

# THE CHRISTIAN & GOVERNMENT

## *REBUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS*



*Pastor Bruce Bennett*

Long Island Family Coalition

# OUR IDENTITIES AS CHRISTIANS

- **Children of God**  
John 1:12
- **Saints of God**  
1 Corinthians 1:2
- **Bride of Christ for the glory of God**  
Revelation 21:9

# THE CALL OF THE CHRISTIAN



God has called us to become like Christ;  
*He is the goal of our lives.*

## Sanctifying Grace

Obedience to His commands

Prayer

Scripture

Evangelism

# OBEYING GOD'S COMMANDMENTS

Jesus summarized the commandments of God into two directives:

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all Your mind."*

*"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

\*Matthew 22:37-40

# LOVING NEIGHBORS

A large, dark wooden cross stands in a green field under a blue sky with a faint world map overlay. The cross is the central focus, with its vertical post extending from the bottom of the frame towards the top. The horizontal arms of the cross are positioned in the upper half of the image. The background features a green field in the foreground and a blue sky with a faint world map overlay in the background.

**The Great Commission**  
**Matthew 28:19**

**The Cultural Mandate**  
**Genesis 1:28**

# OBEYING THE GREAT COMMISSION

*Is to understand & advocate the Christian worldview*

Who am I?

Where did I come from?

What is my purpose?

Where am I going when I die?

What is the world?

Where did the world come from?

Where is the world going?

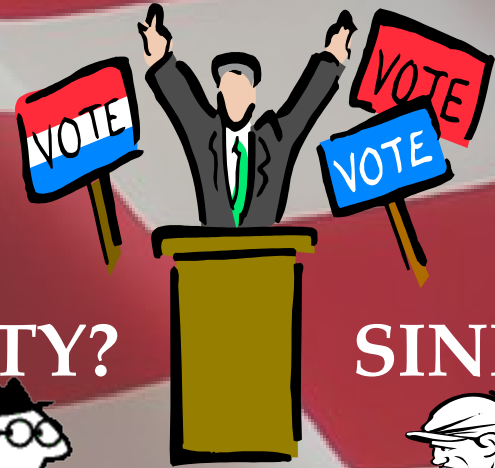
# CURRENT STATE OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH



VOTER APATHY

1 OUT OF 3!

POLITICS



DIRTY?

SINFUL?



**SHOULD CHRISTIANS GET INVOLVED?**

“The Christian culture does not believe that Jesus is Lord of all of life. The evangelical culture believes the non-biblical idea that Jesus is only Lord of Bible study, prayer and church attendance, and anything outside of that is not really spiritual.”

- *Gary Demar*  
*Christian Author & Speaker*



# THE GREAT COMMISSION

Jesus' command to “preach the gospel in all the world” needs to be analyzed in the original language.

Properly understood, the word “world” means “order” of things.



