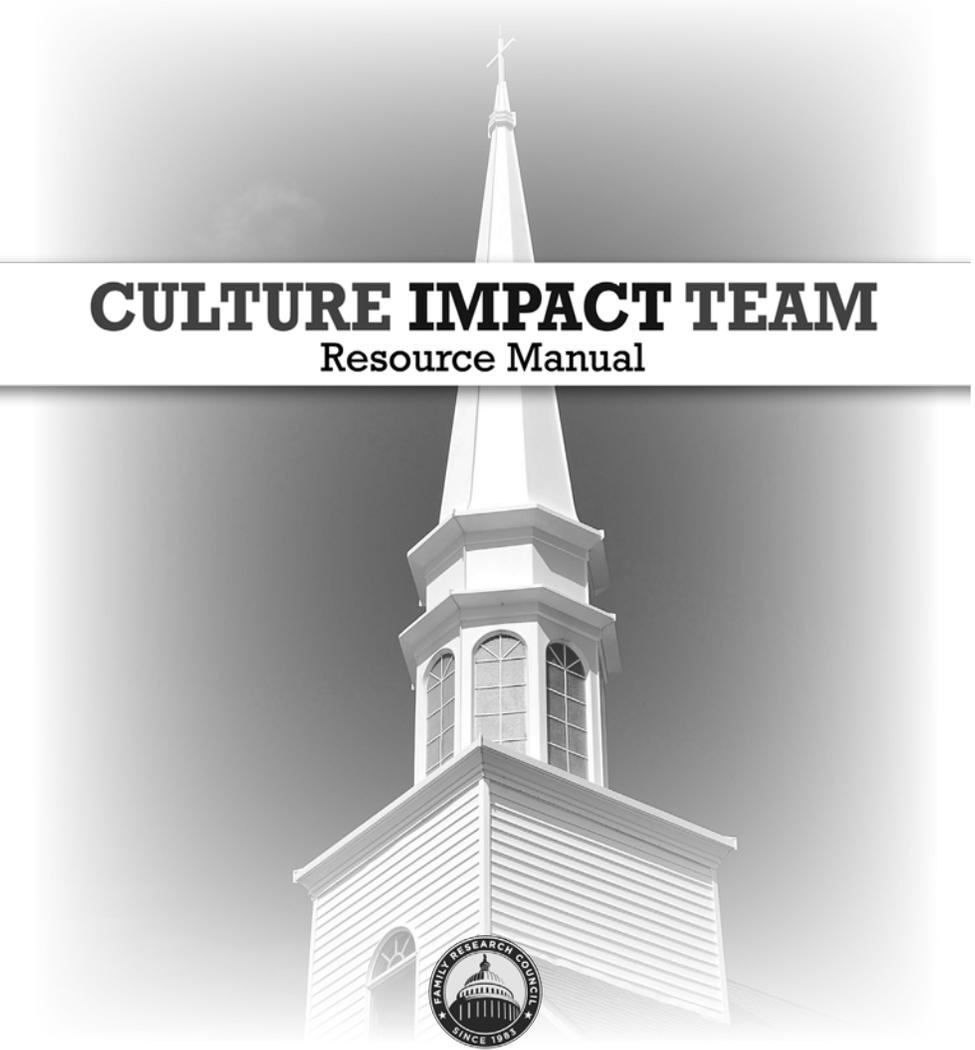
⁵ Paul Hoffman quoted in "Front Line Reports," *The Salt and Light Solution* (Fort Lauderdale: Coral Ridge Ministries, 1999), 52-54.

⁶ Colson, *How Now Shall We Live*, 15.

⁷ Chuck Colson and Nancy Pearcey, *How Now Shall We Live?* (Wheaton: Tyndale, 1999), 32-33. The Church Father Augustine wrote: "Why does truth call forth hatred? Why is Your servant treated as an

enemy by those to whom he preaches the truth, if happiness is love, which is simply joy in truth? Simply because truth is loved in such a way that those who love some other thing want it to be the truth, and, precisely because they do not wish to be deceived, are unwilling to be convinced that they are deceived. Thus they hate the truth for the sake of that other thing which they love because they take it for truth. They love the truth when it enlightens them, they hate truth when it accuses them. Because they do not wish to be deceived and do wish to deceive, they love truth when it reveals itself, and hate it when it reveals them." Augustine, *Confessions*, trans. Frank Sheed (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1993), 191.

⁸ Richard Land, *For Faith & Family* (Nashville: B&H Publishing, 2002), 195-196.



CULTURE IMPACT TEAM
Resource Manual

How to Establish a Ministry at Your Church

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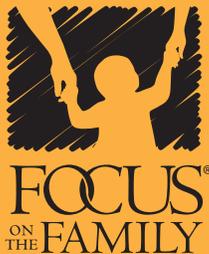
**VOTER
REGISTRATION**

**Focus on the Family®
Family Research Council**

Voter Resource Guide

**By Dr. Kenyn Cureton
Preface by Tony Perkins**

Impact Your Future





About the Author

A Pastor for nearly 20 years and a pioneer leader in the Values Voter movement, Dr. Kenyn Cureton has also served as Vice President for Convention Relations with the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee. He currently serves as Vice President for Church Ministries with the Family Research Council in Washington, DC.

www.iVoteValues.org

Developed for:



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FOR **Faith & Family**

www.faithandfamily.com

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of the Southern Baptist Convention

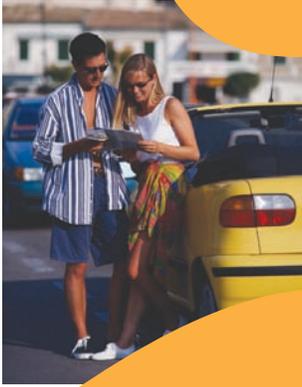


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Preface

Voting is a simple act with a significant impact. Americans are blessed to have a representative form of government. As Abraham Lincoln put it, ours is a “government of the people, by the people, and for the people.”¹ When we vote, we help determine who will lead our nation, make our laws, and protect our freedoms.

“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.”

—Samuel Adams²

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. In fact, many are not even registered to vote. Of those who are registered, roughly half don't vote in a given election, giving up the opportunity to help determine our nation's leadership and therefore our future.

Americans may offer many reasons for their choice of whether or not to vote and their choice of candidates when they do vote, but Americans of faith have a compelling motivation: the Commands of Christ. Jesus said: “You are the Salt of the earth...the Light of the world (Matt. 5:13-16), and “Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's” (Matt. 22:21). Christ's instruction has many life applications for Christian citizens of America. Among them are: registering to vote, encouraging others to do the same, and then voting His values.

This Voter Resource Guide is designed to help equip you for voter registration, education, and action. In it you will find answers to frequently asked questions, legal do's and don'ts, practical “How To” help on a number of action steps, and a reference section full of helpful resources. Consider sharing a copy of this resource with other Christians who share your values. Also, check out our website at www.iVoteValues.org.

Remember, how you vote today impacts tomorrow!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Perkins". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'T'.

Tony Perkins,
President of the Family Research Council

Why Bother?

When it comes to Christians getting involved in the political process and voting, many wonder: “Why bother?” That is a valid question based on some assumptions they may have. Check out the Q & A below. Who knows, you just might help change some minds.

Q: Do Christians have a responsibility to participate in politics?

Yes. God established three institutions: the family, the church, and the civil government. Paul states in Romans 13:1 that “the (governmental) authorities that exist have been established by God.” Therefore we are responsible to the divine institution of government. Christians should always submit to the governing authorities, unless the government forbids what God requires (Dan. 6; Matt. 22:5-22; Rom. 13:1-8; Acts 4:18-31; 5:17-29; 1 Pet. 2:13-17).

“When the government condones what God condemns, we must obey God rather than men.”
- the late Adrian Rogers, Pastor and Author

The principle of submission to governing authorities includes not only obeying the laws of the land, but it also includes participating in government at all levels possible. Think about it. Since God established government, would He then tell His people to stay out of it? No. God expects us to get involved. Jesus put it this way: “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s” (Matt. 22:21).

Q: I’ve always heard “separation of church and state,” so as a Christian shouldn’t I steer clear of political involvement?

It may come as a surprise, but the phrase “separation of church and state” is found nowhere in our U.S. Constitution and specifically in the First Amendment, which reads: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” Separation of church and state as established by modern courts is based on a misreading of a personal letter from Thomas Jefferson to a group of Baptists written



“ It is unconscionable that so many Christians today have concluded that it is somehow immoral to ‘get political.’ I don’t believe the Founding Fathers intended to exclude people of faith from the process. There is not a scrap of evidence to indicate such. ”

- James Dobson, Psychologist and Author

to assure them that there was a “wall of separation” protecting their religious liberty from government interference.

In fact, the vast majority of America’s Founding Fathers were professing Christians and would never have agreed with how our modern courts have re-interpreted the First Amendment—which was originally intended to guarantee, not take away, our freedom of religious expression. The Speaker of the House for the First Federal Congress, Frederick Muhlenberg, also a Lutheran pastor, signed the very Bill of Rights that includes that First Amendment protecting those freedoms. Christians have been involved in government from the founding of our nation and God expects no less of us today.

Remember, we have a representative form of government. Ours is a “government of the people, by the people, and for the people.” Therefore, 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). After all, if Christians retreat from this arena, then we have allowed Satan to prevail in a place where Christ commanded us to make an impact as the salt and light (Matt. 5:13-16).

Q: How can I get involved and make an impact?

There are many ways we can participate in government, such as commenting on proposed legislation, volunteering for the election commission, conducting voter registration, campaigning for a godly candidate, running for office, etc. Obviously the most basic form of participation is voting. America’s Founding Fathers viewed voting as a great privilege and responsibility. So should we. Why not register to vote, encourage your friends to do the same, and then vote your values? Remember, how you vote today impacts tomorrow!

“ *The same Jesus who multiplied the young lad's loaves and fishes will be faithful to multiply the efforts of those of us who honor His name in the political arena.* ”

- James Dobson, Psychologist and Author

Q: Does my vote really matter?

Yes! Consider the following examples :

- > In 1801, one vote in the U.S. House broke the tie between presidential candidates Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr. By the way, Burr was later charged with treason!
- > In 1839, one vote made Marcus Morton governor of Massachusetts and earned him the nickname “Landslide.”
- > In 1868, one vote saved President Andrew Johnson from being removed from office.
- > In 1876, one vote in the Electoral College gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency.
- > In 1941, one vote extended the active service provision in the Selective Service Act (Draft) just four months before the attack on Pearl Harbor.
- > In 2000, we had one of the most closely contested presidential elections in American history, and some people are still arguing about who won!

The point is this: Your vote can make a tremendous difference!



“ *Elections belong to the people. It is their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters.* ”

- Abraham Lincoln,
U. S. President

Q: All the candidates sound the same, is there any real difference?

It may seem that there's not much difference between candidates. However, many times there is a radical difference when it comes to a candidate's positions on life, family, and freedom issues, such as:

- > Abortion Rights (cleverly disguised as "pro-choice," but in reality it's "pro-death")
- > Bio-Medical Issues (e.g., cloning, harvesting stem cells from human embryos which in fact kills pre-born babies, etc.).
- > Euthanasia (i.e., right-to-die movement, physician-assisted suicide, etc.)
- > Gambling (e.g., lottery, casinos, video poker-which especially hurt the poor who participate, encourage crime, etc.)
- > Homosexual Agenda (i.e., the push to normalize, legitimize, and legalize homosexuality through same-sex marriage, same-sex adoption rights, propaganda in public schools, legislation declaring it a civil right, etc.)
- > Religious Liberty (i.e., freedom of expression in government institutions, schools, etc. when it comes to the Ten Commandment displays, nativity scenes, voluntary prayer, religious speech, etc.)

Know what the candidates stand for. Closer to the election, visit www.iVoteValues.org and find out by clicking on "Whose Values", then on "Candidate's Values" for links to helpful websites outlining candidate positions on a wide range of issues.

“ *Don't get stuck on a politician's label. Look for candidates who promote decency, accountability, and responsibility framed within biblical standards.* **”**

- Richard Land, President, *For Faith & Family*

Q: Does the office of President have any real influence on the direction of our nation?

Yes. Consider the fact that the person elected President will appoint Federal Judges, and perhaps Supreme Court Justices, who will serve for life and

“ Obviously, more is at stake than merely the influence of chief-executive policy for a four-year term — judicial appointments made by the president can directly impact our culture and our families for half a lifetime or more. ”

- James Dobson, Psychologist and Author

influence faith and family issues for a generation to come.

Consider the power and the reach of the Judiciary in the following examples:

- > The Federal Appeals Court which ruled that public school students' recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional because it contains two words: "Under God."
- > "The U.S. Supreme Court declared state laws against sodomy as unconstitutional and laid the foundation for homosexuals to receive special civil rights protections.

Think about it. How you vote today can have a huge impact on tomorrow!

Q: What would Jesus do on Election Day?

If he was an American citizen, what do you think Jesus would do on Election Day? Would Jesus vote? Or would he stay home? If he did vote, which candidates would he support? Those are excellent questions...

We know that Jesus expects his followers to be salt and light in our culture (Matt. 5:13-16), and that he expects us to participate in government (Matt. 22:21). Based on his teachings, it would be safe to say that Jesus would register and vote. Shouldn't we do the same? Who would Jesus support with his vote? Don't you think he would he vote for the candidates that most closely represent his values? Isn't that what we should do on Election Day?

This resource is here to help you do what Jesus would do: register to vote, encourage others to do the same, vote your values, and pray for the election and the future of our nation—because how you vote today impacts tomorrow.

“ Those who vote blindly the traditional party loyalties of their families and regional origins instead of shared common core values, beliefs, and convictions are falling short in their roles as Citizen Christians. ”

- Richard Land, President, ERLC

1. Register To Vote

Now that you have a good idea why you need to do it, here's a Q & A on voter registration.

Q: Who May Register and Vote?

Anyone who meets the following requirements:

- > Must be a U.S. citizen.
- > Must be 18 years of age or older.
- > Must be registered to vote in the state where you officially live.
- > Must be of sound mind mentally.
- > Must not have been convicted of a felony resulting in the limitation of your civil rights.

Voting is a privilege that can be revoked. For example, some convicted felons have limitations placed upon them that disqualify them from voting until their sentence is served.

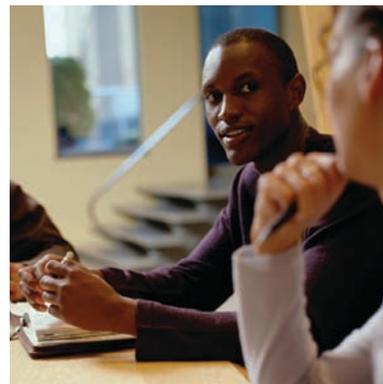
Q: How Do I Register to Vote?

Registering to vote is easy. The National Voter Registration Act allows U.S. citizens to register to vote by mail in most states.

Here are the three simple steps:

1. Obtain and complete the registration form (This can be done online at www.iVoteValues.org).
2. Print it, sign it, address it, and stamp it.
3. Mail it (or take it) to the election official in your state (See www.nass.org or www.fec.gov).

Remember, most states require that you register at least a month before Election Day to be eligible to vote in that election. However, this varies from state to state. Please check the voting laws in your state for specific details (see www.nass.org). You will be notified when you are registered. Then the election office should provide info as to where you can vote on Election Day.



You must be a United States citizen in order to vote.

Q: Should I Register or Re-Register?

- > If you have never registered before: Register.
- > If you just turned 18: Register.
- > If you just became a U.S. citizen or have dual citizenship in the U.S. and have not registered yet: Register.
- > If you are registered and want to change your political party affiliation: Re-Register.
- > If you are registered and have changed your marital status and/or changed your name: Re-Register.
- > If you are registered and have moved or changed your mailing address since the last time you registered: Re-Register.

Q: Do I Need a Voter I.D. Card?

Your Voter Registration Card contains all the necessary information you need to vote in local, state, and national elections:

- > Your Polling or Voting Place Address and Precinct Number.
- > Your U.S. Congressional District.
- > Your State Senate and House Districts.

In some states, you must have your Voter Registration Card with you in order to vote. Other states simply require a photo ID. Check with your state for specific details (see www.nass.org).

Voter Registration and Assistance

Contact Information: Federal Elections Commission
999 E Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20463
(800) 424 9530 or (202) 694 1100
or for the hearing impaired: (202) 219 3336
www.fabnit.com/nvra_update.pdf

- Links:
- > The National Mail Voter Registration Form
www.fec.gov/votregis/vr.htm
 - > Voting Assistance Guide
www.fvap.gov/for-voting-assistance-officers/vote-guide/index.html
 - > Absentee Voting Frequently Asked Questions
www.fvap.gov/faq/index.html

2. Register Your Friends

Christians who are already actively engaging their culture and participating in government often have reservations about leading others to join in and do the same. The reasons are understandable. You may have questions about what is legal or about how to do it. This section was designed with you in mind-to help answer your legal questions and show you how to multiply your impact through your friends, your church, and your community.

2 STEP 2: REGISTER A FRIEND.

Legal Guidelines

A Frequently Asked Question when it comes to political involvement is this: Is that legal? There are legal limits to what you may do, but your hands are not completely tied. In fact, you may be surprised at how much influence you can have. Unfortunately, many are confused about what is and what is not legal given the IRS restrictions on political activity by churches and other tax-exempt organizations. While it is impossible to lay out a definitive list of do's and don'ts since the IRS interprets what is and isn't legal, the resource below is offered for general guidelines:



Legal DOs and DON'Ts for Churches

- | | |
|---|------------|
| > Teaching on moral and social issues and civic involvement | Yes |
| > Endorsing or opposing political candidates | No |
| > Educate on political process and political/ social/legislative issues | Yes |
| > Contributions to Political Action Committees | No |
| > Distribution of candidate surveys and incumbent voting records (avoid editorial opinions and make sure they cover a wide range of issues) | Yes |
| > Church bulletin editorial where the pastor or staff member endorses or opposes a candidate | No |

- > Encourage members to voice their opinions in favor or in opposition to certain legislation ***Yes**
- > Campaigning for candidates **No**
- > Discuss biblical instruction pertaining to moral and cultural issues such as abortion, same-sex marriage, etc. **Yes**
- > Fundraising for candidates **No**
- > Support or oppose judicial, department, or cabinet appointments **Yes**
- > Granting use of name to support a political candidate **No**
- > Support or oppose other political appointments of non-elected officials **Yes**
- > Support or oppose judicial candidates **No**
- > Use of church facilities by political candidates (as long as all other candidates are allowed or invited) **Yes**
- > Contributions to political candidates **No**
- > In-kind and independent expenditures for or against political candidates **No**
- > Petition drives supporting or opposing legislation **Yes**
- > Support or oppose legislation unrelated to the church organization ***Yes**
- > Support or oppose legislation that directly relates to the organization ****Yes**
- > Engage in voter registration activities that avoid promoting any one candidate or particular political party. **Yes**

*Churches and other 501(c)(3) organizations may support or oppose legislation so long as such activity comprises an insubstantial part of the overall operation (5%-20% - ADF). 501(c)(4) organizations may support or oppose legislation without any limitations.

**A church or any other 501(c)(3) organization may without limitation support or oppose legislation that directly affects the organizational structure and operation. For example, a church may without limitation oppose legislation attempting to repeal the tax exempt status of the church.

Legal DOs and DON'Ts for Pastors

- > Preach on moral and social issues and encourage civic involvement. **Yes**
- > Endorse candidates on behalf of the church. **No**
- > Engage in voter registration activities that avoid promoting any one candidate or particular political party. **Yes**
- > Use church funds or services (such as mailing lists or office equipment) to contribute directly to candidates or political committees. **No**
- > Distribute educational materials to voters (such as voter guides), but only those that do not favor a particular candidate or party and that cover a wide range of issues. **Yes**
- > Permit the distribution of material on church premises that favors any one candidate or political party. **No**
- > Conduct candidate or issues forums where each duly qualified candidate invited and provided an equal opportunity to address the congregation. **Yes**
- > Use church funds to pay fees for political events. **No**
- > Set up a political committee that would contribute funds directly to political candidates. **No**
- > Allow candidates to solicit funds while speaking in a church. **No**
- > Invite candidates or elected officials to speak at church services. ***Yes**

*Churches that allow only one candidate or a single party's candidate to speak can be seen as favoring that candidate or party. No candidate should be prohibited from addressing a church if others running for the same office have been allowed to speak. Exempt from this are candidates or public figures who may speak at a church, but they must refrain from speaking about their candidacy.

Both Legal Guidelines Charts were adapted from resources provided by:

Alliance Defense Fund
15333 North Pima Road Suite 165
Scottsdale, Arizona 85260
Phone: 1-800-TELL-ADF; Fax: 480-444-0025
www.alliancedefensefund.org

American Center for Law and Justice
P.O. Box 64429
Virginia Beach, VA 23467
Phone: (757) 226-2489; Fax: (757) 226-2836
www.aclj.org

Liberty Counsel
P.O. Box 540774
Orlando, FL 32854
(800) 671 1776, (407) 875 2100; Fax: (407) 875 0770
liberty@lc.org, www.lc.org

 **How to Organize a Voter Registration Drive**

Christians can have a positive impact on elections and ultimately our nation's future. Elections determine our leaders, who in turn decide whether our nation honors biblical marriage, protects life in the womb and allows the freedom to express our faith in the public arena. Yet every election millions of Christians fail to exercise their rights and responsibilities as citizens. We can help our people obey Christ's command to participate in government (Matt. 22:21) by encouraging voter registration and voting Christian values. Here are five action steps:

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nation's future.***



Step 1: Ask:

Get permission from your pastor and church leadership so that you're under biblical authority. When asking, emphasize that voter registration is:

- **Biblical.** Selecting godly leaders is rooted in biblical principle (see Exod. 18:21; Prov. 29:2) and that process begins with registering to vote. Part of a pastor's responsibility is to preach the whole counsel of God to the people of God (Acts 20:27), which includes instruction about how we are to influence the direction of public policy and government as the salt and the light (Matt. 5:13-16).
- **Simple.** Recent federal laws have made voter registration easier than ever, with a national registration form that's acceptable in most states. It is often easier than filling out the release form to go on a church mission trip or an application for summer camp. Visit www.iVoteValues.org and click on "Register to Vote" for more info.
- **Legal.** The IRS says church voter-registration drives are legal, and even encouraged, unless they endorse or oppose candidates. (Legal Tips Below)



Step 2: Prepare:

Here is a suggested game plan:

- **Contact** your county clerk's or secretary of state's office to obtain registration forms and learn collection procedures. Voters can mail their own forms, but it's more effective to collect them from members and then volunteer to mail or return them in bulk. Some states, like Texas, require you to be deputized before doing that. Other states may require a valid ID. For a list of state voter-registration policies and contact info, visit www.eac.gov, and click on "Register to Vote."
- **Schedule** registration drives to coincide with patriotic-themed, July 4th worship services and 30-60 days preceding an election. The Sunday nearest July 4th is a perfect time to focus on our biblical and patriotic duty as Christian citizens and specifically to encourage voter registration. Also, conduct voter registration "at least three consecutive Sundays leading up to the month before the election," advises John Paulton, manager of Focus on the Family's special projects. Many states have a voter registration deadline 30 days before elections, so plan ahead.
- **Advertise** your registration drive on the church website, newsletters, PowerPoint slides, bulletins, and other church communications. However, the pastor is the key to promotion because when the pastor leads, the people will follow. The Toolkit CD has more promotional resources, including a video and graphics.

Step 3: Register:

On the Sunday your pastor preaches on Christian Citizenship, here are two ways to conduct the non-partisan voter registration drive:

- **Pews.** The most effective method is to have ushers distribute voter registration forms in the pews, allowing church members time to fill out the forms before they are collected. “That way you don’t miss anyone,” says Rev. Rick Scarborough of Vision America.
- **Tables.** If your pastor prefers a more passive approach, set up a patriotic-themed table in a high-traffic area of the church. Recruit a team of volunteers and train them. Have plenty of registration forms and pens. Fr. Frank Pavone of Priests for Life advises:
 1. **Take the initiative.** “Stand up, don’t sit, and don’t just let people walk by. Speak to them, saying, ‘Good morning, can I help you fill out this form?’” If already registered, ask if they have moved since the last election; if so, re-register them.
 2. **Provide assistance.** “Lead people step-by-step through the process so they don’t feel like any question is stupid.” Look over the form and ensure it is complete.
 3. **Keep records.** Record those who register for follow-up. Consider using the list to start an activist group (Visit www.CultureImpact.org and www.citizenlink.org/fpc/).

If the pastor doesn’t feel comfortable with either approach, ask for permission to call members who aren’t registered. Start by comparing your church mailing list with voter registration records, which are public information. Offer to mail them a voter registration form or point them to www.iVoteValues.org, ask them to click on “Register to Vote,” and begin the process. They can help “Register a Friend” as well. However, “Don’t put them on the defensive by saying, ‘You’re not registered,’” Scarborough says. Instead, “offer to help them become a voter.”

Step 4: Stay Legal:

Tips from Peter Gentala, an Alliance Defense Fund attorney:

- Emphasize registration, not politics.
- Allow people from every political party to register.
- Don’t make issue statements like “do your part for pro-life candidates” that can be construed as endorsements.
- Don’t tell people who you’re voting for during registration.

➤ For more information, visit: www.alliancedefensefund.org or call 800-TELL-ADF. Also, consult the **Legal Dos and Don’ts Card in the Voter Impact Toolkit**. Review IRS guidelines at: www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf.p1828.pdf.

Step 5: Follow-up:

Have a plan to translate voter registration into values voting:

- **Collect** the forms and deliver in person or by mail to your county election office.
- **Ask** the pastor to urge voter participation as the election approaches.
- **Encourage** voters who will be out of town to request an absentee ballot.
- **Contact** those on your list a week before the election and remind them to vote.
- **Provide** a sign-up sheet and transportation to the polls for those who need it.
- **Direct** people to www.iVoteValues.org for more on voting their Christian values.

➤ Use of Voter Guides

Voter guides are an excellent resource for educating and mobilizing potential voters. Many times, voters are unaware of a given candidate's positions on faith and family values and important moral and social issues. Voter guides provide this valuable information in a way voters can understand. It is important for you to choose which voter guide will be most helpful and one that is legal.

“ I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education. ”

- Thomas Jefferson, U.S. President,
Chief Author, Declaration of Independence

Q: Are Voter Guides legal?

Contrary to the propaganda that is often spread by certain groups seeking to silence the Christian community, individuals, churches, and ministries may distribute voter guides. Don't be intimidated by those who declare all voter guides illegal. That said, be careful which voter guide you use.

Q: How can I be sure the voter guide I want to distribute is legal?

For a voter guide to be legal:

- > Its questions and surveys must have been sent to all candidates, though the candidates are not required to respond to the questions.
- > It must have information on candidates from both parties and cannot expressly or implicitly support or endorse any of the candidates or take a position on the issues. No editorializing, just the facts.
- > It must be inclusive of a broad range of issue positions, not just those of concern to a particular ministry or church.

Check www.iVoteValues.org in advance of the Election for voter guides that comply with IRS law.



Encourage Voters

Here is the obvious: The only way candidates win an election is if they have more votes than their opponents. Candidates get votes when people vote for them. The only way people can vote is if they are registered. Unfortunately, a sizeable percentage of people in the average church congregation are not even registered to vote, which is a good reason to hold voter registration drives at your church! Then the challenge is to mobilize those who are registered to “get out the vote!”

1. Preparation (get these items from your Supervisor of Elections):
 - > A list of all the registered voters in your precinct is usually available from your Supervisor of Elections’ office. This will help you determine who to visit in your neighborhood.
 - > Get a map of your precinct or neighborhood.
 - > Order a voter history of previous elections. This lets you know who has voted in previous elections.
2. Prior to the Election you will need to obtain plastic bags to hang on doorknobs containing information about the election and important issues that will be decided. It is unlawful to place campaign information in mailboxes.
3. Make sure you have sufficient resources and literature. It is also important to include absentee ballot information.
4. Write a letter to your friends, neighbors, and people in your precinct, encouraging them to vote in the election. Include the following:
 - > Date of the Election (also Early Voting period if applicable)
 - > Polling place address
 - > Phone number to call for those needing a ride
 - > Phone number to call for those who can provide a ride
 - > Information on absentee ballots,
 - > Other information, if necessary.
5. Decide how many helpers will be needed as callers, babysitters, and drivers on Election Day, and begin to recruit from your list of workers.
6. Walk your Precinct. If possible, enlist several friends or neighbors to

work with you. Plan to walk the neighborhood the weekend before the election to distribute non-partisan voter guides and other educational literature. Typically, voters remember the literature they read just before an election.

