

Biblical Principles for Africa

Peter Hammond

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Published by Frontline Fellowship Publishing at Smashwords

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Typesetting - Colin Newman



Forewords

"*Biblical Principles for Africa* is an awesome handbook and it needs to be in the hands of every one of our people. We need God fearing men and women in government." **Mrs. Cheryllyn Dudley, MP**

"Dr. Peter Hammond's new book *Biblical Principles for Africa* has been needed for a long time. This book is full of spiritual and civic education of the world, awareness against sin, the world and the devil; not only that, the development of the whole human being in mind, body and spirit. To fight against three enemies - disease, poverty and ignorance which has affected the war-torn South Sudan, Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile regions of Sudan. This book has touched the human life politically, socially, economically and religiously. *Biblical Principles for Africa* well summarises the key points, and is full of material for capacity building; with historical background and Biblical foundations. I appeal to Dr. Hammond to write more books by the help of the Holy Spirit. *Biblical Principles for Africa* is highly recommended." **Bishop Bullen Dolli, Lui Diocese, Episcopal Church of Sudan**

"I am very grateful to you for sending me *Biblical Principles for Africa* and for your prayers. With the task I have ahead of me, I really need God's wisdom and thank you for your foresight." **Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi**

"Not everyone will agree with Peter Hammond's stance on all things. However, *Biblical Principles for Africa* is a challenge to the current acceptance of a value system that is foreign to the Bible. Peter's rapid-fire approach to a vast range of issues should at least provoke thought and discussion amongst those who read his very useful little book." **Bishop Frank Retief, Presiding Bishop, Church of England in South Africa**

"I am very impressed with *Biblical Principles for Africa*. I feel that this small book cannot be only for Africa but the world at large. It will help both the African Christian Leaders as well as world Christian Leaders. It will also be useful for the community leaders as well as family heads to enable them to promote our moral and ethical values. I therefore highly recommend it to be widely used by Christian leaders, parliamentarians, community leaders and heads of families. May God bless it to be fruitful, to influence and change the lives of leaders in our society." **Rev. Canon Kenneth Baringwa, Mundri Diocese, Episcopal Church of Sudan.**

"This comprehensive yet concise book, *Biblical Principles for Africa*, by Dr Peter Hammond, is a wonderful handbook which highlights the values which flow from the Biblical truths that should govern our society and our behaviour. It provides a basis for a successful God centred society as opposed to a failing secular humanist people centred society. This book is a blessing and should be studied by everyone seeking real peace and progress in our land. It is a proven road-map for success in South Africa and Africa." **The Honourable KDS Durr - MP, Past Ambassador and High Commissioner for South Africa to the Court of St. James, London**

"Whether Christian readers agree or disagree with the line taken in every section of *Biblical Principles for Africa*, they will find the volume educational, controversial and creatively proactive. If it helps any to apply their Christian faith more deeply to Africa's compelling issues at this time, I am sure the author will feel well rewarded." **Michael Cassidy, President of African Enterprise**

"If you want to read one Christian book that will stop you thinking like the world, get you thinking Biblically, by someone who is active practising what he preaches then read this one. You need *Biblical Principles for Africa* to help you understand the world we live in." **Douglas Shaw, Economist and CEO: Global Intelligence Fund Management**

"*Biblical Principles for Africa* is a precious and graphic summary of what all nations need to do, to escape the destructiveness of humanism. Thank you very much for sending this

treasure to me. This book must get into the hands of our leaders, civil authorities, Church leaders, NGOs; my president and his cabinet members must have copies of *Biblical Principles for Africa*. The parliamentarians, governors, local government chairmen. Fathers and mothers must have their copies of ***Biblical Principles for Africa***. This book should be reprinted here in Nigeria. Watch-out, this little book is going to bring sanity to many nations." **Rev. Timothy Humphrey, Intensive Evangelism Network, Port Harcourt, Nigeria.**

"Dr Peter Hammond must be congratulated by all Christians who believe in Biblical truth for writing this masterpiece *Biblical Principles for Africa*. His bold and direct approach in confronting serious issues facing the nations is admirable. Above all his commitment to Scripture and belief in Biblical solutions for all problems in this age of compromise is refreshing and encouraging.

"The major problem facing our nation today is crime. Our humanist government is failing to stop this scourge of crime because they do not know why people commit crime so readily. We all know that you cannot offer a solution for a problem you have not identified. Dr Peter Hammond has accurately identified the causes of crime and has consequently offered Biblical solutions for those problems. If government does not heed his words of advice and wisdom based on God's Word, then they will never eradicate crime from our streets and homes.

"South Africans will have to prepare themselves to either live with crime with the present government in power for the rest of their lives or to vote into office a new government that will heed the wisdom of God's Word and fearlessly apply Biblical principles to contemporary problems.

"I highly recommend Dr Hammond's book *Biblical Principles for Africa* to all Christians who want to inform themselves about what the Bible says regarding the problems facing us as a nation. But for those Christians who want to be part of the solution this book is a must read as it will equip them in how to apply Biblical solutions to contemporary problems." **Rev. Dr. Kenneth Meshoe, MP, President of the African Christian Democratic Party.**

"*Biblical Principles for Africa* is an excellent handbook that will challenge us all and become a valuable tool in our Christian witness in a heathen secular world. Much of my lifelong preaching has majored on Christ and His guidelines and rules for a God-pleasing and God-ordained life for the lost world - all themes which *Biblical Principles for Africa* explores. I am sure it will have an impact in our nation. *Biblical Principles for Africa* has such a clear ring of truth, commendation of God's Holy Will and Purpose, that I wish it will have a tremendous impact upon the people of South Africa. As many more people get disillusioned with unworkable and unholy government policies and projects, my prayer is that many will turn to the Scriptures which you have so ably expounded." **Dr. Fritz Haus, Stellenbosch, South Africa**

"*Biblical Principles for Africa* book by Dr. Peter Hammond continues to receive enthusiastic responses, particularly in Malawi and Zambia, where the presidents of both those nations

wrote positive endorsements of the book. Every Member of Parliament in Zambia received a copy of *Biblical Principles for Africa*. The government in Malawi also requested three hundred copies of *Biblical Principles for Africa*. When these were delivered the Malawian government had the national media cover the event. The second English edition of this book is now here.

"Dr. Peter Hammond and Rev. Bill Bathman visited Lubumbashi, capital of Katanga Province, in the Congo, in 2006. They immediately got started with a three day '*Biblical Worldview Seminar*' training for Christian leaders based on this book. Over 1000 Christian leaders were trained which helped prepare the Congolese Church for the first democratic elections in 45 years.

"Pastors and Christian civil leaders are very excited about the French copy of the *Biblical Principles for Africa* book and many have walked miles to try and secure their own copy. Frontline Fellowship has distributed thousands of copies that are being used as a teaching aid for pastors and congregation members.

"By God's grace this little power house of Scriptural application can help disciple and reform our continent so that Africa "will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." **CharlvanWyk, Director, Africa Christian Action**

Introduction

by Rev. Erlo Stegen

The question is often asked: why is Africa so beset by such enormous problems and tragedies? War, poverty, disease and now the killer which threatens to wipe out millions of Africans, HIV/AIDS. What are the reasons for our continent topping lists of needy countries for handouts by other successful nations? Why shouldn't Africa itself be a provider for other developing nations in Asia and South America?

The prosperity of every nation depends on how it responds to Biblical principles. Poverty and misery are guaranteed when God's Word is deliberately neglected. In the same way blessings and prosperity are assured for all peoples who take God's commands seriously. This is plainly declared in Deuteronomy 28. In this eternally valid promise God vows that He will set that nation "*high above all the nations of the earth*" if they "*diligently observe all His commandments*". The blessings in the next 13 verses will "overtake" the person and that nation which carefully observes Biblical principles. The same Scripture passage also promises all manner of awful consequences upon those who do not obey God's commandments. The evidence of verses 14 to 68 can be observed every day.

Biblical Principles for Africa is a manual on the way of blessing, for individuals, nations, Africa and the world. The author, Dr Peter Hammond, is not writing about theories that are of no earthly use. He has worked for over twenty-five years in African nations, has observed the cultures, problems and sins which destroy millions of lives. The principles in this book are

based on the tried and proved principles of God's Word. I advise you to study this book for yourself, promote it in your church, send it to family and friends, and give copies to government officials in your area.

If people in Africa begin to practise the values found in *Biblical Principles for Africa* then we can truly pray 'Nkosi Sikelela iAfrica'.

Rev. Erlo Stegen,

Director of KwaSizabantu Mission

Dedication

*This book is dedicated to **Rev. Fano Sibisi**, the President of Christians for Truth and Co-worker of KwaSizabantu Mission. Fano is an inspiration and example to us all of Christian grace and perseverance under adverse circumstances.*



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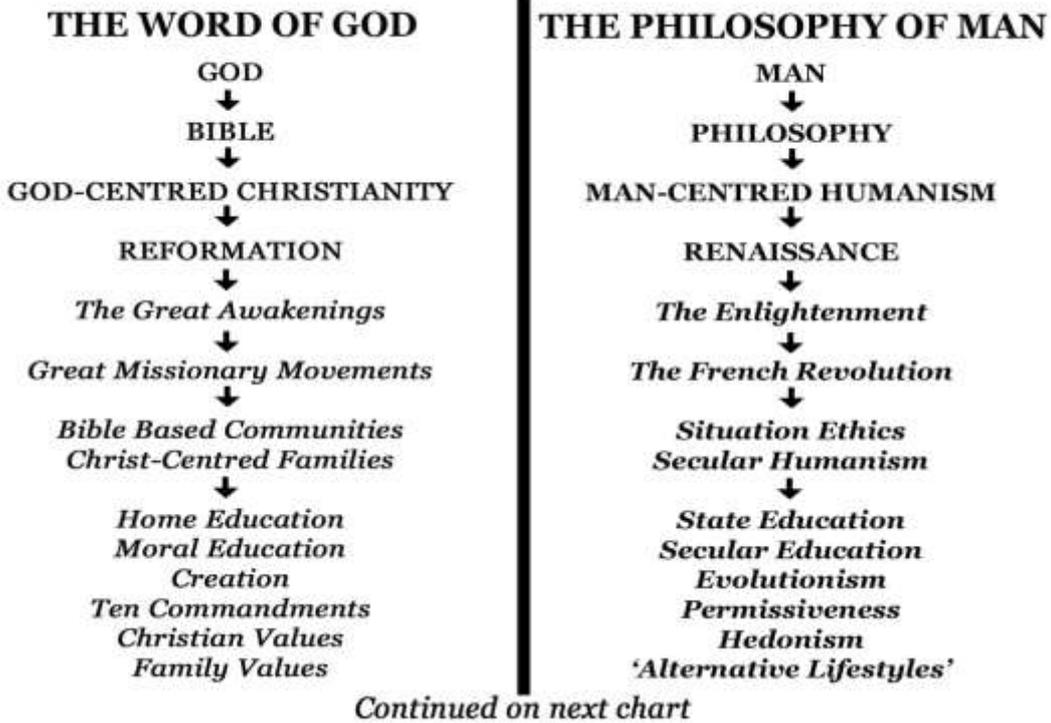
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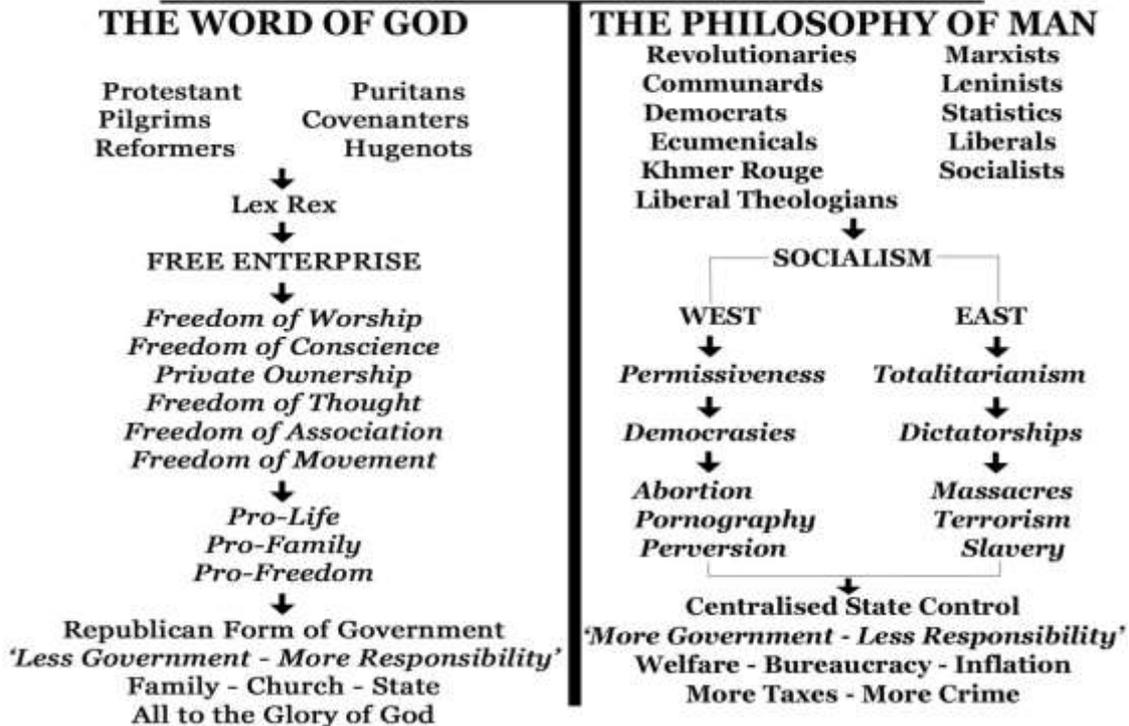
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THE GREAT DIVIDE



THE GREAT DIVIDE



*'Either the State will exercise the wrath of God against sin,
or it will exercise the wrath of man against God and His people.'*



Chapter 1

Worldviews in Conflict

The Humanist Position

Our society seems to be gripped by the humanism of eighteenth-century French philosophers like Voltaire and Rousseau: That man is basically good; that human nature is improving and perfectable. For this reason thieves, rapists and murderers have been treated as "victims of society", needing treatment and rehabilitation, instead of villains needing retribution and punishment.

The present world climate is one of "negotiation" (meaning: compromise), "unity" (meaning: conformity), "love" (meaning: passive acceptance of evil), and "peace" (meaning: non-resistance to terrorism). The scandal is that under these delusions, terrorists can be freed even while policemen are jailed. Murderers can be granted indemnity even while soldiers are prosecuted. Some clergymen and politicians campaign to save convicted murderers by ending the death penalty, while condemning innocent babies by promoting abortion.

In this age of appeasement, personal and public policy does not seem to be decided by "*what is right?*", but by "*what is popular?*" Africa is no longer even trying faithfully to build every area of life in obedience to the Word of God. The "New South Africa" has abandoned Biblical principles and embraced humanism at a breathtaking pace.

Francis Schaeffer defined humanism as: **"the placing of man at the centre of all things and making him the measure of all things."**

Alexander Solzhenitsyn described it as: **"the proclaimed and practised autonomy of man from any higher force above him."**

According to humanist thought, there is no clear cut standard of right and wrong.

The inevitable results of humanism are seen in the totalitarianism and massacres of the communist East and in the permissiveness and decadence of the democratic West.

Humanists have to take responsibility for the abortion holocaust, the pornography plague, the drug epidemic, the AIDS pandemic, the crime wave, and the proliferation of perversion. These disasters are the logical result of rejecting God's Law and promoting situation ethics, evolutionism, permissiveness and "alternative lifestyles".

That is the point where we find ourselves today. Our society is in desperate need of Biblical Reformation and our churches need revival. While the Reformers, Puritans, Huguenots and Pilgrims were characterised by courage and uncompromising faithfulness to God's Word, our generation is clearly full of cowardice, love of pleasure, and compromise.