# THE ORDER OF SOCIETY (Government)

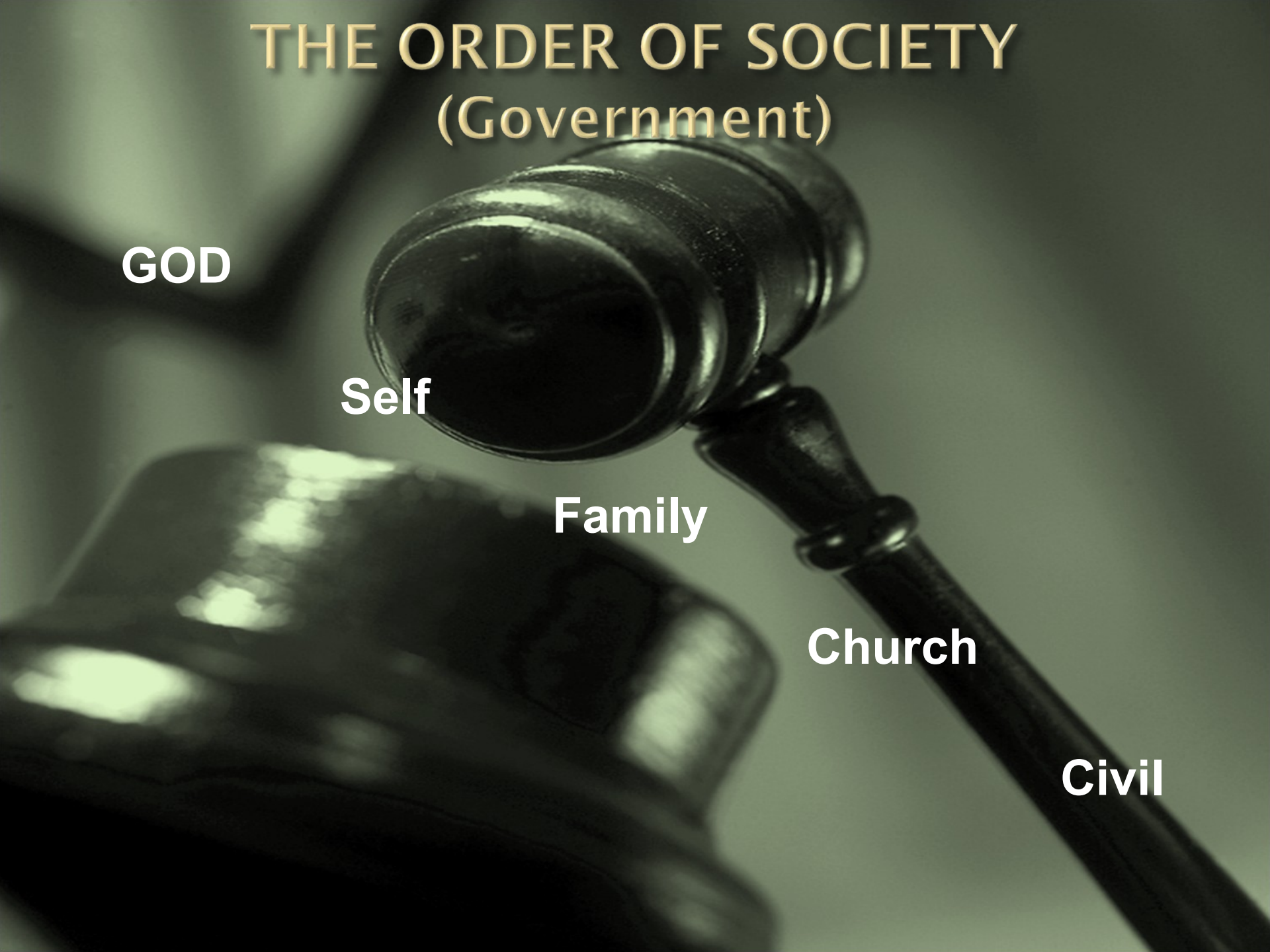
**GOD**

**Self**

**Family**

**Church**

**Civil**



# IMPLEMENTING THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW INTO GOVERNING SOCIETY

Self

Family

**OBEYING GOD'S LAW**

Church

Civil

# SELF GOVERNMENT

God's ideal government, whereby the individual person identifies himself as a child of God, is responsible to God and obedient to Him.

**RALLYING CRIES OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS**

*"No king, but King Jesus!"*

*"Man will be ruled either by the Bible or the bayonet!"*

# FAMILY GOVERNMENT

## HUSBAND & WIFE

Husband leads, guides and provides.

Wife submits to and respects her husband as he submits to Christ.

## CHILDREN

Obey and honor parents and provide for them if necessary (later in life).

## EXTENDED FAMILY

Provide for relatives when necessary and able.

# CHURCH GOVERNMENT

## ELDERS

Men called by God to provide: counseling, teaching, discipline and sound Biblical doctrine.

## DEACONS

Assist elders in carrying out physical areas of ministry (widows, orphans, congregants in need).

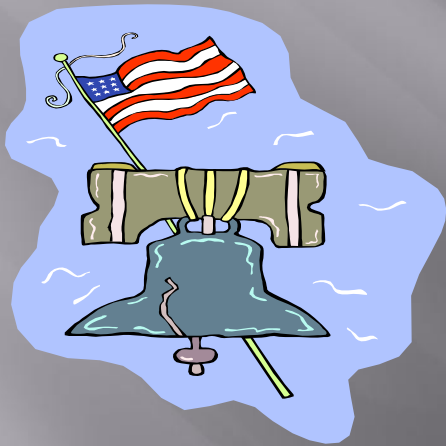
## CONGREGANTS

Submit to Biblical leadership and donate to common purse of the church.