7. Additional Mobilization Activities

- > Voter registration drives.
- > Organize a “Meet the Candidates” night at the church, community center, or public gathering place. Make sure to invite all the candidates in writing. Excluding candidates would be considered as electioneering.
- > Write letters to the editor, make calls to talk radio programs, etc.
- > Set up e-mail networks and phone banks to remind people to vote.
- > Provide transportation to the polling places to help people get there and vote.

8. Early Voting and Election Day Activities

- > Vote and encourage family and friends to vote.
- > Hand out voter guides at a legal distance from the polling place. See your Election Supervisor for details.
- > Volunteer to drive voters to the polls or arrange to have drivers or car pools for voters.
- > Work with a “poll watcher” to notify your volunteer workers to call those “who have not voted.”

Become a Poll Worker

A poll worker is someone stationed at the polls who assists the voters on Election Day by answering questions and helping with the equipment. They also help tally the votes after the election. The poll worker plays a vital role in the exercise of American democracy, particularly at the point of protecting the integrity of the election. Visions of recounts and “hanging chads” from the 2000 election remind us of the importance of honest poll workers. Remember, this is not a volunteer position. Poll workers typically earn around \$100.00 for the day’s work and are trained by the Election Supervisor.

How to become a poll worker:

- > Each poll worker must be a registered voter.
- > Applicants must complete an application form obtained from the Election Supervisor's office.
- > Each applicant must attend an orientation meeting before Election Day.

If you are a poll worker working a precinct other than your own, you will need to order an absentee ballot from the Election Supervisor several weeks before the election. Requirements for poll workers may vary from state to state so be sure to check your local Election Commission.

3. Vote Your Values

When you vote, you will vote someone's values. The only question is: Whose values will you vote? Yours or someone else's? This section offers help on how to vote your values.

Educate Yourself on Election Issues

If you want to make your vote count, it is vitally important to become educated on the key issues of the upcoming election. www.iVoteValues.org is a great place to start. There you will find many helpful links, many of which are also listed below:

- > Issues from an Evangelical Christian Perspective:
 - www.afa.net
 - www.citizenlink.org
 - www.faithandfamily.com
 - www.frc.org
- > Candidate Positions on Election Issues:
 - www.vote-smart.org
 - www.ontheissues.org
- > Election News:
 - www.bpnews.net
 - www.cnn.com
 - www.cnsnews.com
 - www.foxnews.com
 - www.onenewsnow.com
 - www.realclearpolitics.com
 - www.usatoday.com

“A popular government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy... a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.”

- James Madison, U.S. President, Chief Architect, U.S. Constitution

➤ Pick Your Party

Before you choose a party affiliation, make sure you know what each party stands for and what its views are on moral issues and your core values. Every four years preceding a presidential election, each major political party adopts a new party platform at their national convention. The ideological foundation of each party and their candidates will affect how each approaches government, makes and enforces the laws, and protects and defends our basic freedoms.

You may visit the major national party websites to explore their core values and positions on the issues as articulated in their platform.

The Democratic National Committee website is www.democrats.org.

The Republican National Committee website is www.rnc.org.

Other Parties may be found on the web as well. Project Vote Smart (www.vote-smart.org) is a non-partisan site offering info on candidates from a wide variety of political parties.

Examine the party platform info in detail. Be careful to compare each party's platform and their candidate's positions on the issues with the values that are important to you. Only then can you make an informed decision on which party you most closely identify with. If you wish to register with a major political party or simply register as an independent, make sure you indicate that on your registration card.

Admittedly, when we look at political parties and their candidates, we sometimes feel like we are being forced to choose between the lesser of evils. Just

3 **STEP 3:**
VOTE YOUR
VALUES.

“I have been alternately called an Aristocrat and a Democrat. I am neither. I am a Christocrat.”

- Benjamin Rush, Founding Father

“Ultimately, our loyalty belongs not to any political party or candidate but to God Almighty. And when the time comes, I believe God may ask each of us about how we voted and why.”

- Richard Land, President, *For Faith & Family*

because there isn't a perfect candidate or a party platform that completely agrees with your views and values doesn't remove your responsibility to vote. In that case, it is important that Americans of faith voice our opinions, so that the candidates know they will be held accountable by their constituents, and that their positions on the issues matter!

Choose a Candidate

Choosing a candidate can be a daunting task, especially when it seems on the surface that there's not much difference between candidates. However, upon closer inspection, there is often a radical difference when it comes to a candidate's positions on faith and family concerns, such as:

- > **Abortion Rights** (cleverly disguised as “pro-choice,” but in reality it's “pro-death”)
- > **Bio-Medical Issues** (e.g., cloning, harvesting stem cells from human embryos which in fact kills pre-born babies, etc.).
- > **Euthanasia** (i.e., right-to-die movement, physician-assisted suicide, etc.)
- > **Gambling** (e.g., lottery, casinos, video poker-which especially hurt the poor who participate, encourage crime, etc.)
- > **Homosexual Agenda** (i.e., the push to normalize, legitimize, and legalize homosexuality through same-sex marriage, same-sex adoption rights, propaganda in public schools, legislation declaring it a civil right, etc.)
- > **Religious Liberty** (i.e., freedom of expression in government institutions, schools, etc. when it comes to 10 Commandment displays, nativity scenes, public prayer, religious speech, etc.).

Know what the candidates stand for and how their positions on the issues relate to their party's platform. A great way to find out is by consulting the “Candidate's Values” section at www.iVoteValues.org. Also, there are other voter guides produced by various organizations that narrow the somewhat broad info provided in the party platforms.

Here are a couple of general items to consider when choosing a candidate:

- > **Convictions.** Shouldn't Americans of faith consider supporting candidates who promote biblical values and opposing candidates whose positions are contrary to biblical teaching? Our nation's first Supreme Court Justice, John 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."
- > **Character.** Founder Noah Webster said: "In selecting men for office, let principle be your guide...look to his character... When a citizen gives his suffrage (vote) to a man of known immorality he abuses his trust; he sacrifices not only his own interest, but that of his neighbor, he betrays the interest of his country." Remember Solomon's wise words: "When the godly are in authority, the people rejoice. But when the wicked are in power, they groan" (Proverbs 29:2).

Consider voting for the candidates who most closely represent your values!

➤ Vote Your Values

First, make the commitment to vote on Election Day. In 2000, a little over half of eligible Americans voted. In 2002's mid term elections, only 39.7% of eligible Americans voted! In 2004, 60.7% voted, but the number fell back to 40.4% for 2006. Of self described evangelical Christians, numbering around 60 million, the percentages are worse. In 2000, only 25% voted. While nearly 50% voted in 2004, the number fell back to about 33% in 2006. This kind of apathy is indefensible, especially among the Christian community, which has been commanded by Christ to engage our culture as salt and light (Matt. 5:13-16) and participate in government (Matt. 22:21). So go against the rising tide of apathy in America-Vote!

However, don't just vote for the sake of voting. Take it one step further and vote your values. Every candidate has his or her own set of values and positions on important issues.

Think about it. Where a candidate stands on the issues is far more important than the party he or she belongs to and all the campaign promises and slogans.

“If America is to survive, we must elect more God-centered men and women to public office; individuals who will seek Divine guidance in the affairs of state.”

- Billy Graham, Evangelist

Here's the question: Do the candidates you plan to vote for share your values? If not, why vote for those candidates? Shouldn't you strongly consider voting for the candidates who believe like you do when it comes to your values and the important issues of our day? Be sure to vote your values. Better yet, vote His values!

“Vote your values instead of your political affiliation or pocketbook.”

– Richard Land
President, *For Faith & Family*

4. PRAY

Election Day is approaching, and there is much at stake. In many ways, the future of our nation hangs in the balance. We encourage all concerned Christians to devote themselves to focused prayer for the election, for your state, and for our nation.

Pray for the Election

- > **PRAY** that God's people would feel the need to engage the culture and be involved in government just as Jesus taught (Matt. 5:13-16).
- > **PRAY** that all Christians in America will register to vote for the Election (Matt. 22:21).
- > **PRAY** that God would help all Americans realize that where the candidates stand on key issues is far more important than the party he or she belongs to and all the campaign rhetoric.
- > **PRAY** that Americans of faith would learn the truth about every candidate's position on important issues.
- > **PRAY** that God would make the choice between candidates clear as voters weigh these candidates and their positions against biblical values (Prov. 3:5-6).
- > **PRAY** that Americans of faith will vote their values instead of their political party or pocketbook (2 Chron. 19:2).
- > **PRAY** that the Lord would protect the election process both nationally and locally from dishonesty and fraud (Prov. 20:23).
- > **PRAY** that God would give us godly men and women as leaders who fear the Lord and honor Him (Prov. 29:2).
- > **PRAY** that God would give us leaders who value the fact that America is a beacon of hope and freedom for the entire world and that our nation must be defended (Prov. 8:15-16).

4 STEP 4:
PRAY

- > Finally, **PRAY** that God will bless your efforts to engage our culture and claim it for Christ, beginning with your vote. Remember, how you vote today impacts tomorrow.

Pray for Our Nation

- > **PRAY** for our government officials (1Tim. 2:1-2). Specifically, pray for:
 - > The President and Vice President
 - > The Cabinet and the Congress
 - > The Supreme Court and the Judges
 - > Those who serve as local officials
- > **PRAY** that all our leaders would come to know Christ and follow Him (1Tim. 2:3-4).
- > **PRAY** that God would give our leaders wisdom and discernment as they govern (Psalm 72:1; Prov. 21:1).
- > **PRAY** that God will release those taken captive by Satan and give sight to those who have been spiritually blinded (2 Cor. 4:3-4).
- > **ASK** Him to bring revival to the hearts and lives of the saved (2 Chron. 7:14).
- > **ASK** God to soften all our hearts and make them open to the Lord (Ezek. 36:36).
- > **PRAY** that the innocent, the oppressed, and those unjustly treated would be rescued and protected (Prov. 24:11).
- > **PRAY** for policies that respect human life, the sacredness of marriage, the right to religious freedom, and that compassionately care for the needy and responsibly care for the environment (Prov. 29:2).



Remember the prescription God gave us: “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” (2 Chron. 7:14).

Our faithfulness in prayer will inevitably lead to action. As James put it: faith without works is really no faith at all. In other words, we are saved by faith alone, but a faith that saves is never alone. It involves action.

Following Jesus’ teaching on our role as salt and light (Matt. 5:13-16) and our civic obligation (Matt. 22:21) has direct application to the culture and the realm of government. Our prayers and concerns for our nation should lead us to participate

in government and engage the culture as often as possible. That participation includes registering to vote, encouraging others to do the same, and then voting our values. Remember, how you vote today impacts tomorrow!

Other Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs about Elections

Q: What Is Voting?

Voting is a simple act with a significant impact. Voting is the way that “we the people” elect individuals who will lead our government, make our laws, and protect our freedoms. It is also one of the ways Citizen Christians can function as salt and light to bring about change in our nation.

Voting is a privilege that many people in other parts of the world can only dream about. Voting is a great privilege, but it is also a great responsibility. Exodus 18:21 (NIV) 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.” Acts 6:3 (NIV) says: “Choose...men from among you who are known to be full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them.” Voting is foundational to our form of government, and it is inexcusable for Christians not to obey the command of Christ to participate in government by voting (see Matt. 22:21).

For a helpful Voting Assistance Guide, see www.fvap.gov/for-voting-assistance-officers/vote-guide/index.html

 *It is a moral outrage that more Christians do not take their voting responsibilities seriously. If they did, this would be a very different nation, and a better one.* 

- James Dobson,
Psychologist and Author

Q: What is a Primary?

A primary is a preliminary election, where voters go to the polls to select a candidate for office. The winner of each parties primaries then face off. It's kind of like the playoffs in football. Win and you advance to the next level.

Primaries were first used back in the mid-1800's. They were created in an effort to cut down on fraud by giving the power directly to voters instead of party bosses. By the early 20th century, primaries were used for statewide and presidential elections as well.

A primary can be nonpartisan, open and closed. A nonpartisan primary is where candidates are not listed by party affiliation. They are mainly used in local and judicial elections. In an open primary any registered voter of any party can vote on all candidates. In a closed primary only registered party members may vote for the party's slate of candidates. Only nine states have open primaries.



Q: What is a Caucus?

A caucus is a primary that is limited to registered party members only. Members vote for delegates to the county and state conventions at small party meetings across the state. Those delegates then select representatives to go the national party convention. The delegates who go to the national convention cast the actual votes for the candidates they want to run for office.

Only 14 states hold presidential caucuses instead of primaries. Some states have recently moved to a caucus system from a primary system to save money, as fewer voters take part in caucuses.

Q: What is the Electoral College?

The president and vice president of the United States are not elected by popular vote, but by the electoral college—a system devised by the founding fathers in the Constitution.

When people cast their votes, they're actually voting for party slates of electors pledged to the candidates. Generally, the candidate who wins the most number of popular votes in a state wins the state's entire slate of electoral votes. The candidate with the majority of electoral votes— at least 270 out of 538 possible—wins.

Each state is allotted as many electors as it has members in Congress. States with larger populations have more electoral votes. So it is possible to win the popular vote but not the presidency. That actually happened in the 2000 Presidential Election. The electors are chosen by a variety of methods according to state—

including through primaries, party conventions and party organizations.

If no candidate wins a majority of the electoral votes, the House of Representatives has to decide the presidential election. Don't laugh. After the 2000 election, we know that anything could happen!

Q: What is a National Party Convention?

A convention is an official gathering of party representatives to choose their candidates for office. National party conventions are held the summer before elections in November. At these conventions, delegates from each state cast votes for candidates.

The delegates are chosen at state primaries and caucuses. Each state, as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the various U.S. Territories, is allowed a certain number of delegates that reflects the size of the state's population.

 **FAQs About Voter Registration**

Q: Do I need to show identification to register to vote?

It depends on your state. However, it is always a good idea to bring ID to your polling place on Election Day. Contact your local Supervisor of Elections or see www.fec.gov or www.nass.org.

Q: Do I have to register for every election?

No. The only cases in which you would need to re register would be if you moved, changed your name, or wished to change your party affiliation (see Register or Re-Register? above).

Q: I live in two different states. Where should I register?

You cannot register to vote in two places at the same time. In this case, you would have to choose a state and only register and vote in that state.

Q: Does each state have different voter registration requirements?

Yes. Each state has its own unique guidelines. Contact your local Supervisor of Elections or see www.fec.gov or www.nass.org.

Q: Can I register for my husband or wife?

No, you cannot sign the voter registration form for anyone else, even if that person is your spouse. However, you may take the Voter Registration Form and give it to other people to fill out and sign, and you may deliver or mail in signed forms for others. Again, you cannot sign the Voter Registration Form for anyone but yourself.

Q: Let's say I have been convicted of a felony, and have served my time. Can I register to vote?

Yes. You can register to vote if your sentence is complete and your civil rights have been restored.

Q: Let's say I have a Student's Visa, or a Green Card. Can I vote?

No. You must be a United States citizen in order to vote.

Q: Let's say I am a student and old enough to vote. Can I register to vote where I go to school?

Yes. You can register to vote in the state and/or county where you are going to school. However, remember that you can only register in the state in which you have established official residency.

Q: What if I were homeless? Could I register to vote?

Yes. However, you must provide an address where you receive your mail, so that your voting precinct can be determined and so you can receive your registration card. Some voter registration forms provide a section for homeless people.

Q: Can I use a nickname when registering to vote?

No. You should use your full legal name—the same name you use when you sign legal documents.

Q: I am currently registered to vote, but now I have a different name and/or address. What do I need to do?

All you need to do is fill out another voter registration form.

Q: Can I choose a business address for registering?

No. You must register to vote using your current residential address. You cannot register using a business address, a former address, or the address of a piece of property you own. You must register where you live.

Q: How do I change my party affiliation?

Again, simply re register and choose the party affiliation you desire.

Q: Do I have to choose a political party?

No. It is not necessary to choose a political party when you register. Some states do have “closed” primary elections that only allow those registered as Republican or Democrat to vote in their party’s primary elections. In some states, independents and those who choose “no party affiliation” cannot vote in primary elections. Check your state’s requirements for primary elections (See www.nass.org).*

Q: How do I find out where I will be voting?

After you register to vote, you will be sent a Voter Registration ID Card. It will have the name and address of your polling place on it. Usually, this location is near your home. You can only vote at that specific location on Election Day. If you will not be able to make it to that location on Election Day, you must request an absentee ballot in advance. Other polling places are often made available during early voting.*

Q: Once I register, when will I receive my new voter registration card?

When you can expect to receive your Voter Registration Card varies. To be safe, count on it taking 4 6 weeks to arrive in the mail.

Q: Where can I find a sample ballot?

Usually, your local newspaper will print a sample ballot before Election Day.

Q: What hours are the polls open on Election Day?

This varies from state to state, but generally, the polls are open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.*

Voter Registration and Assistance Links:

The National Mail Voter Registration Form
www.fabnit.com/nvra_update.pdf

Absentee Voting Frequently Asked Questions
www.fvap.gov/faq/index.html

Voting Assistance Guide
www.fvap.gov/for-voting-assistance-officers/vote-guide/index.html

* Please note that answers to specific questions may vary from state to state. Please see www.nass.org or www.fec.gov and enter your location for specific answers.

FAQs About Absentee Ballots

Q: Why would I need an Absentee Ballot?

Absentee ballots allow individuals who cannot get to their voting locations on Election Day to cast their votes by mail.

Absentee ballots are useful for individuals who are traveling or who will be out of the area on Election Day. International Business people, College students, Vacationers, etc. who are going to be providentially hindered from being near their established place of residence on Election Day should request an absentee ballot and vote.

Q: How do I obtain an Absentee Ballot?

You may request an absentee ballot by contacting your Supervisor of Elections. Remember, it is important to request an absentee ballot early, so you have plenty of time to receive it, vote, and get it back to the elections office by your state's deadline (check www.fec.gov or www.nass.org for these dates).

For more on Absentee Voting, see www.fvap.gov/faq/index.html





Concluding Challenge

The purpose of this resource is to help you take action. Remember what Jesus taught about engaging our culture as “salt” and “light” (Matt. 5:13-16) and participating in government as involved citizens (Matt. 22:21).

As “Salt,” we are to preserve the world from decay, flavor it with good, and create a thirst for God. As “Light,” we to dispel the darkness, show the way for the lost, and stimulate growth in other believers. That’s what Jesus did. He also participated in government in the ways that were required (Matt. 17:24-27).

Based on His teachings and example, if Jesus were in America preparing for Election Day, it would be safe to say that He would register to vote, encourage others to do the same, and then vote for the candidates who most closely represent His values. He would also pray for God’s will to be done in the election.

Since we are followers of Jesus, shouldn’t we do the same? The Bible says: “Christ...is your example. Follow in His steps” (1 Pet. 2:21). Let’s follow in His steps by registering to vote, helping others do the same, voting His values, and praying for God to bless the election and for God to bless America.

Remember what Jesus taught about engaging our culture as salt and light...

Additional Resources

www.iVoteValues.org is a great place to start. There you will find many helpful resources, some downloadable, as well as links*, many of which are also listed below:

Voter Registration and Assistance Links

The National Mail Voter Registration Form: www.fabnit.com/nvra_update.pdf
Absentee Voting Frequently Asked Questions: www.fvap.gov/faq/index.html
Voting Assistance Guide: www.fvap.gov/for-voting-assistance-officers/vote-guide/index.html

Other Government Links

www.whitehouse.gov
www.house.gov
www.senate.gov
www.supremecourtus.gov
thomas.loc.gov

Election News

www.bpnews.net
www.cnsnews.com
www.cnn.com
www.foxnews.com
www.onenewsnow.com
www.realclearpolitics.com
www.usatoday.com

Issues from an Evangelical Christian Perspective

www.afa.net
www.citizenlink.org
www.faithandfamily.com
www.frc.org

Political Commentary

www.frc.org
www.heritage.org
www.worldnetdaily.com
www.nationalreview.com
www.weeklystandard.com
www.townhall.com
www.spectator.org
www.cwfa.org
www.conservativechronicle.com

For More Information about voting, voter registration, etc., contact the Federal Elections Commission.

Federal Elections Commission
999 E Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20463
(800) 424 9530
or (202) 694 1100
or for the hearing impaired:
(202) 219 3336
www.fec.gov

For more information on legal issues for churches and religious organizations, contact:

Alliance Defense Fund
15333 North Pima Road Suite 165
Scottsdale, Arizona 85260
Phone: 1-800-TELL-ADF
Fax: 480-444-0025
www.alliancedefensefund.org

American Center for Law and Justice
P.O. Box 64429
Virginia Beach, VA 23467
Phone: (757) 226-2489
Fax: (757) 226-2836
www.aclj.org

Liberty Counsel
P.O. Box 540774
Orlando, FL 32854
(800) 671 1776, (407) 875 2100
Fax: (407) 875 0770
liberty@lc.org, www.lc.org

Disclaimer on Links

Links to internet addresses are contained in this resource. Such addresses contain information created, maintained or otherwise posted by institutions or organizations independent of the Family Research Council, Focus on the Family, and iVoteValues.org.

The Family Research Council, Focus on the Family and iVoteValues.org do not endorse, approve, certify or control these internet addresses and do not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, efficacy, timeliness or correct sequencing of information located at such addresses. Use of any information obtained from such addresses is voluntary, and reliance on it should only be undertaken after an independent review of its accuracy, completeness, efficacy and timeliness.

Reference therein to any specific commercial product, process or service by trade name, trademark, service mark, manufacturer or otherwise does not constitute or imply endorsement or favoring by the Family Research Council, Focus on the Family or any of their entities, including iVoteValues.org.

Credits

¹ Abraham Lincoln, "Address at Gettysburg," delivered on November 19, 1863 as found in *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, edited by Roy P. Basler (Rutgers University Press, 1953), 7:22.

² 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, 1781.

³ Letter from Thomas Jefferson, to the Danbury (CT) Baptist Association found in *The Writings of Thomas Jefferson*, Albert E. Bergh, ed. (Washington, D. C.: The Thomas Jefferson Memorial Association of the United States, 1904), 14:281-282.

⁴ Abraham Lincoln, "Address at Gettysburg," delivered on November 19, 1863 as found in *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, edited by Roy P. Basler (Rutgers University Press, 1953), 7:22.

⁵ This list is similar to one posted on the West Virginia State Election Commission website (www.state.wv.us/sec/Voting/onevote.htm), but adjusted to reflect actual historical facts.

⁶ *Newdow v. United States Congress*, 292 F. 3d 597, 608 (9th Circuit, 2002).

⁷ *Lawrence et al. v. Texas*, No. 02-102 (U.S. Supreme Court, 2003).

⁸ John Jay, *The Correspondence and Public Papers of John Jay*, Henry P. Johnston, ed. (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1890), 4:365.

⁹ Noah Webster, *Letters to a Young Gentleman Commencing His Education to which is subjoined a Brief History of the United States* (New Haven: S. Converse, 1823), 18-19.

“ It is unconscionable that so many Christians today have concluded that it is somehow immoral to ‘get political.’ I don’t believe the Founding Fathers intended to exclude people of faith from the process. There is not a scrap of evidence to indicate such. ”

- James Dobson,
President, Focus on the Family



To order additional voter registration resources,
please visit www.iVoteValues.org

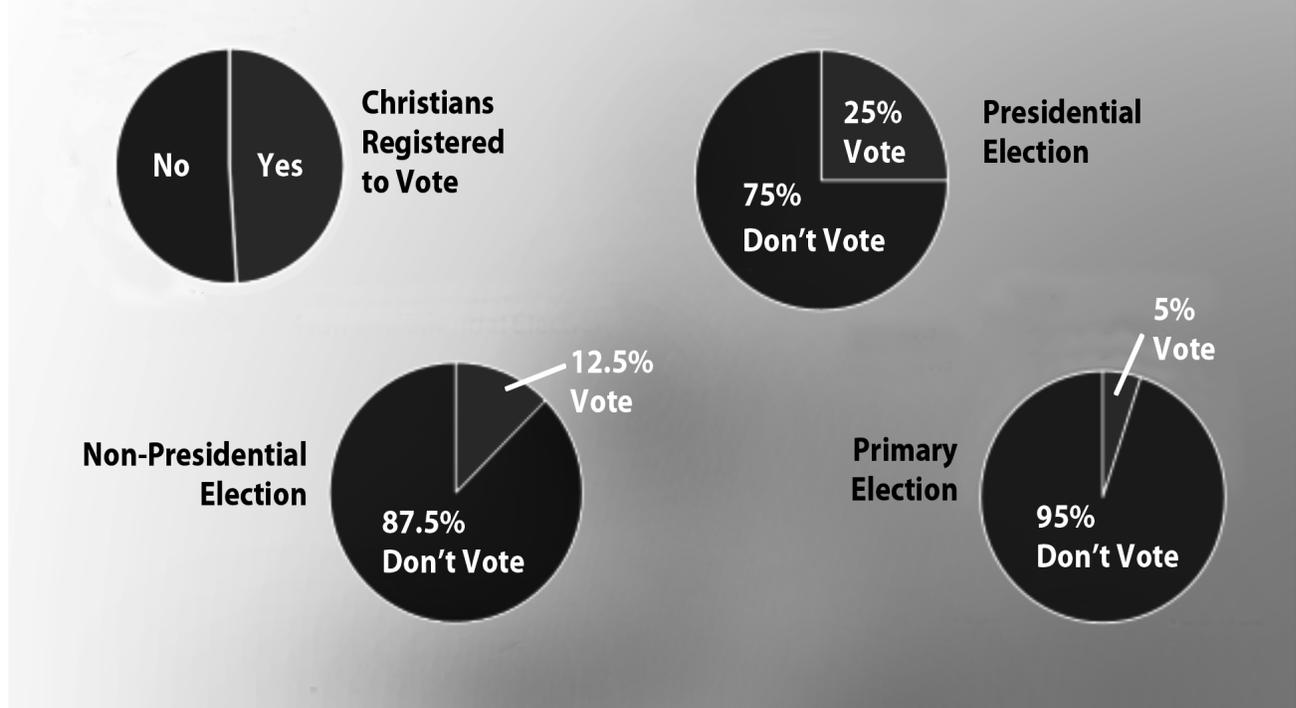
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FOR Faith & Family

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For Faith & Family is a ministry
of the Southern Baptist Convention's
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

Christian Voting Percentage



Why the Pew Initiative?

1) Spiritual Revival/Awakening of the Church is the foundational goal.

A fruit of this is civic involvement in a Republican form of Government that elects its leaders. The Church is God's Plan for the world. Pastors are called by God to lead the church and thus are the hope in Christ to lead the people of God. We are called to be Salt and Light to the world. Since we live in a nation where we can elect our leaders, as believers, we must engage in this ability to influence who our leaders are.

2) **Knowledge (people perish for lack of knowledge.)**

When Pastors and believers realize that only half of them are registered to vote and so few of them actually vote, it gives them the knowledge to exercise wisdom to change. The PEW tool gives Pastors the knowledge of where their congregation is and then we have seen the Pastors lead.

3) **PEW is a tool that save the Pastor's time – Frees Pastor to pray, study word and minister to people.**

- a) Pastors can manually learn all the cumbersome work to find the public records with each county of who is registered and who is voting. This tool does it for the pastor in a confidential way.