The Reformation Position

The Biblical doctrine of the total depravity of human nature - that man is by nature sinful and unable to please God - led the Reformers to hold an opposite position to the humanists. The Reformers believed that human nature is basically evil and selfish. Therefore they favoured a form of government with strict laws and strict punishments for criminal behaviour. They recognised that the civil government needs to be powerful enough to restrain the evil impulses of sinful people. However, knowing that "*power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely,*" they knew that rulers could not be trusted with absolute power either.

Their solution was not the pagan Greek Utopia of democracy - where man rules - but a constitutional republic - where Law rules. Therefore the Reformers strove to rebuild their republics upon the unchangeable Law of God's Word. Instead of rulers, they elected servants - civil servants - bound down with the chains of the constitution. They favoured decentralisation and so they erected a system of checks and balances to divide the power and responsibility into a trinitarian model of Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of civil government (Isaiah 33:22).

Being cautious of the human nature of foreign powers, they also favoured a strong military defence to be a deterrent against attacks and to preserve liberty and security for their inhabitants.

Christians believe that God's Law, as revealed in His Word, the Bible, contains the absolute and unchanging principles by which all areas of life must be governed. The Laws of God reflect the eternal and unchanging character and will of God and therefore cannot be ignored.

Our concern to apply God's revealed Law to everyday life flows from the Biblical doctrines of the Sovereignty of God and the sinfulness of man.

One of the basic differences between Biblical Christianity and humanistic religion is that: the Biblical faith is a response to Truth, while man-centred faith is an attempt to manipulate God. The Biblical Faith aims at pleasing God, while the man-centred faith aims at self-satisfaction.

The Bible asserts that "Jesus is Lord" over all areas of life (Col. 1:15-17). "*The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it*" Psalm 24:1. Christians are to be salt and light (Matt. 5:13-16), preserving what is good in our society and enlightening the world with our witness to Christ. In the Great Commission, our Lord commanded us to:

"Disciple the nations... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded." Matthew 28:19

Only by nationwide repentance, Revival and Reformation can we re-build the moral walls of our societies.

The Choice is Ours.

It is God's Law or God's judgement.

Revival or chaos.

"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 Chronicles 7:14



Chapter 2

Education has become a Battle Ground

Anyone who believes that education can be neutral is mistaken. Ideas have consequences. Actions flow from thought patterns. Parents are not faced with a choice between sending their children to a religious school or to a non-religious school.

All schools are religious. Parents must rather choose which religion will be taught to their children. Will it be Christianity, Islam, Humanism or something else?

Will it be the **secular humanism** of American state schools - where prayer is illegal but pornography can be part of the sex education syllabus? Where evolution is an article of faith, a sacred cow, and scientific evidences for Creation are outlawed? The facts that one in ten violent crimes in the USA now occur in schools, and that each year over 700 000 high school graduates are functional illiterates have led American parents to take seven million children out of government schools? Secular humanist education has proven to be the most effective way to produce illiterates, to lower moral standards and to proliferate venereal diseases.

Will your children receive the **revolutionary humanism** of the failed socialist experiments of Eastern Europe, Cambodia, Nicaragua, Ethiopia and Mozambique? The wrecked

economies and wasted potential of these countries, and their killing fields and concentration camp gulags, hardly serve as recommendations for "scientific" or revolutionary socialism.

Perhaps it will be the "**people's education**" of the ANC/SACP comrades? An education of politicisation, cheap slogans, cliches, parrot cries, "freedom songs", raised fists and the "toyi toyi" zombie dance? The endless boycotts, strikes, marches, riots, stone-throwing, vandalism and violence produced a lost generation of millions of untrained, unemployable thugs, thieves, beggars, rioters, terrorists, and "political activists".

Are your children perhaps already receiving some **mystical humanism** or new age occultism under the guise of education?

The point is that education is inherently religious because it presents a certain perspective and selection of history, values and practices, and it prescribes a worldview.

"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. Col 2:8

Parents Can Delegate the Task But Not the Responsibility for the Education of Their Children

Children do not belong to the state. They belong to God and are entrusted by Him to parents to "*bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord*" Eph. 6:4. Parents are responsible under God to oversee the teachers, textbooks, and syllabi that will shape and fill their minds for the 15 000 hours of school teaching. All Christian parents should be involved in the School Governing Body of their local school and take an active role in the education of their young according to Biblical principles. **The control of education should be in the hands of parents, and the content of education must be Bible based.**

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" Psalm 111:10

Accordingly, *the KwaSizabantu Affirmation 1991* affirmed: "5.b) The right to send children to schools of the parents' choice (Col. 2:8). Because the education of the children is essentially the duty of the family and the Church and not the State, parents should become far more involved in the parent - teacher associations and school governing bodies, even to the point of influencing the curriculum. Government schools should be made open to the preaching of the Gospel and should base their curriculum upon moral and family values. If the new dispensation introduces an educational system which refuses this, Christian parents should be encouraged to look at alternatives which will include a return to private Christian schools."

With recent developments in education in South Africa - with the moves to try to eliminate Bible reading, prayer and the singing of hymns at assemblies, even more parents are

withdrawing their children from government schools and turning to private Christian schools and home schooling(Deut 6:6-9)



Chapter 3

The War Against the Children

"Another generation grew up, who knew neither the Lord nor what He had done... they followed and worshipped various gods... They provoked the Lord to anger." Judges 2:10-12

Who is raising your child? Has the TV become your family altar and the electronic baby sitter? Do you recognise the threat that the exploitative pornography industry poses to your child? Have you allowed the Department of Education, Planned Parenthood and lovelife to use your child as playdough in their experiments of social engineering?

"My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. 'Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you as My priests; because you have ignored the Law of your God, I also will ignore your children.'" Hosea4:6

In rural Africa, threats to children often slither, sting or bite. Frontline Fellowship missionaries in Zambia have found scorpions in their bed and snakes in their house! One of their fears was that their inquisitive two year old would pick up a deadly green mamba snake.

In Sudan, parents have to warn their children not to touch unexploded bombs. Children walking to the well to fetch water have been crippled by landmines or even captured by Arab slave raiders. Most of the Christian schools in Sudan have been bombed by the National Islamic Front government air force. At one school in the Nuba Mountains, 19 children were killed and 3 were crippled in just one aerial bombing raid.

Those kinds of threats to the lives, liberty and limbs of children are very visible and tangible. However, the more subtle threats to our children in the cities and towns are no less dangerous than those faced by Christians in Sudan. **Do you recognise the threats posed to your child?**

A booklet ("*Talk About Children at Risk*") written by the South African Police Services (SAPS) Child Protection Unit (CPU), revealed that South Africa was "*fast becoming known as the premier sex tourism destination of the world, particularly because children's bodies are plentiful and cheap. It is also common knowledge that this country is a world leader in the spread of HIV-AIDS.*" Foreign paedophiles visit many parts of Africa in search of young bodies.

The police report noted that: "***In 1996 the Films and Publications Act was passed, legalising pornography for the first time in the history of the country. This made it possible for child abusers, rapists and paedophiles to obtain all the material they needed. Statistics tell the story as South African Police Service records show that child rape increased . . . over 400%!***"

The police report further stated that: "*Research with child sexual offenders reveals that all have used child pornography.*"

This is of course exactly what Africa Christian Action warned about in its submissions and testimonies before the Parliamentary subcommittee that was drafting the new Films and Publications Act in 1995 and 1996. Pornography plays a significant role in the occurrence of rape and child abuse. Pornography is the theory - rape is the practice, Pornography is a manual for rape and child abuse.

The tragic result of the SA government's legalisation •• of the exploitative pornography industry is catalogued by the SAPS' Child Protection Unit: "*The commercial exploitation of children includes . . . rape, murder, abduction, bribery, false marriages . . . bonded labour extortion, mail order brides.. .*" "*One out of every twelve prostitutes is younger than 17 . . .*" This wholesale sexual exploitation of children has flourished because of "*corruption and collusion, the absence of or inadequacy of laws, lax law enforcement and limited sensitisation of law enforcement personnel to the harmful impact on children ... and government officials who may, often unwittingly, be guilty through indifference, ignorance...*"

An article in the Cape Argus (24/7/00) "***Trail of Abused Kids as Sex Suspect Stalks Cape,***" reported in a matter-of-fact manner that the 50- year-old paedophile who had left a "*sordid trail of child abuse*" used pornography to lure his victims into his bedroom and to desensitise them to his perversions.

The *National Institute for Crime Prevention* (NICRO) has estimated that there are 380 000 rape cases in South Africa each year. Yet as the rape rate has soared, the conviction rate of rapists has plummeted. Less than 7% of reported rapists are convicted! **The crime situation deteriorated so drastically that for years the government forbade the police to release any current statistics on the incidence of crime! Only sustained outrage and public pressure forced the government to again release crime statistics.** The statistics now released are widely believed to be incomplete, selective and doctored to conceal much of the brutal reality

"*Why do people commit crimes so readily? Because crime is not punished quickly enough.*"
Ecclesiastes 8:11

Our mothers, sisters, wives and daughters are precious and they deserve to be respected and protected. Any true man should be willing to do anything, even give his life, to protect his mother, sister, wife or daughter.

So why is our society guilty of such disgraceful abuse, exploitation and violence against women? It is hard not to be cynical about our government speaking about "women's rights" and declaring 9 August as "*National Women's Day*." It is their legalisation of the exploitative pornography industry that has led to the explosion of abuse, rapes and violence against women and children.

Even as the pornographers pour fuel on the fires of violence against women and children, a Bill was passed by Parliament that would make women even more vulnerable to rape and murder. If enacted into law and applied, the new Firearms' Control Act could effectively deny the vast majority of citizens the right to obtain, own or carry a firearm for self-defence. **The Act has effectively ignored the basic human right of self-defence making it a privilege for a select minority** (like government officials)! One doesn't have to be a genius to see that **criminals prefer unarmed victims**. With between 4 to 9 million illegal firearms in South Africa, it seems unethical to disarm the law-abiding citizens who are potential victims of crime.

Nevertheless, Dr. Van As, of the Red Cross Children's Hospital in Cape Town, was quoted in the Cape Argus (17/8/00) as calling for "*tougher gun laws*." He related various heart-rending stories of children wounded and even crippled in gang crossfire. However, upon investigation, I found that only four patients a month at Red Cross Hospital were gunshot victims, and almost all of those were from illegal guns in the hands of gangsters. Some of these patients are actually gang members themselves.

It does not seem logical to disarm the licensed firearm owners when they are not even the problem. Further research revealed that the vast majority of casualties admitted to the children's hospital that year were for falls (2338 cases in the last year), motor vehicle accidents (1030), burns (532), assault with blunt or sharp instruments (208), and poisoning (744). Even dog bites (91) were more numerous than firearm wounds (50).

Some people do use firearms for evil purposes, but far more people use firearms for defensive purposes to prevent crimes from being committed.

Vastly more children die each year in bicycle accidents, car accidents or drownings than from firearms. Children are 1450% more likely to die from a car accident than from a firearm. Should we outlaw all motor vehicles? No, the solution to the horrific carnage on the roads is not to ban motor vehicles, but to improve safety features in vehicles, educate drivers, promote the use of seat belts and severely punish drunken or reckless driving. As with motor vehicles, it would not be right to take away everyone's freedom because of the criminal activities or carelessness of some.

Actually, vastly more people die of medical malpractice each year than from firearms. The American Medical Association recognises that 93 000 patients die each year due to medical malpractice by doctors. Another 110 000 patients die from unforeseen reactions to prescribed medicines. We could also add the number of babies killed by doctors through abortion. (Approximately 80 000 babies are killed by abortion - legally - with tax payers' money, in South Africa alone, each year). In the light of the fact that doctors kill more people each year

than firearms do, it seems very hypocritical for a medical doctor to blame a cold metal inanimate object, a tool, for the evil that some people do.

However, we recognise that doctors save far more lives than they take and that is exactly the same for motor vehicles and firearms. Transport carries life-giving food and medicines to those who most need it, and patients to hospitals where they will be treated. Every day countless crimes are prevented, hundreds of potential victims are protected, and many tragedies are averted, by armed citizens. Armed citizens save lives and **parents need to be prepared to protect their children from all threats.** It is criminal to interfere with a father's duty to protect his children.

There are other far more subtle threats to our children. The theory of **Evolution** is often propagated by films, in some children's books and in the state school textbooks. **Evolution is an attempt to abort God retroactively.** Evolution destroys all meaning, purpose, direction, justice and hope in life: *"You came from nothing, you are going nowhere, life is meaningless!"*

The Bible says: *"The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no-one who does good."* Psalm 14:1

Secular Humanist education attempts to kill God by eradicating Him from the classroom and from the minds of the next generation. By eliminating the Bible as the basis for all knowledge, humanists remove the very foundation of truth. They prohibit the only objective standard by which reality can be evaluated.

"See to it that no-one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ."
Colossians 2:8

The South African Ministry of Education was reported to have admitted that their expensive Outcomes Based Education (OBE) *Curriculum 2005* was a "failure" and was to be "scrapped." In an official letter sent to every school in the country the Minister of Education complained about the habit of too many teachers coming to school late and leaving early to go to shebeens and brothels, often returning drunk or failing to return at all! The Minister of Education also warned against *"the prevalent practice"* of teachers forcing students to have sex with them! This was *"demeaning"* and *"an abuse of authority"* he claimed! **That this child abuse was commonplace in government schools was a terrible indictment, but that the Department of Education was not firing and prosecuting these rapists and child abusers was, if anything, even more shocking.**

By the time the average child graduates he or she will have spent 15000 hours in school. What values and worldview will he or she have learnt during that time?

Are you allowing your child to be political playdough in the hands of social engineers in their OBE experiments? You can delegate some of the task of educating your children but you cannot delegate the responsibility.

Nearly 500 years ago the great German Reformer Martin Luther warned: ***"I am much afraid that schools will prove to be wide gates to hell unless they diligently labour in explaining the Holy Scriptures, engraving them on the hearts of youth. I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which men are not constantly occupied with the Word of God must become corrupt."***

"We will not hide them from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done... That they should make them known to their children; that the generation to come might know them, that the children who would be born, that they may arise and declare them to their children, that they may set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep His Commandments!"
Psalm 78:4-7



Chapter 4

The Battle for Your Mind

Do you approve of adultery and fornication? Would you enjoy watching criminals beat their victims senseless? Could you regard graphic violence or brutal murder as entertaining? Would you want your children to learn from immoral or occultic teachers?

"Of course not!" We would be indignant at any such suggestion.

Yet how often don't we spend time unthinkingly watching such evils on TV? And how often do our children sit in front of the TV and watch such programmes? Have you noticed how many of the children's cartoons depict graphic violence, immorality and occultism?

Which of us would allow a stranger to come into our home and reorganise our furniture? Yet daily we allow strangers on the television, or through magazines and music, to reorganise our thoughts. Surely none of us would tolerate a stranger coming into our home to teach or influence our children! Yet most parents allow strangers to be the single greatest influence on the mental and emotional development of their children - through TV!

Another threat to our children comes through the entertainment industry. Superficial, sensational and immoral material predominates in the modern entertainment industry and it is producing an increasingly superficial, selfish, mindless and immoral society.

In households with television, the average child sees n between 15 000 to 30 000 hours of television before leaving school (*Nielsen Media Research*). By the time he or she leaves school, the average child will have seen up to 360 000 murders and up to 480 000 sexual acts or references to sex depicted on TV (*US News and "World Report television before and Media Research Centre*). During his high school years the average student listens to over 10 000 hours of music, much of it filled with sensual, immoral and occultic lyrics.