# CIVIL GOVERNMENT

## TWO PRIMARY MISSIONS

PRESERVE LIBERTY



ENSURE JUSTICE



**THE GOVERNMENT DOES  
NOT GIVE RIGHTS...**

**JESUS CHRIST DOES!**

# THE IDEAL CIVIL GOVERNMENT

## THEOCRACY

But this is not meant to be this side of eternity.

Distinction of roles of Civil Government and other God-ordained governments. Matthew 22:21, Romans 13:1-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-4 and 1 Peter 2:13-17.



# BIGGEST OBJECTION

SEPARATION OF CHURCH & STATE?

IT'S NOT A MATTER OF RELIGION;

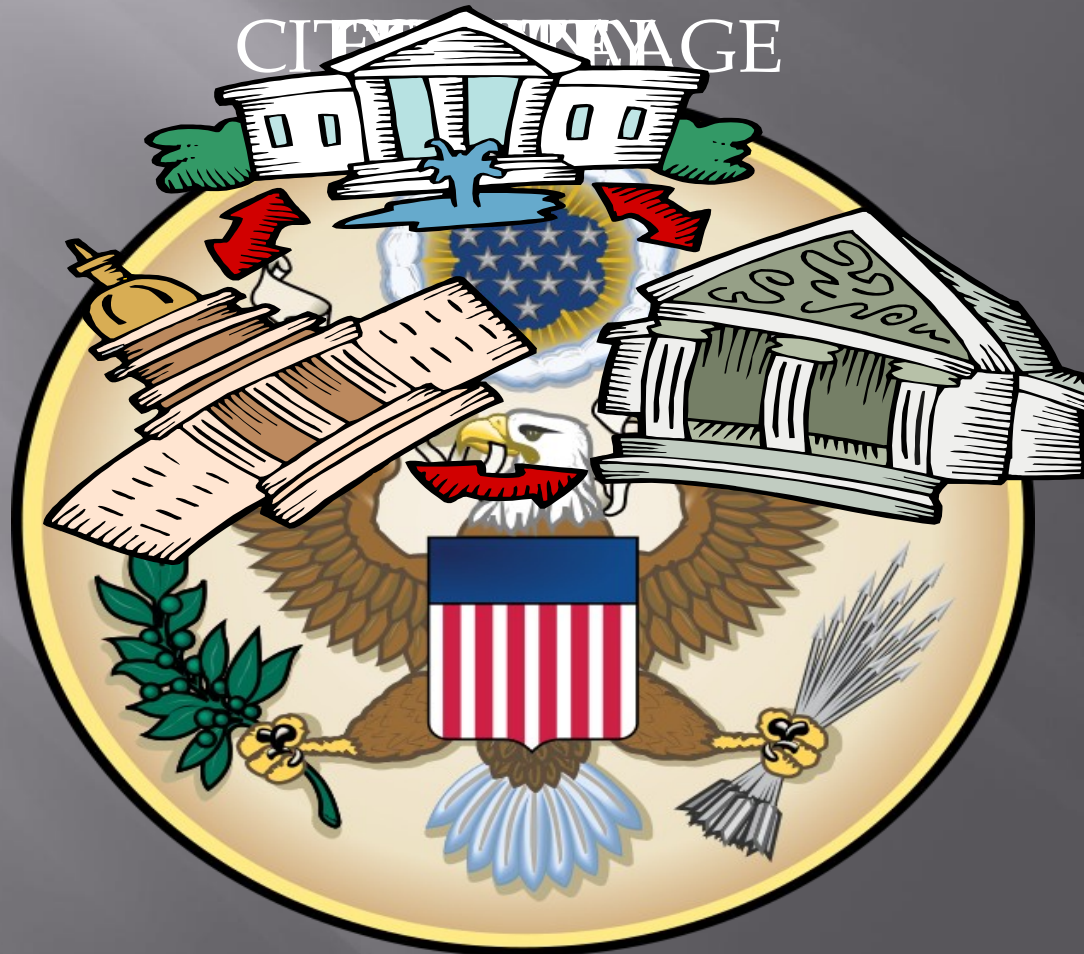
IT'S A MATTER OF WHOSE RELIGION!