Process Steps: Manual – Web – Mobile

In the Registration process for the Pew Initiative, Pastors will:

1) **Verify:**

- a) That they have **authority to submit member list,**
- b) That they **understand the privacy policy (the list is never sold, rented, contacted for donations, etc.)**

2) **Upload or email Membership List**

- a) Via an Excel Spreadsheet, hard copy, or written list
- b) [Manual work] (working on software)

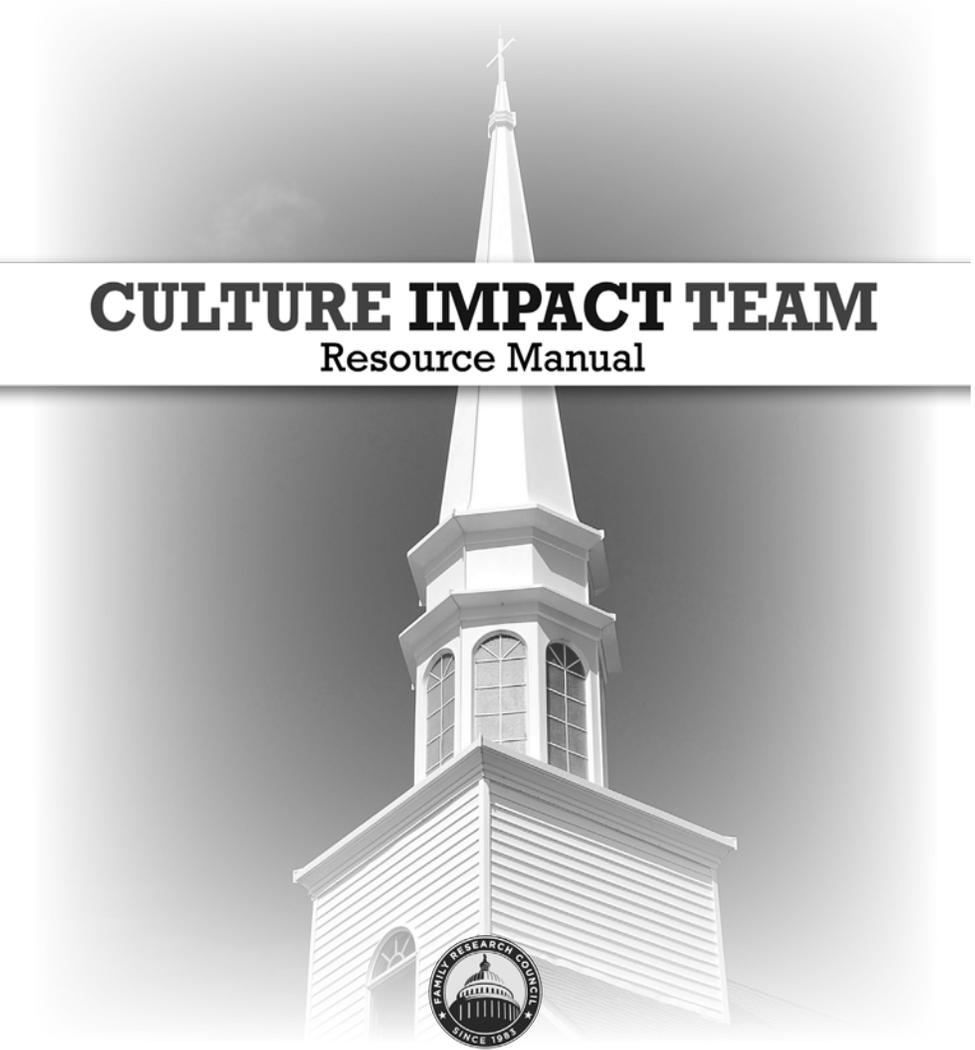
3) **Receive Data (registration, vote history and demographics):**

- a) Receive **draft email with link to register** before deadline.
- b) Receive **free voting guides** for church (electronic when available)
- c) Receive draft **email with voting locations.**

AFTER ELECTION DATA

After an election cycle, pastors will be contacted for a follow-up and will receive the following updated data:

1. **Registration**: Graphic report for the Pastor after the registration deadline showing % and # increase. (e.g. 200 members, 100 not registered, now 50 are) and those still not registered with follow up to request registration again for next year.
2. **Voting**: Graphic report for the Pastor after the election showing the % and # increase (e.g. 200 members, 20% increase vote from past and compared with National, State and region averages).



CULTURE IMPACT TEAM
Resource Manual

How to Establish a Ministry at Your Church

INFORM | IGNITE | IMPACT ★ CULTUREIMPACT.ORG

SAMPLES

SAMPLES

More Sample CIT Mission/Purpose Statements

Example 1

As followers of Christ, we believe that it is our responsibility to impact those around us for Christ. And this impact should not just be with respect to individuals, but also our community, our culture, our government and our world. Amos 5: 21-24. To do this, we must be salt and light as Jesus admonished us in Matthew 5:13-16.

The mission of the CIT is to promote righteousness in local, state and federal levels of government while at the same time exposing initiatives, policies and legislation that would oppose righteousness as measured by God's Word. While there are many verses that we could point to, the following two passages are helpful in highlighting our views in this regard:

Proverbs 11:10 – “When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices, And when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy.”

Proverbs 14:34 – “Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a disgrace to any people.”

Subject to the Lord's direction and blessing, the CIT will accomplish its mission by educating, encouraging and energizing fellow believers to become engaged in the governmental process in order to promote righteousness. This may take many forms but could include interaction with elected officials, prayer for them and our nation, voting for candidates, informing family and friends of critical and time sensitive issues, and even running for elective office, if God so leads.

Example 2

The Culture Impact Team shall serve as an official committee of this church. Its charter is to serve both the church leadership and congregation by providing information about social issues of concern to the body of Christ and education on Christian responsibilities to love and service in the public square. The committee shall also endeavor to equip the church for action when so directed and to coordinate congregational involvement. The committee shall seek at all times to fulfill its responsibilities in a manner consistent with the character of Christ.

The committee shall endeavor to assist the leadership of this church by also acting as liaison to other pro-family organizations and churches. By identifying needs and concerns, together with the resources for addressing them, the committee shall help church leadership to direct the congregation in biblical response to the moral issues of our times. In this regard, the committee functions to disciple church members toward a fuller expression of their Christian faith in the public square.



Sample Prayer List

Calvary Chapel Salt & Light Prayer Meeting

Devotion: Luke 18:1-8 and James 5:16-18

Praise Reports:

Current Salt & Light Requests:

- **List the pastors and/or lay-leaders working with the Salt & Light or family ministries at your church.**
- **Salt & Light Ministries would develop in California and all over the country.**
- **People in our church would become aware of the Salt & Light Ministry and have a desire to get involved.**

Israel

The peace and salvation of the Jewish people.

The Nation

- **Revival.**
- **The elections in November.**
- **Safety for our military as they protect us.**

Government

- **The President**
- **The U.S. Supreme Court**
- **Congress: The Senate and the House of Representatives**
- **U.S. Senators: Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein**
- **Governor Jerry Brown**
- **Assembly members and state senators**
- **Local city officials**

Marriage and Family

- **The Lord would intervene in the many laws that are written favoring homosexuals in California**

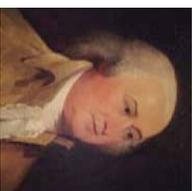
Targeted Bills

Ten Commandment Sunday - 10/10/10

For more visit www.FRC.org

Throughout our history, the Ten Commandments have held a prominent place in public life. For almost 200 years, the Commandments provided the organizing principles for life, family, education, law, and government. The Commandments were nearly universally recognized as the finest principles around which to organize a just, humane, and civil society.

Question: What if every American decided to live by the Ten Commandments? John Adams had a similar vision:



Suppose a nation in some distant Region should take the Bible for their only law Book, and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there exhibited! Every member would be obliged in conscience, to temperance, frugality, and industry; to justice, kindness, and charity towards his fellow men; and to piety, love, and reverence toward Almighty God... What a Eutopia, what a Paradise would this region be.

Realistically, no one could ever keep the Ten Commandments flawlessly...except Jesus. That is why one of their purposes is to reveal our sinfulness and drive us to the mercy of God in the person of Christ. Yet think of the result if only those who claim to be Christians honored and attempted to obey the Commandments. We would actually become better husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, neighbors and citizens. The moral climate of our culture would be positively affected. We might even see a revival in America. May God make it so!

Ten Commandment Action Steps:

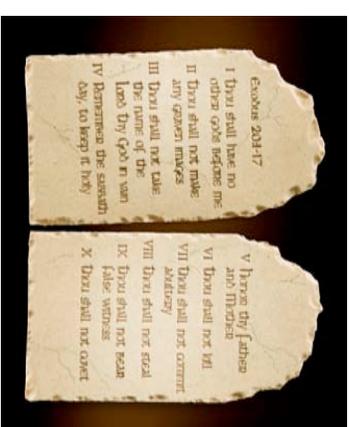
1. **Post the Ten Commandments:** Resources can be found at FRC.org.
2. **Pray through the Ten Commandments:** Use them as a devotion tool this month. Let God speak to you from his word.
3. **Practice the Ten Commandments:** Enjoy the promise of Jesus: "...whoever practices and teaches these commandments will be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:19).
4. **Ponder the Candidates according to the Ten Commandments:** The Commandments provide the best Voter Guide available.

Ten Commandments: Foundation of American Society

For more visit www.FRC.org

Top Ten lists are popular with Americans. In fact, just do a Google search and you will be amazed at what turns up. God's Top Ten list trumps all the rest. His Ten Commandments are found in Exodus 20:1-17:

1. I am the Lord...you shall have no other gods before me.
2. Do not make an idol.
3. Do not misuse God's name.
4. Keep the Sabbath Day holy.
5. Honor your father and mother.
6. Do not murder.
7. Do not commit adultery.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not lie.
10. Do not covet.



Unfortunately, for a majority of Americans, the Ten Commandments are not set in stone. According to a recent USA Today poll, "Sixty percent of Americans can not name five of the Ten Commandments." In fact, it is amazing what Americans do know by comparison:

- 74% can name all three Stooges – Moe, Larry, & Curley.
- 35% can recall all six kids from the Brady Bunch.
- 25% could name all seven ingredients of McDonald's Big Mac®.

Here is the sad news: Only 14% can accurately name all Ten Commandments. Yet 78% of Americans are in favor of having public displays of the Commandments. How ironic?!

Americans affirm the Ten Commandments, but cannot name them. Consequently, the greatest tragedy is not that the Ten Commandments have vanished from public schools, courtrooms, and government buildings, but that they are disappearing from the minds, hearts, and lives of most Americans.



Ten Commandment Sunday - 10/10/10

For more visit www.FRC.org

What an awesome moment when Almighty God came down to Mount Sinai, used it as a granite throne, and dispensed the Ten Commandments to Israel. Yet they are also the foundation for American society. Ask any credible historian to identify the primary source behind early legal codes in America from its settlement to its establishment under the Constitution, and doubtless the answer would be either the Ten Commandments specifically or the Old Testament law generally.

Indeed, twelve of the original thirteen colonies adopted the entire Decalogue into their civil and criminal laws. While the lone hold-out, Rhode Island, did not adopt the first four Commandments, they did adopt the last six.

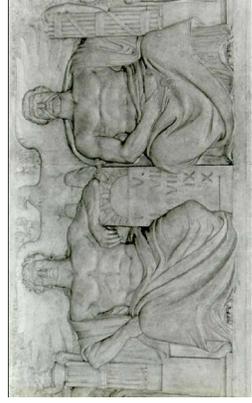
The central place of “Divine Law,” specifically the Ten Commandments and Moses as a lawgiver, is widely recognized in our nation’s capital.



Inscribed in marble on the rear façade of the Supreme Court building are three historical lawgivers: Moses, Confucius and Solon. However, the central figure is that of Moses holding the two tablets of the law, the Ten Commandments.



On the lower portions of the huge wooden doors leading into the Supreme Court chambers, there is a symbolic representation of the two tablets of the Ten Commandments, represented by Roman numerals I through V and VI through X.



Above the heads of the justices as they hear arguments and render judgments in the cases before them is a marble frieze that depicts two male figures identified as “The Majesty of Law” and the “Power of Government,” and between

them is a similar relief of the Roman numerals I through V and VI through X.

There are also marble friezes on both the north and south walls, which depict 18 lawmakers. Included in south wall frieze is a relief of Moses holding a tablet of the Ten Commandments, complete with Hebrew lettering.

Moses and/or the Ten Commandments appear in several places in and around



government buildings in D.C. For example, in the U.S. Capitol, there is a representation of Moses in the center and near the top of the back wall in the House Chamber opposite the Speaker. Interestingly, there are other lawmakers represented around the wall, however their reliefs are in profile, all looking toward Moses.

In the National Archives, which house the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, there is a representation of the tablets of the Ten Commandments, again represented by Roman numerals I through V and VI through X, in a bronze plate set in the marble floors.



Also, in the rotunda of the Library of Congress, there is a statue of Moses holding the tablets of the Ten Commandments. Outside of the Reagan Building, there is a statue titled “Liberty of Worship,” which has the figure resting on the Ten Commandments, which again are represented by the same Roman numerals I through V and VI through X.

Finally, there is a sculpture in front of the U.S. District Court building that has a representation of the tablets of the Ten Commandments beside the Cross.

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday January 2011

For more visit www.frc.org



Life is precious. Miraculous. Delicate. Created by a loving God who makes

every human being unique.
The Psalmist spoke of this:

*You watched me as I was
being formed in utter
seclusion, as I was woven
together in the dark of the
womb. You saw me before I
was born... (Ps. 139:15-16a
NLT).*



Life made in the image of God is a fundamental human right that begins at conception.

According to our Declaration of Independence, "all men... are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that 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 do not have life, you certainly cannot enjoy liberty or pursue happiness.

Unfortunately, our God-given right to life in America has been undermined in our "culture of death." More innocent human beings are put to death every day than those who died in the 9/11 attacks – 3,000. Abortion ends the lives of more than 1.2 million unborn children in America every year. Fully 22% of all pregnancies end in abortion.

The overwhelming majority of those innocent children are simply sacrificed on the altar of convenience. Nearly 50 million unborn have been murdered by abortion since the Supreme Court ruling on January 22, 1973.

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Opinion: Americans on Abortion

In 2010, for the second year in a row, the majority of Americans identified themselves as "pro-life."

- The majority of young people (ages 18-29) also self identify as pro-life.
- 88% of Americans endorse limiting abortion to the first six months of pregnancy.
- 19% of the general public believe that abortion should be illegal in all circumstances.
- Young people (ages 18-29) more than any other age group felt that abortion should be illegal in all situations (23%).

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Pro-Life Action Steps

www.FRC.org

Pray that dignity of every human life will be respected and protected - at every age and stage of life from conception to natural death (Prov. 24:11-12).

Stay Informed about Threats to the God-Given Right to Life – Sign up for the Washington Update at www.frc.org.

Take Action – Make an impact...for Life!

1. Urge your elected officials to act to protect the unborn.

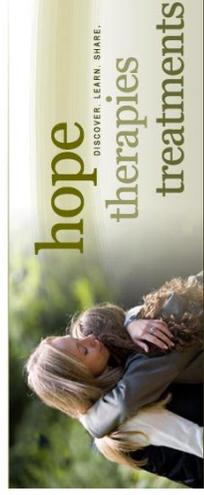
 - Encourage your U.S. Representative and Senators to vote in favor of the Smith-Lipinski bill to remove all government funding for abortion and to vote for bills to protect the conscience of health care workers.
 - Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Or visit www.FRC.org and click on Contact Officials.

2. **Support** a Pregnancy Care Center in your area. To find out more about these life-affirming ministries to women who are expecting a child, check out FRC's site: www.apassiontoserve.org.

3. **Promote** Foster Care and Adoption in your church. Check out www.icareaboutorphans.org, a ministry of Focus on the Family.

4. **Advocate** for ethical Stem Cell Research. Embryonic Stem Cell Research (ESCR) not only destroys human life, but it also wastes taxpayer dollars because the result is tumors, but no treatments. Adult Stem Cells offer an ethical and effective alternative. Life-affirming therapies using "adult" stem cells have already resulted in 73 different treatments in human patients.

Visit FRC's new site, www.stemcellresearchfacts.org, for more some exciting stories from real people who have benefited from ethical stem cell research.



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Stem Cell Research Facts



You are the Salt of the Earth...
You are the Light of the World.

Mat. 5:13-16

Strengthening Marriage

February 2011

Family is foundational. Marriage constitutes the basic building block of society, and it was the first institution created by God in the book of Genesis. One man and one woman in a marriage covenant relationship for life is the divine pattern expressed throughout the Bible. Quoting from Genesis 1 and 2, Jesus declared:

Have you not read that at the beginning, the Creator made them male and female, and said: 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh?' So they are no longer two but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let no man separate (Matthew 19:4-6).



A good marriage enables people to be happier, live longer, and build more economic security. But it is not just about the individual. Marriage is an exclusive union that takes its distinctive character from being founded, unlike other friendships, on this bodily unity that sometimes generates new life. Certainly, marriage has value in itself and not just as a means to procreation. Yet marriage is the form of relationship that is uniquely suited for childrearing, which is why it is a matter of vital public concern and not just a "private matter." In fact, marriage is a public, social contract for which the law requires witnesses. Why? It has profound implications for the common good, for the health of society.

Marriage impacts children. Wherever possible, children should be reared in the context of the bond between the two parents whose marital union gave them life. Research shows that when both genders are represented in the parenting role, children have the best opportunity for health, wellbeing, development, and success in life. As Dr. James Dobson notes, "More than ten thousand studies have concluded that kids do best when they are raised by mothers and fathers." Every civilization has been built upon the institution of marriage. It is the foundation. The happiness and success of individuals, the welfare and security of children, and the soundness of society, are all largely dependent upon the stability of marriage according to the divine pattern.

Become a Friend on Facebook / Follow on Twitter: @fporkins or @frcdc
Visit: www.frcc.org/ www.cultureimpact.org/ **ERC Order Line: 1-800-225-4008**



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You are the Light of the World.

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Pro-Family Action Steps

www.frc.org

According to the Family Research Council's Marriage and Religion Research Institute (MARRI), federal surveys clearly demonstrate that the always-intact married family that worships frequently (weekly or at least monthly) yields the most favorable social outcomes. Compared to the non-intact family that worships less than monthly or never, national data illustrates the superiority in:

Benefits for the Individual:

- Happiness: 50% more likely to be happy in a general sense.
- Performance: More than a third more likely to take pride in their work (34%).
- Health: Nearly a third more likely to rate their health excellent or very good (30%).
(From the *Case for Marriage*)



Benefits for the Couple:

- Marital Satisfaction: 25% happier in their relationship.
- Divorce or Separation: 50% less likely.
- Adultery: More than 4 times less likely (7.7% vs. 33.8%).
- Earned Income: As much as 5 times more annually (\$54K vs. \$9.4K).

Benefits for their Children:

- Average High School GPA (English and Math): Almost half a grade point higher (2.94 vs. 2.48).
- Expulsion or Suspension from School: Nearly 3 times less likely.
- Repeating a Grade: Nearly 6 times less likely (6% vs. 34%).
- Hard Drug Use: Nearly 2.5 less likely (8.5% vs. 20.1%).
- Drunkenness: Nearly 2 times less likely (22.4% vs. 41.2%).
- Homosexual Activity: 3 times less likely (2.5% vs. 7.5%).
- Running Away from Home: Over 2.5 times less likely.
- Average Number of Sex Partners (Females): Over 3 times less (0.47 vs. 1.55).

Family Research Council

Visit: www.frc.org / www.cultureimpact.org / FRC Order Line: 1-800-225-4008

Pro-Family Action Steps

www.frc.org

According to the Family Research Council's Marriage and Religion Research Institute (MARRI), federal surveys clearly demonstrate that the always-intact married family that worships frequently (weekly or at least monthly) yields the most favorable social outcomes. Compared to the non-intact family that worships less than monthly or never, national data illustrates the superiority in:

Benefits for the Individual:

- Happiness: 50% more likely to be happy in a general sense.
- Performance: More than a third more likely to take pride in their work (34%).
- Health: Nearly a third more likely to rate their health excellent or very good (30%).
(From the *Case for Marriage*)



Benefits for the Couple:

- Marital Satisfaction: 25% happier in their relationship.
- Divorce or Separation: 50% less likely.
- Adultery: More than 4 times less likely (7.7% vs. 33.8%).
- Earned Income: As much as 5 times more annually (\$54K vs. \$9.4K).

Benefits for their Children:

- Average High School GPA (English and Math): Almost half a grade point higher (2.94 vs. 2.48).
- Expulsion or Suspension from School: Nearly 3 times less likely.
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Action Points

Does My Vote Really Matter?

Yes! Consider the following examples:

In 1801, one vote in the U.S. House

broke the tie between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr.

In 1839, one vote made "Landslide" Marcus Morton governor of Massachusetts.

In 1868, one vote saved President Andrew Johnson from being removed from office.

In 1876, one vote in the Electoral College gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency.

In 1941, one vote extended the Draft just four months before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

In 2000, our nation had one of the most closely contested presidential elections in American history, and some people are still arguing about who won!

The point is this: Your vote can make a tremendous difference!

> Register to Vote: Registering to vote is easy.

Here are the three simple steps:

- > Obtain and complete the registration form (This can be done online at www.iVoteValues.org).
- > Print it, sign it, address it, and stamp it.
- > Mail it (or take it) to the election official in your county (For your state, see www.mass.gov or www.fec.gov/).

> Register Your Friends:

- > Send an e-Card from www.iVoteValues.org encouraging your friend to register.
- > Help organize a Voter Registration drive in your local church or community. A Voter Impact Toolkit is available from Family Research Council (www.ftc.org). Follow the strategy and download resources provided by www.iVoteValues.org. Contact your local Supervisor of Elections for specific guidelines in your area.

> Vote Your Values:

- > Educate Yourself on Election Issues: www.iVoteValues.org is a great place to start.
- > Pick Your Party: Consider each party's platform statements for their positions on moral issues and core values.
- > Choose a Candidate: Know what the candidates stand for. Consult the "candidate's values" section at www.iVoteValues.org. Weigh the candidates' values against your values, and choose the ones who most closely match up.

> Pray for the Election:

Election Day is approaching, and there is much at stake. In many ways, the future of your state and our nation hangs in the balance. We encourage all concerned Christians to devote themselves to focused prayer for the upcoming election. A great prayer guide can be found at www.iVoteValues.org.

Final question: Do the candidates you are considering share your values? If not, why vote for those candidates? Strongly consider voting for the candidates who have positions that line up with yours. Don't just vote--vote your values!



Voting Your Values



HOW YOU VOTE
TODAY IMPACTS
TOMORROW.

Voting Your Values

Scripture:
Matthew 22:21

The religious leaders were trying to trap Jesus on the issue of paying taxes, but Jesus turned the tables on them (Matt. 22:15-20).

He asked them for a coin, and then asked whose portrait and inscription was stamped on it. They replied: "Caesar's."

Jesus responded: "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's" (v. 21). His point: Citizens are obligated to support their government.

Unlike Ancient Rome, Americans are blessed to have a government, as Lincoln put it, "of the people, by the people, and for the people." Our form of government requires our participation. Christian citizens can "give to Caesar" by praying for our officials, paying taxes, engaging government policy, speaking out on moral and social issues, holding public office, and voting.

Voting is a simple act with a significant impact. When we vote, we

help determine who will lead our nation, make our laws, and protect our freedoms. Voting is a right, a privilege, and a freedom that millions in other parts of the world can only dream about.

Yet, many Americans choose not to vote. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 30% of the voting age population is not registered to vote. That translates to over 55 million Americans! What's worse is that less than half of those registered actually vote in a given election!

More sobering news: Many who profess to be Christians fail to consider their biblical 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 shows that nearly two-thirds of Americans say their faith has little to do with their voting decisions.

"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."

Samuel Adams,
Founding Father

However, as "salt" and "light," Jesus expects us to influence every part of our culture-including our government and the democratic process (Matt. 5:13-16). www.iVoteValues.org was created to help you get informed and take action as a Citizen Christian. Here are four practical action steps:

- > **Register to Vote**
- > **Register Your Friends**
- > **Vote Your Values**
- > **Pray for the Election**

Imagine the impact **Christians** could have on the **direction** of our government, the **character** of its leadership, and the **moral health** of our nation if we simply applied **biblical principles** to every aspect of our lives, including our **participation** in the **democratic process**.

It is true:
How you vote today impacts tomorrow!



"The moral issues with public policy implications

being debated today are far too important for Christians to ignore, especially at election time. Do your homework before you enter the voting booth. Find out where the candidates stand on the value of human life, the definition of marriage, and the freedom to express our faith in public. Resist the temptation to vote your family heritage, ethnic background, your pocketbook or your party. Instead, pray and ask God for guidance in choosing candidates. As a follower of Christ, vote your values in the upcoming election."

Tony Perkins
President of The Family Research Council



“Christian Citizenship Sunday:
How You Can Have Maximum Patriotic Impact”
Matt. 22:15-21

Turn with me to Matt. 22:15-21. Stand, Read, Pray. On July 4, 1776, in Philadelphia, our Founding Fathers signed a document declaring our independence from the tyranny of those who would enslave the minds, the souls, the lives of men. But what many Americans don't realize is that with the same document, we not only declared our *independence* from Great Britain, we just as strongly declared our *dependence* upon Almighty God. For the Declaration of Independence begins by proclaiming that we are subject only to the “laws of nature and nature's God.”¹ Do you remember how it ends? It ends with these words: “With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.” Do you know what the word *reliance* means? It means dependence. The signers of the Declaration were staking everything on God watching over them and seeing them through in their struggle for freedom: “With a firm reliance upon the protection of Divine Providence.”²

Hear this statement well: Our Founding Fathers did not believe in the separation of God from government. They believed that this nation was founded by God, protected by God, preserved by God, and prospered by God. It all depends on God! And based on that belief, they were willing to pledge their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. They put it all on the line. Of those fifty-six men who signed the Declaration of Independence, nine died of wounds or hardships during the war. Five were captured and imprisoned, and in each case subjected to torture. Several lost wives, children or entire families. One lost his thirteen children. Two wives were brutalized by the British. All were at one time or another victims of manhunts and driven from their homes. Twelve signers had their homes completely burned. Seventeen lost everything they owned. Indeed these men not only pledged but *gave* their lives, and their fortunes, and not one went back on his sacred honor.³ Because of the blessing of God, the nation they sacrificed so much to help found has become the greatest nation on earth and the envy of the world, and is still intact for us to enjoy after 234 years and may God continue to bless America.

That brings us to you and me, here and now. If these Patriots willingly laid it all on the line for this nation, don't you think we should do more than simply sing patriotic songs, remember the fallen, and wave the flag? I think so. Not only that, but Jesus said so. Look at our text (Matt. 22:15-21): The religious leaders were trying to trap Jesus on the issue of paying taxes, but Jesus turned the tables on them. He asked them for a coin, and then asked whose portrait and inscription was stamped on it. They replied: “Caesar's.” Jesus responded: “*Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's*” (v. 21). His point: All citizens—including His followers—are obligated to support their government.

Unlike citizens of the Roman Empire, Americans are blessed to have, as Abraham Lincoln put it, a “government of the people, by the people, and for the people.”⁴ Have you noticed that the original parchment of the Constitution begins “We the People” in big, bold letters? The bottom line: Our form of government requires our active involvement. How can we “*give to Caesar what is Caesar's*” in America today? Well I want to mention 5 things that every Christian ought to give his/her government, 5 things that every Christian can do to have maximum patriotic

impact as we think about what that meant then, what it means now, and what it means to you and me personally. First...

1. SEEK GOD FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT

Paul encourages: “I urge then first of all that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth” (1Tim. 2:1-4). Notice Paul says: “First of all,” not secondly, thirdly, fourthly, but first of all we are to pray for everybody in general, but then specifically we are to pray for our elected leaders: our President, our Congressmen, our Senators, Judges, our Governors, our Mayors, our Councilmen, Commissioners, our Law Enforcement officials, etc.—for all who have a place of authority.

We don't pray that they would continue in their wickedness, but we do pray that God would give them wisdom--wisdom to lead our nation according to the Judeo-Christian principles this nation was founded upon. “The heart of the King is in the hand of the Lord; He directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases” (Prov. 21:1). Above all we pray that they would come to know Christ and be saved (v 4). That is really the only way our nation will be changed is through the Gospel. It is only through a relationship with Jesus as Lord that our elected officials will lead in such a way that we will be able to live “peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness” (v 2).