The influence of parents and churches in the upbringing of most children today is declining at an alarming rate. The disintegration of many families, absentee parents and a general absence of discipline have created a vacuum. Violent and immoral films and videos, throbbing pulsating noise masquerading as music and pornographic magazines are filling the void in the aimless and meaningless lives of all too many young people.

"Since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, He gave them over to a depraved mind..." Romans 1:28

Researchers have observed that the negative effects of television addiction include: increased passivity, a tendency to be satisfied with being a spectator, decreased capacity for communication, a disturbing loss of parental control over the upbringing of their children, a progressive loss of commitment to absolute values of right and wrong, and a conditioning to accept standards of behaviour they previously rejected.

"Their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened." Romans 1:21

"They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved... all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness." 2 Thessalonians 2:10,12

What we see influences what we think and what we think influences what we become and what we do. Ideas have consequences. Actions flow from thought patterns. What form of education is moulding your thought patterns? What entertainment and news media is filling your mind?

"Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil." Ephesians 5:15,16

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things." Philippians 4:8

The selfishness and short-sightedness of modern society is also seen in litter-strewn, graffiti-vandalised communities. The filth, pollution and destruction of the environment in which our children play and grow up is also reflected in the self-mutilation and body-piercing of a growing number of confused young people. Pierced noses and eyebrows, tongue studs and belly rings along with acid rock and rap should be a wake-up call to any parent. Incredibly, however, all too many parents seem oblivious to the sullen, self-destructive, rebellious attitudes that go along with this kind of body-mutilating, mind-rotting and soul destroying subculture.

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

The solutions to all these threats are found in the Bible. **Deuteronomy 6:2-9** is one of the most important passages in the Bible. It contains one of the most important statements in the Old Testament: *"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."* It presents the most important command: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."* It emphasises our first priority in obeying that command:

"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."
Deuteronomy 6:7-9

We as parents are responsible before God to disciple our children. From the time we wake up to the time we go to sleep the Word of God is to govern our conversation and our actions. At home or on the road we are to talk about God's Word. We are to teach our children to memorise Scripture, especially the Ten Commandments. Everything we do with our hands or think with our minds is to be ruled by the Word of God. Our goal is to ensure that:

"Your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all His decrees and commands." Deuteronomy 6:2

This passage of Scripture is monumentally important. It comes straight after the restating of the Ten Commandments. In the second commandment we are solemnly warned:

"You shall not make for yourselves an idol in the form of anything ... You shall not bow down to them or worship them: for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the sin of the fathers to the third or fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to thousands who love Me and keep My commandments." Deuteronomy 5:8-10

We must recognise the threat of idolatry. Rock idols, pop stars, Hollywood idols, sports idols, even political idols are objects of reverence and obsessive adoration by all too many. The consequences of tolerating idolatry are devastating to the next generations.

Yet, if we will be faithful in loving God and obeying His commandments, the result will be an unimaginable outpouring of God's blessings upon our children, grand children, great-grand children - *"to a thousand generations."* What you do now will affect eternity.

"Know therefore that the Lord your God is God: He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commands."
Deuteronomy 7:9

1. Are you doing everything possible to ensure that your child or children are *learning to love and obey God*?
2. Are you *disciplining* your children, or grandchildren, by instruction and *by example*?
3. Do you regularly pray *for* your children?
4. Do you regularly pray *with* your children?
5. Are you regularly *reading the Scriptures* to your children?
6. Are you training your children in *Bible memorisation*?
7. *Are Sundays special in your home*?

The humanist philosopher Voltaire wrote: *"If you want to kill Christianity you must abolish Sundays."* If you have allowed shopping, sports and TV to encroach on the Lord's Day in your home then you are missing out on a powerful foundation for the discipleship of your children.

To *instil an early respect for God and His Word*, and a joyful expectancy for the blessings of worship, Bible teaching and fellowship, it is important to begin preparing for Sunday worship on Saturday evening. Get to bed early enough to be fresh for the Lord's Day. Wear special clothes for the special day of the week. Arrive early with an expectant and teachable attitude. Each member of your family should also take their Bibles to church. Encourage following the reading in the Bible and the taking of notes. Reinforce the message afterwards by talking with your children about its implications for our daily lives.

Habits and routine are a vital part of discipleship. We make time for those things that we deem important. That is why it is vital that we *make Bible reading and teaching a regular habit built into the structure of our daily routine*. For example you can make the Bible before breakfast a family principle (or before lunch or supper - whichever is the meal the whole family is gathered around the table). Story time, catechism and prayer before putting the children to bed each night is an ideal time for discipleship training.

You might need to **re-structure your priorities in order to make regular quality time for discipling your children**. Invest in good Christian books for your family. Make reading time fun, memorable and regular.

"Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15



Chapter 5

The Biblical Solution to Crime

There was a time when few of us were touched by crime. Then we all began to know somebody who had been affected by crime. Now each of us have our own stories of how we were stolen from, directly threatened by crime, or worse.

At a recent meeting, the 80-odd people in attendance were asked to name some of the crimes they had personally experienced. In short order, those present related house-breaking, car theft, cell phone theft, fraud, assault, hijacking, armed robbery and murder - all experienced either by themselves or their immediate family, all recently.

At almost any social occasion, you can find South Africans swapping stories about a brush with death or the long hand of crime having stolen from them and their loved ones.

Crime is a reality that affects each one of us. The situation in South Africa got so bad that the government at one time even placed a moratorium on crime statistics, forbidding the police to release statistics of incidents of crime in South Africa to the voters and tax payers they are meant to represent and serve.

THE COST OF CRIME

According to a study by the American Management Association, US businesses annually lose over \$10 billion to employee theft, over \$4 billion to embezzlement, over \$2,5 billion to burglary, over \$2 billion to shoplifting, over \$1,3 billion to arson and over half a million dollars per incident of computer fraud.

According to the US Department of Commerce, **approximately one-third of all business failures each year can be traced to employee theft.** When businesses close down, employees lose their jobs and families suffer. US law enforcement officials estimate that **almost half of all employees are guilty of stealing.** The figures in Africa are believed to be even higher.

Similarly retailers in South Africa lose billions of Rand each year to shoplifting and even more to theft by employees.

WHO PAYS?

Now, obviously somebody has to pay for the costs of all this theft. You and I and all the other customers have to share the burden of the billions of Rand shoplifted or stolen by employees. In addition, we have to pay for the increased insurance premiums, and the additional security personnel and equipment necessitated by this shoplifting spree. It all gets added to the price tag of everything we buy.

Of course we also pay for the cost of crime through our taxes and in supporting the police force, the legal and judicial system and the prison service, which is all meant to be designed to protect us from the criminal elements of society. Far more seriously, however, a vast number of South Africans are directly suffering the effects of crime, personally - often tragically.

WHAT CAUSES CRIME?

What causes crime? I have heard university professors and other so called 'experts' speaking about how very complicated it is to analyse the sociological and economic factors that lead to the phenomenon of crime ... etc. etc! Yet, if we turn to the Bible, we will find a very straightforward answer: ***"Why do people commit crimes so readily? Because crime is not punished quickly enough."*** Ecclesiastes 8:11

Surely that is the common sense answer. It is so obvious. Crime is increasing in our society because our courts seem to be more obsessed with the "rights" of the criminal, but not as concerned about the rights of the victim, or the policemen for that matter. Murderers have been released while policemen have been prosecuted. Rapists have been set free on amnesties and presidential pardons, while victims have been imprisoned for defending themselves. Right has become wrong and wrong has become right!

"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, ... who acquit the guilty for a bribe, but deny justice to the innocent." Isaiah 5:20-23

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

The Bible is very clear that God has instituted civil government as *"an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer."* Romans 13:4 The civil government is called to be a minister of God's justice: *"to punish those who do wrong."* 1 Peter 2:14

The primary duties and responsibilities of civil government are the protection of law-abiding citizens and punishment of law-breaking criminals. Psalm 101 reminds us that the duty of God-honouring rulers is to destroy the wicked, to root out evil and to protect the law-abiding - all to the glory of God.

"Every authority instituted among men ... who are sent by Him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right." 1 Peter 2:13-14

*"For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong ...for **he is God's servant to do you good.** But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. **He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.**"* Romans 13:3-4

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

For those who hold the Word of God as authoritative, capital punishment is not a matter of choice or opinion poll, or even of court or parliamentary decree. It is God's clear command: *"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man."* Genesis 9:6.

God instituted capital punishment long before the enactment of the Mosaic Law. In fact, capital punishment was declared not only for Noah's time, but *"for all generations to come."* Genesis 9:12.

"Anyone who strikes a man and kills him shall surely be put to death ... if a man schemes and kills another man deliberately, take him away from My altar and put him to death ... anyone who kidnaps... must be put to death." Exodus 21:12-16

"If anyone takes the life of a human being, he must be put to death ... whoever kills a man must be put to death ...I am the Lord your God." Leviticus 24:17-22

"Bloodshed pollutes the land and atonement cannot be made for the land on which blood has been shed, except by the blood of the one who shed it." Numbers 35:33

God's Law remains in force after Calvary (Acts 25:22). As our Lord Jesus taught: *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. I tell you the truth, until Heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law."* Matthew 5:17-18

The government *"does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer."* (Romans 13:4) *Governors "are sent by Him to punish those who do wrong."* (1 Peter 2:14)

"Anyone who kills with a sword, must himself be killed by the sword." Revelation 13:10

By obeying God's Law and punishing murderers with the death penalty, a nation can cleanse itself from the guilt of innocent blood. On the other hand, a nation that refuses to avenge the taking of innocent human life, must share the guilt of the murderer (Deuteronomy 21:1-9).

The opposition of certain "human rights" groups to the death penalty is selective. As capital punishment is only inflicted upon murderers, one is given to wonder why these groups are so concerned for the "rights" of murderers? **Should we not provide compassion and justice for the many thousands of victims and families of victims of violent crimes?**

Since the South African Government unilaterally suspended the death penalty for murder in South Africa (in 1989), **criminals have inflicted the death penalty on well over 350 000 innocent victims in South Africa.** Who is campaigning for their rights? And what about the 350 000 who could be murdered in the coming decade? Surely any civilised society has the moral right and the duty to protect itself from those who have no respect for human life?

The taking of a murderer's life is akin to the amputation of a diseased limb in order to save the rest of the body. All murder is serious and demands capital punishment. Those who show contempt for the right to life of others forfeit their own right to life. Capital punishment is necessary for justice, for the rule of law and for the protection of the innocent.

RESTITUTION

In cases of theft, arson or malicious damage to property, the Bible decrees restitution. Restitution is the restoration of a thing to its proper place or owner. It is reparation for injury or damage to property. The Bible requires that the restitution goes entirely to the victim of the crime. Restitution is also required for culpable negligence.

God's Law is clear: **the criminal is held accountable and is responsible to pay for his crime.** He is to work and earn, in money or kind, that which is required for the reparation of what he stole, damaged or destroyed.

"... he should make full restitution; if he has nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft. If the theft is certainly found alive in his hand, whether it is an ox or a donkey or sheep, he shall restore double. If a man causes a field or vineyard to be grazed and lets loose his animal, and it feeds in another man's field, he shall make restitution from the best of his own field and the best of his own vineyard. If fire breaks out and catches in thorns, so that stacked grain, standing grain or the field is consumed, he who kindled the fire shall surely make restitution." Exodus 22:3-6

The punishment is to fit the crime. The more serious the crime, the more severe the punishment (Deuteronomy 19:15-21).

Under God's Law, there would be fewer criminals, fewer victims and much less burden on the tax payer. Under our present humanistic system, our prisons have become a higher institute of learning for criminals, where they cross-train one another and work out how not to get caught - next time. Instead of the victim and his relatives receiving restitution, under our present system, the victims are forced to pay taxes which provide food, accommodation and entertainment for the criminals, while they languish in prison. The solution to this intolerable situation includes a return to the Biblical pattern of restitution.

MAKING SURE CRIME DOESN'T PAY

There are also some practical, common sense measures which could ensure that crime does not continue to pay in Africa.

1. Repeat offenders should be made to complete the rest of their sentence **before** beginning their second sentence.
2. No bail should be available for **repeat offenders.**
3. All **violent criminals** should bear the full responsibility for their actions, whether or not they were deemed mentally competent, drunk or of diminished capacity or under the influence of drugs (Numbers 35:16-21).
4. Penalties for violent youths should be the same as for adults. Those who commit **adult crimes**, such as rape and murder, should suffer **adult consequences** (Ezekiel 18:10-13).
5. A return to the Biblical principles of **execution** for all first degree murder, rape and kidnapping: and **restitution** for all theft of, or damage to, property (Exodus 21 and 22).

6. As it is impossible for any police force to guarantee the safety of every citizen, no hindrance should be placed upon the right of law-abiding citizens to obtain and use firearms for self- defence. As the vast majority of violent crimes are committed by criminals using unlicensed weapons, it is clear that restricting the rights of citizens to own, carry and use licensed firearms, cannot prevent violent crime. **Disarming the potential victims of crime can only serve the purposes of the criminal.** We therefore must reaffirm the Biblical rights and responsibilities of citizens to obtain, own, carry and use firearms for personal or family defence. (Exodus 22:2; Nehemiah4:14; 1 Timothy 5:8).

It is time for the civil authorities to take consistent, strong and resolute action to protect law-abiding citizens and to punish law-breaking criminals.

"Administer justice every mornin; rescue from the hand of his oppressor the one who has been robbed, or My wrath will break out and burn like fire because of the evil you have done - burn with no-one to quench it." Jeremiah2VA2



Chapter 6

Free Enterprise and Honest Money

The 10 Commandments (not "the 10 Suggestions" note) still stand: ***"Thou shall not steal", Exodus 20:15 and "Thou shall not covet thy neighbour's goods", Exodus 20:17.***

Socialism is legalised theft. It is institutionalised envy. And it just doesn't work. Socialism produces nothing - except poverty and bureaucracy. Socialists are parasites who consume what others have earned by hard work and ingenuity. There is a world of difference between voluntary Christian generosity and sharing, and compulsory Socialist confiscation and coercion. Private ownership of property and of the means of production is Biblical.

Any taxation of 10% or higher is defined as oppression (1 Samuel 8:10-18) and any taxation of property or inheritance is strictly forbidden (1 Kings 21:3). Institutions and individuals involved in the full-time service of the Lord may not be taxed (Ezra 7:23, 24). Any unequal or progressive system of taxation is also unscriptural.

"The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less..." Exodus 30:14, 15

"Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favouritism to the rich, but judge your neighbour fairly." Leviticus 19:15

Instead of nationalisation (theft and bureaucracy), the Bible advocates privatisation (private ownership and personal responsibility). Rather than encouraging a beggar mentality of the outstretched hand demanding charity, the Bible commands diligent hard work, honesty and thrift (1 Thess 4:11, 2 Thess 3:10).

"Ill-gotten treasures are of no value, but righteousness delivers from death. The Lord does not let the righteous go hungry, but He thwarts the craving of the wicked. Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth." Proverbs 10:2-4

"Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends up in slave labour." Proverbs 12:24

"The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied...Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow." Proverbs 13:4, 11

Accordingly, the KwaSizabantu Affirmation declares: "We affirm that the Bible is clearly against oppression of the poor by the rich. It is also very clear about the right to own land and property: *"You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife...nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbour's"* (Ex. 20:17); *"While it (the land) remained, was it not your own?"* (Acts 5:4; Matt. 20:15). Based on the commandments *"Thou shall not steal"* and *"Thou shall not covet"* we reject any form of 'nationalisation' and forced redistribution of wealth and land. It is an observable fact that wherever this Biblical law has been violated, as in Socialist countries, the result has been starvation, wastage and death for millions."

Biblical economics also forbids unjust weights and measures/inflation.