# COMPOSITION OF US CIVIL GOVERNMENT

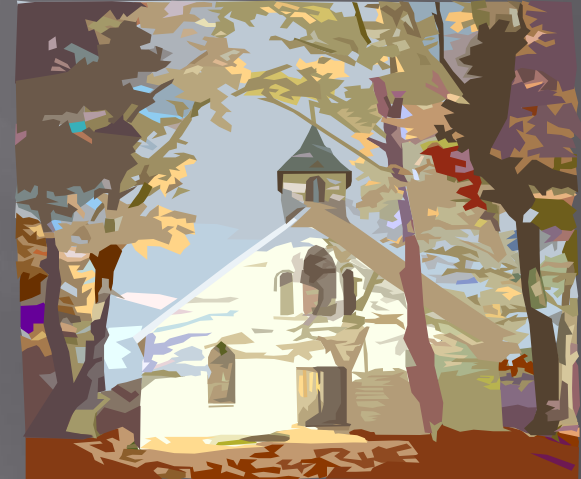
Judicial

Executive

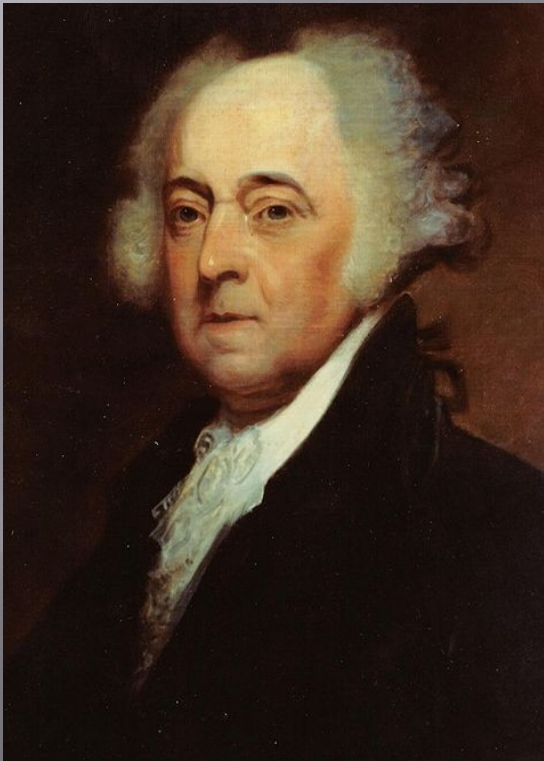
Legislative



# THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION



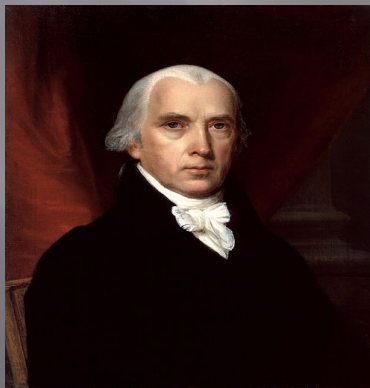
“Our Constitution was made *only* for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”



- *John Adams*

*Drafter of the Declaration  
of Independence and  
2<sup>ND</sup> President of the US*

“We have staked the future of all of our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government; upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”



- *James Madison*

*“Father of the Constitution” and  
4<sup>th</sup> President of the US*

# GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON

General most earnestly requires and expects a due observance of those articles of war established for the government of the army which forbid profane cursing, swearing, and drunkenness; and in like manner requires and expects of all officers and soldiers not engaged on actual duty, a punctual attendance on Divine Service to implore the blessings of Heaven upon the means used for our safety and defense.

*General Washington's orders to the Continental Army, July 4, 1775*

# OPINION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA SUPREME COURT, 1824

“The true principles of natural religion are part of the common law; the essential principles of revealed religion are part of the common law; so that a person vilifying, subverting or ridiculing them may be prosecuted at common law...”