Bottom line: The future of America does not depend on the people in the State House, the Court House, the Houses of Congress or the White House, but on people in the Church House, it rests on you and on me. That is 2 Chron. 7:14. The Bible says, “If *my people* who are called by my name...” So God's people must humble ourselves, God's people must seek His face, God's people must turn from sin to biblical righteousness before God will be disposed to hear our prayer, forgive our sin, and heal our land. We must pray.

Unfortunately, the times are desperate but the church is not. We need to cry out to the Lord on behalf of our nation and its leadership, and get desperate before the Lord. Not “now I lay me down to sleep” kind of prayer. Not “Good food, good meat, good Lord, let's eat” kind of prayer. But prayer that lines up with the will of God, prayer that reaches the heart of God, prayer that moves the hand of God. Pray like the future of the nation depends on it because it does, Amen? Listen, if we do not pray for our nation and our leaders, not only will we continue to have little impact on the direction of America, but we are sinning against God. First of all, pray. Seek God for Your Government. Second...

2. SUPPORT YOUR GOVERNMENT

Now bear with me on this one. There are a couple of ways we can support our government:

A. First, pay taxes to your government. That brings us back to our text. When Jesus is asked about paying taxes, He commands that we are to “give to Caesar what is Caesar's” (Matt. 22:21), and He also leads by example (Matt. 17:24-27). Paul speaks of the government's responsibility

to punish evildoers and instructed: “This is why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing” (Rom. 13:6). Now be honest—this one hurts—especially around April 15th.

Admittedly, there is a lot of waste and questionable spending, especially by the current regime in Washington. Like the Titanic, we have hit an iceberg, we are taking on water, we are still afloat, so some people are still having fun throwing snow balls on the deck, but we are about to drown under a sea of debt and rising taxes unless drastic measures are taken, and the first one is to stop the spending and borrowing against our children’s future. The Bible says: “Let no debt remain outstanding...” (Rom. 13:8), but we are amassing debt at an unsustainable rate. Now I know what you are thinking, you’ve complained but the politicians aren’t listening, they don’t care, and they are going to do it anyway. But the great thing about America is that if we don’t like the way our public officials are spending our hard earned money, we can vote for change, to borrow a phrase, and I’ll say more about that later.

However, when we think with a cool head for a moment, we actually do benefit from some of the goods and services provided by the government. First of all, we have the greatest military force in the world and the finest young men and women serving in it. We have law enforcement, roads, schools, libraries, and parks, etc. So pay your taxes but hold your elected officials accountable for how they spend them. Another way to support our government and make a positive patriotic impact is to:

B. Take pride in your nation. Paul says in Romans 13:7 that we should respect and honor our government. It’s OK to take pride in your country. The Psalmist proclaimed: “If I forget you, O Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill. May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not consider Jerusalem my highest joy” (Psalm 137:5-6). Listen, it’s alright to be patriotic. Don’t let anybody tell you that as a Christian you can no longer be a red-blooded American, that you shouldn’t express appreciation for men and women in uniform, that you shouldn’t get a lump in your throat when you see the Stars and Stripes waving, that you shouldn’t stand and sing with a tear in your eye, “God bless America, land that I love.” America is not a god to be worshipped, but it is perfectly OK to be patriotic and give honor when honor is due. You can take pride in your country as well as pay taxes to your country and in that way support your government. Third...

3. SUBMIT TO YOUR GOVERNMENT

Peter instructs: “Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king who is the supreme authority or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right” (1 Peter 2:13-14; cf. Rom. 13:2-5). The Greek word for “submit” means to fall in rank under an authority. Government exists to keep order, and we must submit to the rule of law. Christians of all citizens ought to be model citizens. We ought to obey the laws of the land. If we rebel against the rule of law, we are in fact rebelling against the God who ordained it (Rom. 13:1-2).

Then Peter says in v 17 that we are to show these authorities respect: “Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.” Now sometimes

respecting our government is a tall order. Just think about who was in charge when Peter wrote this: Nero. Nero wasn't exactly an Eagle Scout. Indeed, Nero was a brutal, wicked ruler, responsible for the deaths of both Peter and Paul. Ever noticed that we name our sons "Peter" and "Paul" and our dogs "Nero?" Yet, God's word says that we are to respect the governmental authority. We may not have much respect for the *man* of the office, but we must respect the *office* of the man. Submit to your government. That is the Scriptural ideal. However, sometimes you must...

4. STAND UP TO YOUR GOVERNMENT

George Washington is credited with saying that "Government... is a troublesome servant and a fearful Master."⁵ Sometimes, we must stand up to our government. Now there's a time and place for civil disobedience, but it should come only as a last resort, especially in America, which was founded upon Judeo-Christian principles and biblical laws. However, if the government commands what God condemns, then you are obligated to disobey.

The midwives disobeyed Pharaoh's command to kill all the Hebrew baby boys (Exod. 2:15-21). Daniel disobeyed King Darius' order not to pray to His God (Dan. 6:1-23). The same Peter who wrote that we should submit to the government's authority and respect the King is the same Peter who boldly told the religious rulers who ordered him to stop preaching about Jesus: "We must obey God rather than men!" (Acts 5:29). Christians in Asia Minor disobeyed the Imperial edict to swear: "Caesar is Lord," threw their incense to the ground in defiance, and declared: Christ is Lord!" (Rev. 2:8-10; 2:13). They were all blessed by God for their civil disobedience.

As Citizen Christians, we need to use our freedom to defend our freedom or we may lose our freedom. In many ways, that time has come. Decisions are being made by our government and courts on the great moral issues of our day and on our rights as Christians, so we cannot afford to be silent. But when we do speak out, have you noticed how the critics cry foul, claiming "Separation of Church & State," and saying: "You don't have a right to speak about public policy and law! Go cower in your church, lock yourself in your little stained glass prison, and stay there!" And that's exactly what the devil wants—the salt shackled in the sanctuary and the light locked up in the church house.

But the last time I checked Christians are not second class citizens of America. Your voice needs to be heard. In fact, the Bible commands it. Jesus said: "You are the salt of the earth... the light of the world!" (Matt. 5:13-16). The Bible says "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!" (Ps. 107:2). That's you and that's me. God urged his people: "Shout it aloud! Do not hold back! Raise your voice like a trumpet! Declare to my people their rebellion, and to the house of Jacob their sins" (Isa. 58:1). You find examples throughout the Bible.

- Moses petitioned Pharaoh for the liberty of God's people. Nathan confronted King David for his sinful actions as a leader.
- Elijah faced off against King Ahab who promoted idolatry and immorality.
- Isaiah condemned moral decay in the culture.
- Amos inveighed against injustice in society. Daniel pronounced judgment on King Nebuchadnezzar for promoting idolatry.

- John the Baptist pointed out the adultery of King Herod.

We must stand up and let our voices be heard in the same way and persuade our government of the eternal and infallible truths of God's word and how these principles apply to the policies and laws of our nation and to the character of its leaders.

We need to stand up with righteous indignation and say: "Killing babies in a mother's womb is wrong!" We need to speak out with moral outrage and say: "Redefining marriage to include homosexuals is wrong!" We need to remind those black robed tyrants masquerading as judges about America's Judeo-Christian foundations, and with holy fury shout: "Taking away our religious heritage is wrong!" Sometimes we must stand up to our government and say: "That is enough. STOP!" Yes, you need to seek God for your government, support your government, and submit to your government, but sometimes you need to stand up to your government! And that time has come. But finally, you need to...

5. SELECT YOUR GOVERNMENT

There are many ways we can participate in our government, such as helping with a voter registration drive, commenting on legislation and public policy, speaking out on moral and social issues, writing editorials, holding public office, volunteering for the election commission, etc. Perhaps the most basic form of participation is voting—selecting our government. Exodus 18:21 says: "But *select* capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials..."

Voting is a simple act with a significant impact. When we vote, we help determine who will lead our nation, make our laws, and protect our freedoms. 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."⁶ Let me give you three practical actions steps on voting:

> Step 1: Register to Vote: I realize this is a no-brainer, but you can't vote unless you're registered. And there are a lot of eligible Americans are not even registered to vote. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, as many as 35% of the voting-age population are not registered. That translates to as many as 65 million Americans! What's worse is that less than half of the voting-age population actually votes in a given election!⁷ Some might say: "What's the difference, my one vote doesn't really count." Yes, it does! Check out your bulletin insert for several examples where one vote or a few votes made a tremendous difference. All I need to say is "Florida recount" and you get my point. First you need to register, and it is so easy to do. In fact, you will have an opportunity to register right here at church this morning.

If you need help, there is a team who will assist you in filling out the Voter Registration Form, and they will make sure it is turned in so that you can fulfill your Christian responsibility as a citizen of America to vote in the upcoming primary and election. Step one: Register to Vote.

> Step 2: Register a Friend: Take your friend a Voter Registration Form and help them fill it out and send it in. Point your friends to www.ivotevalues.org, a voter registration, education, and

mobilization website where they can fill out their form online, print it, and mail it in or take it to their election commission office. Help organize a Voter Registration Drive at a Christian Bookstore, your service club, your college, place of business, etc. --just be sure to get permission. Step Two: Register a Friend.

> Step 3: Vote Your Values: Make the commitment to vote in the upcoming primary and in the general election. Did you know that in 2000, a little over half (51.3%) of eligible Americans voted. In 2002's mid-term elections, the numbers were even worse when only 37% of eligible Americans voted! In 2004, 55.1% voted, but the number fell back to 37.1% for 2006.⁸ In 2008, the number rose to 56.8%.⁹

Of self described evangelical Christians, numbering around 60 million, the percentages are worse. In 2000, only 25% voted.¹⁰ While nearly 50% voted in 2004,¹¹ the number fell back to about 33% in 2006.¹² The number climbed to 50% in 2008.¹³ Consequently, over the last 4 elections, slightly less than 40% of evangelicals voted. But that is not enough.

Here's an old proverb that is still true today: "Bad politicians are elected by good people who don't vote." Certainly, the Bible says: "When the godly are in authority, the people rejoice. But when the wicked are in power, they groan" (Proverbs 29:2). And if you don't vote, you have no right to groan. So voter-apathy is indefensible, especially among Christians, who have been commanded by Christ to penetrate our culture as salt and light (Matt. 5:13-16) and participate in government as engaged citizens (Matt. 22:21). So go against the rising tide of apathy in America—Vote!

But hold on because I am not done. Don't just vote for the sake of voting. Take it one step further and *vote your values*. 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 the issues is far more important than the party he or she belongs to? Shouldn't we vote for candidates who share our values? John Jay, our nation's first Supreme Court Justice and one of the 3 authors of the Federalist Papers explaining our U.S. Constitution said: "Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation... to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."¹⁴

Unfortunately, many Christians don't even consider biblical values when voting, often choosing candidates whose positions on moral issues are at odds with their own beliefs, convictions, and values. A recent study by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life shows that nearly 2/3rds of Americans say their faith has little to do with their voting decisions. That's tragic because Jesus expects us to let our faith influence every part of our decision making—including the democratic process. You need to get informed on the issues, study the party platform statements, know what the candidates stand for, read what they say about the issues, check out their websites, find out who are their enemies and who are their friends, then weigh the candidates' values against biblical values, and prayerfully consider voting for the ones who are the best match with your values. The closer we get to election time, www.iVoteValues.org will be a great place to start.

One Caution: 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 is quoted as saying: "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. And look for statesmen to support, not mere politicians. Politicians think about the next election; statesmen think about the next generation. And strongly consider voting for candidates who believe like you do. Don't just vote to be voting—vote your values!

> Question: What are your core values as you think with me about all these candidates, the primaries, and the 2010 election? I realize that there are multiple opinions among Bible-believing Christians when it comes to issues such as the economy, energy independence, health care, taxes, national security, immigration, etc. Certainly there are important moral issues with public policy implications that Christians should be concerned about, such as poverty, environmental stewardship, racial equality, etc. As important as those issues are, let me mention three values that I believe rank higher than some of these others: Life, Family, and Freedom.

≥ Life: Life is precious. Miraculous. Delicate. Created by a loving God who makes every human being unique (Ps. 139:15-16). Life made in the image of God is a fundamental, God-given 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."¹⁶ 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 1.2 million unborn children in America every year. Fully 22% of all pregnancies end in abortion,¹⁷ and the overwhelming majority of those innocent children are simply sacrificed on the altar of convenience. Nearly 50 million babies have been murdered by abortion. It is the American Holocaust. Proverbs 24:11 says: "Rescue those who are being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter."¹⁸

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. We value life. Second, we value –

≥ Family: Family 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." Gen. 2:24 says: "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh." Study after study has shown that every child needs the influence of a father who is male and a mother who is female. Every civilization in history is built upon the institution of marriage between a man and a woman. 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 traditional marriage. 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; homosexuality is a deceptive perversion. Today the sacred institution of marriage is under attack by radical homosexuals and their allies in the courts, who are seeking to redefine it. Consequently, where a candidate stands on the value of traditional marriage and particularly on a Marriage Protection Amendment is absolutely critical. Because as goes the family, so goes the nation. Christians ought to fight for the biblical definition of marriage. We value family. Third, we value –

≥Freedom: Freedom is priceless. Cherished. Fragile. Gal. 5:1 says: *“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.”* Freedom must be nurtured. Defended. Protected. That is the intention of the First Amendment: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”¹⁹ Unfortunately, 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 Jefferson's private letters on its head in declaring a two-way “Wall of Separation” between church and state.

The Result: Black robed tyrants feel compelled to remove all religious influences from public institutions. The High Court outlawed public prayer in the schools in 1962,²⁰ out went public Bible reading in 1963,²¹ and in 1980, down came the Ten Commandments from school house walls!²² 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. For example, some have declared it to be unconstitutional:

- For Kindergarten students to recite: "God is great, God is good, let us thank Him for our food."²³
- For a student to ask and for the teacher to answer whose birthday is being celebrated at Christmas.²⁴
- For two Middle School students to bring their Bibles to class, which were confiscated, called “garbage,” and thrown into the trash can by their teacher.²⁵
- For students in nine western states to recite the Pledge of Allegiance including the words: “One Nation, Under God.”²⁶
- For an Honor Guardsman to say: “God bless you and this family, and may God bless this country” at the graveside of a veteran.²⁷
- For a county government building exterior to display our national motto: “In God We Trust.”²⁸

I say again, if we don’t use our freedom to defend our freedom we will lose our freedom. 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.” Nobody ought to claim to be a good citizen, a patriot who takes Christianity out of culture, God out of government.

So you need to find out where the candidates stand on the value of religious liberty. 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 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. We value Life, we value Family, and we value Freedom!

How can Christians obey the command of Christ to render to Caesar, how should believers relate to our civil government, how can we make maximum impact? Five things: Seek God for your government, support your government, submit to your government, stand up to your government, and select your government.

CONCLUSION

After our Founding Fathers unanimously approved the Declaration of Independence, and it was later signed, there was a call to celebrate—to fire cannons, to fill the sky with fireworks, and to ring the bells in celebration! And the very first bell they rang was in the belfry of the very hall where they approved the Declaration of Independence to summon the people to hear the first public reading of America's founding document. They rang that bell—we know it as the “Liberty Bell.” Where did it get its name? From July the fourth? From the Declaration of Independence? No. The name comes from the Scripture that imprinted on that bell years earlier - Lev. 25:10 - which says: “Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof!” And that is the mission of every believer. So on this July 4th, let's proclaim liberty throughout the land and “Let Freedom Ring!”

Freedom will ring louder, freedom will ring clearer, if Christians all across America will do these 5 things and “give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.” Just imagine the impact Christians could have on the direction of our government, the character of its leadership, and the moral health of our nation if we all simply applied biblical principles to every aspect of our lives—including our patriotic duty as Citizen Christians.

Bow: The cornerstone of our efforts must be prayer. Pray for this broken nation full of broken families full of broken people who have broken God's laws and broken God's heart. Pray for a radical return to God in America so that we can truthfully be one nation under God again. For some of you, there is a more basic prayer to pray. The greatest need is to give your heart to Jesus and place your life under God's rule as Lord. More important than being a citizen of the greatest nation on earth is to become a citizen of the Kingdom of God. America will one day be no more, but the Kingdom of God will endure forever. Will you become a citizen of the Kingdom by bowing before Jesus and pledging your allegiance to Him?

Prayer.

¹ As found in *One Nation Under God: Our Founding Documents* (Nashville: For Faith & Family Publishing), 10.

² *Ibid.*, 18.

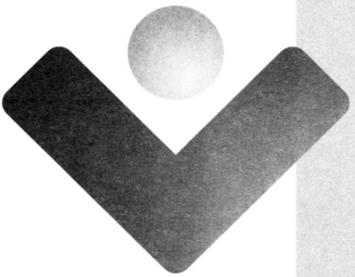
³ Summarized from Paul Harvey, *Our Lives, Our Fortunes, Our Sacred Honor* (Waco, TX: Word Books, 1976). See also, D. James Kennedy and Jerry Newcombe, *What If America Were a Christian Nation Again?* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2003), 37-40.

⁴ Abraham Lincoln, “Address at Gettysburg,” delivered on November 19, 1863 as found in *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, edited by Roy P. Basler (Rutgers University Press, 1953), 7:22.

⁵ Attributed to George Washington by Frank J. Wilstach, *A Dictionary of Similes*, 2d ed., (New York: Bonanza, 1924), 526.

⁶ 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, 1781.

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- ⁷ See the statistics provided by the U.S. Census Bureau at <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/voting.html>.
- ⁸ <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0781453.html>.
- ⁹ http://elections.gmu.edu/Turnout_2008G.html.
- ¹⁰ Focus on the Family, Citizen Magazine, September 2003, "Believers at the ballot box: Election 2000 by the numbers."
- ¹¹ A total of 125,736,000 votes were cast; twenty-three percent of voters were self-identified as "Evangelicals," thus translating into 28.9 million votes. If you say that there are 60 million evangelicals, then you get a number close to 50%. See sources at New York Times, "Religious Voting Data Show Some Shift, Observers Say," (at: <http://select.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=F50F17F7355B0C7A8CDDA80994DE404482&n=Top%2fReference%2fTimes%20Topics%2fSubjects%2fE%2fEvangelical%20Movement>); and U. S. Census Bureau, "Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2004" (at: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2006pubs/p20-556.pdf>).
- ¹² In the 2006 elections, a total of 85,251,089 votes were cast; twenty-four percent of voters were "Evangelicals," thus translating into 20.5 million votes. Again, if you assume 60 million evangelicals, you get basically a 1/3 voter turn out. See sources at George Mason University, "United States Elections Project: 2006 Voting-Age and Voting-Eligible Population Estimates" (at: http://elections.gmu.edu/Voter_Turnout_2006.htm); New York Times, "Religious Voting Data Show Some Shift, Observers Say" (at: <http://select.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=F50F17F7355B0C7A8CDDA80994DE404482&n=Top%2fReference%2fTimes%20Topics%2fSubjects%2fE%2fEvangelical%20Movement>).
- ¹³ <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1022/exit-poll-analysis-religion> where the evangelicals represent 23% of the electorate (132,618,580), which yields 30.5 million out of 60 or so million self-described evangelicals.
- 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 *Founding Documents*, 10.
- ¹⁷ http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_induced_abortion.pdf
- ¹⁸ Obviously those who are justly sentenced to death by Capital Punishment are another story (See Genesis 9:5-6).
- ¹⁹ *Founding Documents*, 46.
- ²⁰ *Engel v. Vitale* 370 U.S. 421, (1962).
- ²¹ *Abingdon School District v. Schempp* 374 U.S. 203, 220-221 (1963).
- ²² *Stone v. Graham* 449 U.S. 39 (1980).
- ²³ 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.
- ²⁴ [Florey v. Sioux Falls School District, 494 F. Supp. 911 \(U.S.D.C., S.D. 1979\)](http://www.florey.com/press/2002/06/12/494_F_Supp_911_U.S.D.C.,_S.D._1979).
- ²⁵ News Release, "School Officials Trash 'Truth for Youth' Bibles and Ten Commandment Covers," Liberty Counsel, May 19, 2000.
- ²⁶ *Newdow v. United States Congress*, 292 F. 3d 597, 608 (9th Cir. 2002).
- ²⁷ David O'Reilly, "Honor Guardsman is Fired for Blessings," Philadelphia Inquirer, January 22, 2003.
- ²⁸ "N.C. County Will Fight 'In God We Trust' Lawsuit," The First Amendment Center, August 15, 2003; <http://fac.org/news.aspx?id=11828>. "N.C. County Will Fight 'In God We Trust' Lawsuit," The First Amendment Center, August 15, 2003; <http://fac.org/news.aspx?id=11828>.



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Message Notes

“How You Can Have Maximum Impact
as a Christian Citizen”

Matt. 22:15-21

Main Text: Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's (Matt. 22:21).

1. _____ FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT.

I urge then first of all that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:1-4).

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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land (2 Chron. 7:14).

2. _____ YOUR GOVERNMENT.

A. _____ to your government (Matt. 22:21)

Example: Matt. 17:24-27

This is why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing (Rom. 13:6).

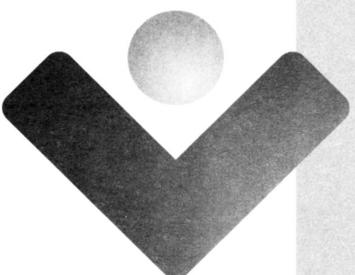
B. _____ in your government.

Examples: Rom. 13:7; Ps. 137:5

Give everyone what you owe him... if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor (Rom. 13:7).

3. _____ YOUR GOVERNMENT.

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king who is the supreme authority or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right... Show proper respect to everyone... honor the king (1 Pet. 2:13-14, 17; Rom. 13:2-5).



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4. _____ TO YOUR GOVERNMENT.

Examples: Exod. 2:15-21; Dan. 6:1-23; Rev. 2:8-10; 2:13; Acts 5:29

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so! (Ps. 107:2).

Shout it aloud! Do not hold back! Raise your voice like a trumpet! Declare to my people their rebellion, and to the house of Jacob their sins (Isa. 58:1).

Examples: Moses vs. Pharaoh; Nathan vs. David; Elijah vs. Ahab; Daniel vs. Nebuchadnezzar; John the Baptist vs. Herod; Peter vs. Sanhedrin.

5. _____ YOUR GOVERNMENT.

Action Step 1: _____

Action Step 2: _____

Action Step 3: _____

When the godly are in authority, the people rejoice. But when the wicked are in power, they groan (Prov. 29:2).

> We Value...

1. _____

Example: Ps. 139:15-16

Rescue those who are being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter (Prov. 24:11-12).

Statistics: Over a million abortions per year; nearly 3,000 per day; nearly 25% of all pregnancies are terminated early.

2. _____

Example: Gen. 1-2

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." (Matt. 19:4-6)

3. _____

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free (Gal. 5:1).

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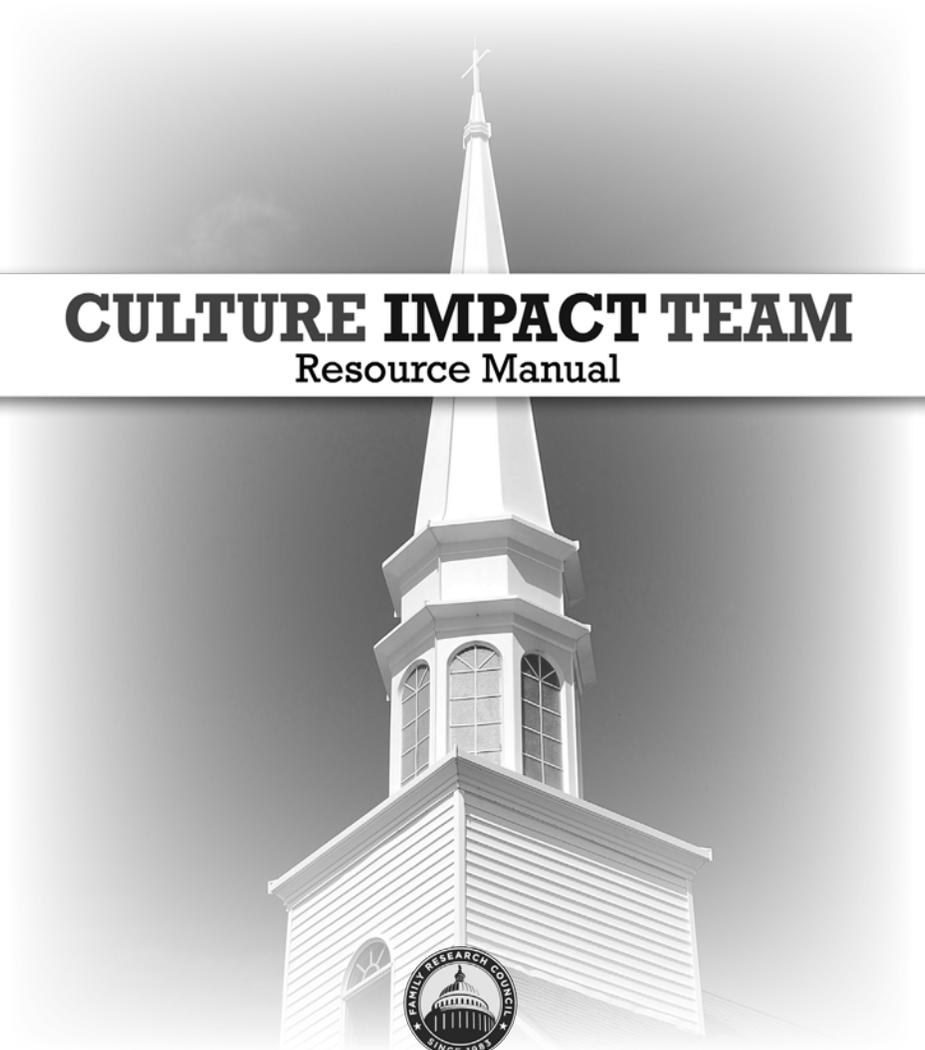
Watchmen Ministry

Family Values Voter Guide

This questionnaire was sent to all candidates requesting responses to a variety of issues, including candidate views on protecting the unborn, traditional marriage, and other values questions not generally addressed by candidates through mailings, newspaper ads, forums, fundraisers, etc. Each candidate was asked to answer with *Yes*, *No*, or *No Response*.

Questionnaire Key: **Yes: Y** **No: N** **No Response: NR** **Did not answer question: DNA**

Chino Valley Unified School District Candidates:	Name						
1. Do you support parental notification laws for minor girls seeking an abortion?							
2. Do you support a school board policy that would require parental knowledge or consent prior to schools conducting psychological evaluations, testing, and treatment of students?							
3. Do you support the expansion of school-based health clinics, which may provide abortion referrals, perform examinations, and dispense medicine and birth control devices?							
4. Do you support Proposition 8: The California Marriage Protection Amendment which states, "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California"?							
5. Do you support a policy that would require parental knowledge or consent prior to the distribution of student questionnaires about sex, drugs, suicide, and personal family conduct?							
6. Do you support allowing voluntary student-initiated, student-led prayer at school ceremonies and/or events?							
7. Do you believe a woman has a fundamental right to terminate her pregnancy at any time during the nine months of development?							
8. Do you believe a woman has a fundamental right to terminate her pregnancy only in exceptions of incest, rape, or the "life of the mother?"							
9. Do you support the inclusion of instructional materials, programs, and activities that portray the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgender lifestyles in a positive light?							
10. If faced with a budget shortfall would you support a spending cut rather than increasing taxes?							
11. Do you support the teaching of "Intelligent Design," in addition to the theory of evolution?							
12. Do you support the right of parents to homeschool their children?							



CULTURE IMPACT TEAM
Resource Manual

How to Establish a Ministry at Your Church

INFORM | IGNITE | IMPACT ★ CULTUREIMPACT.ORG

POLICY GOALS



PRO-FAMILY GOALS FOR THE NATION



FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL
Washington, DC



Thank you for choosing this resource. Our publications are designed for grassroots activists and concerned citizens—in other words, people who want to make a difference in their families, in their communities and in their culture.