"Do not use dishonest standards when measuring length, weight or quantity. Use honest scales and honest weights... I am the Lord your God." Leviticus 19:35,36

Throughout the Bible, money is spoken of by weight. God's law requires that financial transactions be made in terms of honest measures. Inflation is the theft of wages and the destruction of savings by the devaluing of the currency. This is the result of counterfeiting - printing more "money" than there is gold to back it. It is essentially dishonesty - a hidden tax - where "silver has become dross" (Isaiah 1:22). If you or I print money it is called counterfeiting. When the government prints money it is called inflation.

"The Lord abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are His delight." Proverbs 11: 1

A survey on inflation in South Africa (undertaken by the Old Mutual) reported that in 1971 you could buy a car for about R1000. In 1981 the same amount of money could buy a motorbike. By 1991 the buying power of R1000 had so collapsed that you could buy a bicycle. By 2001 a good pair of running shoes cost over R1000. In Zambia at independence (1964) one Kwacha equalled one British Pound. Today one Pound equals over eight thousand Kwacha. At independence one could buy a car for about K140. Today a bottle of Coca Cola costs over K1200.

In Zimbabwe inflation had reached 54000% by January 2008. In Zimbabwe in 2007 a single brick cost more than a mansion in the best suburb of Salisbury in 1980. Whereas, in 1975 it took 3 US dollars to buy 1 Rhodesian dollar, by 2007 it took over 2 million Zimbabwe dollars to buy a single US dollar! That was after dropping 3 zeros from the currency! Therefore, in about 3 decades, the dollar in Zimbabwe has deteriorated to one six billionth of its previous value!

"Skimping the measure, boosting the price and cheating with dishonest scales,... I will never forgive." Amos 8:5-7

The devastating impact of unbacked currency/inflation on pensions and savings is criminal. Biblical law requires that we use honest scales and honest weights - in other words, honest money backed by real constant value (Prov 20:10).

"Shall I acquit a man with dishonest scales, with a bag of false weights? Her rich men are violent; her people are liars and their tongues speak deceitfully." Micah 6:11, 12



Chapter 7

Biblical Principles of Government

"...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." 2 Corinthians 3:17

The only hope for Africa is to return in repentance to God, rediscover the Biblical agenda and restore Biblical principles into every aspect of personal and community life.

Many people labour under the illusion that the Bible has nothing to say concerning social structures, constitutional models or political affairs. However, as some theologians point out, while approximately 29% of the Bible deals with our personal lives, 71% deals with social, political and national issues.

God has instituted 4 spheres of government:

Self government - symbolised by our conscience

(Proverbs 16:32; 1 Timothy 3:4-5; 2 Peter 1:6);

Family government - the rod of discipline

(Deuteronomy 6:1-7; Ephesians 6:1-4; 1 Tim 3:4-5);

Church government - the keys of church discipline (Acts 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9);

Civil government - the sword of Justice

(Genesis 9:5-7; Romans 13:1-4; 1 Peter 2:13-14).

God also established, in the government of Israel, **ten key principles of freedom:**

1. A **written constitution** (covenant) based on the revealed Word of God (Exodus 20; Deut 5-8; John 19:11). A Biblical constitution will clearly define and restrict the power of government. It should act as a chain to keep rulers from abusing power. It must be written so that it is specific, clear and permanent. That is the rule of law.

"The Law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever..." Psalm 19:7-10

2. A **separation of powers** and functions into three branches of civil government: **executive** (the King), **legislative** (the Council and Sanhedrin) and **judicial** (the elders or judges in each community). These three functions of government are based on how the Lord revealed His government (Isaiah 9:6, 7).

"For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our King." Isaiah 33:22

3. An **independent judiciary** and the right to a fair trial (Exodus 23:1-3).

"He appointed judges in the land . . . He told them. 'Consider carefully what you do, because you are not judging for man but for the Lord, Who is with you whenever you give a verdict. Now let the fear of the Lord be upon you. Judge carefully, for with the Lord our God there is no injustice, or partiality or bribery.'" 2 Chronicles 19:5-7

In Deuteronomy 19:15-19 the principles for a fair trial are set out: (i) one is innocent until proven guilty, (ii) the right to due process of law, (iii) witnesses must personally confront the accused, (iv) a matter must be established by two or three witnesses, and (v) judges must be impartial.

4. A **national legislature** (law-making body) where one house was composed of representative judges or officials *elected* by the people (Deut 1:13-17). Of course the Law is already revealed by God, summarised in the Ten Commandments and Exodus case laws. Legislatures need only to apply God's Law to their peculiar circumstances.

"But select capable men from all the people - men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain - and appoint them as officials..." Exodus 18:21

5. A **second house** in the legislature was composed of two hereditary elders from each of the 11 tribes (or geographic areas) of Israel, in addition to 24 priests from the tribe of Levi, and 2 lawyers (scribes) from each of the 12 tribes. This unelected (but *appointed*) body totalled 70 men and became known as the Sanhedrin (Ex. 24:1; Num. 11:16-17).

6. An **executive officer** (Judge or King) elected with the guidance of God and the consent of the elders (Deuteronomy 17:14-20).

"When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, he made a compact with them . . . before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel, as the Lord had promised through Samuel." 1 Chronicles 11:3

7. A **decentralised state** with most responsibilities and powers resting on the local government, the family and the individual (Exodus 24:1; Deuteronomy 1:13-17, Acts 17:26). Centralisation of power in a unitary state has always been a pagan tendency as seen in Nineveh and Babel (Genesis 10:11 and 11:1). Because power corrupts, it is wise to limit and divide the powers of civil government in a system of checks and balances.

8. A **citizen's army** (militia) made up of trained citizens who have the right and duty to bear arms for the defence of their home and family, community and nation (Numbers 1:2-3; judges 3:2; Exodus 22:2; Deut. 20:1-4). One of the best safeguards against tyranny is an armed citizenry.

"Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord "Who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes." Nehemiah 4:14

Local militia units elected their own commanders (Deut. 20:9), and each soldier supplied his own basic weapons (Num. 32:20; 1 Sam. 25:13). This was based upon the right of each law-abiding citizen to own and use weapons for defence. Any attempt to prohibit the right of an individual to bear arms was unBiblical and was a pagan attempt to centralise (usurp) excessive power (judges 5:8; 1 Sam. 13:19-22).

9. A **free market economy** based on the private ownership of property (Exodus 20:15, 17; Deut 19:14) and individual free enterprise (Eccl 5:19; Prov. 10:2-4; 12:24; 13:4, 11; 1 Thess 3:10). Any taxation of 10% or higher was defined as oppression (1 Samuel 8:10-18), and any taxation of property, or of inheritance, was strictly forbidden! (1 Kings 21:3). Institutions and

individuals involved in the full time service of the Lord were not allowed to be taxed (Ezra 7:23, 24). Any unequal or progressive system of taxation was expressly forbidden (Ex. 30:14 - 15; Leviticus 19:15). Biblical economics also forbids unjust weights (unbacked currency) and measures (inflation) (Leviticus 19:35-36; Prov. 11:1; 20:10; Amos 8:5-7; Micah 6:11,12).

".. **proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants...**" Leviticus 25:10

10. An **education** programme controlled by the parents, aided by the church, but independent of the state (Deuteronomy 6:7; Hosea 4:6; Matthew 28:19; Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 2:8). One cannot entrust any state with the moulding of the minds of the future voters. The **control** of education should be in the hands of parents and the **content** of education must be moral, character developing and Bible based.

"He knows not how to rule a kingdom, that cannot manage a Province; nor can he wield a Province, that cannot order a City; nor he order a City, that knows not how to regulate a Village, nor he a Village, that cannot guide a Family, nor can that man govern well a Family that knows not how to govern himself, neither can any govern himself unless his reason be lord, and his will and appetite her vassals-, nor can reason rule unless herself be ruled by God and wholly be obedient to Him." Hugo Grotius (17th Century Dutch Theologian)



Chapter 8

Political Principles in the Teachings of Christ

While our Lord Jesus Christ did not present detailed blueprints for political structures, His teachings did emphasise important spiritual principles and concepts that affect every area of social and political life.

Civil Government is Under God

To the Roman governor Pilate, Jesus said, *"You would have no authority over Me unless it had been given you from above."* John 19:11. Civil authority is clearly delegated by and

answerable to God (Romans 13:1-4; Revelation 1:5; 11:15). (The American pledge of allegiance: *"One nation under God" is based on this teaching.*)

Civil Government Has Limited Jurisdiction

Jesus taught that we are to: *"Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."* Matthew 22:21. The civil government does have certain legitimate rights and responsibilities, but they are very limited. We are to pay taxes (but any taxation as high as 10% was condemned as *"oppressive"* 1 Samuel 8:10-18), to serve in the military when required, to testify in court as a witness to any crime, and respect the life, property and reputation of our neighbours (1 Peter 2:13-14; Romans 13:3-4). However, our worship of God, the education of our children, our private property, our individual enterprise and personal views (freedom of worship, freedom of education, free enterprise, freedom of speech) are clearly not made in the image of Caesar and are outside of the lawful jurisdiction of a Bible-based constitutional state.

Civil Government is to Uphold Biblical Law

Our Lord upheld the authority of the moral, social, economic and political Laws of God as recorded in the Old Testament:

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. I tell you the truth, until Heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law... Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven, but whoever practises and teaches these commands will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven." Matthew 5:17-19

In His public teaching, Jesus affirmed the Old Testament laws against: murder, theft, and adultery, (Matthew 5:21-27); the dishonouring of parents (Matthew 15:4); and perjury (Matthew 19:18). The Lord also affirmed the right to private ownership of property and a free market exchange and profit (Luke 16:11, 19:12-27; Matthew 20:1-15; 25:14-30).

Civil Government is to Uphold The Sanctity Of Life

When our Lord declared that we are to: *"Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's"* Matt 22:21, He referred to that which was in the image of Caesar (i.e.: the money). By way of contrast anything having the image of God (e.g.: children) does not belong to the State.

The sanctity of human life was the foundation for the establishment of government. For this reason God commanded that: *"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man."* Genesis 9:6

The priority of any government is therefore to protect the right to life of the unborn and every other member of society. Because man is made in the image of God, and therefore has inherent value, God has declared that anyone who takes the life of an innocent human being is to be executed. Murderers forfeit their own lives by showing contempt for the lives of others (Exodus 21:12-16; Leviticus 24:17-22; Numbers 35:33; Romans 13:4; I Peter 2:14).

The Creation Mandate clearly includes the right to life, to liberty and to private ownership of property.

"Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Genesis 1:28

These foundational God-given rights to life, liberty and property are to be protected and respected by civil government. (These verses were the source for key phrases in the American constitution).

Civil Government Is To Serve Its Citizens

In the teachings of our Lord it is clear that the civil authorities are to be public servants (Matthew 20:25-28):

"The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves." Luke 22:25-26

It is for this reason that officials in civil government are called "ministers" or servants of God (Romans 13:3,4; I Peter 2:13, 14). The concept that civil government is a servant of its citizens is a uniquely Christian idea that originated from these verses. Hence the term "Prime Minister" - as the First Servant.

Citizens Should Use Prayer and Pressure to Achieve Political Justice

Our Lord taught that Christians should be salt and light in all areas of life (Matthew 5:13-20). As salt preserves from decay adds flavour, irritates wounds, has a healing effect and creates a thirst, so too Christians should preserve moral standards, add Biblical principles, expose evil, bring healing to the repentant and cause people to thirst for the living water that only Christ can give (John 7:37,38; Matt 5:6). Jesus taught that we "*should always pray and not give up*" Luke 18:1. In the parable of the persistent widow, Jesus taught us that even an unjust judge will give in and do what is right in response to persistent prayer and pressure (Luke 18:2-8).

"Who will rise up for Me against the wicked? Who will take a stand for Me against evildoers?" Psalm 94:16

Biblical Examples of Challenging Unrighteousness in Political Affairs Include:

Personally approaching the officials either privately, by letter or in a delegation:

Nathan before King David (2 Samuel 2:7); the delegation to King Rehoboam (1 Kings 12:3,4); Elijah before King Ahab (1 Kings 21:20); Micaiah before King Ahab (1 Kings 22:14); Elisha before King Ahab (2 Kings 3:14); Esther before King Xerxes (Esther 7:3,4); Daniel before King Belshazzar (Daniel 5:17-28); John the Baptist before Herod (Matthew 14:4); Peter and John before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:18-20), and Stephen before the Council (Acts 7:51).

Public protest against unrighteousness:

Elijah against the idolatry and religious apostasy of Israel (1 Kings 18:18-40); Isaiah against the wickedness of Egypt and Cush (Isaiah 20); Jeremiah against the social sins of drunkenness, adulteries and prostitution in Israel (Jeremiah 13); Ezekiel against the immorality and violence of Jerusalem (Ezekiel 24); Jesus against the corruption and desecration of the temple (Mark 11:15-17); Paul against his unjust arrest, beating and imprisonment (Acts 16:37). Other Biblical examples of public protest include: Acts 13:50-51; Matt 10:14 and Prov 1:20-21.

Presenting advice and Biblical guidelines to civil rulers:

Throughout the Bible we read of believers who sought to have a Godly influence on their rulers, many of whom became trusted advisors such as Samuel, Nathan, Elisha, Isaiah, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Ezra, and Malachi. Some prophets such as Moses, Elijah, Jeremiah and John the Baptist openly rebuked and confronted wicked rulers.

Campaigning for/or supporting the election of God-honouring representatives:

The Bible presents numerous examples of believers helping to get suitable candidates into public leadership. For example, Samuel promoted the coronation first of Saul and later of David to be king of Israel (I Samuel 16). Nathan similarly worked for Solomon's appointment (1 Kings 1). Elijah promoted Jeroboam (1 Kings 11 & 12), and Elisha encouraged Jehu to overthrow the wicked King Ahab and Queen Jezebel (2 Kings 9).

The Bible also records a number of God's people who served in government positions. Joseph became prime minister of Egypt. Mordecai and Daniel became prime ministers in Persian and Babylonian governments. Moses, Joshua, Deborah, Gideon, Esther, Nehemiah and many others also held senior political positions of leadership.

"I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before Me in the gap on behalf of the land so that I would not have to destroy it..." Ezekiel 22:30

True Freedom Comes From Within

While most groups today emphasise external solutions to our many social problems - salvation through politics, or through changed social structures and laws - the teachings of Christ emphasise the need for internal change - within our hearts and minds.

"For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander..." Matthew 15:19

The foundation for a truly free and prosperous nation can only be laid in characters, minds and lives changed by the Grace of God. In order to be successful, a society needs to be made up of honest citizens who will not steal, diligent people who are hard working and productive, compassionate families who are concerned for their neighbours, responsible workers who will fulfil their obligations and be faithful stewards of public resources.

For nations to be strong their families need to be strong. For governments to be good their citizens need to be good. Those who cannot control themselves are not capable of ruling over a city (Proverbs 16:32). Those who cannot manage their household well are not qualified to lead others (1 Timothy 3:4-5).

For this reason, the message of *"repentance and forgiveness of sins must be preached... to all nations."* Luke 24:47

The Church is to *"make disciples of all nations,... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* Matt 28:19-20

Each one of us needs to *"be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will."* Romans 12:2



Chapter 9

Biblical Commands to a Nation

Pray

"I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for.. all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." 1 Tim2:1-2

Repent

"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 Chronicles 7:14

Expose evil

"Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness but rather expose them." Ephesians 5:11

Improve the community

"... see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem is in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." Nehemiah 2:17

Seek justice

"... Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice..." Isaiah 1:16-17

Oppose ungodly rulers

".. .You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting." Daniel 5:27

Uphold Christian standards

"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."
Matthew 5:13

Disciple the nations

"... make disciples of all nations... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded..."
Matthew 28:19-20

Select God-fearing leaders

"But select capable men from all the people men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain and appoint them as officials..." Exodus 18:21

We Want God to Bless our Nation

Therefore we want a civil government which:

1. Recognises God as the highest source of **authority**.
2. Applies Biblical principles as the foundation for all **law**.
3. Is committed to upholding the **right to life of the innocent**, including preborn babies.
4. Shows **love** and concern for our neighbours by upholding human dignity and moral standards.
5. **Protects** people from the exploitation and abuse of pornography.
6. Effectively **deters crime** by prompt and appropriate punishment of criminals.
7. Respects parental responsibility for the **education** of their children and therefore parental authority over schools, teachers and textbooks.