“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.”

- *John Jay*

*First Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court*

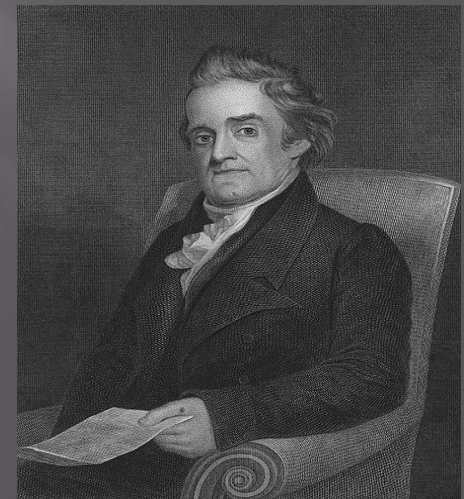




“The religion which has introduced civil liberty is the religion of Christ and His apostles. This is genuine Christianity and to this we owe our free constitutions of government.”

- *Noah Webster*

"Father of American Scholarship and Education" and Publisher of *An American Dictionary of the English Language* (1828).



# SUPREME COURT DECISION (1892)

“These, and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that **this is a Christian nation.**”



Decision of the Supreme Court in the case of the Holy Trinity Church vs. the United States (1892).

# CONVICTIONS OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT

Ensure that the ethical standards of God's law are enforced

Demand that populace outwardly obeys relevant precepts of God's law for the common good

Restrain lawless behavior detrimental to common good

# WHAT CIVIL GOVERNMENT SHOULD AVOID

## MATERIALISM/HEDONISM/HUMANISM



Government Control of Education  
(evolution, liberal revisionists)

Social Security

Welfare

Excessive Gun control

Food Stamps

Excessive Regulations

Progressive Income Tax

Printing Money

Legalizing immorality

Abolition of Capital Punishment

Redefining Family Unit/Marriage, Divorce

Resources Determining Political Influence/Viability

# SOCIAL SECURITY




# WELFARE

--Civil Government taxes unfairly to support those who in many cases are lazy or rebellious discarding 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, 2 Thessalonians 3:10 and Proverbs 21:25 (commands to work for basic necessities)

--Church Government abdicates responsibility to carry out Matthew 25:31-46, 1 Timothy 5:16 and James 1:27

--The family and the church further miss out on developing relationships with those who need ministry so as to allow them “to work with their own hands.”

# PROPER ROLE OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT & THE ECONOMY



--Preserve a free market economy

--Regulate basic weights and measures

--Regulate commerce only where it is absolutely necessary to avoid trades and valuations from being distorted (e.g., derivative trading debacle of '08)

--Guarantee the value of money (e.g., currency should be based on gold or silver)

--Enact and enforce Safety and Environmental laws that are obvious and necessary



# PROPER ROLE OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT & FREEDOM OF RELIGION

SHOULD ALLOW FREEDOM OF RELIGION,  
WHILE PROHIBITING OBVIOUS VIOLATIONS  
OF GOD'S ETHICAL AND MORAL LAW.

NO SUCH THING AS NEUTRALITY IN  
"RELIGION" OR "PHILOSOPHY!"

CIVIL GOVERNMENT ALWAYS PROMOTES A  
RELIGION - THE QUESTION IS: WHICH ONE?!

**SECULAR HUMANISM OR CHRISTIANITY?**

WHEN SHOULD CIVIL  
GOVERNMENT BE IN EDUCATION?

**IT SHOULDN'T  
UNLESS IT  
TEACHES  
THE BIBLE  
AS FACT**



“I am afraid that the schools will prove the very gates of hell, unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures and engraving them in the heart of the youth.”