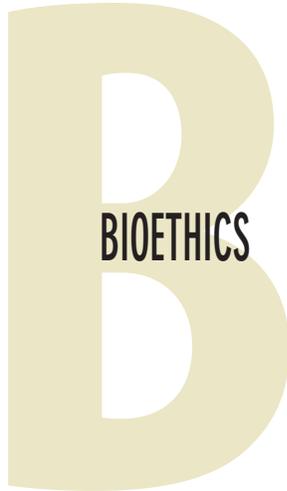
History has clearly shown the influence that the “Values Voter” can have in the political process. FRC is committed to enabling and motivating individuals to bring about even more positive change in our nation and around the world. I invite you to use this pamphlet as a resource for educating yourself and others about some of the most pressing issues of our day.

FRC has a wide range of papers and publications. To learn more about other FRC publications and to find out more about our work, visit our website at www.frc.org or call 1-800-225-4008. I look forward to working with you as we bring about a society that respects life and protects marriage.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Perkins". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "T" and "P".

Tony Perkins
President
Family Research Council

Pro-Family Goals for the Nation



Adult Stem Cells: Ethics, Research and Promise

– *Dr. David Prentice*

Adult stem cells are the only stem cells successfully treating patients now, and are helping patients without harming the stem cell donor. Embryonic stem cell research requires destruction of young human life and has shown no proven benefits for a single human being, while cloning (nuclear transfer) creates new human life only for experiments. Induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS cells) can be created ethically by adding a few genes to normal adult cells such as skin and then reprogramming the cells to act like embryonic stem cells, but even iPS cells have no therapeutic use at present. The practical dangers of embryonic stem cells for potential treatments are significant, including possible tumors, difficulty forming and maintaining the desired tissue repair cells, and potential transplant rejection.

Adult stem cells are being used to treat over 50,000 people a year around the globe, for dozens of different diseases and injuries, including heart damage, spinal cord injury, corneal blindness, multiple sclerosis, sickle cell anemia, and numerous cancers. Adult stem cells can be harvested from almost any tissue, including bone marrow, blood, brain, heart, muscle, and fat, often from the patient herself, as well as umbilical cord blood and the solid umbilical cord. Adult stem cell therapy results are documented by published, peer-reviewed scientific evidence in the patients. Adult stem cell therapies are ethical and successful, with even more on the horizon. Adult stem cells truly are saving lives and improving health now, and put the patients first.

Efforts to increase funding of successful adult stem cell research and treatments include the bipartisan Forbes-Lipinski “Patients First Act,” introduced in the last two sessions of the U.S. Congress, as well as state legislation to fund adult stem cell research in Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Kansas, and Indiana, and to prohibit embryo-destructive research, human cloning, and animal-human hybrids, including bills in Arizona, Louisiana, and Ohio.

What You Can Do

- Learn the facts about adult stem cell successes and ethics, and differences with unethical, unsuccessful embryonic stem cells, pass on correct information, rebut false information.

Stem Cell Research Facts:

www.stemcellresearchfacts.org

Stem Cell Research:

www.stemcellresearch.org

FRC facts on Stem Cells:

www.frc.org/life--bioethics#stem_cells

- Write a letter to the editor, an op-ed, or a short article to educate more people about the successes of adult stem cells.
- Make sure your physicians know the facts about successful adult stem cell treatments.

- Contact your U.S. Senators and Representative and encourage them to pass the Patients First Act, and to increase federal funding for adult stem cell research, including more clinical trials.
- Contact your state elected officials and ask them to introduce or pass legislation funding adult stem cell research and patient treatments in your state.
- Encourage establishment and expansion of state and regional public cord blood banks.
- Encourage your elected officials to provide a tax credit for families who save as well as donate umbilical cord blood.
- Ask your legislators to end federal and state taxpayer funding of embryonic stem cell research, all human cloning, and all human embryo research.

B BIOETHICS

Dangers of Egg-Harvesting for Research and IVF Pregnancies

– Dr. David Prentice

Harvesting eggs from women for biotechnology research and reproductive technology can directly and adversely affect women's health. Research related to human cloning, human embryonic stem cells, and human embryo development, as well as collection of eggs for *in vitro* fertilization (IVF), has produced a market demand for young women's eggs, but also has negatively impacted many women's health and safety. Undue risks are especially placed on young and poor women. Egg brokers and harvesters often advertise on college campuses, offering inducements of thousands of dollars to lure young women to risk their health. The harvesting of women's eggs for research and for donor-egg IVF pregnancies has led to coercion, deception, violations of informed consent, health problems, and even the deaths of some women, lured into egg

donation by such financial incentives.

Between 10-20 percent of women who undergo the hormonal stimulation used in egg harvesting may experience ovarian hyper-stimulation syndrome, which can cause pain, kidney failure, respiratory distress, hemorrhage from ovarian rupture, and blood clots, and can lead to future infertility, and even death. Published scientific papers, going back over 15 years, document some of the short-term adverse health effects, yet there is a significant lack of extended follow-up of these women and the potential long-term health risks to them. The exaggerated and distorted claims for embryo and cloning research, as well as advertised guarantees of IVF clinics to deliver a baby, give false promise to patients and donors alike. They also increase demand for women's eggs for highly unethical experiments and exploit women as mere sources of raw material for science.

Current laws place limits on payments and procurement of human organs for transplant. However, there are very few laws at the federal or state level that regulate procurement or donation of human eggs, or compensation of human egg donors. Moreover, the lack of data on long-term health effects of egg donors means that women who donate eggs for research or for IVF pregnancies risk their health without complete informed consent. Just as all human trafficking should be prohibited, so also should all trafficking in women's tissues be prohibited. Further, true informed consent in egg donation requires that women be completely advised regarding the potential adverse effects associated with these egg donations, including long-term impacts on their health and future fertility.

Some states have taken the lead in proposing limits on financial inducements as lures for egg donations, such as Arizona, Oklahoma, Kansas, Massachusetts, and California. But there is still largely no regulation or oversight of the egg donation industry and New York has actually approved a large financial payment to induce egg donors to risk their health. There is also some movement at the federal level to begin tracking egg donors and their long-term health problems.

What You Can Do

- Contact your U.S. Senators and Representative to encourage them to introduce and pass legislation for a federal registry that provides long-term tracking of the health of women who donate eggs, as well as disposition of all eggs harvested.
- Contact your state legislators and ask them to pass legislation that removes financial inducements for young women to donate their eggs and risk their health.
- Encourage laws that prohibit all trafficking in women's eggs, including payments for egg harvesting.

E EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Prosecute Obscenity and Protect Children and the Public from Pornography and Media Indecency – *Cathy Ruse*

Today's media and entertainment technologies present a serious challenge to American families. Magazines, music, motion pictures, advertisements, and even video games are distribution channels for material that is morally damaging or even sexually graphic. But television and the Internet present perhaps the most serious concern.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) received 1.4 million citizen complaints of indecency in 2004, the year Janet Jackson had a "wardrobe malfunction" at the Super Bowl, and in 2005 more than 500 radio and television shows drew complaints. These are "public" airwaves that belong to the American people, and the people have the right to demand that their airwaves be suitable for all audiences. For that reason, Congress has granted the FCC appropriate powers to create and enforce regulations to control obscene, indecent, or profane programming.

Pornography is spreading like a plague as the Internet moves it from the margins of our culture to the mainstream. Worst of all, it is stealing the innocence of our children. A recent study published in the journal *Pediatrics* showed that 42 percent of children ages 10 to 17 had been exposed to online pornography in the past year; 66 percent of the exposure was "unwanted." Hard-core pornography, or "obscenity," is illegal, as is any pornography depicting children; this is true whether the material resides on the Internet or elsewhere. But the federal courts have blocked all efforts by Congress to criminalize the distribution of less-extreme pornography to children online. As a result, porn producers like Playboy and Penthouse can exploit our children on the Internet with impunity.

What You Can Do

- Contact your U.S. Senators, Representative, and the FCC to encourage them to increase the fines and penalties for broadcasting indecent and profane material and support applying such restrictions to cable and satellite transmissions.
- Support the vigorous enforcement of all existing laws against child pornography and obscenity. FRC applauds the Department of Justice for its efforts against child predators and child pornography online, but more must be done to combat hard-core "obscene" pornography, which also threatens the health and lives of children and destroys their families.
- Contact your U.S. Senators and Representative to ask them for a comparable increase in money and manpower specifically for obscenity prosecutions.
- Ask your U.S. Senators and Representative to close the legal loophole which allows the peddling of less-extreme pornography to children online.

EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Fight Sex Trafficking in the US – Dr. Chris Gacek

As shocking as it may seem to the average American, sex trafficking is a serious problem in the United States. It is taking place all around us as up to 100,000 American juveniles are trafficked annually. Sex trafficking of children takes place in every American city of substantial size. Frequently, girls are introduced into trafficking and forced into prostitution as young as age 13.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, 82 percent of trafficking events involved allegations of adult sex trafficking, prostitution, and sexual exploitation of a child. According to federal law, “trafficking” is defined as the “recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for one of three reasons...” The first has to do with keeping a person in involuntary servitude or forced labor. The second involves “a commercial sex act through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.” And, if the person is under 18, “any commercial sex act ... regardless of whether there was coercion.”

Often, the trafficker tries to recreate a family environment with the trafficker acting as the head of a pseudo-family. Such activity is intended to create a substitute home in which continued economic and sexual exploitation of the minor is facilitated and where the child transfers trust and loyalty to his or her criminal overseers. This underscores the insidious nature of sex trafficking and the great need that exists to fight this evil at the local level because the criminal activity takes place there.

What You Can Do

- Contact groups that oppose sex trafficking for information. Learn more about sex trafficking. Groups like the Salvation Army and Shared Hope International fight sex trafficking and have excellent websites dedicated to the topic.
- Oppose the presence of sexually oriented businesses (e.g., massage parlors, strip clubs) in your community. Groups like Citizens for Community Values (Cincinnati, OH) and ROCK (Louisville, KY) have done excellent work getting rid of businesses that are closely connected to trafficking and related criminal activities.
- Work to establish and sustain local shelters for at-risk children and adults.
- Pray that God will assist our nation in ridding itself of this scourge. For example, the Salvation Army holds an annual “International Weekend of Prayer and Fasting for the Victims of Sexual Trafficking” during the last weekend of September.

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

Restore Parental Rights in Education – *Dr. Chris Gacek*

The Family Research Council believes that future education policy across the United States must provide parents with a greater say in the education of their children – that is, increasing parental rights in all areas of educational decision-making. This will provide families with the option to choose the best teaching arrangements for their children’s educational needs. Additionally, increasing parental rights will protect the religious freedoms of the family in a world that is increasingly hostile to their sacred beliefs.

FRC tracks the ability of parents and students to select the educational institutions to which they send their children. Choice allows education “purchasers” to educate their children at home without undue government interference or to select schools most aligned with each family’s and each child’s needs. Included in these decisions are such considerations as effective teaching, safer environments and financial needs. The ability of customers to “exit” poor schools forces inferior institutions to adapt and improve. Consequently, the capacity for the educational consumer to leave a poor school or school system is essential to long-term improvement in education.

For education to serve the public, it must give parents access to a variety of school types—not just a government option. The current system is essentially a monopoly model that is not suited to the genuine needs of families and children. As with other monopolies, it gives disproportionate weight to itself and its special interests, and not enough to the customers—the parents and children. Furthermore, monopolies always resist competition, which compels improvements and innovations. Any new system of education must leave behind the mindset that only government schools can serve the public. Parents should be allowed to select the educational institutions that best suit their needs.

Educational choice may allow Christian parents to select schools that support the God-centered worldview they wish to teach their children. This dimension of school choice is about creating enclaves of Christianity safe from secular intrusion and interference. For those who must remain in public schools we encourage “opt-out” policies, either at the state or local level, with regard to certain curricula and teaching materials (*e.g.*, sex education).

What You Can Do

- For homeschoolers, if you can, follow and support the work of the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA). HSLDA’s work is invaluable in sustaining this form of educational choice.
- Let state and local candidates know that educational choice is important to you. Do this in person, by letter, or e-mail.
- Please note that local school and library boards are often accessible to direct election or participation by members of the public. Tea Party organizations would seem well suited to contesting these local seats.
- For those wishing to know more about the two opposing educational philosophies that pit governmental-control versus parental-control, we recommend FRC’s 2011 publication authored by Jack Klenk, “Who Should Decide How Children Are Educated?”

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

Family-Friendly Tax Policy

– Tom McClusky

Taxes are a necessity to keep a steady government in operation. Our freedoms and way of life would not be safe without a well-funded military and our local communities would not be safe without police and fire departments. However, our current system of taxation is unfair to families and the companies they own or where they work, small and large alike. Tax revenues can have real benefits if spent wisely, yet they always have real consequences on the taxpayer. For every dollar given to federal, state and local government, families must work harder and longer to replace that dollar, or they must decide to live without things

they would have been able to afford otherwise. It is time government lived by the same standard.

The best solution for families is a complete revamp of our current tax code that results in a fairer tax code. Until that time, Washington needs to take steps that allow them to keep more of the money they have earned. The very first step is that the tax relief provisions passed in 2001, 2003 and 2004 must be made permanent. In 2009 Congress took the less brave approach and merely extended many of those provisions for two more years. Budgeting families should not have to rely on the shifting winds of Washington to work out long term financial plans.

While families might have appreciated the short-term reprieve Congress granted them in the “Tax Deal” of 2009, one major downside was that the deal increased from 0 percent to 35 percent the Death Tax (the death tax occurs when you inherit assets from someone deceased, which in one of its first forms was initiated to help pay for World War I.) The Death Tax submits its targets to double taxation which can result in the dissolution of family businesses and the dampening of business investments. The Death Tax should die its final death and be eliminated.

Congress should also increase the child tax credit to at least \$5,000 per child. Congress should also lower the minimum earned income eligibility for any portion of the tax credit to \$10,000. Congress should annually increase the amount of the child tax credit and the maximum thresholds for receiving the full child tax credit by the annual percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Congress should not allow the child tax credit to drop below \$5,000 and the maximum thresholds to drop below current levels, should the CPI decrease.

The tax code should allow married couples to pay taxes based on “income splitting,” whereby half of the couple’s joint income is attributed to each spouse, thus ensuring that they will not pay higher taxes than two single people with the same combined income. Additionally the marriage penalty for Social Security recipients should be eliminated. Also the upper marginal tax rate (the effective rate of tax paid on each *additional* dollar of income) for the poor (presently as high as 89 percent) must be modified so that it does not exceed the marginal tax rate for upper-income people (33 percent).

The Alternative Minimum Tax should be rolled back, indexed and repealed altogether.

As we go forward we must not throw away the opportunity that is presented to us. We should always adhere to the words of Ronald Reagan in 1964, sixteen years before he would be elected President:

We need true tax reform that will at least make a start in restoring for our children the American Dream that wealth is denied to no one, that each individual has the right to fly as high as his strength and ability will take him.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Fiscal Responsibility

– Tom McClusky

American families have prospered most when our markets are free and when innovation, enterprise and entrepreneurship are encouraged. Over the last few decades, Washington has instead fostered an atmosphere that calls for more taxation, over-regulation and increased litigation. Government takeovers of major economic sectors have failed to stimulate growth and in the long-term may prove ineffectual even towards stabilizing the economy, while the size and the scope of the federal government have exploded. What is needed is common sense, pro-growth policies to give businesses and entrepreneurs renewed confidence in our economy and to remove Washington as the roadblock to job creation.

Regardless of the party in power, Washington has failed to restrain itself when it comes to spending and regulating. Legislation, such as the REINS (Regulations from the Executive In Need of Scrutiny) Act, is needed to hold back an Executive Branch from seizing tremendous power from the other two branches of government. The REINS Act would require that every new major rule proposed by federal agencies be approved via joint resolution passed by both bodies in Congress and signed by the President before they can take effect. A “major rule” is any rule that the administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) finds may result in an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more; a major increase in costs or prices for consumers; or significant adverse effects on the economy.

A recent report by the Small Business Administration’s Office of Advocacy stated: “The annual cost of federal regulations in the United States increased to more than \$1.75 trillion in 2008. Had every U.S. household paid an equal share of the federal regulatory burden, each would have owed \$15,586 in 2008.” According to research by The Heritage Foundation, the Code of Federal Regulations, a compendium of all existing federal rules, hit a record high of 163,333 pages in 2009, an increase of some 22,000 since the beginning of the decade.

However it is not just the Executive Branch that needs restraint. The federal government as a whole is too big and spends too much of our money. We have an ever increasing, record breaking debt that now totals over \$14 trillion. According to the Congressional Budget Office, recession-depleted tax revenues are scheduled to rebound to their historical average of 18 percent of GDP by 2018 and reach 18.4 percent by 2021. Federal spending, which has historically been 20.3 percent of GDP, however, is projected to reach 26.4 percent of GDP by 2021. America is on a dangerous trajectory as Congress continues to increase spending and raise debt ceilings without regard to incoming levels of revenue.

President Thomas Jefferson once wrote, “*I wish it were possible to obtain a single amendment to our Constitution ...; I mean an additional article, taking from the federal government the power of borrowing.*” While a Balanced Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution can’t guarantee what our second President was calling for, it will create a new atmosphere of responsibility in Washington - but only if it includes both a spending limitation and a super-majority for raising taxes, in addition to balancing revenues and expenses.

Legislation in the 112 Congress:

- H.R. 10, S. 299: Regulations From the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2011 (REINS) Act
- S.J. Res. 5, H.J. Res. 56: Balanced Budget Amendment that cap spending at 18 percent and discourage raising of taxes

HUMAN LIFE

Require Abortion Facilities to Meet Basic Medical Standards – *Jeanne Monahan*

Abortion remains one of the least regulated medical procedures in the United States, often resulting in unsanitary and unsafe conditions. On occasion, abortion clinic standards have been dire enough to result in long-term health complications for patients, in some instances, even death. In January 2011, the Huffington Post highlighted one such story of a clinic in Pennsylvania, where substandard conditions existed over the course of fifteen years and ultimately resulted in the death or infection of numerous patients.

Other similar cases of substandard abortion facilities have been reported in Arizona, South Carolina, Texas, and Kansas. Disregard for basic health and safety standards have caused untold numbers of American women to have access to abortion, but often demonstrate little concern for the safety of the procedures and drug regimens, the competence of the doctors and the facilities performing the invasive surgeries and prescribing medical abortions, or the overall reproductive health of their clients, many of whom are adolescents. Evidence of substandard conditions in many abortion clinics demonstrates the need for individual states to pass comprehensive abortion clinic regulations.

All medical procedures in the United States are constrained by governing medical ethics, including the bedrock principle of informed consent. Abortion facilities continue to deny women full disclosure of the psychological and physical effects of surgical and medically induced abortion. Evidence is mounting, from scientific research studies worldwide, that there is an association between induced abortion and preterm birth, as well as an increased risk of substance abuse and suicide. Psychiatric and psychological professional groups are being forced to re-evaluate the destructive nature of abortion to women's health. The failure to provide information concerning the risks of abortion for women's reproductive and overall health represents a major gap in the promotion of true health care.

What You Can Do

- Encourage your state leaders to adopt and enforce appropriate medical standards for abortion facilities like those required for other ambulatory surgical facilities. These should include standards concerning the following: sterile surgical practices and environment, proximity to emergency care facilities, surgical facility equipment, adequate equipment and trained personnel for neonatal resuscitation in clinics performing late-term abortions; and mandatory physician ultrasound to determine the timing of the pregnancy and aid in care.
- Ask your state legislators to promote informed consent laws. State laws should be enacted and enforced to require that abortion facilities provide information to the woman and parents of minors, with 48 hours notice in advance of abortion procedures, concerning the following: prenatal/fetal development (including mandatory provision of live ultrasound to the client as well as fetal pain); the short and long-term physical effects and complications of induced abortion (including risk to future healthy pregnancies); and the psychological effects of induced abortion for women.
- Require screening to ensure that a woman seeking an abortion is not doing so under coercion by any other individual.

HUMAN LIFE

End Forced Taxpayer Subsidization of Abortion, Abortion Providers and Abortifacient Drugs

– *Jeanne Monahan*

The most recent abortion data reveals that in 2008, 1,212,350 abortions were performed in the United States,¹ bringing the total number of abortions in the U.S., since the 1973 Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*, to well over 52 million.² Direct federal funding for abortion increases the number of abortions performed. Similarly, federal funding of abortion providers (for family planning or other services) also increases the number of abortions performed.

In the years immediately following *Roe v. Wade*, the federal government funded 300,000 abortions per year under Medicaid.³ However, the Hyde amendment was enacted in 1975 and made the direct funding of abortions, outside of exception clauses, illegal. In 1993, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that the Federal Government would pay for as many as 675,000 abortions annually, were the Hyde Amendment not in place.⁴ By contrast, in 2008 there were 425 abortions in the U.S. funded by the federal government and in 2009 there were 220 federally financed U.S. abortions.⁵

The majority of Americans strongly oppose taxpayer funding for abortion. In many polls conducted in the past few years, Americans were abundantly clear about their conscientious objections to allowing their tax dollars fund abortion.⁶

Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider, in the most recent fiscal year received approximately \$363.2 million in federal and state grant monies, roughly one-third of the organization's budget.

Congress has sought to prevent government funding of abortion and other practices destructive of innocent life through a large number of pro-life provisions annually renewed as amendment riders on federal appropriations bills. Taxpayers should not be forced to expend their financial resources on the purposeful destruction and abuse of innocent human life, at any stage of development.

What You Can Do

- Although the following measures have passed the House of Representatives, they have not passed the Senate. The next President should commit to supporting these bills.
 - Enact: “No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act” to provide a government-wide Hyde amendment to stop abortion funding.
 - Enact: “Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act”, which prohibits family planning grants from being awarded to any entity that performs abortions.
- Ask your state and local government leaders to cut off all funding for abortion providers.

HUMAN SEXUALITY

Do Not Misuse Civil Rights Laws to Protect Homosexual Conduct and Gender Identity Disorder – *Peter Sprigg*

“Civil rights” laws protecting against “discrimination” in employment, housing, and public accommodations have historically granted protection based on characteristics which are inborn, involuntary, immutable, innocuous, and/or in the U. S. Constitution. While all of those criteria apply to characteristics like race or sex, none of them apply to the choice to engage in homosexual conduct or to deny one’s biological sex. Yet homosexuals and cross-dressers (who suffer from a recognized mental disorder, “Gender Identity Disorder”) are seeking such protection through laws at the local, state, and national level.

Such laws violate Constitutional freedoms of religion, speech and association. They would prohibit employers from taking into account their sincere beliefs about what is appropriate conduct when making hiring, management, and promotion decisions.

“Religious exemptions” do not adequately protect people of faith. While such laws sometimes contain “religious exemptions” (for example, to prevent churches from being forced to hire homosexual clergy), these may not protect the conscience rights of individual Christians, Jews, Muslims and others. Profit-making corporations may not qualify for the exemption, so Christian bookstores, religious publishing houses, and religious television and radio stations could all be forced to compromise their principles.

Such laws would mandate the employment of homosexuals in inappropriate occupations. Sexual conduct can be relevant to employment. Under such legislation employers in the area of education and childcare would be required to hire homosexuals, even if they consider them inappropriate role models for children and youth.

Such laws would destroy employers’ rights to set dress and grooming standards for their employees. Such bills sometimes purport to protect such rights. But dressing and grooming in a way that is culturally appropriate for the employee’s biological sex is the most fundamental such standard there can be.

Such laws would pave the way for legalization of counterfeit same-sex “marriage.” State courts that have legalized homosexual “marriage” have cited the existence of “non-discrimination” laws at the state level as establishing a precedent which they have then applied to marriage. Passage of the so-called “Employment Non-Discrimination Act” (ENDA) at the national level could give fuel for a similar decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, forcing same-sex “marriage” on every state in the union.

What You Can Do

- Legislators at the local, state, and federal level should reject any bills that would expand civil rights protections to cover homosexual conduct (“sexual orientation”) or cross-dressing (“gender identity”).
- Executive agencies at the local, state, and federal levels should not circumvent the legislative process by adopting special protections based on “sexual orientation” or “gender identity” without explicit statutory authorization.
- Congress should reject, and/or the next President should veto, the “Employment Non-Discrimination Act” (ENDA).



Strengthen Marriage Through State Policy Reforms and Community-Based Leadership – Peter Sprigg

The institution of marriage is in crisis in America at both ends of the marital life-cycle—with respect to both the formation of marriages and their dissolution. Many couples cohabit before or instead of marrying, and many end their marriages in divorce. Educating the public about these problems and overcoming them will require the efforts of both community leaders (such as clergy) and government policy-makers (primarily at the state level, which is responsible for most family law).

Many couples see cohabitation as a “trial marriage,” and believe this period of testing before they commit to marriage will make marital failure less likely. Yet dozens of scholarly studies have shown the exact opposite. Cohabiting relationships are much less stable than marital ones, and couples who cohabit before marriage are *more* likely to divorce, not less.

In the 1960’s and ‘70’s, virtually every state did away with the traditional “fault-based” system of divorce and replaced it with “no-fault” divorce. “No-fault” divorce might better be called “unilateral” divorce, because it has created a perverse incentive system in which the party that wants to end the marriage holds all the negotiating power. Many divorces occur in low-conflict marriages in which one or both spouses are open to the possibility of reconciliation. The explosion of divorce has had devastating consequences on children, adult children of divorce, and those who divorce. Fortunately, a bipartisan Coalition for Divorce Reform (www.divorcereform.info), united across ideological lines, has recently been formed to attack this problem.

What You Can Do

- Local communities should adopt Community Marriage Policies. Under this concept, originated by MarriageSavers, clergy of all denominations in a community agree not to marry any couple unless they participate in extensive premarital counseling with clergy and with mentor couples recruited from the churches. Communities with such policies have seen significant reductions in rates of cohabitation and divorce.
- Government programs such as welfare, Medicaid, food stamps, housing subsidies, and Social Security should eliminate all financial incentives for cohabitation and penalties for marrying.
- Because the impact of divorce falls most heavily on innocent children, states should adopt a Parental Divorce Reduction Act. Under this system, if married parents with minor children living at home wish to divorce, they must first complete divorce reduction classes which teach about the harmful effects of divorce, relationship skills, and the potential for reconciliation. They must then have a waiting period of eight months for “reflection and reconciliation” before being permitted to file for divorce. This would create a bias in favor of the preserving the marriage rather than ending it.

N

NATIONAL DEFENSE

Restore the military's prohibition on open homosexuality

– *Robert G. Morrison*

Congress moved in the lame duck session in 2010 to repeal the ban on homosexuality in the military. This action was ill-advised, and the next Congress and President should reverse it and reinstate the previous law. Although the 2010 bill repealed a provision that was enacted in 1993, the U.S. military has actually forbidden homosexual conduct in the ranks continuously since 1775. The repeal was a serious error and left a host of issues unaddressed. Among these concerns are privacy issues, religious liberty of those in the service who have moral objections to homosexual practice, and the safety of the blood supply for combat troops.

To put people with sexual attractions to one another into conditions of forced intimacy — sharing bathrooms, showers and sleeping quarters — runs the risk of increasing sexual tension, harassment and even assault. These are clear threats to good order, morale and unit cohesion. For this common-sense reason, we do not force women to be housed with men—yet there would be no way to separate homosexuals from the same-sex objects of their attentions.

Until it acts to reinstate the ban on homosexuality in the ranks, Congress must provide full protection from sexual harassment for all military members, including heterosexual persons. Congress should also resist any effort to repeal Article 125 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) (which prohibits both homosexual and heterosexual sodomy), and the military should continue to enforce it. This is necessary to protect the blood supply for combat-bound soldiers. Men who have sex with men are 8,000 times more likely, according to the American Red Cross, to carry the HIV/AIDS virus than are regular blood donors. Our troops rely on the blood of their fellow warriors when wounded. They need and deserve the protection the UCMJ provides. This is as important for unit cohesion and safety as, for example, banning smoking in the warship's paint locker.

Our all-volunteer military must not become a politically correct zone. Many active duty personnel hold deep-seated convictions against homosexual conduct. Provided there is no harassment or violence, military personnel—including chaplains, but not limited to chaplains—must retain their right to express disapproval of homosexual conduct. Congress must guarantee all volunteers in our military protection against retaliation for their beliefs and it must uphold their right to express their convictions.