Foundational Principles which God blesses. This is what we should stand for:

1. **The Bible** as the revealed Word of God perfect and complete, inspired and inerrant.

2. **The Deity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ** *"God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God; begotten not made, of one substance with the Father. Through Him all things were made."* (from the Nicene Creed).

3. **Salvation** by the **Grace** of God alone, based upon the blood **atonement** of Christ's death upon the Cross of Calvary received by **Faith**.

4. **Religious Freedom**.

5. The **Right to Life** of Preborn Babies.

6. The Right to **Decency**.

7. The Right to **Protection** from the exploitation and abuse of pornography.

8. Christian **Responsibility** to be "salt and light" in society, to honour God and to love our neighbours.

9. **The Lordship of Christ** in all areas of life. *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me."* Matt 28:18

10. The fulfilment of **Christ's Great Commission** to *"... make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* Matt 28:19

"To the Law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this Word, they have no light of dawn...For unto us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign ... over His Kingdom, establishing it with justice and righteousness..." Isaiah 8:20; 9:6-7



Chapter 10

Reforming our Families

"Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commandments."
Deuteronomy 7:9

The second commandment contains both a severe threat and a most incredibly gracious promise:

"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in Heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to thousands who love Me and keep My commandments." Deuteronomy 5:8-10

A Solemn Responsibility

Parents have an awesome responsibility. We are to bring our children up *"in the training and instruction of the Lord"* Ephesians 6:4. We are to *"train a child in the way he should go ..."* Proverbs 22:6.

We are to manage our own family well and see that our children learn to obey with proper respect (1 Timothy 3:4).

We are to *"tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power and the wonders He has done ...so that the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget His deeds, but would keep His commands. They would not be ... stubborn and rebellious... whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to Him."*
Psalm 78:4-8

The Bible tells us not just to raise God-fearing sons, but sons who will become God-fearing fathers, who in turn will raise God-fearing sons to become fathers who will love, honour, trust and obey God. We are to raise disciples who raise disciples so that God's generational blessings are passed down and the chain unbroken.

The First Priority of Parents

One of the most important passages in the Bible comes in Deuteronomy 6, right after the restating of the Ten Commandments. It contains the most important statement, the most important command and the first priority of parents:

"These are the commands, decrees and Laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe ...so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all His decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey, so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in the land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord the God of your fathers promised you. Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is One. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates ...Be careful that you do not forget the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. Fear the Lord your God, serve Him only ..." Deuteronomy 6:1-13

Here, at a most important occasion, after reminding all Israel of the Ten Commandments, the uniqueness of our Sovereign Lord is proclaimed. Then what our Lord Jesus identified as the greatest commandment is given: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."* This is the summary of all the commandments. As our Lord reminded us: *"If you love Me, you will obey what I command."* John 14:15

Educating the Next Generation

The very first application of this, the greatest commandment, is to *"Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."* The education and discipleship of the next generation is given as the very first application of God's Law and the highest priority of God's people. We are not merely to teach a head knowledge, but a wholehearted love for the Lord, not just with all our heart, but with all our soul and with all our strength. Body, mind and spirit, in every aspect of our lives, we are to radiate and reflect our love for our Lord. These commandments should be discussed morning, noon and night - from the first thing in the morning to the last thing at night.

God's Word is to be such an integral part of our lives that everything we do with our hands and everything that we think with our minds is to be guided and governed by Scripture. Our homes should also reflect the Lordship of Christ in all areas of life and everything within our gates, even our gardens. People should be able to tell the difference Christ makes in our lives. They should see that we love the Lord and that the Bible governs every aspect of our lives.

If we fail to do this, we may reach the disgraceful and disastrous situation described in Judges 2:10: *"Another generation grew up, who knew neither the Lord nor what He had done ..."*

We are in danger of this today since many children of Christian parents are more enthusiastic for Pokemon and Harry Potter (which are occultic) than for the Lord Jesus and the Bible.

"My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as My priests; because you have ignored the Law of your God, I will also ignore your children." Hosea 4:6

We are commanded in Scripture: *"only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them."* Deuteronomy 4:9

"Their children, who do not know this Law, must hear it and learn to fear the Lord your God ..." Deut. 31:13

Failures Never To Forget

The Bible includes many frightening examples of tragic failure by Christian leaders to disciple adequately and discipline their children in the ways of the Lord. The High Priest, **Eli**, failed to restrain his sons (who were priests) from dishonourable and disastrous conduct (1 Samuel 3:13). The children of the prophet **Samuel** also behaved in a disgraceful way, accepting bribes and perverting justice (1 Samuel 8:3).

King David's failure to discipline his rebellious sons, Amnon and Absalom, had the most disastrous consequences for the Kingdom, even leading to civil war.

Of the stories of the Exodus from Egypt and Israel's wanderings in the wilderness the Scripture says: *"These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us..."* 1 Corinthians 10:11

The Scriptures also warn us of a time that will come when: *"people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying its power ... always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth."* 2 Timothy 3:2-7

That description could so accurately be applied to much of what is going on in our society today. Notice how the Scripture places those who are "abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful" amongst some of the most brutal and vicious sins.

Respect for Authority

Indeed, God's Law declares: *"Cursed is the man who dishonours his father or his mother. Then all the people shall say Amen!"* Deuteronomy 27:16

"The eye that mocks a father, that scorns obedience to a mother, will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley, will be eaten by the vultures." Proverbs 30:17

Our Lord Jesus declared: *"Honour your father and mother and anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death."* Matthew 15:4

Tragically, respect for parents and elders is becoming increasingly rare today, even in Christian circles. Yet, God's Law makes clear that we are to *"rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly"* (Leviticus 19:32) and *"Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old."* Proverbs 23:22

These commands are not just to young children. No matter what our age, whether we are living under our parents' roof or running our own household, we are still responsible to honour and respect our parents in the Lord (Exodus 20:12).

"Each of you must revere his mother and father, and you must observe My Sabbaths. I am the Lord your God." Leviticus 19:3

In the light of the overwhelming pressures which assail families, and the relentless temptations that surround young people today, parents must take extraordinary steps to ensure that their children are raised in the love and fear of the Lord . **We need to lay solid foundations and form good habits**, which will discipline, disciple, strengthen and prepare our children for lives of Godliness and productive service in our congregations, communities and countries.

1. Bible Before Breakfast

It is essential that we establish Bible-centred homes. There are many ways that we can do this. Firstly, we can establish the principle of The Bible before breakfast. Encourage each member of the family to conduct their personal devotions before breakfast or read a passage of Scripture or a devotional reading together as a family before breakfast.

2. Scripture Before Supper

As the evening meal tends to be the most important time of fellowship in most families, it would be ideal to establish the principle of Scripture before supper. This could include reading a chapter of the Psalms or Proverbs each night, or working through some kind of devotional book.

3. Devotions After Dinner

Some families may prefer Devotions after dinner, which could be done around the meal table, in a bedroom, or in the lounge. The important thing is that Scripture, Psalms and Hymns and prayer should be a daily part of every Christian home. This does not mean that these family devotions need to be long. In fact, particularly in families with small children, it is wise to keep family devotions short, cheerful and focused. Children thrive on repetition, and so one could incorporate basic memorisations of the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed. Even 3 or 4 year old children can memorise the Lord's Prayer and some basic Scriptures.

4. Bible Stories and Prayer Before Bed

One of the most important times of any Christian family with children should be Bible stories and prayer before bed. This should be an enjoyable and vibrant time of fellowship, either cuddling up together on the couch or on the bed, using colourful story book pictures if possible, and regularly asking questions and involving the younger children in these great stories from God's Word.

Many parents will protest that they don't have the time for all this. Well, actually you will have the time if you ruthlessly cut down on television and newspapers. In the light of eternity, what good have the multiplied hours spent each week in front of the TV set and poring over

your local scandal rags done for either you or your children? Cut out TV and you'll have enough time to disciple your children.

5. Make Sundays Special

From the earliest, we need to teach our children a love and a respect for God's Word, for the Church and for the Lord's Day. Children thrive on routine and rhythm. That is why ensuring that our calendar reflects our faith is most important. Habits and routine are a vital part of discipleship. We make time for those things we deem important. God has decreed that we work six days and give the seventh to rest and worship. It was so important to God that He gave us His example to follow, by resting after creating the Universe. As Christians, we should repent for allowing the Lord's Day to become so encroached upon and desecrated by shopping, sports and worldly entertainment.

Bishop J.C. Ryle challenged us: *"Common sense, reason and conscience will combine, I think, to say that if we cannot spare God one day in a week, we cannot be living as those ought to live who must die one day."*

The Puritan writer, Richard Baxter, advised: *"See that the Lord's Day be spent in holy preparation for eternity."*

Preparation for worship on Sunday begins the day before - ensuring that our children get to bed early enough, to be well rested for Sunday worship. We can also encourage our children to respect where we gather for Sunday Worship and the Lord's Day by seeing that they wear their best clothes for the Lord's house. And ensuring that we arrive early enough for worship, with expectant and teachable hearts and minds.

It is essential that we teach our children respect for authority, starting with their parents, and then for grandparents, uncles and aunts, authority in the Church and in society. Respect for God, respect for people and respect for property are foundational to Christian civilisation.

6. Scripture Memorisation

Scripture memorisation is a vital tool in discipleship: *"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word ... I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You."* Psalm 119:9-11

"Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

If we build our children's lives upon the Rock of God's Word, then they will stand in the storms of life that most surely will assail them (Matthew 7:24-27).

These principles of: **respect for authority, for the Lord's Day and for the Lord's house; and love for God's Word, the Bible, and for God's people; feeding our children's hearts and minds with examples of excellence from the Scripture and Christian history; ensuring that they receive the Bible before breakfast, Scripture before supper and are sent to bed only after Bible stories and prayer;** with much of the Scripture stored up in their hearts through Scripture memorisation, will ensure that... *when he is old, he will not turn from it.*" Proverbs 22:6

Let us disciple our children by word and deed, by our lives and our lips, by education and by example-consistently (Deuteronomy 6: 6-7).

"Let the Word of Christ dwell in your heart richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom and as you sing Psalms, Hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in 'Word or in deed, do it all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3:16-17



Chapter 11

First Things First

Habits and routine are a vital part of discipleship. We make time for those things we deem important. God has decreed that we work six days and give the seventh to rest and worship. This was so important to God that He gave us an example to follow, resting after creating the universe.

"By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing; so on the seventh day He rested from all His work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy ..." Genesis 2: 2-

Why does our week consist of seven days? Why not make it ten, or twelve for that matter? The Basic Everyday Encyclopaedia states: *"The seven day week came in from Old Testament sources and the Christian influence."*

The seven-day week is a testimony to the fact that God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. The fact that Sunday, the first day of the week, is our day of rest instead of the Jewish Saturday, is a weekly reminder that Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week.

For that matter, the reason why we date our years as we do, this being the year 2008 AD, is a monumental testimony to the incarnation of Christ. The birth of Christ utterly altered the way we measure time. He turned the river of the ages from its course, and lifted the centuries off their hinges. Now, the whole world counts time as before Christ (BC) and AD (Anno Domini), in the year of the Lord. It is ironic that even the most vitriolic atheists have to acknowledge the centrality of Christ every time they write the date!

In fact, the Revolutionary Convention, during the French Revolution, attempted to abolish the Christian calendar and introduce a ten day work week, counting the years from the establishment of their "Republic", beginning 1792. It hardly needs to be pointed out that they failed.

The French Revolutionary and atheist, Voltaire, declared: "If you want to kill Christianity, you must abolish Sunday." (This was the same philosopher who arrogantly declared that he had "destroyed the Bible" and a hundred years on you would only find a Bible in a museum. To show how God has a sense of humour, after Voltaire's death, the Geneva Bible Society bought Voltaire's house and printing press to produce Bibles in French!)

As Christians, we should repent for allowing the Lord's Day to become encroached upon and desecrated by shopping, sport and worldly entertainment.

D.L. Moody observed: *"No nation has ever prospered that has trampled the Sabbath in the dust. Show me a nation that has done this and I will show you a nation that has got in it the seeds of ruin and decay. I believe that Sabbath desecration will carry a nation down quicker than anything else."*

Any relationship needs quality time and we need to devote at least one day a week to developing and deepening our relationship with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

"If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on My holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the Lord's holy day honourable, and if you honour it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the Lord, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance..." Isaiah 58:13-14

Setting aside the first day of the week as a special day is good for our body, mind and soul. We need time set aside for relaxation, reflection and restoration. It is a matter of rhythm and

routine, but also a matter of revelation and remembrance of the Lord's great work of Creation (Exodus 20:8-11) and salvation (Deuteronomy 5:12-15).

By ordering our week to set apart the Lord's Day as a special day for the family to rest and worship the Lord, we proclaim to the world that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead and He is Lord of our lives.

Resting one day in seven is also healthy - spiritually, emotionally, physically and economically. It is good for businesses, good for families and good for any country.

"Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the Seventh Day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God..." Exodus 20:8-9

God has given this commandment, like all the other commandments, for the benefit not just of Christians, but of society in general. *"We ignore the Sabbath at our peril. We keep it to our inestimable benefit."* Professor Verna Wright.

The pattern of having one special day of rest and worship in every week, does not come from the giving of the Law (Exodus 20), but from the time of creation (Genesis 2:2). The practice of one day of rest in seven began as a gift from God at creation, and was later made a commandment from God as well. This Day of rest and refreshment was to benefit servants, visitors and one's animals as well (Exodus 20:8-11). This Day of rest was also given as a reminder that God is the Creator and the Redeemer.

The early Christian Church gathered for worship *"on the first day of the week"* (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Revelation 1:10).

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another..." Heb. 10:24-25

Aside from it being a day of rest, remembrance and worship, the Lord's Day also is a day of hope. *"There remains, then, a Sabbath rest for the people of God."* Hebrews 4:9

Every Lord's Day when we spend time with God's people in worship, fellowship and ministry of the Word, we are reminded that we have something even more glorious and wonderful to look forward to in eternity.

Some Christians reject any suggestion that Sundays are special, claiming that we are not "under Law but under grace" and therefore free to do as we please. However, that suggests that the Lord's Day is some kind of terrible bondage. God's commandments should not be seen as limiting our freedom, but on the contrary as giving us great freedom to enjoy God's best for our lives. The Law brings an obligation, but grace brings in opportunity. The only

people who would view the fourth commandment as some kind of bondage are those who have never really understood its purpose.

Listen to some of these insights from great leaders of the past:

"Sunday is a divine and priceless institution, the necessary pause in the national life. It is the birth right of every British subject, our responsibility, privilege and duty to hand on to posterity." Sir Winston Churchill

"Experience shows that the day of rest is essential to mankind; that it is demanded by civilisation as well as Christianity." Theodore Roosevelt

"On the Lord's Day, Christians should, in honour of the resurrection of the Lord, defer all worldly business." Tertullian

"The profanation of the Sabbath is an inlet to all impiety. Those who pollute holy time will keep nothing pure." Matthew Henry

"There is nothing in which I would recommend you to be more strictly resolute than in keeping the Sabbath holy; and by this I mean, not only abstaining that day from all unbecoming sports and common business, but from consuming time in frivolous conversation, which often leads to a sad waste of this precious day." William Wilberforce

"The city will be safe if God be truly and devoutly worshipped, and this is attested by the sanctification of the Sabbath ..." John Calvin

"A man shall show his heart and life, what they are, more by one Lord's Day than by all the days of the week besides. To delight ourselves in God's service upon His holy Day gives better proof of a sanctified nature than to grudge at the coming of such days." John Bunyan

The pioneer inventors of the aircraft, the Wright brothers, had this to say: *"We were brought up to have respect for the Lord's Day ... we would never fly on a Sunday."*

WORKS OF MERCY AND NECESSITY

Of course, our Lord Jesus taught that it is good and right to do works of mercy on the Lord's Day (Matthew 12:11-12). Christians have always recognised that there are necessary emergency services, which are required to do good on the Lord's Day. We don't abandon speed restrictions on the roads simply because the police and emergency services have to go faster. We make laws that will be for the good of society in general, and then discuss the necessary exceptions.