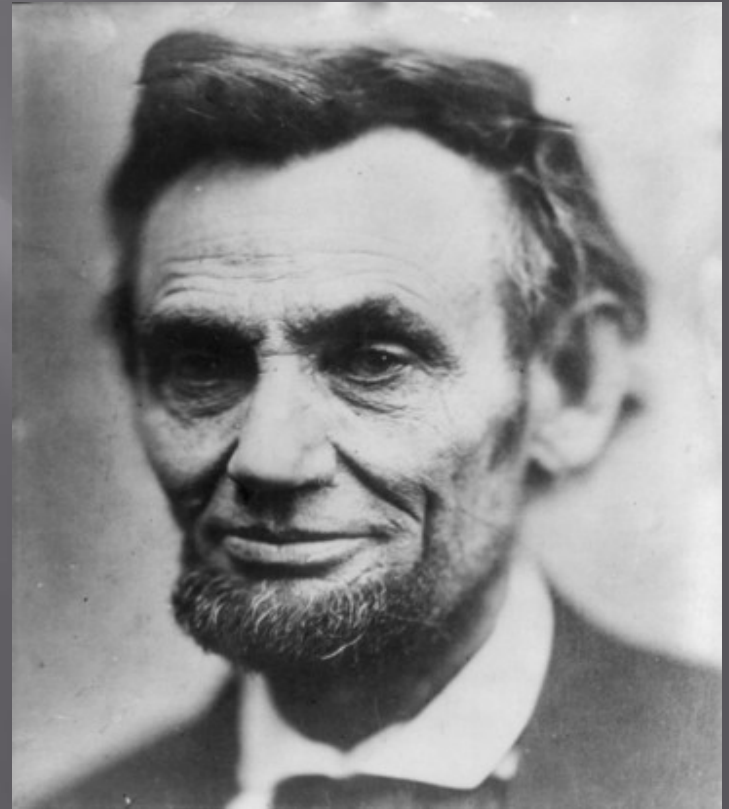
- *Martin Luther*



“The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next.”

- *Abraham Lincoln*

16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States



# NECESSARY CONCLUSIONS

SELF/FAMILY/CHURCH

POWER & SCOPE OF  
CIVIL GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENTS

RESULT?

**IDENTITIES, MISSIONS AND  
PURPOSES GIVEN TO  
MEN/FAMILIES/CHURCHES BY  
GOD, DECREASE**

# GOD'S ORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT (LISTED BY IMPORTANCE)

SELF GOVERNMENT

FAMILY GOVERNMENT

CHURCH GOVERNMENT

CIVIL GOVERNMENT

# BIBLICAL ORDER OF RESPONSIBILITY IN SOCIETY

SELF GOVERNMENT

FAMILY GOVERNMENT

CHURCH GOVERNMENT

CIVIL GOVERNMENT

# CONTEMPORARY CULTURES' VIEW OF GOVERNING RESPONSIBILITY

## CIVIL GOVERNMENT

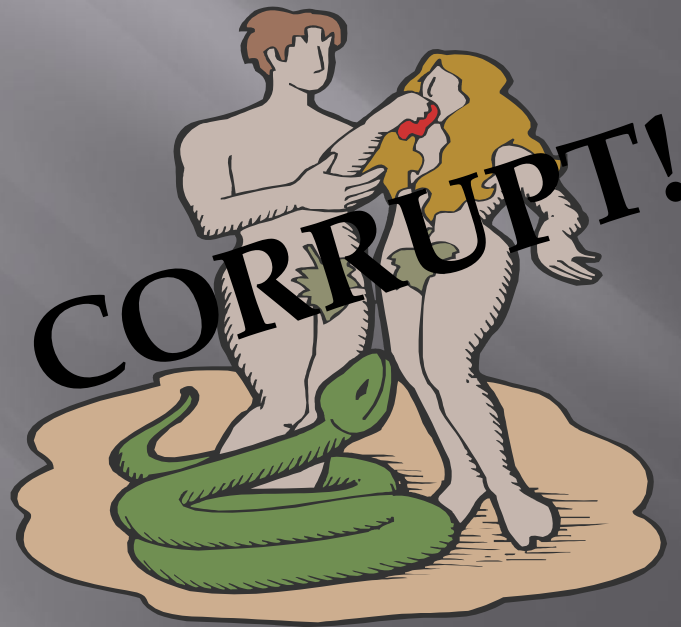


CHURCH/FAMILY/SELF GOVERNMENTS



# NATURE OF GOVERNING POWER

POWER CAN ONLY PROPERLY BE HANDLED BY  
GOD!!!