Much military recruiting involves the use of either explicit or implicit quotas, both to obtain individuals with certain skills and to insure diversity within the ranks. However, sexual conduct should never become the basis for setting recruiting goals, and Congress should permanently bar military recruitment of homosexuals by quota.

What You Can Do

- Contact your Senators and Representative to urge them to prohibit the Department of Defense personnel from officiating at “same-sex marriages” and to bar the use of military facilities for such ceremonies.

R RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Protect Freedom of Conscience in Health Care – *Jeanne Monahan*

Under the current Administration, conscience protections for health care providers and organizations are being undermined. First, passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), on March 21, 2010, popularly known as “ObamaCare,” ushered in numerous concerns about state power over the provision of health care, including the individual mandate, mandates on employers and insurance companies, as well as concerns to supporters of the sanctity of life from conception onward, such as direct federal funding of abortion and discrimination against pro-life health care providers.⁷

In passing PPACA with abortion funding, Congress included a narrow nondiscrimination provision only preventing health “plans” in the state mandated exchanges from discriminating against “providers” or “facilities” unwilling to participate in abortion. However, PPACA does not prevent the Federal government or state and local governments receiving federal funds from such discrimination. Current laws that prevent government discrimination may be undermined by PPACA’s new abortion funding and subsidies.

PPACA also contains a mandate for all insurers to cover preventive care services pending recommendations by the Institutes of Medicine. These recommendations almost certainly will include mandated coverage of contraception, which some health care providers find morally objectionable. Such a mandate would undermine the minimal current protections in law for health care providers who object to any service, including contraceptives, in specific federally funded health programs. Insurers who object to covering contraception would have to cover these. Providers and pharmacists who object to dispensing contraceptives could be removed from insurance networks which comply with the new mandate.

Further exacerbating conscience concerns, on February 18, 2011 the Obama Administration issued a revised conscience regulation which weakened the regulations implemented in 2008 to provide greater enforcement of three conscience laws passed over the last 35 years. The new regulations eliminated key provisions necessary for the protection of the consciences of health care personnel and entities which object to participating in abortion by removing the requirement that federally funded entities certify compliance with conscience laws. The new regulation also eliminated definitions that ensured the conscience protections broadly interpreted the term “assisting in the performance” when it comes to participating in abortion.

For example, an emergency room physician in the state of Georgia was fired after refusing to prescribe an abortifacient to an adolescent.⁸ A pharmacist had to leave his state and community pharmacy practice after refusing to dispense “emergency” contraception (which can act as an abortifacient).⁹ Students applying for nursing school at Vanderbilt University were initially required to certify that they would participate in abortion until the policy was changed after the news became public.¹⁰ For more examples of discrimination in healthcare please see the following website: http://www.freedom2care.org/docLib/20100920_Reallifestories.pdf.

What You Can Do

- Federal and state laws should, at a minimum, protect from government discrimination health care providers and organizations that reject participation in abortion or abortifacient drugs, sterilization, embryo-destroying research or treatments, euthanasia, and other health care practices.

- Professional licensing bodies, especially those given government support or endorsement, should be prevented from enacting rules that violate the consciences of members or potential members of health care professions (e.g., those requiring that obstetrician-gynecologists agree to perform or refer for abortions or those requiring that medical students train to perform abortions.)
- The right of health insurers to limit coverage of ethically questionable medical services should be protected, and the right and ability of health insurance subscribers to prevent use of their premium dollars for procedures they object to on ethical grounds should be expanded.

Legislation We Endorse

- U.S. Rep. John Fleming, M.D. (R-LA) introduced the “Abortion Non-Discrimination Act” (H.R. 361) to prevent government discrimination in federally funded health programs, including PPACA.
- U.S. Reps. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Dan Lipinski’s (D-IL) “No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act” (H.R. 3), as well as U.S. Rep. Joe Pitt’s (R-PA) “Protect Life Act” (H.R. 358) which provide conscience protections against government discrimination on abortion.
- U.S. Reps. Jeff Fortenberry’s (R-TX) and Dan Boren’s (D-OK) “Respect for Rights of Conscience Act of 2011” (H.R. 1179) to provide conscience protections for individuals and entities that object to providing services beyond abortion, such as contraception, sterilization or questionable end-of-life care.

R RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Protect religious freedom in the public square – Ken Klukowski

The First Amendment's Religion Clauses suffer from a misinterpretation that renders them ineffective for protecting religious liberty; instead, their misuse has led to a stifling of religious practice and expression. Consequently, the Family Research Council's efforts to advance religious liberty largely are focused on research and support to restore a correct interpretation of the Constitution in our federal courts.

The two Religion Clauses are the Establishment Clause and Free Exercise Clause. The Establishment Clause guarantees that the government shall not create an official religion to which citizens must subscribe. The Free Exercise Clause guarantees that government will not stop peaceful believers from freely living out their faith in worship or daily practice.

To strengthen the historic meaning of the Religion Clauses, FRC provides detailed scholarly research published in law reviews and strong amicus briefs making scholarly arguments filed in important lawsuits. We also highlight the rights of believers to express their faith in their local schools and communities by writing on these issues and debating secularists on television and radio. *For a complete list of FRC amicus brief filings since January 2009, go to www.frc.org/amicus-briefs.*

There are various matters in the courts where FRC is heavily involved.

- We help defend the National Day of Prayer.
- We educate the public on threats to religious practice in adhering to biblical teaching on marriage and life.

Currently, our most important effort involves a case we hope to see argued before the Supreme Court in 2012: *Davenport v. American Atheists*.

In 2010, the Tenth Circuit federal appeals court ordered roadside crosses commemorating fallen state troopers removed, holding that any stand-alone cross on public land is an unconstitutional endorsement of Christianity.

This decision applies the "endorsement test," a misunderstanding of the Establishment Clause adopted by the Supreme Court in 1989. It says the Establishment Clause is violated whenever a government action involving religion gives the appearance of an endorsement of religion.

Instead, the Establishment Clause prevents the government from directly establishing a specific state religion, or from coercing any citizen to materially support or participate in religious activity. FRC labors to restore this correct understanding of the Constitution, and is coordinating a nationwide effort to persuade the Court in *Davenport*.

Many of the moral controversies over abortion, marriage, and parental rights stem from religious liberty being eroded. Religious liberty is about public policy accommodating the beliefs of the American people, instead of separating them from the public square.

What You Can Do

- Support the appointment of originalist judges: While legislation and regulations involving religious liberty are important, such efforts cannot survive court challenges until we restore a right judicial understanding of the Religion Clauses. Our Founding Fathers guaranteed religious liberty in the Bill of Rights. Therefore the most meaningful step for the next president and Congress is to appoint judges who adhere to the Constitution's original meaning.
- Prevent Application of Foreign or Sharia Law in Any Legal Forum: FRC supports efforts to prevent any foreign law or Islamic Sharia law from having legal standing in any American court, whether local, state or federal.

Endnotes

- 1 Guttmacher Institute, In Brief: Fact Sheet, “Facts on Induced Abortion in the United States,” January 2011, p. 1. http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_induced_abortion.html
- 2 National Right to Life Committee, Fact Sheet, “Abortion and Statistics: United States Data and Trends.” http://www.nrlc.org/Factsheets/FS03_AbortionInTheUS.pdf
- 3 See Statement of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, “Effects of Sec. 209, Labor-HEW Appropriations Bill, H.R. 14232,” June 25, 1976; John Thomas Noonan, *A Private Choice: Abortion in America in the Seventies* (Toronto: Life Cycle Books, 1979): ch. 12, fn. 6.
- 4 Robert D. Reischauer, Director, Congressional Budget Office, Letter to the Congressman Vic Fazio (D-Ca) (July 19, 1993).
- 5 FY 2011 Moyer Report, submitted by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, February 2010, page 106.
- 6 A Quinnipiac University poll from January 2010 found that 67% of Americans opposed funding abortion. A CNN poll from April 11, 2011 found that 61% of Americans oppose using public funds for abortion.
- 7 For a chart of details of the various abortion funding provisions in PPACA, see <http://downloads.frcaction.org/EF/EF10C08.pdf>.
- 8 Story submitted at www.Freedom2Care.org, January 8, 2011.
- 9 Story submitted at www.Freedom2Care.org, March 25, 2009.
- 10 Associated Press story January 13, 2011. “Vanderbilt Med center reacts to abortion complaint.” <http://timesnews.net/article.php?id=9029017>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FROM *frc* FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL



What the Founders Really Did on Religious Liberty: "Deeds not Words"

by Robert G. Morrison **BC11A03**

The Founders of our country considered religious liberty our "first freedom." In their view, it was the bedrock upon which all other freedoms rest. In his farewell address, George Washington said, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports." It is an important exercise to learn from the founders of our country what true religious liberty is.



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Founded in 1983, Family Research Council is a nonprofit research and educational organization dedicated to articulating and advancing a family-centered philosophy of public life. In addition to providing policy research and analysis for the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government, FRC seeks to inform the news media, the academic community, business leaders, and the general public about family issues that affect the nation.

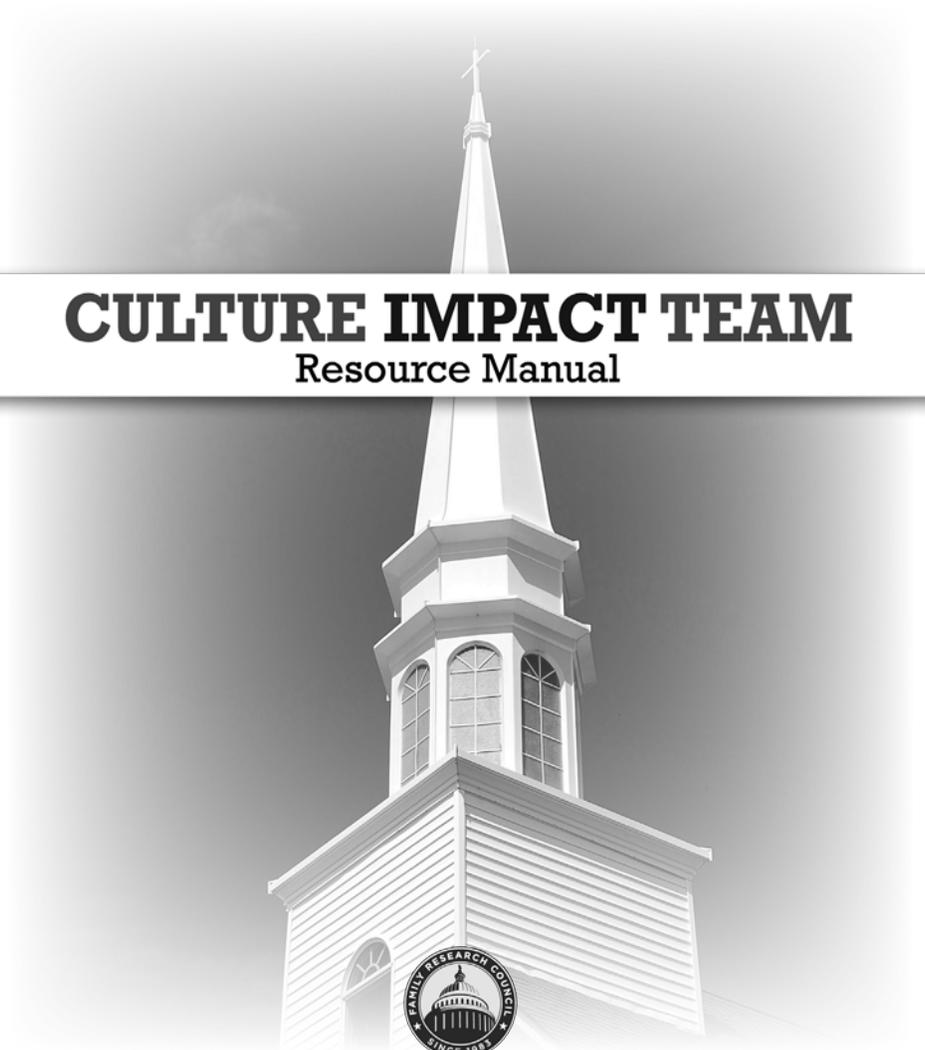
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CULTURE IMPACT TEAM
Resource Manual

How to Establish a Ministry at Your Church

INFORM | IGNITE | IMPACT ★ CULTUREIMPACT.ORG

PROJECTS

Projects

The following is a list of potential projects and action plans for your Culture Impact Team (CIT), for individual church members, for your church, or even an association of churches.¹ They run from A to Z!

Adopt a Child

If you are a believer, you are adopted. We are all adopted as sons and daughters by our heavenly Father. Many adoptive parents testify that adoption gives them a whole new appreciation for God's love for us as Father. Remember, "For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world, to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love, He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, in accordance with His pleasure and will, to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One he loves" (Ephesians 1:4-6). Adoption presents a powerful challenge to the abortion advocates and industry, testifying that every child is precious, valued, and wanted.

Resource(s):

- Bethany Christian Services (America's largest full service Christian adoption agency) – Phone: (800) BETHANY (238-4269); Website: bethany.org
- National Council for Adoption – Phone: (703) 299-6633; Website: adoptioncouncil.org
- Family Research Council's RealCompassion.org – Website: realcompassion.org
- Liberty Godparent Home – Website: godparentfoundation.org
- Christian Adoption Service – Website: christianadopt.org
- Focus on the Family – Website: icareaboutorphans.org

Adopt a School

Tony Evans launched the National Church Adopt-A-School Initiative as a strategy that trains churches to partner with local public schools to provide mentoring, tutoring, and family support services. The website offers all kinds of helpful resources to help train, equip, and mobilize members to invest in schools in your community. Remember, 90% of children attend public schools. While our personal preference may be to home school or place our children in a Christian school, many families don't feel like they have an option. So let's love the 90% of our neighbors who are in the public schools. Together, we can win the next generation for God.

Resource(s):

- National Church Adopt-A-School Initiative – Website: churchadoptaschool.org

¹ This list of resources is modeled after *101 Ways to Reclaim America* (Coral Ridge, FL: Center for Reclaiming America, 2003). These action plans are by no means exhaustive, but are a starting point. If you have suggestions or ideas, please communicate them to Family Research Council (FRC). Also, FRC does not necessarily endorse all the beliefs, positions, or actions of the ministries cited as resources. They are merely listed because of their value as a resource in that particular area.

Adopt a Single-Parent Family

Raising a child is hard enough these days with two parents. Think of ways you might assist a single-parent family. Something as simple as running an errand, babysitting so mom or dad can have a break, helping with household or car repairs, or mowing the lawn can make a difference. Organize a group in your church to carry out this important ministry to a church member or to someone who needs Christ and a church home.

Resource(s):

- Family Research Council's RealCompassion.org – Website: realcompassion.org

Ask Stores to Get Rid of Pornography

You may be shocked to learn that pornography can come disguised in packages readily for sale to our children. Sometimes it is included in computer software that has no connection to pornography. Filing a complaint and following up on it can be an important step in removing these offensive items from the shelves of stores in your area. Be on the alert and take action to protect the young people in your community.

Resource(s):

- Family Research Council (FRC) – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Website: frc.org
- Pure Hope – Phone: (513) 521-6227; Website: purehope.net

Attend Public Meetings

You can learn a great deal about what is going on in your community by attending public meetings and hearings held by your elected and appointed public officials on a regularly scheduled basis (usually monthly). City and Town Council Meetings, Planning and Zoning Hearing Boards, and other governmental agencies are required to meet and transact their business in public. The sunshine laws of most states require that these types of meetings be advertised and open to the public. This is a great way for you to get to know your elected officials and make them aware of your positions on the issues facing your community. Be informed! Get involved!

Resource(s):

- A list and dates of these meetings are available at the city and county government offices for each community and are normally published in your local newspaper.

Attend School Board Meetings

Public schools are being overwhelmed with secular, humanistic philosophies that are replacing Judeo-Christian values and biblical principles. Many of the public school boards, administrators,

and teaching staff openly exhibit an increasingly hostile attitude toward Christians and Christian beliefs. Pro-abortion and homosexual activists are busily advancing their agendas in the public schools and indoctrinating our children with beliefs that are clearly in conflict with a Judeo-Christian worldview and biblical teachings. Make sure a Christian perspective is represented at each school board meeting. A network of concerned parents from your church can attend the meetings on a rotating schedule and report to the others.

Resource(s):

- Check your local newspaper for meeting dates and times.

Become a Foster Parent

Foster parents have a tremendous influence on the lives of orphaned and displaced children. Although it takes a lot of careful consideration and sacrifice, being a foster parent can rescue young people from a path of destruction. The growing need for foster parents has far outpaced most government agencies' abilities to fill it. The problem has become so overwhelming that in Florida the state has asked churches to get more involved. Christians cannot squander this divine opportunity to provide a Christ-like solution to a growing need.

Resource(s):

- Family Research Council's RealCompassion.org – Website: realcompassion.org
- Contact the local office of your state's Department of Child and Family services and ask about the foster care program in your community.
- Arrow Child and Family Ministries – Website: arrow.org

Begin a Bible Study or Prayer Group at Work

You can help coworkers deal with the pressure and stress of their jobs by offering a weekly Bible study or prayer group where people can come for spiritual support and godly wisdom. It does not need to be anything extensive or complicated. Usually, brief and simple is best.

Resource(s):

- Crosswalk.com Online Devotionals – Website: crosswalk.com/devotionals
- Henry Blackaby Ministries (God in the Work Place) – Website: blackaby.net
- My Utmost for His Highest – Website: utmost.org
- Precepts Ministries – Website: precept.org
- The Navigators – Website: navigators.org

Boycott Program Sponsors

Some businesses sponsor TV shows with sex and violence because they want their product associated with a popular program—regardless of that program's content. Send letters disapproving of their sponsorship and communicate that you will not buy their product until they no longer support the objectionable program. You may want to mention that a 2002 study

reported in the American Psychological Association's Journal of Applied Psychology found that shows with graphic sexual and violent content generally dull viewers' senses. So they are less likely than viewers of other shows to actually pay attention and respond to advertisements. Be sure to lobby family and friends to protest along with you.

Resource(s):

- American Family Association – Phone: (800) FAMILIES (326-4543); Website: afa.net
- Family Research Council (FRC) – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Website: frc.org
- Media Research Center – Phone: (800) 672-1423; Website: mrc.org
- Parents Television Council – Phone: (800) 882-6868; Website: parentstv.org

Bridge Cultural Barriers

Often there are misunderstandings between different ethnic groups, even among Christians. Work with your pastor to establish ties with Bible believing churches of other ethnic backgrounds, and begin breaking down racial barriers. Have a “Race-Relations Sunday.” Host joint activities or worship services, outreach projects, or social get-togethers. Establishing “bridges” of communication and fellowship in the name of Christ is a powerful testimony in a community. In areas with large numbers of recent immigrants, offering English as a Second Language classes is often an effective and meaningful outreach. In fact, our church began a Hispanic mission church out of our ESL.

Resource(s):

- ESL Directory – Website: ESLdirectory.com

Call Talk Radio Programs

Talk Radio has become a leading forum for public expression. The next time a talk show host discusses an issue that interests you, write down what you want to say—your talking points. Then, using your notes, call and offer a sound biblical view. You can reach thousands who might not otherwise consult the Bible for answers to life's problems. Remember, you are the salt and the light of the world.

Resource(s):

- Family Research Council (FRC) – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Website: frc.org
- National Religious Broadcasters – Website: nrb.org

Conduct a Voter Registration Drive

This is a simple, yet important, step toward transforming America that can be taken right inside your church welcome center or lobby—A Christian Citizenship Sunday Voter Registration drive. Make sure to get permission from your pastor before hosting this event, and then you can get all the materials you need to register voters from your local County Supervisor of Elections. This is a great way to get your congregation involved in the governmental process. Sadly, only 1 out of

3 believers actually vote in a given election. Remember, as Christians we have a duty to vote and to be salt and light in our communities: “You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13a, 14a).

Resource(s):

- Family Research Council (FRC) – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Websites: frc.org; iVoteValues.org
- Citizen Link of Focus on the Family – Website: citizenlink.org

Contact Your Elected Officials

If you had to take a pop quiz on the names of your local and state officials, how would you do? Why not take a few minutes to find out their names? Along with their names, jot down their contact information for future ready reference. Get fully informed about what they stand for, and then contact them by:

- E-Mail: You may find your senators and representative directly from Family Research Council’s website. In most cases, you may also e-mail your elected officials directly. When writing an e-mail, follow the guidelines for letter writing given below.
- Phone Call: Remember that telephone calls are usually taken by a staff member, not the member of Congress.
 - 1) Identification: Identify yourself to the person who answers the phone, then ask to speak with the aide who handles the issue about which you wish to comment.
 - 2) Specification: After identifying yourself, tell the aide you would like to leave a brief message, specifying the reason for your call, such as: “Please tell Representative/Senator (Name) that I support/oppose (H.R.____/S.____).”
 - 3) Justification: You will also want to state reasons for your support or opposition to the bill.
 - 4) Clarification: Ask for your representative’s or senators’ position on the bill. You may also request a written response to your phone call.
 - 5) Gratification: Thank the person before hanging up.
- Letter: Remember these four guidelines as you write elected officials:
 - 1) Be Polite: When addressing the official, be sure to use the right title: Dear Representative or Dear Senator. When writing to the Chair of a Committee or the Speaker of the House, it is proper to address them as: Mr. Chairman or Madam Chairwoman, and Mr. Speaker or Madam Speaker.
 - 2) Be purposeful: State your purpose in the first paragraph of the letter. If your letter pertains to a specific piece of legislation, identify it accordingly, e.g., House bill: H. R. _____, Senate bill: S. _____.
 - 3) Be Practical: Get to the point, include key information, use an example to support your position, address only one issue, and, if possible, keep the letter to one page.

- 4) Be Pleasant: Remember who you are and whose you are. There is an old country saying that has a lot of truth: You can catch more bees with honey than vinegar. Make sure you follow up with a thank-you note for their response—whether it was good or bad. Be a good witness for Christ.
- Fax: Use the same guidelines as for letter writing. Remember, one page!
 - Personal Visit: Sometimes the best way to lobby your elected official isn't with an e-mail, phone-call, letter, or fax, but with a personal visit. Here are "7-Up's" of a personal visit.²
 - 1) Call up. Make an appointment with your official's office, either the home district office, state office, or the office in Washington. If the official isn't available for a meeting, the scheduler may refer you to an assistant who deals with the issue you're concerned with. If that happens, don't be discouraged because officials rely on their personnel to be their information gatherers and gatekeepers.
 - 2) Pray up. Pray for God's wisdom in how to approach the official, for the words to speak, and for openness on the part of the official (Neh. 2:4).
 - 3) Study up. Consult For Faith & Family's website and other sources for brief, concise, information on the issue in order to get a handle on the most important points to make. Know your issue well enough to keep your conversation brief, since you may not have much time to make your case (Prov. 15:28a).
 - 4) Dress up. The commercials say: "Image is everything." It is not everything, but when meeting an official it is important. Being well dressed communicates confidence and respect—confidence in yourself and respect for the official (Esther 5:1-2).
 - 5) Speak up. As much as is possible, make your point in a compelling, winsome way (Prov. 22:11), and restrain the desire to become angry and combative (James 1:20). If the official is a believer, use Scripture, if not, don't. The Bible is true in every realm of reality; therefore there are all kinds of statistics to back it up. So use the evidence for your argument, not just a verse.
 - 6) Close up. Fifteen to twenty minutes is sufficient time if you're prepared well. Be sure to close the deal by making a specific request: "Will you co-sponsor this?" "Will you vote for this?" "Will you oppose that?" (Neh. 2:5-8). Once you've made your points, leave some information with the official, and express your appreciation for a hearing—and leave.
 - 7) Follow up. Less than a week after your meeting, send a brief note: 1) thanking the official for his or her time, and 2) restating your point.

If we are going to make a positive impact on the direction of America, we must let our elected officials know how we stand on the issues. The laws they pass today will set the course for your community's tomorrow and your nation's future! Make sure your voice is heard. Sharing the truth in love can affect their decisions.

Resource(s):

² Adapted from Concerned Women for America's Penny Nance and her "how to" for training lobbyists.

- Contact the President – Phone: Comment Line (202) 456-1111; Switchboard (202) 456-1414; Website: whitehouse.gov; E-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

Addressing Correspondence to the President:

The Honorable (full name)
 The White House
 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
 Washington, DC 20500

- Contact your U.S. Representative or Senator – Phone: (202) 224-3121(Capitol Hill Switchboard) and ask for your U.S. Representative’s and/or Senator’s office; Websites: house.gov; senate.gov.

Addressing Correspondence to a Senator:

The Honorable (full name)
 __ (Rm.#) __ (name of) Senate Office Building
 United States Senate
 Washington, DC 20510

Addressing Correspondence to a Representative:

The Honorable (full name)
 __ (Rm.#) __ (name of) House Office Building
 United States House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

- Family Research Council (FRC) – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Website: frc.org
- American Family Association – Phone: (800) FAMILIES (326-4543); Website: afa.net
- Citizenlink of Focus on the Family – Phone: (800) A-FAMILY (232-6459); Website: citizenlink.org
- National Right to Life Committee – Phone: (202) 626-8800; Website: nrlc.org
- Check your local telephone directory for local representatives.

Contact TV Network Affiliates

Because TV networks are dependent on their audience, they pay close attention to the mail they receive. Write to the TV executives and let them know “the good, the bad, and the ugly.” Let your opinions be known. Demand that more good and wholesome family programming be aired! Don’t forget to thank them for the few good shows that are currently airing.

Resource(s):

- ABC Entertainment
 Phone: (310) 557-7777; Website: abc.com
 Address: 500 South Buena Vista Street
 Burbank, CA 91521
- CBS Entertainment
 Phone: (212) 975-4321; Website: cbs.com

Address: 51 West 52nd Street
New York, NY 10019

- NBC Entertainment
Phone: (818) 840-4444; Website: nbc.com
Address: 3000 West Ahuneda Avenue
Burbank, CA 91523
- Fox Broadcasting Co. (FOX)
Phone: (310) 369-1000; Website: fox.com
Address: P.O. Box 900
Beverly Hills, CA 90213
- Warner Brothers Network (WB)
Phone: (818) 977-5000; Website: thewb.com
Address: 4000 Warner Boulevard Building 34R
Burbank, CA 91522

For up-to-date information on these and other stations, visit parentstv.org.

Create a Phone Alert Network

Phone “networks” play a key role in notifying families around the nation about important, time sensitive issues. Participate in, or create, a phone alert network in your community to get the word out on pro-life and pro-family issues. In January 2000, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) attempted to unconstitutionally limit religious broadcasting. The flood of phone calls from concerned citizens all over the country forced the FCC to reverse their decision less than thirty days after it was made public. Your phone calls can and do make a difference! Remember, God has given us a mandate to be the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13), working to preserve our nation from the forces of corruption and decay.

Devote Yourself to Fast and Pray for America

America has a long legacy of prayer and fasting. The Founding Fathers publicly proclaimed the official observance of days of prayer and fasting. The Constitutional Congress regularly turned to prayer and declared a “National day of Prayer and Fasting.” For example, on May 17, 1776:

The Congress... desirous ... to have people of all ranks and degrees duly impressed with a solemn sense of God’s superintending providence, and of their duty to devoutly rely ... on His aid and direction... do earnestly recommend ... a day of humiliation, fasting and prayer, that we may with united hearts confess and bewail our manifold sins and

transgressions and, by a sincere repentance and amendment of life,... and through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, obtain His pardon and forgiveness.³

Our nation has turned its back on its Judeo-Christian heritage in recent years, and prayer is steadily being removed from the public arena. As we face this culture war over our Christian values, we must value God's assistance above all. We need to fast and pray.

Resource(s):

- Call2Fall (5 minutes on our knees for America on the Sunday closest to Independence Day) – Website: Call2Fall.org
- Henry Blackaby Ministries (Fresh Encounter with God Kit) – Website: blackaby.net
- Intercessors for America – Phone: (800) 872-7729; Website: ifapray.org
- International Awakening Ministries (Richard Owen Roberts) – Website: rortrust.org
- National Prayer Center – Website: nationalprayercenter.org
- Campus Crusade – Website: cru.org

Elect Christians to Public Office

Having carefully studied the candidates' positions over against the Bible, "Citizen Christians" are accountable to God to support and elect Christians who will make a positive impact as salt and light through their office. John Jay, first Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, stated, "Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."⁴ One of the ways to change the direction of our nation is to place committed Christians in public office. Remember, "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked man rules, the people groan" (Proverbs 29:2 NKJV).