The point is: the Lord's Day should be a special day without any commercial activities. We are to make every effort to ensure that the minimum number of people are forced to work on Sundays. Nobody should be forced by legislation to go to church on Sunday, but it would be right for governments to make legislation to keep people free from commercial obligations on Sunday. Just as there is legislation making compulsory the wearing of seat belts for motorists and crash helmets for motor cyclists and laws against drug abuse, it would be appropriate for the state to pass legislation allowing people the freedom not to work on Sundays, although no government may tell people what to do with their free time.

Benjamin Disraeli, the former Prime Minister of Great Britain, declared: *"I hold the day of rest to be the most valuable blessing ever conceded to man, it is the cornerstone of civilisation."*

Eric Liddell, the Olympic gold medallist who refused to run the main Olympic race on a Sunday, and who was the subject of the film *Chariots of Fire*, declared:

"There are many people today who think of those who honour Sunday in the old-fashioned way as killjoys. They feel that during the years of youth they ought to have a chance to 'have their fling'. Give me the day of rest, when all that savours of organised games can be put to one side, and all of life's joys will be greater because of it. To me personally, it is a time of communion and fellowship with God, a time of quiet, in fact, a time of recreation and fellowship with God. I believe that Sunday as we have had it in the past, is one of the greatest helps in a young man's life to keep all that is noblest, truest and best. That is why I say: young person, stand for the Lord's Day, for by losing it you will lose far more than the Day: you will lose the Spirit that it stands for."

Eric Liddell went on to win an Olympic gold medal in a race he had not specifically trained for. He later served as a missionary to China for twenty years and was imprisoned for two years in a Japanese concentration camp during WWII, where he died courageously in 1945.

Bishop J.C. Ryle wrote: *"My advice to all Christians is to contend earnestly for the whole Day against all enemies, both without and within. It is worth the struggle. The Sabbath breaking of the present day is one among many proofs of the low state of vital religion. The observance of a Sabbath Day is part of the eternal Law of God. The Sabbath is God's merciful appointment for the common benefit of all mankind."*

"He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8



Chapter 12

Rediscovering the Christian Work Ethic

Laziness! Lethargy! Absenteeism! Corruption! Embezzlement! Theft! Strikes! "The man with the key is not here!"

These are some of the now familiar words which describe the crisis in all too many of the work places of our continent. Unless this disastrous trend is dramatically reversed, the economy will eventually collapse. The inevitable results of undermining the productivity of the economy are seen in increasing poverty and widespread unemployment. What is needed is for our people to rediscover the Christian work ethic.

At the very dawn of history God called man to work. God ordained work before the fall. Work is not a part of the curse. Adam was commanded to tend the garden before he fell into sin (Gen. 2:15). Labour is a God-given responsibility. Work is not a curse to be avoided, nor is it an undesirable activity only to be pursued when necessary. In the Bible we are commanded to:

"be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed ..." 2 Tim 2:15

Before the coming of Christ, the heathen nations despised honest work and consigned it to slaves. When Christ was born, half of the population of the Roman Empire were slaves. Three-quarters of the population of Athens were slaves.

When Luke visited Athens he noted that *"all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing."* Acts 17:21

But Jesus revolutionised labour. By taking up the axe, the saw, the hammer and the plane, as a carpenter our Lord imbued labour with a new dignity. Christianity undercut slavery by giving dignity to work. By reforming work Christianity transformed the entire social order. In time this gave birth to the free enterprise system which brought unparalleled prosperity and progress to billions of people.

"The hand of the diligent makes one rich." Proverbs 10:4

God is a worker. God worked to create the world and He works to sustain it. He is also constantly at work fulfilling His purposes in history and in the life of every person (Phil 2:13). As our Lord Jesus declared *"My Father has been working until now, and I have been working"* John 5:17.

God called His work "good", confirming that work has intrinsic worth. Work is no disgrace - the disgrace is idleness.

"He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer." Proverbs 18:9

God created man in His image as a worker. Before the fall, God assigned to men and women the task of caring for His earthly creation and cultivating the garden they lived in (Gen 1:26-29; 2:8,15). Work is a gift to us. By assigning responsibilities to Adam and Eve, God was making them significant and valuable. By working diligently they reflected God's image. This was the first partnership. Adam and Eve were created as co-workers with God. God planted the garden and man cultivated it. All legitimate work is an extension of God's work.

"Therefore... whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" 1 Corinthians 10:31

Unfortunately, many Christians seem to have lost this Christian work ethic. Most people labour under the illusion that God is concerned merely with our purely spiritual pursuits. This misunderstanding is based upon these four **false assumptions**:

1. That God is only interested in people's souls, rather than their bodies.
2. The things of eternity are of such overriding importance as to exclude all concern with the things of time.
3. Life is divided into the secular and the sacred.
4. Becoming a minister, evangelist or missionary is the only way to serve God.

However, the Bible shows that God is interested in whole people, not in disembodied souls. Many of Amy Carmichael's fellow missionaries in India considered her efforts to build an orphanage and school as actually a *"worldly activity"* that distracted her from *"saving souls"*, to which she replied: *"Souls are more or less firmly attached to bodies."*

The manufacturer who provides the goods, the transporter who ensures distribution and the shopkeeper who makes the item accessible to us are as vital to our lives as those who provide electricity, plumbing and road works. We need the teachers, nurses, policemen, firemen, postmen, businessmen, secretaries, mechanics and other workers.

What goes on in both time and for eternity are equally real and important to our Sovereign God. Being co-labourers with God in making His physical, temporal world run smoothly is important, as is co-labouring with Him in evangelism. Eternity is our ultimate destiny and we will each have to give an account of our lives before Almighty God. In the light of eternity we need to work diligently on earth. If God has designed you to be an architect, a carpenter or a builder, then build buildings to the glory of God. **The quality of our daily work should witness to our faith in Christ.** As Martin Luther declared: *"A dairymaid can milk cows to the glory of God."*

For Fulfilment of the Great Commission

Good work well done is an essential part of fulfilling the Great Commission. God has commanded all Christians to proclaim the Gospel of Christ. Our witness is not only to be carried out by our **talk**, but also by our **walk**. It is not only what we say that proclaims our faith - it is what we **do**. Our **words** mean nothing if they are not backed up by our **work** (James 2:14-26).

The great commandments of Christ are that we are to love God and that we are to love other people (Mark 12:30, 31). One of the ways we show love for God is by caring for His creation - reflecting the image of God in useful work. One of the primary ways we show love for people is by doing productive work which contributes to their wellbeing.

One of the best sermon illustrations is the daily testimony of a Christian doing his work with integrity and diligence. When others see our concern for both people and products we earn their respect and their interest in what motivates us.

For most Christians our workplace is our main mission field. Our job is not secondary to the making of friends and proclaiming the Gospel. In fact, completing our "secular" work in a God-honouring way is one of the most powerful demonstrations of the Gospel. Through meaningful work we can reveal our love for God, His Word and His people by: serving people, meeting our own needs, meeting our family's needs, and earning enough money to be generous to others, practise hospitality and support our local churches, charities and missions. As John Wesley taught: *"religion must necessarily produce both industry and frugality."* When we realise that God has placed us in our job to co-labour with Him, contributing to His creation, it leads to a sense of dignity and destiny in our work.

The Scripture declares that an industrious housewife and hardworking mother pleases the Lord and delights her husband (Proverbs 31:10-31). A man who fails to provide for his family... *"has denied the Faith and is worse than an unbeliever."* 1 Tim 5:8. Christians are commanded to learn to devote themselves *"to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful."* Titus 3:14

In the parable of the talents, Jesus teaches us to serve Him faithfully with the talents He has entrusted into our care (Matt 25:14 - 30). Christians must work in order to give to others: *"Let him who stole, steal no longer, but rather let him labour, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need"* Ephesians 4:28. Being a faithful worker is a powerful testimony to outsiders: *"... aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, that you may walk properly towards those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing."* 1 Thess 4:11 - 12

The Scriptures are scathing in recording God's denunciation of laziness:

"Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest. How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest - so shall your poverty come on you like a robber..." Proverbs 6:6- 11

"Because of laziness the building decays, and through idleness of hands the house leaks." Ecclesiastes 10:18

"Why have you been standing here idle all day?" Matthew 20:6

It is a disgrace to be lazy (Prov 10:5). Lazy people always find excuses not to work (Prov 15:19; 26:13-16). Those who love sleep will grow poor (Prov 19:15; 20:13).

"I went by the field of the slothful, by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; its surface was covered with nettles, its stone wall was broken down ... a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest - and poverty will come like a prowler..." Proverbs 24:30-34

Therefore, the Apostle Paul taught:

"For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. "We were not idle when we were with you...but worked with labour and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you ... to make ourselves an example..."

*We command you this: **If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.**" 2Thess. 3: 7- 10*

On the day of judgement "each one's work will become manifest" 1 Cor 3:13. Jesus taught that "whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant." Matt 20:26.

The Economic Fruit of Faith

Dr. James Kennedy in *"What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?"* made the following observations on the role of faith in economics: "Why has America and, for the most part, the West, enjoyed such material abundance? Why have some of the Asian countries also prospered after they adopted economic ideas from the West? If you look at the poor nations around the world, you will find that what the Bible says is true: they are what they are because of what they believe. *'As a man thinketh in his heart so is he'* (Prov 23:7). Look at India, a nation that has stagnated in its poverty for several millenia. Why? Because of what its people believe. Its Hindu religion teaches that there is no reality to matter. The external, visible world is unreal; therefore, you do not try to correct an unreal world; you try to escape from it. Consequently, progress dies. The belief in reincarnation has also had a devastating effect on the nation's prosperity. Or consider North Africa, which for centuries has been sunk in poverty, superstition and ignorance. Why? Because of what its people believe. The fatalism of Islam has kept the Muslims from progress because human initiative can accomplish absolutely nothing, and all that is Allah has fated; therefore they are left in perpetual stagnation. Or consider the many nations of the East (prior to Western influence), whose religion is Buddhism, which teaches that life is irreparably evil and cannot be changed. Man's only hope is to rid himself of all desire for any improvement in this life. The goal is not a more abundant life, but its extinction - absorption into the world-soul - and so the very roots of social amelioration are severed. Not so with the nations that have had a Christian base, especially when they have applied a more Biblical interpretation of economics."

Many would be surprised to learn that there are over 700 references to money in the Bible. Nearly two-thirds of the recorded parables of Christ deal with the use and handling of money. In the Ten Commandments God laid the foundation for all good economics: **private ownership of property**. The right to life, liberty and property and the importance of the family unit as the basic building block of society are all spelled out in Exodus 20.

The commandments, *"Thou shalt not steal ... Thou shalt not covet"* have inspired millions of believers to work hard, show up on time and to be honest. The free enterprise system has generated the highest standards of living on the face of the earth since the creation of the world. Many Christians can testify to the fact that when they became Christians they began to prosper. Firstly, this is because they stopped wasting their money on alcohol, gambling, cigarettes, drugs, prostitutes, pornography or other vices. (1 Peter 4:2-3)

Secondly, they began to have a purpose for their lives and work. *"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."* (Col. 3:17)

Thirdly, Christians have new wisdom, inspiration and strength from God (James 1:5, Ph. 4:13).

Fourthly, Christians are freed from many of the anxieties, worries and fears which so frustrate and limit one (Phil. 4:6).

The Effects of Sin on Work

When man rebelled against God, the ground that man had to cultivate was cursed, but the task of cultivating it was not a punishment (Gen 3:14–19). Granting sinful man the responsibility to undertake some constructive work was actually a gift of grace. The devil finds evil work for idle hands, so productive employment is actually a protection from falling into even worse sins.

Inaction speaks louder than words. Idleness is an enemy of the soul. Our idle days are Satan's busy days. As C.H. Spurgeon said: *"Some temptations come to the industrious, but all temptations come to the idle."*

Sin, however, made work harder. The burdensomeness of work is a result of the Fall. The sinfulness of man leads to the deception, dishonesties and degeneration which affect the business world. People lie, cheat, steal, overcharge, waste valuable time and money, engage in corruption and produce shoddy workmanship. Often Christians who sincerely want to work with integrity are forced to deal with unethical suppliers. Even Christians of integrity often need to battle their own sinful temptations to laziness, selfish ambition or pride.

Many in our culture have made an idol out of their work. Instead of seeking to glorify God by co-labouring with Him and serving others, many workaholics and overly-ambitious individuals try to climb the corporate ladder at any cost. Instead of finding their worth as children of the Living God they seek to prove their worth by financial prosperity or career success.

However, success in life is measured by how faithfully we love God, our family and our neighbours - not by work status. God rewards faithfulness. God is more interested in the heart motivations, attitudes and integrity of a person than in his outward appearance and position.

While careful planning, efficiency and hard work are commendable, nothing justifies unethical work practices or hurting people. *"Success"* at any price is a sure recipe for failure. A man whose children are on drugs, whose marriage is on the rocks, and whose employees despise his morals, is a failure in God's eyes even if he is *"successful"* in business.

"For what advantage is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?" Luke 9:25

To the Glory of God

It would be worthwhile for each of us prayerfully to examine our motives for working. Sinful motivations and attitudes would include: a lust for wealth, status, respect or power, to avoid responsibilities at home, or just to collect our pay cheque without due concern for the quality of our work. Selfish ambition, greed or careless indolence are equally wicked in the sight of God. On the other hand, God-honouring motives include: the desire to meet people's needs, to serve and honour Christ and to glorify our Creator.

Our responsibility is to do our work to the very best of our ability, out of love for Christ and to the Glory of God. As the great inventor Thomas Edison (who invented the light bulb and much else) said: *"There is no substitute for hard work ... I never did anything worth doing by accident nor did any of my inventions come by accident; they came by work."*

A dictionary is the only place where you will find success before work. An idle life and a holy heart are a contradiction in terms. Salvation is a helmet - not a nightcap. Our work should be an overflow of our devotion to God.

The foundation for a truly free and prosperous nation can only be laid in characters, minds and lives changed by the grace of God. In order to be successful, a society needs to be made up of honest citizens who will not steal; diligent people who are hardworking and productive; compassionate families who are concerned for their neighbours and responsible workers who will fulfil their obligations and be faithful stewards of public resources.

For nations to be strong their families need to be strong. For governments to be good their citizens need to be good. Those who cannot control themselves are not capable of ruling over a city (Proverbs 16:32). Those who cannot manage their household well are not qualified to lead others (1 Timothy 3:4-5).

For this reason, the message of *"repentance and forgiveness of sins must be preached... to all nations."* Luke 24:47

The Church is to *"make disciples of all the nations... teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you"* Matt. 28:19-20.

Each one of us needs to:

"...be transformed by the renewing of your mind-, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12:2



Chapter 13

Poverty - Its Causes and Cure

From the squatter camps, to the rundown ghettos, to the refugee camps, Christians are struggling to respond to suffering with practical love.