CIVIL GOVERNMENT IS A MONOPOLY!

“If men were angels, then  
government would not  
be necessary.”

- *James Madison*





**“Government is not reason; it is not eloquent; it is force. Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master.”**

*- George Washington*

# US CONSTITUTION

The background is a collage of American symbols. At the top right is the Statue of Liberty. In the center is a large, aged document of the US Constitution, with the words 'We the People' clearly visible in cursive. On the left is a bald eagle with its wings spread. The bottom of the image shows a portion of the American flag with stars and stripes.

The closest thing to an ideal government on this fallen earth

## DEMOCRACY OR REPUBLIC?

The government is accountable to the people it serves and is constrained by the Constitution, which is undergirded by a Biblical worldview.



“If men are not ruled by God then they will be ruled by tyrants.”

- *William Penn*

# RECOVERING THE FOUNDATION OF GODLY CIVIL GOVERNMENT

**GOD'S WORD**

**ABSOLUTE GOAL AND GUIDE**

**DON'T CONFORM TO THE  
PATTERN OF THIS WORLD  
(ROMANS 12:2)**

**SELF GOVERNMENT**

**FAMILY GOVERNMENT**

**CHURCH GOVERNMENT**

**CIVIL GOVERNMENT**

# COMPONENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC-REPUBLIC

GOD-FEARING & GOD-HONORING PUBLIC

EDUCATED PUBLIC

CONSCIENTIOUS PUBLIC



# ETHICAL STANDARDS

WHO IS MAN?

WHAT IS MAN'S PURPOSE AND MEANING?

WHAT IS GOVERNMENT?

WHAT IS A CRIME?

WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

WHAT IS THE PROPER PUNISHMENT FOR MURDER?

WHAT ARE THE STANDARDS FOR USE OF FORCE?


WHAT IS THE NATURE OF PROPERTY?

STANDARD FOR PROVING GUILT IN A COURT?

WHO SHOULD HAVE THE ULTIMATE POWER?

WHAT IS THE CORRECT WAY TO TAX SOMEONE?