Resource(s):

- American Family Association – Phone: (800) FAMILIES (326-4543); Website: afa.net
- Concerned Women for America – Phone: (202) 488-7000; Website: cwfa.org
- Eagle Forum – Phone: (618) 462-5415; Website: eagleforum.org
- Family Research Council – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Website: frc.org
- Focus on the Family – Phone: (800) A-FAMILY (232-6459); Website: focusonthefamily.com
- National Right to Life Committee – Phone: (202) 626-8800; Website: nrlc.org

Encourage Fair and Unbiased Journalism

Too often, Christians complain about the media when a story is reported with an anti-Christian bias, but they forget to applaud a reporter when an accurate report is given. While it is important

³ Vincent Wilson, Jr., *The Book of the Founding Fathers* (Brookeville, MD: American History Research Associates, 1974), 44.

⁴ John Jay, in a statement made on October 12, 1816, *The Correspondence and Public Papers of John Jay*, Henry P. Johnston, ed., (New York: G.P Putnam & Sons, 1893; reprinted NY: Burt Franklin, 1970), 4:393.

that we continue to demand fair and unbiased reporting in the media, be sure to let members of the media know when you appreciate their efforts. It just might encourage them to keep up the good work.

Resource(s):

- Media Research Center – Website: mrc.org

Encourage Young People to Make an Impact

There are many wonderful Christian youth groups and ministries all across America that your children can get involved in. Find out what ministries are active in your area, and encourage your children to join in the excitement. Some of these youth ministries teach young people how to effectively share their faith with their friends and classmates. Some get them involved in prayer, others get them involved in the governmental process, and still others are just great fun-incorporating lots of fellowship with other Christian youth in a Christ-centered environment.

Resource(s):

- First Priority of America – Phone: (877) 587-8582; Website: fpoamerica.com
- Leadership Institute – Phone: (800) 827-5323; Website: leadershipinstitute.org
- Summit Ministries – Phone: (423) 775-7599; Website: summit.org
- TeenPact: Phone – (888) 343-1776; Website: teenpact.com
- Worldview Academy – Phone: (830) 620-5203; Website: worldview.org
- YoungLife – Phone: (719) 381-1800; Website: younglife.org

Establish a Fax Alert Network

In our “information age,” information acquisition and dissemination are powerful tools you can use to mobilize your church and community to take a stand for Christ. Obviously, you will want to establish an email network, but some businesses and churches still have fax machines, so you may want to establish a fax network for sending and receiving information on issues that concern you. Contact the ministries you support, and ask if they have a “Fax Alert” you can receive on a regular basis. If we take full advantage of all the modern technology available to us, we can get our message out.

Resource(s):

- Campaign for Working Families (End of Day / Daily) – Phone: (703) 671-8800; Website: cwfpac.com
- Family Research Council (Washington Update Weekly) – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Website: frc.org
- Focus on the Family (Pastor’s Weekly Briefing/ Weekly) – Phone: (800) A-FAMILY (232-6459); Website: focusonthefamily.com

Facebook Your Friends

If you are on Facebook, you can use it as a powerful tool to get across the pro-family message. Enter some thoughts in your “status” about what is on your mind about your concerns for your community, your state, and our nation. Think of a provocative topic in the news that has a moral dimension and create a post to start discussion. Here’s an example: “Should ‘We the People’ fund Planned Parenthood, America’s largest abortion provider, to the tune of over \$360 million tax dollars a year?” You could also donate your status to a pro-life or pro-family group who will automatically post on your Facebook page on a regular basis. Also, you could create a Facebook group in your community of like-minded friends who are concerned about moral issues and plan “events” for activism. The possibilities are endless!

Resource(s):

- Facebook – Website: [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

Fight Hunger by Contributing and Volunteering

Hunger is a huge problem around the world, and Christians need to follow the biblical mandate to help (Matt. 25:35). One way is by contributing to the World Hunger Fund. Even in America, hunger is a problem. Hundreds of people in larger communities depend on food banks for basic food supplies when they are homeless or their paychecks don’t last through the end of the month. Most food banks and soup kitchens need volunteers to package and distribute food, stock shelves, and perform other tasks. Assisting the less fortunate in our communities provides a wonderful opportunity for Christians to demonstrate Christ’s love in a practical way. Find out where the nearest food bank or soup kitchen is in your community and get your church involved, too.

Resource(s):

- Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund – Website: [globalhungerrelief.com](https://www.globalhungerrelief.com)
- America’s Second Harvest – Phone: (800) 771-2303; Website: [feedingamerica.org](https://www.feedingamerica.org)
- Samaritan’s Purse – Phone: (828) 262-1980; Website: [samaritanspurse.org](https://www.samaritanspurse.org)
- World Relief – Phone: (800) 535-5433; Website: [worldrelief.org](https://www.worldrelief.org)
- Food for the Hungry – Phone: (800) 2-HUNGERS Website: [fh.org](https://www.fh.org)

Fight Pornography: What You Can Do

Pornography is the "pink elephant in the pew" -- the embarrassing, big subject no one wants to talk about. Yet, pornography harms all those who come in contact with it and are addicted to it, and are the victims of abuse because of it. The church not only needs to stand against the proliferation of pornography but needs to reach out and help those who are victims of it, especially in the church.

Resources(s):

- Enough is Enough – Website: [enough.org](https://www.enough.org)
- Join 1 Million Men – Website: [join1millionmen.org](https://www.join1millionmen.org)
- Fight the New Drug – Website: [fightthenewdrug.org](https://www.fightthenewdrug.org)

- National Center on Sexual Exploitation – Website: endsexualexploitation.org

Fight for Tax Reform

Many feel that the United States tax code is beyond burdensome and has become downright tyrannous. The Internal Revenue Service is possibly our most powerful government agency, and citizens have very little recourse if they are found to be in error. Find out more about what you can do!

Resource(s):

- Citizens for an Alternative Tax System – Phone : (800) 767-7577
- Freedom Works – Website: freedomworks.org
- Family Research Council (FRC) – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Website: frc.org
- The National Taxpayers Union Foundation – Phone: (703) 683-5700; Website: ntu.org
- Americans for Prosperity – Phone: (866) 730-0150; Website: americansforprosperity.org

Form a Culture Impact Coalition in Your Community

One of the most effective ways to make an impact in your community is to form a group or coalition. The fact is, many of your friends and neighbors would like to do something about the issues affecting their communities, but the problems seem overwhelming. When friends and neighbors unite, the problems are not so daunting. There is strength in numbers.

Resource(s):

- CultureImpact.org – Website: cultureimpact.org
- Family Research Council (FRC) – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Website: frc.org

Give Blood or Host a Blood Donation Drive

Your local blood bank is always looking for individuals to donate blood. The entire process usually takes less than one hour—time well spent and the results could save a life! It is also a great witness. Your church could be the host, and give an additional opportunity to show the community the love of Jesus in a practical way.

Resource(s):

- American Red Cross – Website: redcross.org

Hand-Out Voter’s Guides

Several pro-family organizations produce informative “voter guides” to help citizens understand the candidate’s positions on various issues that impact our communities. These voter guides are free to the public and are an excellent way to educate voters. It is perfectly legal to distribute non-partisan voter guides at your church—and it will not jeopardize your church’s 501(c)3

status. Make sure to get permission from your pastor before handing out voter guides or distributing them in your church bulletin.

Resource(s):

- Citizen Link of Focus on the Family – Website: citizenlink.org
- Family Research Council (FRC) – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Website: frc.org
- Liberty Counsel (for 501(c)3 information for pastors/leaders) – Phone: (800) 671-1776; Website: lc.org

Help Elderly Neighbors

Are any of your neighbors elderly? Often those who are infirm or ill become shut-ins and cannot get out of their homes by themselves. Stop by for a visit. Bring a meal to them or have them over for dinner. Offer a ride to church or get them a tape of the service. Volunteer to run an errand, pick up a prescription, or take them to the market. Most of all, take the time to show them you care. Christian love may open the door for you to share your faith.

Help End Abortion

Over 3,000 unborn children are murdered every day in America. Take a stand against this modern American Holocaust!

- Pray for God to change the hearts of abortionists, judges, our Supreme Court justices, and your elected representatives so that they might see abortion for the real evil that it is.
- Begin a pregnancy support center or at least offer counseling and other forms of ministry to women contemplating abortion (See related Project).
- Air pro-life commercials on your local television stations and place pro-life messages on billboards.
- Assist with the Psalm 139 Project that provides ultrasound equipment to pregnancy support centers.
- Promote a Sanctity of Human Life Sunday in your church (See related Project).
- Participate in a Life-Chain event (See related Project)

Choose life! Deuteronomy 30:19 says: “Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, that you and your descendants might live!”(NLT)

Resource(s):

- Family Research Council (FRC) – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Website: frc.org
- Care Net – Website: care-net.org
- Heartbeat International – Phone: (888) 550-7577; Website: heartbeatinternational.org
- National Right to Life – Phone: (202) 626-8800; Website: nrlc.org
- OptionLine – Phone: (800) 395-HELP (4357); Website: optionline.org

- Psalm 139 Project – Website: psalm139project.org

To find local pregnancy support centers, look in the yellow pages under “Abortion Alternatives.”

Holiday Invitations to Church

Most people are not opposed to going to church, but they may need a reason to go. Holidays or church events give you a “special” reason to invite a friend or neighbor to attend with you. Christmas carols have a way of warming hearts and breaking down the barriers that divide neighbors. So, serenade your neighbors and create an opportunity to share that Jesus is the reason for the season. Remember, any time is a good time to invite a friend, neighbor, or family member to church.

Host a Block Party with a Purpose

Celebrate any holiday—4th of July, Memorial Day, etc. by inviting your neighbors to a block-wide barbecue and picnic. Some get police permission to barricade off a street, which encourages interaction. If your event is done well, it could become an annual gathering that gets everyone involved and helps strengthen your community. It can also be an excellent opportunity for you to share your faith.

Resource(s):

- North American Mission Board (Hosting a Block Party) – Website: namb.net/block-parties/

Host a Summer Bible Club

When kids are out of school and many parents are at their wit’s end trying to come up with things to keep them busy, a Backyard Bible Club could be the perfect solution! Similar to a Vacation Bible School in format, Backyard Bible Clubs involve fun, games, contests, and simple art projects as a platform for sharing the Gospel with young people in your neighborhood.

Resource(s):

- Vacation Bible School (Lifeway Christian Resources) – Website: lifeway.com
- Child Evangelism Fellowship – Phone: (636) 456-4321; Website: cefonline.com

Initiate a Culture Impact Email Network

In our hi-tech times, one of the most effective ways of mobilizing your church or your association is to set up an e-mail or Impact Network. Microsoft Outlook Express can serve as your basic software tool. Within Outlook, you can set up your network of e-mail addresses from people who have given them to you. While the address book is all inclusive, the networks may

be selective. For example, you may set up a network just for your CIT, one for the church, one for the association, and one that includes all who have signed up for your network.

Here are a few principles that will help guide you in creating a successful Impact Network:

- Be very selective in what sources you use for information and action items. Only subscribe to evangelical organizations that have been found to be reliable sources of issues information.
- Be selective in what you send people. When you receive information and action items from these various sources, you need to evaluate, sort, and filter them according to the following criteria. Is the information or action item: 1) Pertinent to the CIT and our Mission Statement; 2) Enumerated as one of the Team's agreed upon core moral issues or values; 3) Urgent (send a lower percentage of information items and a higher percentage of info + action items); 4) Non-partisan in nature.
- Be extremely sensitive as to how much you send. You do not want the people on your network to feel overloaded and then asked to be removed from your network. However, if such a request is made, please honor it promptly.
- Be sure to send out success story information. Encourage your network members that they are making a difference.

This can be one of our most effective tools in your arsenal to awaken, inform, energize, equip, and mobilize Christians.

Resource(s):

- Family Research Council (FRC) – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Website: frc.org
- Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission – Website: erlc.com
- American Family Association (AFA) – Website: afa.net
- Citizen Link – Website: citizenlink.org

Join a “Moms In Prayer” Group

“Moms in Prayer” is an international effort that unites mothers of school-age children in prayer. These groups are made up of two or more moms who meet for one hour each week to pray for their children, their children's schools, the teachers, and the administrators. These mothers meet with the purpose of standing in the gap for their children through prayer. America needs prayer back in its schools—and this is an exciting way for moms to make an impact on in your child's public education!

Resource(s):

- Moms in Prayer International – Phone: 855-769-7729; Website: momsinprayer.org

Know Your Rights in the Public School

The phrase “separation of church and state” has been used to silence students across America. So many stories have circulated about Christian students being persecuted at public schools that

many Christians have stopped speaking up about their faith, largely because they do not know their legally protected rights. However, if students know their legal rights, they will not and cannot be silenced. Among other rights, students can read the Bible during non-instructional time, organize prayer groups and Bible studies, say grace before meals and snacks, and express their beliefs in homework, artwork, and other assignments. If you or your child go to a public school, this knowledge is essential. Take the time to learn your rights as a Christian Citizen in the public school system. If your public school is infringing on your rights as a believer, consult one of the resources below.

Resource(s):

- Alliance Defending Freedom – Phone: (800) 835-5233; Website: adflegal.org
- American Center for Law and Justice – Phone: (800) 296-4529; Website: aclj.org
- Liberty Counsel – Phone: (800) 671-1776 Website: lc.org
- Thomas More Law Center – Website: thomasmore.org

Launch a Community Marriage Policy

Modesto, California became the first city to adopt a community marriage policy in 1986. Since that time, the divorce rate in Modesto has fallen 16 percent, and more than one hundred communities across America have created their own versions of Modesto’s policy. These “community marriage policies” are created and enforced by community clergy and typically require that engaged couples undergo several months of premarital counseling before marriage. Speak with your pastor about organizing local clergy to develop a united “marriage policy” or to get a pre-marital counseling program started in your church.

Resource(s):

- FamilyLife – Phone: (800) FL-TODAY (3586329); Website: familylife.com
- Marriage Savers – Phone: (301) 469-5873; Website: marriagesavers.org
- Covenant Marriage – Website: covenantmarriage.com

Link with a Pro-Family Ministry

There are several excellent evangelical, pro-family organizations geared toward helping their members get involved at the grassroots level and making a difference in the future course of America. Again, the list below is not exhaustive, but these ministries are a good place to start.

Resource(s):

- Family Research Council (FRC) – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Website: frc.org
- American Family Association – Phone: (800) FAMILIES (326-4543); Website: afa.net
- Citizen Link – Website: citizenlink.org
- Concerned Women for America – Phone: (202) 488-7000; Website: cwfa.org
- Eagle Forum – Phone: (618) 462-5415; Website: eagleforum.org
- Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission – Website: erlc.com

Mentoring Ministry for Newly Married Couples

In today's "no-fault" divorce culture, young couples struggle to stay together. By starting a marriage mentoring ministry in your church or community, you could provide young couples with helpful advice and counsel. Link some newlyweds with Christian couples who have been married 20 years or longer. Remember, "... at the beginning, the Creator 'made them male and female.' For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh'; So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate" (Matt. 19:4b-6).

Resource(s):

- Family Life – Phone: (800) FL-TODAY (358-6329); Website: familylife.com
- Marriage Savers – Phone: (301) 469-5873; Website: marriagesavers.org

Minister Help to the Hurting

Christ came to heal the hurting, so churches are an ideal place to offer community outreach focused on helping people who feel trapped in dangerous behaviors or who need support through an emotionally trying time. There are national support groups for those struggling with alcohol, drug, and gambling addictions. Your church might also want to start a group focused on ministering to those who have gone through divorce or who are caregivers for disabled loved ones. Look for opportunities to reach out to believers and non-believers alike, who need someone to offer unconditional love, and to believe with them that they can win the battle they are facing!

Resource(s):

- Family Research Council (FRC) – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Websites: frc.org; RealCompassion.org
- Alcoholics Anonymous – Phone: Check your local directory; Website: aa.org
- DivorceCare – Phone: (800) 489-7778; Website: divorcecare.com
- Gamblers Anonymous – Phone: (213) 386-8789; Website: gamblersanonymous.org
- GriefShare – Phone: (800) 395-5755; Website: griefshare.org
- Narcotics Anonymous – Phone: (818) 773-9999; Website: na.org

Monitor Textbooks in Public Schools

Most school districts are required by law to announce to taxpayers the curriculum the district will be using during the next school year. Take the time to carefully check the books being used in your local public school. You might be surprised what you find. Remember, these are our children and we are responsible for them, even while they are in school. Voice your concerns about the textbooks in your child's school to the principal and to your local school board. Check with your school board to see if there is a curriculum review board you can join so you can have an influence on the curriculum before it is chosen, instead of after.

Resource(s):

- Education Research Analysts – Phone: (903) 753-5993; Website: textbookreviews.org

Network with other Churches and Pastors

Communities divided by cultural and economic differences have experienced dramatic reconciliation when pastors and church members of different denominations and ethnic backgrounds come together for times of prayer and fellowship. Talk to your pastor about starting a community wide prayer event. It may start small, but prayer gatherings like that can have a dramatic impact! Remember, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28).

Resource(s):

- Family Research Council’s Watchmen Pastors – Website: WatchmenPastors.org

Observe Anti-Gambling Sunday

Observed the third Sunday in September, Anti-Gambling Sunday will help focus your church on the serious moral problems related to gambling. Take the lead in preventing gambling from invading your community. Organize a grassroots effort to inform others of its devastating effects—an increase in domestic violence, child abuse, neglect, compulsive gambling, broken families, financial ruin, and other social ills. Don’t be misled by promises of the prosperity that gambling might bring to your community. The net impact is always negative, and the only one who wins is the gambling industry. As they say in Las Vegas: “You can’t beat the house.”

Resource(s):

- Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) - Website: erlc.com
- Family Research Council (FRC) – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Website: frc.org
- Focus on the Family – Phone: (800) A-FAMILY (232-6459); Website: focusonthefamily.com/lifechallenges/abuse-and-addiction
- National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling – Phone: (800) 664-2680

Observe Christian Heritage Week

Members of your community may be unaware of America’s Judeo-Christian heritage. Work with your church, community, and civic groups to help organize an official observance of Christian Heritage Week, which is usually held Thanksgiving week. Educate yourself about the true facts of America’s Christian Heritage. A wealth of materials is available in the form of books, videos, pamphlets, and tapes.

Resource(s):

- America’s Christian Heritage Week – Phone: (304) 536-9029; Website: achw.org
- Christian Heritage Ministries – Phone: (703) 455-0333; Website: christianheritagemins.org
- World History Institute – Website: worldhistoryinstitute.com

- Wallbuilders – Website: wallbuilders.com

Observe the National Day of Prayer

Each year, the first Thursday in May has been officially designated as the “National Day of Prayer.” If your community is not already participating in this important day of observance, help create a forum (breakfast, luncheon, or evening program) to highlight the impact that prayer has made in our nation’s history and continues to make today. Ask your pastor and other members of your church to participate in this very important event.

Resource(s):

- National Day of Prayer Task Force – Phone: (719) 531-3379; Website: ndptf.org

Observe Race Relations Sunday

The second Sunday in February is set aside to address the problems of racial prejudice and injustice in America and throughout the world. Critical progress has been made in the area of civil rights in America. Persons may no longer be discriminated against on the basis of skin color in employment, housing, etc. While these laws are important, much work still needs to be done, especially with respect to people’s attitudes toward other races. Your CIT can assist your Pastor in leading your local church to confront heart issues about racial and ethnic prejudices.

Resource(s):

- Frederick Douglass Foundation – Website: tfd.org

Observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

Focus attention on the sanctity of life through “Sanctity of Life Sunday,” observed on the third Sunday in January near the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s January 22, 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling legalizing abortion. Use a Bulletin Insert to alert the congregation to current life-related issues. Ask your pastor to preach a sermon on the Scripture’s view of the sanctity of life. The format can fit each church’s needs—as long as it fights against the horrors of the abortion industry, the evils of cloning and research using pre-born stem cells, the tragedy of assisted suicide, and also promotes the preciousness of human life made in the image of God.

Resource(s):

- Family Research Council – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Website: frc.org
- Life Issues Institute – Phone: (513) 729-3600; Website: lifeissues.org
- National Right to Life – Phone: (202) 626-8800; Website: nrlc.org

Observe World Hunger Day

The second Sunday in October has been designated World Hunger Day. The purpose of this emphasis is to educate Christians about the needs of the millions in America and throughout the world who are starving and hungry. An offering is encouraged to alleviate starvation and hunger.

Resource(s):

- Family Research Council's RealCompassion.org – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Website: frc.org and RealCompassion.org
- Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund – Website: globalhungerrelief.com
- America's Second Harvest – Phone: (800) 771-2303; Website: feedingamerica.org
- Samaritan's Purse – Phone: (828) 262-1980; Website: samaritanspurse.org
- World Relief – Phone: (800)535-5433; Website: worldrelief.org
- Food for the Hungry – Phone: (800) 2-HUNGERS; Website: fh.org

Offer Hope and Healing for Homosexuals

Deliverance from the homosexual lifestyle is possible through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Thousands have left the gay and lesbian lifestyle, married, and had families of their own. Their experiences and this organization can offer hope and healing to a friend or family member struggling with this sin. Those practicing homosexuality can change, but they may need your help, encouragement, support, and prayers.

Resource(s):

- Family Research Council (FRC) – Website: frc.org
- Focus on the Family – Website: focusonthefamily.com
- Hope for Wholeness – Website: hopeforwholeness.org
- PFOX – Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays – Website: pfox.org
- Restored Hope Network – Website: restoredhopenetwork.org
- Courage – Website: couragerc.org

Organize Your Precinct

America has been conveniently organized into precincts. With a little time and effort, you can organize the precinct in your neighborhood so that there will be a significant impact on Election Day voter turnout in your area. One sure method of getting out the vote is to send a letter to each of the voters in your precinct encouraging them to register and to vote. Another is to hand out literature at your precinct that supports the candidate of your prayerful choice.

Resource(s):

- Contact your political party's local office and find out about becoming a precinct captain.
- Family Research Council (FRC) – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Website: frc.org
- American Family Association – Phone: (800) FAMILIES (326-4543); Website: afa.net
- Citizen Link – Website: citizenlink.org
- Concerned Women for America – Phone: (202) 488-7000; Website: cwfa.org
- Eagle Forum – Phone: (618) 462-5415; Website: eagleforum.org

- Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission – Website: erlc.com

Organize a Welcome Wagon

Offer various materials to newcomers in your neighborhood to help acquaint them with the local area. Collect information and telephone numbers from shopping centers (merchants would love to give you coupons), dry cleaners, grocery stores, mechanics, doctors, dentists, police and fire stations, and city hall. This is also a perfect time to invite new neighbors to your church and give them a voter registration form so they can register to vote at their new address!

Participate in the “Life Chain”

Each year, on the first Sunday of October, thousands of Americans across the country spend one hour of their day standing for life. Across the country, participants in the annual Life Chain stand for one hour along major streets in their cities and towns, silently holding signs proclaiming truth: “Abortion Kills Children,” “Abortion Hurts Women,” and “Adoption: The Loving Option.” The Life Chain, started in 1987 in California, now involves hundreds of groups that gather annually to make this peaceful statement for life. Many people dismiss local pro-life communities because they have never seen them. Show your town what the pro-life community looks like and share the truth about abortion in this simple, yet effective, way. Remember, “Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, ‘But we knew nothing about this,’ does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? Does not He who guards your soul know it? Will He not repay each person according to what he has done?” (Proverbs 24:11-12).

Resource(s):

- National Life Chain – Phone: (530) 671-5500; Website: nationallifechain.org

Place Pro-Family & Christian Books in Libraries

Most public libraries are strapped for funds and are more than happy to take donations of books from local citizens. If you know of pro-family and Christian books that would be helpful resources for others in your community, donate them to your local library.

Resource(s):

- Lifeway Christian Resources – Website: Lifeway.com

Pray for Elected Officials

Paul admonished: “I urge then first of all that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:1-4). We are to pray for our

president, our congressmen, our judges, our governors, our mayors, our councilmen, our law enforcement officials, etc.—for all who have a place of authority. We pray that God would give them wisdom—wisdom to lead our nation according to Judeo-Christian principles rooted in biblical authority. Above all we pray that they would come to Christ and be saved (v 4). It is only through a relationship with Jesus as Lord that they will lead in such a way that we as believers can live “peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness” (v 2).

Resource(s):

- Family Research Council Prayer Targets – Website: WatchmenPastors.org
- Call2Fall – Website: Call2Fall.com
- Congressional Prayer Caucus – Website: forbes.house.gov/PrayerCaucus/
- Intercessors for America – Phone: (800) 872-7729; Website: ifapray.org
- Presidential Prayer Team – Website: presidentialprayerteam.org

Pray for the Persecuted Church

The persecution of the Christian Church in today’s world has reached monumental proportions. As Americans, it is sometimes easy to forget the sufferings of our Christian brothers and sisters in other parts of the world. Since 1996 there has been a designated day each year for churches to join together in specific prayer for the persecuted Church. If your church is not one of the thousands already participating in the annual International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, gather information and talk to your pastor about this opportunity to minister to the worldwide fellowship of believers.

Resources:

- Family Research Council (FRC) – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Website: frc.org
- International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church – Website: idop.org
- Voice of the Martyrs – Website: persecution.com
- Jubilee Campaign – Website: jubileecampaign.org
- Institute on Religion and Democracy – Website: theird.org

Promote Biblical Sex Education

Too often, the “safe sex” argument lacks an abstinence-based alternative. The Southern Baptist Church has established a nationwide program, “True Love Waits,” that has encouraged thousands of young people to commit to celibacy until marriage. The widespread popularity of this program clearly shows that many young people today realize that “safe sex” is not a viable option. This program can be adapted to your church, school, or community group. Contact school officials to offer your presentation to students.

Resource(s):

- “True Love Waits” Campaign – Phone: (800) 458-2772; Website: lifeway.com/tlw
- Enlighten Communications, Inc. – Phone: (800) 786-8283; Website: enlightencom.com
- National Abstinence Clearinghouse – Phone: (888) 577-2966; Website: abstinence.net

- Medical Institute for Sexual Health – Phone: (512) 327-8933
- Respect, Inc. – Phone: (708) 301-6244; Website: respectincorporated.com
- Teen-Aid – Phone: (509) 482-2868; Website: teen-aid.org

Promote Porn Filters in Public Libraries

Hardcore pornography is available on the Internet in many of our public libraries. Pictures and videos of some of the most perverted and base sexual behavior can be accessed over the Internet by anyone, including our children. Don't let your public library turn into a XXX rated adult book store. There are excellent and inexpensive software packages and Internet services available that filter pornography effectively. Demand that a filtering system be installed. While you are at it, consider using a filtering program on your home PC, too. Sometimes adults viewing pornography in libraries leave pornographic images on the screen. Urge your librarians to vigilantly check the library's internet access computers so they can protect unsuspecting children from viewing pornography.

Resource(s):

- American Family Association – Phone: (800) FAMILIES (326-4543) Website: afa.net

Protect Your Family from Porn Spam

Have you ever been the target of completely unsolicited, sexually graphic e-mail, a.k.a. “porn spam”? If so, you've probably thought that there should be some way to stop the offensive barrage of images invading your otherwise family-friendly in-box. Instead of merely hitting that delete button, try some proactive measures to counteract and ultimately defeat this on-line practice. Let our friends at Morality in Media give you some quick and easy tips for taking this blight out of your life.