The difference of productivity and income per person in the Western world compared to the so called "*developing*" or "*third*" world was 2 to 1 in the 19th century. Now it is 70 to 1. This escalating disparity, along with the impact of natural and man-made disasters, has greatly increased the flow of refugees and "*illegal aliens*" into Western nations. It has also greatly aggravated the spread of diseases, environmental degradation, the escalation of crime and the possibilities of conflict.

One of the main responses of the industrial nations has been to supply generous amounts of foreign aid to the poorer nations. However, foreign aid has been accused of denying the poorer nations the chance to develop their economies to viability. Most aid does not encourage self-sufficiency and growth. The dumping of food-surplus aid has damaged local agriculture in the long term. It is hard for farmers to sell what is being given away.

While we must most certainly love our neighbour, especially the deserving poor, we need to be wise and discerning in our aid so as to encourage responsibility and rehabilitation.

The Abuse of Relief Aid

Since 1954 the USA has shipped millions of tonnes of food aid to **India** to the Indian government (not private businesses or agencies). Rats have consumed more than half of this food at the docks and storage facilities! Because of Hinduism's belief in reincarnation, rats and sacred cows may not be killed! It would take a train 3 000 miles long to haul the grain eaten by Indian rats in a single year! Also, the sacred cows in India eat enough food to feed most of Asia! And the Hindu temples contain a vast fortune of gold, rubies, sapphires and other precious stones in their statues which are worshipped as idols.

It is actually Hinduism's re-incarnation beliefs, its sacred cows, protected rats, idols made of gold and jewels, wasted resources and superstition that are causing the poverty and starvation in India.

Ethiopia in the 1980's was a classic example of a man-made famine. Socialism, confiscations and nationalisations, the abolishment of incentive, the punishment of productivity and subsidising of irresponsibility caused the starvation in what used to be called "*the breadbasket of Africa*." The "*Red Terror*" mass executions, forced removals of millions of people and destruction of crops by the government further aggravated the famine.

The corruption and abuse of the relief aid in Ethiopia was the ultimate scandal: 100% import tax was charged on all free relief aid! Brand new Mercedes Benz trucks were required with 100% import tax imposed on all these trucks for transporting the food. All these trucks had to be signed over to the marxist government of Ethiopia! (And all this while US\$70 million was spent on the "*Anniversary of the Revolution*" celebrations in 1984- half for alcohol!). In fact, much of the relief aid and food was used for the many Cuban, Soviet and East German military who were involved in causing the famine. Some of the food was actually exported in payment for weapons!

In the 1980's **Mozambique** was another example of a man-made famine in a country which used to export food. After the marxist revolution of 1975 a socialist economy was imposed upon the people. Farms were confiscated. Factories were nationalised. Hundreds of thousands of people were incarcerated in concentrated camps. Over 75 000 people were accused of being "*black marketeers*", "*reactionaries*" and "*counter revolutionaries*" and publically executed. Food was exported to the Soviet bloc in exchange for weapons. A scorched earth policy was later launched to starve out the resistance to the Frelimo government by burning down crops and villages. Bureaucratic wastage and corruption became a growth industry. Economic poverty and social chaos resulted.

However, in Mozambique it was not only marxism that caused the starvation but also **animism**. The widespread practice of ancestral worship led many poor families to sacrifice their last goat or chicken to appease the "ancestral spirits"!

In **Albania** and **Romania** I have come across gypsies deliberately starving their babies and then laying these malnourished infants out on sidewalks with a hat next to them to beg for money. Any money received was used for cigarettes and alcohol. In **India** some street people have actually maimed or mutilated their own children to make them more pitiful, and therefore effective, in begging.

In **South Africa**, having spent many months on the streets of Hillbrow and Durban doing street evangelism, I have seen professional beggars at work. I have seen "*cripples*" letting down their strapped leg and stretching and walking unaided without their crutches; and I've seen the "*blind*" lift up their dark glasses to count the money in their hat. Some street children have told me that they can make an average of R200 a day from begging! In all too many cases our casual and spontaneous handing over of some coins to strangers begging on the streets does more harm than good. Giving to beggars on the streets often goes to subsidising drunkenness, smoking, drugs, prostitution and gambling. Some of the beggars are child prostitutes and thieves using begging as a cover while looking for opportunities.

Then there are the "*religious*" con-men who know the terminology and can deceive and manipulate the unsuspecting into handing over large quantities of cash for spurious causes. I have also been one of those deceived by professional "*converts*" who let themselves be counselled to Christ only to "*borrow*" money from the well-meaning evangelist.

Multiple millions of rands are squandered by guilt-manipulated Christians giving to beggars at traffic lights, at their front door and on the streets. **At the same time good ministries like the Salvation Army, the Docks Mission, the Ark, Cape Town City Mission and others are struggling for lack of support.**

There is a desperate need for good stewardship of our limited resources. It would be more responsible to channel our compassion to supporting Christian ministries which have proven their effectiveness in reaching out in love to help the poor. Biblical charity does not subsidise sin nor should it encourage irresponsibility.

So before we get down to practical strategies to care for the poor, and to eradicate poverty, let us define poverty and consider what causes poverty.

What Causes Poverty?

A definition of poverty could be:

"an insufficiency of the material necessities of life."

The poor could be described as:

"Persons who do not have, and are unable to obtain, the means for sustaining life. If they are to survive they are thus dependent upon the resources of other people."

The Biblical definition of the poor could be:

"Those who cannot sustain themselves because they are too old, too young or too handicapped to work."

There are four broad categories under which all causes of poverty could be grouped:

Personal sacrifice, slothfulness, calamity (earthquakes, floods, wars, etc.), or **exploitation**.

Self-imposed Poverty

The lazy and indolent (slothful) inevitably suffer the consequences of their sin:

"He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer." Proverbs 18:9

"How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep ~so shall your poverty come on you like a robber..." Proverbs 6:9-11.

"Because of laziness the building decays, and through idleness of hands, the house leaks..." Eccl. 10:18

It is a disgrace to be lazy (Prov 10:5). Lazy people always find excuses not to work. (Prov 15:19; 26:13-16).

Those who love sleep will grow poor (Prov 19:15; 20:13).

"If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat." 2 Thess. 3:10

Moral poverty often dooms its people to on-going material poverty. Selfishness, greed, laziness, immorality, short-sightedness, gambling, alcohol abuse, addiction to pornography, indulging in prostitution, drug abuse and other sins are symptoms of rebellion against the Law of God.

Such evils inevitably lead to poverty.

Victims of self-imposed poverty need the Gospel and discipleship to free them from their lifestyle of sin.

Imposed Poverty

The main causes of imposed poverty are: **oppression** and **religious error**. Oppression consists in governments or individuals violating others' God given rights to life, property and liberty. This takes the forms of fraud, theft and violence. (Inflation/unbacked currencies/counterfeiting; socialism; excessive taxation; corruption; wastage; inefficiency; etc.).

UnBiblical worldviews underlie the poverty of the third world. The fatalism and re-incarnation beliefs of **Hinduism** and **Buddhism**, where the material world is not perceived as real and difficulties are understood as a result of the deeds of a previous life ("my Karma is bad") are paralysing to progress. The **Animist** worldview which sees man at the mercy of outside forces and the spirits leads people to be shackled by superstition and fear. The fatalism of **Islam** is also not conducive to productive planning and innovation.

The **poor-by-exploitation** need both **direct charity** to meet immediate needs and **justice** in the form of **restitution** from those who exploited them, and **freedom from false religions**.

The **poor-by-calamity** (victims of floods, earthquakes, wars, etc.) are the most appropriate recipients of charity - **though the aim is always to help them become self-supporting again**.

Poverty in History

The key question when faced by the disparity between rich and poor individuals and societies is **not** "*How did this man/society become poor?*" Poverty is the natural condition of man. The question is: "*How did anyone become rich?*"

Poverty is a consequence of the Fall (Gen 3:17-19). Famines were commonplace before the Industrial Revolution. Prior to the **Industrial Revolution**, England suffered famines an average of 7 times per century. A third of the population died in the province of Bengal in the great Indian famine of 1769-1770. Similar losses were experienced in India in 1783 and 1790-1792. India suffered a further 8 famines from 1838 to 1901 with well over 9 million dying of starvation. In a single famine in North China from 1877 to 1878 over 9,5 million died. Only the Christian work ethic and the resultant industrial revolution brought the West out of the recurring horror of famine. A wooden plough drawn by oxen can provide food for one large family. By the 18th Century, the new iron plough drawn by a horse could provide food for 3 families. By the 1940's a tractor pulling a plough could feed 14 families. Now advanced tractors, tools and techniques can enable one farmer to produce enough food for 60 families.

It is an observable fact that the most efficient economies in the world are based upon private ownership of property, honest money, free enterprise and a Christian work ethic.

Is Colonialism Responsible?

Much of the *Third World* is definitely in a shocking mess. One-party dictatorships, economic chaos, malnutrition, famines, civil wars, massacres and abject poverty are the norm in most of Africa. **But who is responsible?**

The notion that colonialism is the major cause of world poverty was popularised by Vladimir Lenin, and his disciples have faithfully repeated it ever since. However, contrary to the ahistorical mumblings of the coloniphobics, some of the most poverty-stricken and backward lands imaginable (Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Nepal, Tibet and Liberia) never fell under Western colonial control. Some colonies like Hong Kong became very prosperous. And some of the richest and most advanced Western lands, such as Switzerland, Sweden, Norway Denmark and Finland, never controlled any colonies. Other advanced countries such as the USA, Australia, New Zealand and Canada were themselves colonies.

Actually contact with the West brought far more **benefits** than disadvantages. Tea and rubber trees, for example, were foreign to Asia, as was mealie meal in Africa. Such blessings were the results of colonialism.

Some of the main "**Scars of Colonialism**" include roads, railways, schools, hospitals, the wheel, written languages, the Bible and churches.

The **ancestor-worshipping** and idolatrous religions have rendered whole civilisations powerless in the face of "nature". *"Unquestioning acceptance of nature and its vagaries is widespread in Africa"*, declares Bishop Bududira of Burundi, who maintains that local cultures obstruct material progress by wrong mental attitudes, seeing themselves as suffering history rather than making it. He concludes that: *"The message of Christ frees people from the shackles of tribal thinking, and leads to a greater sense of personal responsibility."*
Reality and Rhetoric, Lord Bauer

The tribalistic philosophies inhibit **productivity**, penalise accomplishment and confiscate what little is produced. Animism teaches its adherents to regard themselves as helpless in the face of their surroundings - assuming *"that the opportunities and the resources for the economic advance of oneself or one's family have to be provided by someone else - by the state, by one's superiors, by richer people, or from abroad. This attitude is in turn an aspect of the belief in the efficacy of external forces over one's destiny ... It is an attitude plainly unfavourable to material progress."* *Dissent on Development*, P. T. Bauer

"The idea that it is evil to make personal economic progress takes hold of the people and fear of being envied prohibits growth and encourages poverty." *Productive Christians in an Age of Guilt Manipulators*, David Chilton

"One of the decisive factors in understanding development or non-development is the 'envy barrier' or institutionalised envy among the population." *Envy: A Theory of Social Behaviour*, Helmut Schoeck

Into this unhealthy situation comes **Foreign Aid**, which only increases dependence, corruption and greed, rather than developing responsibility.

The problems in the Third World are not primarily political or economic. The problem is false religion and the resultant pagan philosophies/worldview. **The solution is therefore also primarily religious** - the world needs to be converted to and disciplined in the Christian Faith. Church- and mission-based relief would not only be more efficient, but would inspire greater personal responsibility and economic productivity.

Is Socialism Biblical?

Despite exhaustive and imaginative efforts by so-called "Christian Socialists" to promote socialism as "*true Christian love and sharing*", the Ten Commandments still stand: "*Thou shalt not steal*" and "*Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's goods.*"

Socialism is legalised theft. It is institutionalised envy. It is the use of envy and guilt to manipulate productive Christians into committing economic suicide. The socialist doctrine of economic equality requires the **stealing of property** and **the prohibition of economic freedoms.**

Productive Christians in an Age of Guilt Manipulators - David Chilton

*"Socialism is not the pioneer of a better and finer world, but the spoiler of what thousands of years of civilisation have created. It does not build; it **destroys**. For destruction is the essence of it. It produces nothing, it only **consumes** what the social order based on private ownership of the means of production has created . . ." Socialism: An Economic and Sociological Analysis* Ludwig von Mises.

To almost every problem in the world, Socialism advocates **state intervention**. In this way socialists insist on unBiblical powers for the government to interfere with, or control, prices, markets, wages, jobs, profits, population control, education, movement, etc. The inevitable end of increasing government intervention is the erosion of personal freedom.

Socialism destroys incentive, initiative and productivity.

Socialists are parasites who consume what others have earned by hard work and ingenuity. Socialists try to cut up "the pie" to the advantage of their supporters. Free enterprise just makes more pies for everyone.

Price controls create an imbalanced, chaotic market. Minimum wage laws result in unemployment. Profit restrictions increase consumer costs. Enforced economic equality leads to stagnation, destruction of initiative and more poverty.

Concern for the poor has long been used as a justification for all sorts of crime. Judas Iscariot, who was a thief, is a prime example (John 12:4-6).

Envy is the greatest disease of our age. Envy is the feeling that because someone else has something he is to blame for my not having it! The main motive behind envy is not so much to take as to destroy. Envy and malice are inseparable. "*Peace of mind makes the body healthy, but jealousy is like a cancer.*" Proverbs 14:30

"Rather than wealth causing poverty, it is far more true to say that what causes poverty is the widespread belief that wealth does!" *Wealth and Poverty* - George Gilder

If we have needs, the Bible commands us to: **Pray** (Phil. 4:6-7), to **Work** (1 Thess. 4: 11), to **Trust God** (Phil. 4:19) and to **Be Content** (Phil. 4:12).

The only thing Socialism has ever been able to provide its adherents with is the "*guaranteed income*" of Romans 6:23: "*The wages of sin is death.*"

Biblical Principles for Economics

1. HONEST MONEY

Throughout the Bible money is spoken of by weight. God's Law requires that financial transactions be made in terms of honest measures. God hates and forbids unjust weights and measures, inflation, fractional reserve banking, unbacked currencies, and multiple indebtedness (Lev. 19:35-36; Prov. 11:1;20:10; 20:23; Amos 8:5-7; Micah 6:11-12). In 1982 you could post a letter in South Africa for 4 cents. In 1970 you could buy a new car for R1 000. The devastating impact of unbacked currency/inflation on pensions and savings is criminal. Biblical Law requires honest money backed up by real constant value.

2. FREE ENTERPRISE

Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's goods. God blesses productivity, incentive, initiative and hard work (Ex.20:15-17; 30:14-15; Lev. 19:15; 1 Sam. 8:10-18; 1 Kings 21:3; Ezra 7:23-24; Prov. 10:2-4; 12:24; 13:4,11). Private ownership of property and of the means of production is Biblical. It is also foundational for freedom and prosperity.

3. LIMITED (CONSTITUTIONAL) GOVERNMENT

Any taxation of 10% or higher is defined in the Bible as oppression. And any taxation of property or inheritance is strictly forbidden. Institutions and individuals involved in the fulltime service of the Lord may not be taxed. All their income comes from free will offerings made unto the Lord by people who have already paid tax on their incomes (Ezra 7:23-24). Less government means more freedom and more personal responsibility (1 Pet. 2:13-14; Rom. 13:3-4; Eccl. 8:11; Ps.19:7- 9; Prov.14:34;Ps9:17).