**EDUCATED PUBLIC**

**UNDERSTANDING**

**CREATION & THE CREATOR**

**GOD'S POWER, SOVEREIGNTY & ATTRIBUTES**

**LIFE MADE BY GOD (PEOPLE & CREATURES)**

**OBLIGATIONS, DUTIES & FREEDOMS**

**COMMANDS, CONTROLS & LIMITATIONS OF  
THOSE FREEDOMS**

**CREATED ORDER FOR THE GLORY OF GOD**

# IMPACTING CIVIL GOVERNMENT FOR CHRIST'S GLORY

GEORGE WASHINGTON

PATRICK HENRY

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE

WILLIAM GLADSTONE

MARTIN LUTHER

JOHN CALVIN

ABRAHAM KUYPER

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

PAT ROBERTSON

JERRY FALWELL

D. JAMES KENNEDY

# PRACTICAL STEPS IN OBEYING GOD IN PROVIDING GOOD GOVERNMENT

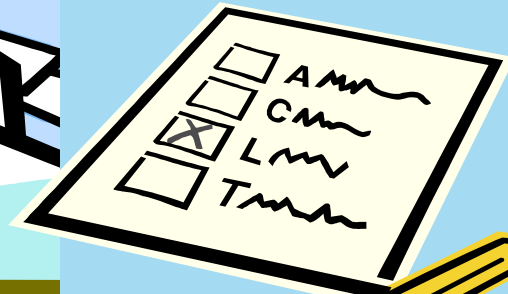
ALL FOUR SPHERES OF GOVERNMENT

DUTY IS FIRM & CONSISTENT

Part of Cultural Mandate & Great Commission

ENGAGE CIVIL GOVERNMENT WITH  
SIMILAR DILIGENCE OF THE FIRST THREE  
GOVERNMENTS

# BEING SALT & LIGHT IN CIVIL GOVERNMENT



# ERRORS TO AVOID IN IMPACTING CIVIL GOVERNMENT FOR CHRIST

IDEALISM

and

PRAGMATISM

# EVANGELICAL VIEWS ON CIVIL GOVERNMENT

IDEALISM

Inaction



SALT & LIGHT

Impacting the darkness



PRAGMATISM

Compromise

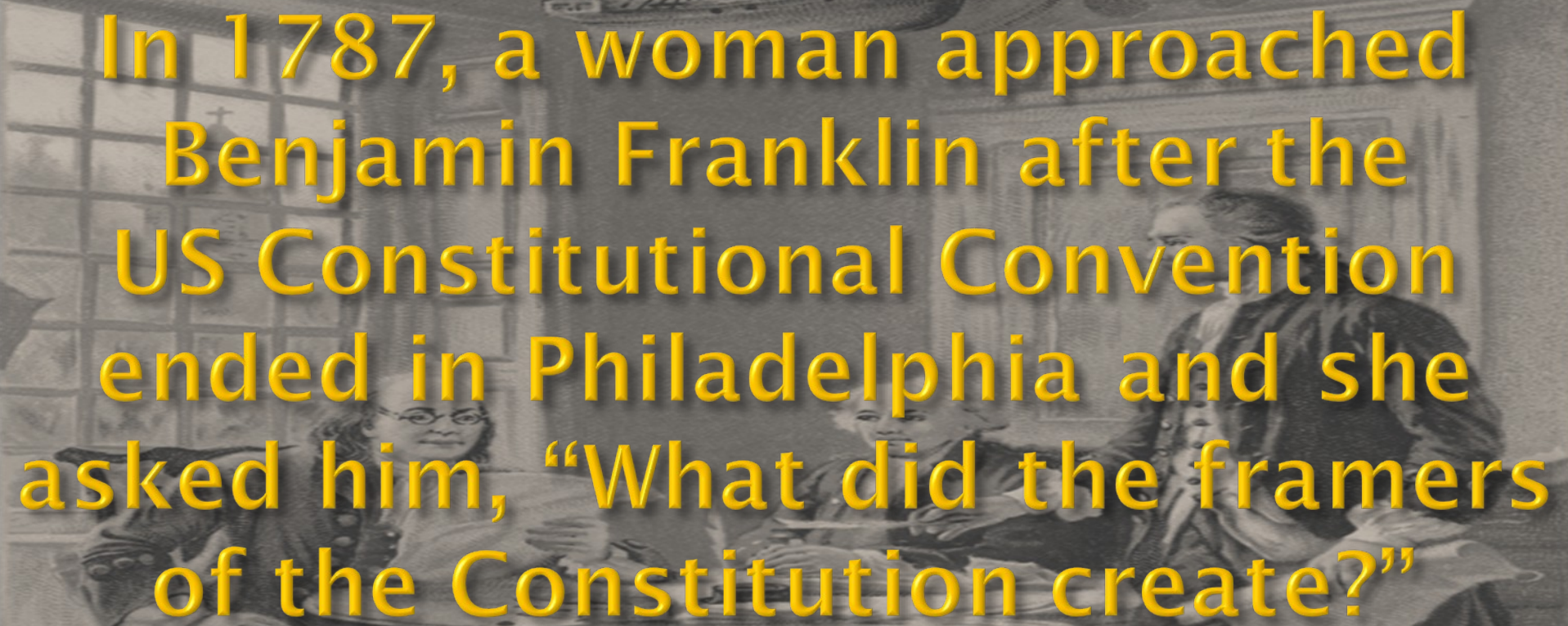


BE SALT & LIGHT IN VOTING



VOTE

BIBLICALLY!

A historical illustration of a room, likely a study or office. A large window on the left shows a view of a city. In the center, a man in 18th-century attire sits at a table covered with papers, looking towards a woman standing on the right. The woman is also in 18th-century dress and appears to be in conversation with the man. The room contains various items like a desk, a chair, and a small table with a lamp. The overall scene suggests a formal or professional meeting.

In 1787, a woman approached Benjamin Franklin after the US Constitutional Convention ended in Philadelphia and she asked him, “What did the framers of the Constitution create?”

Franklin responded, “A Republic, if you can keep it!”