Resource(s):

- Morality in Media – Website: moralityinmedia.org
- Enough is Enough Ministry – Website: enough.org
- Covenant Eyes – Website: covenanteyes.com

Provide a Culture Impact Center for your Church

In consultation with your church's leadership, set up a booth at your church to help raise awareness of certain moral and ethical issues. The booth can be elaborate with internet access and multimedia capability, or as simple as a draped table. Gather information, brochures, pamphlets, and articles that express the biblical perspective on social and moral issues and make this material available. Inform your congregation about important issues such as abortion, stem cell research, cloning, euthanasia, the homosexual agenda, religious liberty issues, gambling, pornography, world hunger, entertainment industry, news media, etc. Make sure you check this information for reliability and biblical accuracy. Share your elected officials' stands on these issues. Also provide action items such as a sign-up sheet for your network, petitions, contact

information for elected officials, etc. You might even want to take your booth out into the community at events such as the county fair, 4th of July gatherings, September 11th remembrances, etc.

Resource(s):

- Family Research Council (FRC) – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Website: frc.org
- American Family Association – Phone: (800) FAMILIES (326-4543); Website: afa.net
- Focus on the Family – Phone: (800) A-FAMILY (232-6459); Website: focusonthefamily.com
- National Right to Life Committee – Phone: (202) 626-8800; Website: nrlc.org

Purchase “Choose Life” License Plates

In 1996, Marion County (Fla.) Commissioner Randy Harris had a vision for an outreach that would encourage women in unplanned pregnancies to consider adoption as a choice. His idea became reality in 1999 when Governor Jeb Bush signed into law the Choose Life license plate—America’s first official license plate that raises funds and awareness in support of women who commit to having their babies and placing them for adoption rather than choosing abortion. Funds generated by Florida’s Choose Life specialty license plate assist these women with the expenses of a full-term pregnancy, until their children can be placed with an adoptive family. By 2003, groups in 41 states had begun the process of starting a Choose Life license plate effort of their own: eight states had already passed legislation for the plate, while 15 states’ legislatures were considering a Choose Life license plate bill. Get involved in bringing this powerful outreach to your state!

Resource(s):

- Choose Life, Inc. (contact Russ Amerling) – Phone: (352) 624-2854; Website: choose-life.org

Quit Watching So Much Television

The average American watches four hours of television every day! Consider turning the TV off for one night every week and having a TV-free family night. See what happens when you unplug the television for one week (or more)! Taking a family walk, playing ball, bike riding, writing letters, or just spending time talking and listening to your family can make a positive impact on your family dynamics. How about inviting another family over for a night of board games? There is no telling what might happen...you might even forget to plug the TV back in!

Resource(s):

- Family Research Council (FRC) – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Website: frc.org
- American Family Association – Phone: (800) FAMILIES (326-4543); Website: afa.net
- Media Research Center – Website: mrc.org
- Morality in Media: Phone – (212) 870-3222; Website: moralityinmedia.org
- Parents Television Council – Phone: (800) 882-6868; Website: parentstv.org

- TV-Turnoff Network: Phone – (202) 518-5556; Website: tvturnoff.net

Recommit Your Family to Christian Basics

In your efforts to transform America through Christ, remember to keep your priorities straight. Begin with a commitment to God and to your family. Develop a Family Mission Statement. Find time for regular Bible devotions. Be sure to eat meals together and plan special family events. Take a family vacation and do a mission project. Stress to your family that all of life is to be under the rule of Christ. Time with your family is essential in today's fast paced world. Now is the time to build family memories that will last a lifetime, and will impact generations to come. "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:15).

Resource(s):

- Family Research Council (FRC) – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Website: frc.org;
- Family to Family (Lifeway) – Website: lifeway.com ; namb.net
- Focus on the Family – Phone: (800) A-FAMILY (232-6459); Website: focusonthefamily.com
- Heritage Builders – Website: heritagebuilders.com

Register to Vote, Then Vote your Values!

For Christians, voting is more than a privilege. It is a serious stewardship responsibility. "We the People" includes you! The sad fact is that less than half of professing Christians vote in a given election. Some would say, "What's the difference, my one vote doesn't really count." Can one vote make a difference? Yes, it can!

- In 1801, one vote in the U.S. House broke the tie between presidential candidates Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr. By the way, Burr was later charged with treason!
- In 1839, one vote made Marcus Morton governor of Massachusetts and earned him the nickname "Landslide."
- In 1868, one vote saved President Andrew Johnson from being removed from office.
- In 1876, one vote in the Electoral College gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency.
- In 1941, one vote extended the active service provision in the Selective Service Act (Draft) just four months before the attack on Pearl Harbor.
- In 2000, we had one of the most closely contested presidential elections in American history, and some people are still arguing about who won!

Your vote can and does make a difference. So take the time to register to vote and get educated on the issues and candidates. Examine each candidate's character, not just his credentials, his positions not just his politics, his principles, not just his party, and weigh each candidate over against God's word, then vote for the one who most closely represents your Christian values.

Resource(s):

- iVoteValues.org – Website: iVoteValues.org

- Democratic National Committee – Phone: (202) 863-8000; Website: democrats.org
- Republican National Committee – Phone: (202) 863-8500; Website: gop.com
- Contact the local office of your Supervisor of Elections for a list of elected officials in your area.

Run for a Local School Board Seat

If your community has an elected school board, consider running in the next election. You might be surprised how little it takes to win a position that will give you an opportunity to make a powerful impact on your local public schools. This is a great way for you to make certain that Christian students' First Amendment right to freedom of religious expression is protected. Consider serving on your local school board and having an actual vote on the policies and procedures that affect your school district.

Resource(s):

- Family Research Council Action – Website: FRCAction.org

Serve On State & Local Boards

There are literally hundreds of boards, authorities, councils, agencies, and commissions in your state. Many of these have members appointed by the governor from across the state. Others are county-wide or at the local level. There are Planning and Zoning Boards, Housing Authorities and Curriculum Review Boards, Parks and Recreation Advisory Boards and Commissions on the Status of Women. There are boards that address issues involving the elderly and children, the environment, health, housing, and just about any other issue that might be of interest to you. Serving on a governmental board or commission is an excellent way to serve your community and have an impact on our culture. Remember, our elected representatives appoint the citizens who serve and make decisions that affect you—on the state, county, and local boards.

Resource(s):

- For information on statewide appointments and a list of vacancies, call your governor's Appointment Office. For county and local municipal appointments and vacancies, call the appropriate county or local office.

Share Your Faith

If we could do one thing to make an impact and transform America, what would it be? Obey the Great Commission. Share your faith. That is our mission. It is the “main thing.” If you introduce a man to Jesus, and he surrenders his life to Christ, and then is disciplined in the Christian world view, he will become your friend and fellow soldier. If you don't share Christ with him, he will likely remain your opponent on the cultural battlefield. Evangelism must be our number one strategy in transforming America. There are many excellent evangelistic tools that have a proven track record, such as Evangelism Explosion. Find one that works for you and share your faith.

Resource(s):

- Evangelism Explosion International – Website: evangelismexplosion.org
- Got Life? – Website: gotlifeministries.com
- Campus Crusade for Christ – Website: cru.org

Sponsor “Candidate Night” at Church

Candidates for office are usually eager to speak at events that allow them to address their constituents. Send a registered letter inviting local candidates from all political parties to your church (with proper approval) and get friends and neighbors to attend. This is an excellent opportunity to hear each candidate’s position on various topics and to have them hear your concerns. Be sure to comply with the political guidelines for churches and other 501(c)3 organizations.

Resource(s):

- American Center for Law and Justice – Website: aclj.org
- Citizen Link – Website: citizenlink.org

Sponsor a Financial Seminar

Reach your friends and neighbors with practical financial advice by sponsoring a Christian financial seminar at your church or community center. This will offer another opportunity to share your faith

Resource(s):

- Crown Financial Ministries – Website: crown.org
- Financial Peace Seminars – Website: daveramsey.com

Start a Men’s Ministry

Consider starting a men’s ministry in your church or office. Promise Keepers is a Christian outreach aimed at building men of integrity. Through stadium conferences, ongoing local small groups, educational seminars, resource materials, and local churches, Promise Keepers encourages men to live godly lives and to keep seven basic promises of commitment. Promise Keepers seeks to unite Christian men of all races, denominations, ages, cultures, and socio-economic groups, believing that accountability relationships among men are critical in helping them become “promise keepers” in their relationships with God, wives, children, each other, and communities.

Resource(s):

- Connecting Business Men to Christ –Phone: (800) 566-CBMC (2262); Website: cbmc.com
- Promise Keepers – Phone: (800) 888-7595; Website: promisekeepers.org

Start a Neighborhood Watch Program

Local law enforcement agencies can help you get started. Along with raising awareness about public safety, you will have the opportunity to get more acquainted with your neighbors!

Resource(s):

- National Neighborhood Watch- A program of the National Sheriff's Association – Website: nnw.org

Submit Pro-Family Model Legislation

Save your state legislator time and effort by submitting model legislation on key issues such as marriage, divorce, homosexuality, and abortion. Pro-family organizations are developing model legislation that can be easily adapted to your state. Christians must take action to counteract the groups in our society who are actively seeking to redefine the traditional family in America. Parental rights are being watered down. We must introduce legislation that supports the traditional family and traditional pro-family values.

Resource(s):

- Family Research Council (FRC) – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Website: frc.org
- American Family Association – Phone: (800) FAMILIES (326-4543); Website: afa.net
- Citizenlink – Website: citizenlink.org

Subscribe to Christian Literature

Keeping on top of current Christian events is a challenge. Very little reporting from a Christian perspective is available in the mainstream media. At the same time, there are a growing number of ministries that offer in-depth analysis of issues and biblical insights on social, political, and economic trends of our times. We must stay informed if we are going to be effective as the salt and light God has commanded us to be. When you are finished with the publication, you may want to pass it on, or place it in a waiting room as a witness.

Resource(s):

- *American Family Association Journal* – Phone: (800) FAMILIES (326-4543); Website: afajournal.org
- *Citizen Magazine* – Website: focusonthefamily.com/socialissues/citizen-magazine
- *WORLD Magazine* – Phone: (800) 951-NEWS (6397); Website: worldmag.com
- *God's World News (WORLD Magazine for kids)* – Website: gwnews.com
- *Decision Magazine* – Website: billygraham.org/decision-magazine
- *First Things* – Website: firstthings.com

Support a College Ministry

Nowhere is the battle for the minds of America's young people waged more fiercely than on our college campuses. Most college students are far from home and the support system provided by familiar surroundings. Many are asked to question everything they have ever believed, and most are not equipped for this battle. Fortunately, several Christian organizations are providing these searching students with biblical answers to life's biggest questions. However, the existence of these organizations depends on people, like you, who have a similar passion for offering truth to young people on America's college campuses. By supporting these organizations, you offer truth to the young people that are America's future.

Resource(s):

- Breakpoint (Worldview) – Website: breakpoint.org
- Campus Crusade for Christ – Website: cru.org
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes – Phone: (800) 289-0909; Website: fca.org
- InterVarsity Christian Fellowship – Phone: (608) 274-9001; Website: intervarsity.org
- The Navigators – Phone: (719) 598-1212; Website: navigators.org
- Fellowship of Catholic University Students – Website: focus.org

Support D.A.R.E. In Your Community

D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) is a drug abuse prevention education program designed to equip elementary and junior high school children with knowledge about drug abuse and the consequences of abuse. It gives them skills for resisting peer pressure to experiment with drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. Promoting the idea that prevention is the only long term answer to drug abuse, the program now includes all 50 states and many countries. This unique program uses uniformed law enforcement officers to teach a formal curriculum to students in a classroom setting. Contact your school and ask if they are participating in this program.

Resource(s):

- Drug Abuse Resistance and Education (D.A.R.E.) – Phone: (800) 223-DARE (3273); Website: dare.com

Support Family-Friendly Movies

Theater managers are more likely to schedule family oriented movies if they think there is a market for them, and that they will be profitable. By calling and sending letters to the theater managers requesting more “G” and some carefully selected “PG” rated movies, and getting others to do the same, you will send them a message. Make sure you support theaters that regularly show family friendly movies.

Resource(s):

- Family Research Council (FRC) – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Website: frc.org
- Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) – Website: erlc.com
- Movieguide – Phone: (805) 383-2000; Website: movieguide.org

- Focus on the Family – Phone: (800) A –FAMILY; Website: focusonthefamily.com
- Media Research Center – Website: mrc.org
- Motion Picture Association of America – Phone: (202) 293-1966; Website: mpaa.org
- Parents Television Council – Phone: (800) 882-6868; Website: parentstv.org

Support Family-Friendly Businesses

Today, many business are bowing to political correctness and adopting policies and promoting causes that run contrary to biblical values. Whether you know it or not, you're casting a vote through your purchases and making a difference, sometimes in support of causes and issues that you would never support on your own. That's where 2nd Vote comes in. They have done the research on a myriad of companies and graded them on family-friendliness. Their app is easy to download and use. Promote it to your fellow church members so that we can make that 2nd vote count for the right values.

Resource(s):

2nd Vote – Website: 2ndVote.com. Visit your app store and download it on your Apple or Android device.

Support an Inner City Ministry

One of the world's most desperate mission fields is in America's inner cities where families are devastated by drugs and alcohol addiction, welfare dependency, crime, pornography, etc. See if your church can partner with an inner city church and assist in ministering to the needs of their congregation. Your church could also help support a missionary to work in the inner city. Many churches have mission centers that could help coordinate your efforts. Another option is to work with organizations like Habitat for Humanity that build and refurbish homes for those who cannot afford adequate housing.

Resource(s):

- Habitat for Humanity – Phone: (229) 924-6935 ext. 2551/2552; Website: habitat.org
- Here's Life Inner City (a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ) – Phone: (212) 494-0321; Website: hlic.org
- Salvation Army – Website: salvationarmyusa.org
- World Impact – Website: worldimpact.org
- Association of Gospel Rescue Missions – Website: agrm.org

Support the Jesus Film Project

How many movies do you know of that have the potential to change the course of a viewer's life? Campus Crusade's *Jesus* is such a movie. With the script taken straight from the Gospel of Luke, *Jesus* is recognized as the most accurate depiction of the life of Christ ever put on film. In fact, every 5.5 seconds someone indicates a decision to receive Christ as their personal Savior as a result of seeing the Jesus film. Many mission experts have proclaimed the Jesus film one of the

greatest evangelistic success stories of all time. More and more quality Christian films are being produced each year. “Word-for-word” accounts of some of the Gospels and the Book of Acts are now available on DVD. These, and other films like them, make great tools for sharing the Gospel through family viewing, Bible study groups, and evangelistic outreach projects. Set aside one night a week for viewing “biblically accurate” films and watch the spiritual growth that results.

Resource(s):

- The Jesus Film Project – Phone: (949) 361-7575/ (407) 826-2300; Website: jesusfilm.org
Check with your local Lifeway Christian Bookstore or other Christian store.

Support a Pregnancy Resource Center

Unfortunately, many young unwed mothers are kicked out of their homes when their families find out they are pregnant. Every choice for life is a courageous one, but it is especially courageous when everyone the mother knows and loves turns against her. Pregnancy Resource Centers (PRCs) provide a safe haven during a confusing time. They offer confirmation that the choice for life is the right choice. The lives of these mothers and the lives of their babies can be influenced in a powerful way. By supporting a PRC in your community, you help encourage and provide help for those mothers who choose life for their babies rather than abortion. PRCs need your financial and material support—through donations of clothing, diapers and other items that new mothers typically receive at baby showers. They also need your words of encouragement and counsel.

Resource(s):

- Psalm 139 Project – Website: psalm139project.org
- Bethany Christian Services – Phone: (800) BETHANY (238-4269); Website: bethany.org
- Care Net – Website: care-net.org
- Liberty Godparent Home – Website: godparent.org
- Heartbeat International – Phone: (888) 550-7577; Website: heartbeatinternational.org
- OptionLine – Phone: (800) 395-HELP (4357); Website: optionline.org
- To find local Pregnancy Resource Centers, look in the yellow pages under “Abortion Alternatives.”

Support Trail Life USA

Trail Life USA is a Christian adventure, character, and leadership program for young men and serves as a great alternative to the Boy Scouts. The K-12 program centers on outdoor experiences that build a young man’s skills and allow him to grow on a personal level and as a role model and leader for his peers. Living the Trail Life is a journey established on timeless values derived from the Bible. Their vision is to be the premier national character development organization for young men which produces Godly and responsible husbands, fathers, and citizens. Their mission is simple and clear: to guide generations of courageous young men to honor God, lead with integrity, serve others, and experience outdoor adventure.

Here is the Trail Life USA Motto: “Walk Worthy” - Colossians 1:10: “... that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

Resource(s):

- Trail Life USA – Website: traillifeusa.com

Train as a Christian Care-Giver

Stephen Ministries trains lay people to provide confidential one-on-one care, support, and encouragement to hurting people. This international organization was started to train lay people to provide caring ministry to those in need. The ministry is based on a biblical vision of caring for people in their church and in the community. Rather than focusing on professional counseling skills, the ministry training emphasizes skills all Christians can offer to brothers and sisters in need: listening and caring.

Resource(s):

- Stephen Ministries – Phone: (314) 428-2600; Website: stephenministries.org

Tweet Your Values

If you are on Twitter, you can tweet your pro-life and pro-family values in addition to your normal updates, or re-tweet those of different organizations such as Family Research Council. Remember, you only have 140 characters, so make it short and sweet!

Resource(s):

- Twitter – Website: twitter.com
Follow Tony Perkins on Twitter: twitter.com/tperkins
Follow FRC on Twitter: twitter.com/frcdc
Follow FRC Action on Twitter: twitter.com/frcactionpac

Urge Enforcement of Obscenity Laws

Obscenity is illegal in the United States, yet often goes unprosecuted. You can help clean up your community by bringing offensive material to the attention of the local district attorney and urging him or her to investigate and enforce the law. For example, Zander Raines took the lead in combating a local cable company in Lebanon, Tennessee which was allowing pornographic channels to “bleed through,” exposing cable subscribers to unwanted obscenity. Raines contacted community leaders, the State Attorney General, and area pastors, who then mobilized their members to petition the cable company. By the time the Attorney General issued a restraining order, the cable company had already removed the obscene channels because of pressure from the Christian community. You can make an impact!

Resource(s):

- American Family Association (for Steps to Obscenity Law Enforcement) – Phone: (800) FAMILIES (326-4543); Website: afa.net
- Morality in Media – Phone: (212) 870-3222; Website: moralityinmedia.org

Visit Juvenile Detention Centers

The mission field inside the walls of America’s juvenile detention centers is ripe for the harvest. Many of these young people are desperate for Christian love and compassion. This is a pivotal time in their lives; if no one takes the time to show them how to make the right choices, statistics show that these children will likely be in and out of prison for the rest of their lives. Christians cannot abandon America’s youth. Start a group in your church that ministers at a juvenile facility in your community. Donate Bibles and Christian books to their libraries. Sow seeds that will transform.

Resource(s):

- Check your telephone directory for a juvenile correctional facility in your area.

Visit a Local Nursing Home

Love and attention is genuinely appreciated in nursing homes. The residents of these facilities are sometimes forced to enter these secluded facilities because they can no longer care for themselves. More often than not, though, they wish to continue living as normal a life as possible. This is where you step in. Visit local nursing homes and get to know some of the residents there, maybe even adopt one. So many are lonely and greatly appreciate visits from others. Involve the children in your family or church, and teach a valuable lesson of respect for older generations. Share your faith and the hope that we have in Christ Jesus. Donate Bibles and Christian books for their libraries. Start a weekly Bible study for residents, or organize a regular “hymn singing.” A small effort goes a long way for these precious people.

Resource(s):

- Check your telephone directory for a list of local nursing homes and residential care facilities.

Volunteer with Hospice

Many of our fellow citizens spend their last days in hospices, making that the place where they will have their last opportunity to accept Christ and inherit the kingdom of Heaven. Christians need to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to the sick and to the dying. Often, there is very little training required—just a willing heart and a Christ-like attitude. Remember, we are all God’s children, and we, as Christians, are called to minister to the sick.

Resource(s):

- The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization – Phone: (703) 837-1500; Website: nhpco.org

- Check your directory for a hospice near you.

Volunteer for a Library’s Book Selection Committee

Public libraries often have a book selection committee that oversees the literature they purchase. If you are concerned about getting biblically-based and family friendly material in your public library system, find out if you can serve on this committee. When you find questionable books, bring them to the attention of library officials. Don’t be afraid to recommend books that are not currently available.

Volunteer at a Local Hospital

Historically, volunteers have been the backbone of America’s healthcare system. Today’s hospitals still rely on citizens volunteering their time. With the cost of healthcare skyrocketing, many hospitals are short-staffed and cannot give the time and attention to the sick and the dying who so desperately need a personal touch. This provides the perfect opportunity to show the love of Jesus in a practical way and to share your faith. Contact your local hospital and offer your services.

Resource(s):

- Check your local telephone directory.

Volunteer with Meals on Wheels

One of the simplest ways to help the elderly in your community is to take part in your local Meals on Wheels program. Sometimes delivering food through a program like this is the only way an aged person can continue to live in his or her home—and sometimes the delivery person is the only person they see all week. What an opportunity this program offers to do the Lord’s work and share your faith!

Resource(s):

- Meals on Wheels Association America – Phone: 888-998-6325; Website: mealsonwheelsamerica.org

Volunteer at a Pregnancy Support Center

If there is a pro-life pregnancy support or resource center in your area, volunteer your time and offer financial support. Many are in dire need of someone to answer the phone, take messages, type letters, file correspondence, stuff envelopes, or be a mentor to a young mother. Your efforts will make a positive pro-life statement in your community and impact the future.

Resource(s):

- Family Research Council (FRC) – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Website: frc.org

- Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission – Website: erlc.com
- Care Net – Website: care-net.org
- Heartbeat International – Phone: (888) 550-7577; Website: heartbeatinternational.org
- Option Line – Phone: (800) 395-HELP (4357); Website: optionline.org

To find local Pregnancy Support or Resource Centers, look in the yellow pages under “Abortion Alternatives.”

Volunteer for a Prison Ministry

One of Christ’s most powerful teachings included the challenge to visit those in prison (Matthew 25:31-46). Today’s prisons and jails are filled with men and women who either need to hear the Gospel or who desperately need Christian discipleship and fellowship. Many times, prisoners are so broken that they are eager to accept Christ into their hurting hearts. Fulfill Christ’s command and visit your brothers or sisters in prison. Another way you can care for Christian brothers and sisters in prison is by donating inspirational soft-cover books and Bibles to prison libraries.

Resource(s):

- Prison Fellowship Ministries – Phone: (877) 478-0100; Website: prisonfellowship.org

Write Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor can provide a powerful forum for expressing your opinion on issues facing your community. Your letter can make a difference. Be sure to refer to the specific article, issue, advertisement, etc. your letter addresses—and only address one issue in each letter. Your local paper usually publishes guidelines regarding letters to the editor. If not, call the paper and ask for them, and then take the time to write your letter, proofread it carefully, and send it in. Include your name, address, and phone number. Most papers will not print anonymous letters. Be sure to keep your letter focused and brief. Keeping it under 300 words is a good goal.

Resource(s):

- Check the “Letters to the Editor” section of your local newspaper for guidelines and contact information.

X-Rated and Adult Oriented Businesses Can Be Outmaneuvered

You can do more than complain about adult entertainment in your area—you can make a difference. If you are concerned about a sexually-oriented business in your area, contact your city or county zoning board. The “business” may not fit the zoning requirements of the property it sits on, due to bureaucratic oversight, and may have to close its doors. If current zoning permits the business, rally other concerned citizens in your community to change the zoning restrictions for your area.

Zander Raines, a CIT member at First Baptist Church in Lebanon, Tennessee approached his county legislative liaison about creating legislation regulating sexually-oriented businesses throughout the state of Tennessee. Raines and others then lobbied the state legislature to have this bill made into law. Dozens of state senators and representatives co-sponsored the bill. The State Attorney General put the bill on fast track and approved the legislation. Finally the legislature passed it, and the governor signed the legislation into law. It is one of the strongest pieces of legislation of this type in the nation.

Resource(s):

- Citizens for Community Values – Phone: (513) 733-5775; Website: ccv.org

Yield Part of Your Vacation to Do Missions

As a Great Commission Christian, consider yielding some of your vacation time to do a mission project. Your church might organize a mission trip to a pioneer area where churches struggle comparative to those in the Bible Belt. Projects like Vacation Bible School, Backyard Bible Clubs, medical assistance, construction, etc., could be done in the course of a week with the satisfaction that you and your family made an impact for Christ. Remember, our founders came here for “the glory of God” and “the advancement of the Christian faith.” When you travel across the street, the state, or the country to do missions, you are following in their footsteps.

Resource(s):

- North American Mission Board (Short Term Mission Projects) – Website: namb.net

Zealously Fight Against Human Trafficking

Human trafficking continues to be a problem in our day and needs the voice and activism of the church. For example:

- There are more slaves in the world now than ever before.⁵
- There are an estimated 27 million adults and 13 million children around the world who are victims of human trafficking.⁶
- An estimated 30,000 victims of sex trafficking die each year from abuse, disease, torture, and neglect. Eighty percent of those sold into sexual slavery are under 24, and some are as young as six years old.⁷
- Although human trafficking is often a hidden crime and accurate statistics are difficult to obtain, researchers estimate that more than 80% of trafficking victims are female. Over 50% of human trafficking victims are children.⁸
- More than 30% of all trafficking cases in 2007-2008 involved children being sold into the sex industry.⁹

⁵ Victor Malarek, *The Natashas: Inside the New Global Sex Trade* (New York, NY, Arcadia Publishers, 2003).

⁶ Malarek.

⁷ “Millions Suffer in Sex Slavery” (NewsMax, April 24, 2001).

⁸ Skinner, E. Benjamin, *A Crime So Monstrous: Face-to-Face with Modern-Day Slavery* (New York, NY, Free Press, 2008).

⁹ “Teen Girls Stories of Sex Trafficking in the U.S” (ABC News/Primetime, February 9, 2006).

- Most human trafficking in the United States occurs in New York, California, and Florida.¹⁰
- According to United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), over the past 30 years, over 30 million children have been sexually exploited through human trafficking.¹¹
- In approximately 54% of human trafficking cases, the recruiter is a stranger, and in 46% of the cases, the recruiters know the victim.¹²
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation estimates that over 100,000 children and young women are trafficked in America today. They range in age from nine to 19, with the average being age 11. Many victims are not just runaways or abandoned, but are from “good” families who are coerced by clever traffickers.¹³

Resource(s):

- Not For Sale Campaign – Website: notforsalecampaign.org
- End Slavery Now – Website: endslaverynow.com
- youthSpark – Website: youth-spark.org

Zealously Guard Your Religious Liberty

This nation was founded mostly by believers and based primarily upon principles found in the Bible. Only during the last 60 years has the Supreme Court ignored the clear wording of the First Amendment and overturned 150 years of precedent by declaring that there is a “wall of separation between church and state.” This court-created myth flies in the face of the words and actions of the vast majority of our Founding Fathers. As a result of the 1947 Supreme Court *Everson* decision and several Church-State cases that followed, organizations like the ACLU and now the Freedom From Religion Foundation have been stripping away the rights of Christians all across our nation. They are successful mainly because many Christians are ignorant of the rights they possess. Take time to read the original documents: The Declaration of Independence, The Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Take time to rediscover some of the “Lost Episodes” from our spiritual heritage and learn the true meaning of Jefferson’s “wall,” which he intended as a protection of people of faith from government intrusion. Remember, if you do not use your freedom to defend your freedom, you may lose your freedom!

Resource(s):

- Family Research Council (FRC) – Phone: (800) 225-4008; Website: frc.org
- Family Research Council’s Watchmen Pastors – Website: WatchmenPastors.org
- Alliance Defending Freedom – Phone: (800) TELL ADF (835-5233) Website: adflegal.org
- American Center for Law and Justice – Phone: (757) 226-2489; Website: aclj.org
- Liberty Counsel – Phone: (800) 671-1776; Website: lc.org
- Liberty Institute – Phone: 972-941-4444; Website: libertyinstitute.org

¹⁰ Skinner.

¹¹ Shelley, Louise, *Human Trafficking: A Global Perspective* (New York, NY, Cambridge University Press, 2010).

¹² “Human Trafficking” (Unglobalcompact.org).

¹³ Teen Girls Stories of Sex Trafficking in the U.S.” (ABC News/Primetime. February 9, 2006).

CULTURE IMPACT TEAM

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