4. GOD HONOURING CHARITY

The Biblical principle is that we are responsible to care for our family first and then, through the church, community and missionary organisations, express love for our neighbour in action. Charity is to be from person to person, church to church, mission to community, direct aid based upon evangelism and discipleship. All this is aimed to **encourage responsibility and productivity**. It is short term aid aimed at long term (eternal) benefits. The goal is to help the victims of poverty back onto their own two feet, where they can, in turn, help others (Isaiah 58:7; James 1:27). Matthew 25:35-36 and Ezekiel 34:2-4 teach us to: Strengthen the **weak**, bind up the **injured**, care for the **sick**, share your food with the hungry, clothe the **naked**, invite in the **stranger** and look after **widows** and **orphans**.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." Mark 12:30-31

An active, practical love for people is an absolute priority for each and every Christian. All gifts and talents are meaningless without love (1 Cor 13:1-8). *"As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know that you are My disciples if you love one another."* John 13:34-35

This is **not** to be some vague, mysterious, impractical, abstract emotionalism. No, the Bible makes it clear: "***Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth***" 1 John 3:18; feeding the hungry clothing the naked, caring for the sick, welcoming in the stranger, visiting the prisoner (Matthew 25:35-36). Christian love is to be compassionate service and sacrifice. Biblical love is a willingness to serve, an outgoing, unselfish attitude that leads one to sacrifice to meet the needs of others.

In the story of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) our Lord Jesus presents us with an object lesson for Christian compassion. The Samaritan took pity upon the stranger in distress; he took care of him and he went out of his way to take him where he could recover. And he gave of his resources to pay for the needs of the injured traveller.

Throughout the history of the Church of Christ these teachings of Christ have inspired the greatest acts of self-sacrifice and compassionate love in action. The world before the advent of Christ was quite cold and cruel. There is no trace of any organised charitable effort before Christianity. Helping strangers was unknown. The teachings and example of Christ were revolutionary.

The Yale historian, Kenneth Scott Latourette, wrote that Christianity introduced five significant innovations in charity:

1. Generous giving was seen as an **obligation** for all Christians.
2. The **motive** for giving to the poor was out of love for Christ.
3. The objects of Christian charity were the **widows, orphans, sick and disabled** and those **persecuted** for their faith.
4. Christian giving was **personalised** from individuals to individuals.
5. Christian charity was **not limited** to church members, but was extended to non-Christians as well.

Author George Grant in his book "*In the Shadow of Plenty*" presents testimonies of the extraordinary feats of selfless compassion in Church history:

The North African theologian **Augustine** (354-430) established works of charity in thirteen cities of the Roman Empire.

Bernard of Clairveaux (1090-1153) established the greatest charitable network of the Middle Ages throughout Europe to care for the poor.

The Czech Reformer **Jan Hus** (1374-1415) mobilised an army of Christian workers for emergency relief when Central Europe was struck by a series of disasters.

The evangelist **George Whitefield** (1714-1770) founded the first orphanage, the first hospital and the first relief association in Georgia.

The great preacher **Charles Haddon Spurgeon** (1834-1892) founded over 60 different charitable institutions including hospitals, orphanages and alms houses.

The famous evangelist **Dwight L. Moody** (1857-1899) was responsible for the establishment of over 150 street missions, soup kitchens, clinics and rescue missions.

Christian love for the poor and needy is central to the Gospel task. When the church has maintained a Biblical balance of word and deed, lives have been transformed, nations disciplined and cultures reformed.

In his book *"What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?"* Dr. D. James Kennedy documents how, despite its many failures and weaknesses, the Church of Jesus Christ has done more (and still does much more) than any other institution in history to alleviate suffering. He points to many inspiring examples such as: **George Mueller** and his orphanages which cared for thousands of children, **Lord Shaftesbury** who campaigned against the abuse of children, **William Wilberforce** who dedicated his life to the eradication of the slave trade, **William Booth** who founded the Salvation Army which cares for millions of poor people worldwide, and many others.

Dr. Kennedy also points out that Christian ministries are the most cost-effective charitable institutions in society; that regular churchgoers are the most generous givers of both time and money; and that the Christian work ethic has produced the most efficient and prosperous economies that can finance works of mercy to the less fortunate.

The Christian Foundations for prosperity are laid with these basic principles: Christians must **respect** one another's **property**, **never steal or cheat**, always abide by **contracts**, be industrious in **earning** money, be disciplined in **saving** money, be wise in **investing** money, be obedient to God in **tithing** to Christian ministries, be discerning in **sharing** with those in need. **Work** all you can, **earn** all you can, **save** all you can, **give** all you can.

Biblical charity is to be primarily directed to widows, orphans and the handicapped - the deserving poor (1 Tim 5:3-16). Biblical methods of charity include: gleaning, lending, labour and tithes through the local church. Are you supporting a Biblical ministry to the poor? We are our brother's keeper (Genesis 4:9). Don't just give food or money - also give of your time to share the love and Gospel of Christ personally.

Love is something you do, not just something you feel. Regardless of what the government does, regardless of what the church does, families and individuals have a responsibility to obey God. Since charity is primarily a function of the Christian family, working in concert with other Christian families, it is essential that each of those Christian families begin to implement the love of God practically. Charity begins at home: educating children, caring for the helpless, and strengthening the weak. It begins as we encourage others, co-ordinate resources, network with existing programmes, and spearhead new efforts (*Bringing in the Sheaves*, George Grant.)

- Every South African cent has the sparrows to remind us that God cares for the very least (Matthew 10:29).
- Every Rand coin has inscribed: Soli Deo Gloria - every Rand we spend should be to the glory of God alone!
- God cares about every cent. Every rand we spend must be to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Pray (Phil. 4:6-7), **Work** (1 Thess. 4:11), **Trust God** (Phil. 4:19), **Be content** (Phil. 4:12), **Be generous** (2 Cor. 9:6-12).

"God loves a cheerful giver, and God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2 Cor. 9:7-8



Chapter 14

Transformations in the Bible

Is Revival the desire of your heart? Do you long to see the churches and communities in Africa revived and restored to a God honouring condition?

"Restore us, O God Almighty; make Your face shine upon us, that we may be saved."
Psalm 80:7

Are you praying for a great spiritual awakening that will change our cities and our countries?
Is it your prayer that God may be honoured and glorified in all areas of life?

"Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down,... come down to make Your Name known to Your enemies and cause the nations to quake before You!" Isaiah 64:1-2

Duncan Campbell of the Hebrides revival observed that: *"Revival is not churches filled with people, but people filled with God."* Jonathan Edwards described revival as "a special season of mercy."

Revival is a sovereign move of God initiated by the Holy Spirit working through consecrated men. A study of revivals in the Bible and in history reveals that **all revivals begin with a deeper appreciation for the holiness of God and a realisation of how offensive our sin must be in the sight of our holy God.**

"Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will freely pardon." Isaiah 55:7

When the Book of the Law (the first five books of the Bible) was read to King Josiah of Judah, he tore his robes in anguish and exclaimed: *"Great is the Lord's anger that burns against us ..."* 2 Kings 22:13. He called all the elders together to hear the Law of God and to repent together for the wickedness that they had allowed to flourish in the land.

"The king stood by the pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the Lord - to follow the Lord and keep His commands, regulations and decrees with all his heart and all his soul... Then all the people pledged themselves to the Covenant." 2 Kings 23:3

This repentance was then followed by vigorous action to remove or destroy everything contrary to the Law of God - including the pornographic Asherah poles, the Baal altars where babies were sacrificed, and the prostitutes and false prophets who had corrupted the people (2 Kings 23:4-10).

The Bible records that Josiah *"... turned to the Lord with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses."* 2 Kings 23:25. God sent a prophet to declare to Josiah: *"Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the Lord when you heard what I have spoken ... I have heard you, declares the Lord."* 2 Kings 22:19

Conviction of sin is the first step towards a Biblical Transformation. This includes focusing on the Law of God, mourning over our sin, confessing that sin and undertaking whatever steps of restitution or obedience are necessary.

"If anyone sins and is unfaithful to the Lord by deceiving his neighbour about something entrusted to him or left in his care or stolen, or if he cheats him, or if he finds lost property and lies about it, or if he swears falsely, or if he commits any such sin ... he must make restitution in full, add a fifth of the value to it and give it all to the owner..." Leviticus 6:2-5

Those who claim to want revival, but are unwilling to repent thoroughly of every known sin and make full restitution cannot be serious.

"Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent." Revelation 3:19

Like Josiah, we need to take a careful look at the Law of God. The Ten Commandments reflect the unchanging character of God. It summarises our responsibilities to God, to our parents and to other people.

"... The Law was our tutor, to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith."
Galatians 3:24

"The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul..." Psalm 19:7

Martin Luther declared: *"The first duty of the Gospel preacher is to declare God's Law and show the nature of sin."*

John Bunyan said: *"The man who does not know the nature of the Law cannot know the nature of sin."*

John Wesley suggested that evangelists should preach 90% Law and 10% Grace.

Charles Finney wrote: *"Failure to use the Law is almost certain to result in false hope, the introduction of a false standard of Christian experience, and to fill the church with false converts."*

Charles Spurgeon declared: *"They will never accept Grace until they tremble before a just and Holy Law."*

As our Lord taught: *"Do not think I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. I tell you the truth, until Heaven and Earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law . . . Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven, but whoever practises and teaches these commands will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven."* Matthew 5:17-19

National Repentance

We want God to bless Africa, so we need to evaluate our nations in the light of God's Word. As we seek Biblical Transformation we need to start by confessing our national sins. As we look at the **Ten Commandments** South Africans for example must confess that:

Our leaders are too proud to bow before God in prayer at the beginning of Parliament or to acknowledge a source of authority above themselves.

At state events our leaders have committed idolatry, worshipping other 'gods' who are not God at all.

God's Name is routinely taken in vain on national television and at cinemas and this blasphemy is constitutionally protected and regarded as '*entertainment*.'

The Lord's Day is desecrated every week. What God ordained as a Day of rest and a Day of worship is being commercialised and abused for the worship of pleasure.

Respect for our parents and elders is being undermined everywhere by the laws, the entertainment industry, the education department and the explosion of violent crimes against the elderly.

Every year over 20 000 people are murdered in South Africa and our Justice system is failing to protect the citizens of this land. Most of the murderers who terrorise our people escape being brought to justice. In fact, our laws seem to favour the rights of the criminals - and all too often criminalise the victims.

Selfishness, greed, covetousness and deception are pervasive and we have become a nation infested with corruption and theft. Our Constitution entrenches the rights of pornographers to exploit for profit people made in the image of God - to take what God has made to be holy and pervert it; to take what God designed to be special and make it sordid; to distort what God intended to be private and develop it into a multi-million rand exploitative industry.

We must admit that it is hypocritical to claim to be a "*human rights society*" while denying the right to life to pre-born babies. Our government interprets the 'Right to Life' as a means to protecting guilty murderers from execution, but not to protect innocent babies from receiving the death penalty through abortion. Our society has become so calloused, careless and cruel that it allows little babies to be dismembered, smothered or strangled through abortion - legally - and with tax payers' money. How can we expect God to bless a nation that kills babies?

"All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing." We must confess that most of us, even in the Church, have shamefully done nothing to protest and work against the legalised slaughter of pre-born babies in South Africa.

God's Word declares that *"Whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me."* Matthew 25:45. *"Anyone then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."* James 4:17.

We have not loved God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, nor have we loved our neighbours as ourselves. We have not done unto others as we would have others do unto us. We have been thoughtless and careless. We have been self-centred and preoccupied with less

important things. We have thought too much of ourselves and too little of God and of our neighbours. We have wasted too much time watching television. And we have too often spent more time reading the newspaper than reading the Bible.

In the Bible, national transformations always involved a return to studying and obeying God's Word.

The Bible is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalm 119:105); it is *"sharper than any double edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow, it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart"* Hebrews 4:12. It is like a fire that burns within our heart; it is like a hammer that breaks the rocks in pieces (Jeremiah 23:29). *"It is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes"* Romans 1:16. It is the Truth (John 17:17) that sets us free (John 8:32). It is sweeter than honey (Psalm 119:103) and more precious than gold or silver (Psalm 119:72). It is *"radiant, giving light to the eyes" and "joy to the heart"* Psalm 19:8.

Therefore Asa expelled the prostitutes and destroyed pornographic idols (2 Kings 15:12). Jehu demolished the temple of Baal where child- sacrifice had taken place and turned it into a latrine (2 Kings 10:27). Jehoiada led the people in the destruction of the temple of Baal, smashing the perverse idols and blood stained altars (2 Kings 11:18). Josiah ordered idols, charms and other articles of false religion removed from the temple of the Lord (2 Kings 23:4).

"Let those who love the Lord hate evil...." Psalm 97:10

Jehoshaphat rid the land of Asherah poles and set his heart on seeking God (2 Chr.19:3), Hezekiah also removed offensive materials that were not in accordance with God's Law from the land (2 Chr. 31:1; 33:15). Ezra required the people to bring their marriages into obedience to God's Law (Ezra 10:3). Nehemiah enforced Sabbath observance in honour of the Lord (Nehemiah 13:19). The people of Ephesus destroyed their occultic books (Acts 19:17-20).

"Who will rise up for Me against the wicked? Who will take a stand for Me against evildoers?" Psalm 94:16

We cannot achieve anything of eternal value, unless God's Word is foundational and central, and if we think that we can take a short cut to Revival, avoiding repentance, restitution and obedience, then we are only fooling ourselves. **Every Revival and national transformation in the Bible involved decisive action to bring society into obedience to the Law of God!**

"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 Chronicles 7:14



Chapter 15

God's Law or Chaos

There was a time, not so long ago, when Christians were known to be people of integrity who could be trusted to keep their word. So pervasive was the Christian ethic that verbal agreements were binding and sufficient. Burglar bars, alarms and security gates were unknown and unnecessary. Women and children could walk alone at night without fear or danger. What happened?

"Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts ... let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never failing stream!" Amos 5:15, 24

"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people." Proverbs 14:34

The solution to all our social and political problems is not merely to have Christian officials elected. As recent history amply demonstrates, those who claim to be Christians can advocate and vote for policies which are blatantly in conflict with God's Law. The Bible forbids the shedding of innocent blood (Genesis 9:6; Proverbs 6: 16-17), yet many Christians vote for parties that stand for legalised, taxpayer-funded abortion and euthanasia. The Bible forbids theft, taxation above 10%, the taxation of property the taxation of inheritance, the taxation of those involved in the full time service of the Lord (Exodus 20:15,17; 1 Samuel 8:10 18; 1 Kings 21:3, Ezra 7:23 24), yet many Christians support taxation policies which break all of these Biblical principles.

"For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and iniquity." Isaiah 61:8

The great British Reformer and Bible translator, Professor John Wycliffe, taught that *"the Bible is given for the government of the people, by the people and for the people"*. The primary message of the Bible is about how sinful men and women can be reconciled to the Holy Creator. The secondary message of the Bible is how we are to live our lives in obedience to the Law of God. Because God is the Creator of all, His Word speaks on all areas of life, including education, economics and justice. Yet many Christians reject, or neglect, God's Word and its application to all areas of life.

"Jesus replied, 'If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching' ..." John 14:23

Most Christians do not seem to understand that we are in a war. It's a war of ideas and of loyalties. You either give your allegiance to God, or to Satan. The world is the battlefield. Unfortunately, many Christians have failed to renew their minds (Romans 12:1-2) and don't understand how the humanist worldview conflicts with the Biblical worldview. If you read the newspaper more than you read the Bible, if you read secular books and magazines more than Christian publications, if you watch TV more than you worship Christ, then it's inevitable - you may have a Christian heart, but you'll certainly have a humanist mind.

"... since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, He gave them over to a depraved mind." Romans 1:28

What is shaping and filling your mind? If it is television, popular music and the newspapers then you will be a humanist in your thinking, because these areas have been generally taken over by those who reject God and the Bible, and therefore they promote (often subtly) evolutionism, situation ethics, immorality and socialism. Humanism is a secular religion that teaches that people are not created in the image of God, that there are no absolute standards of right and wrong, that man is a product of his environment, evolved by random chance from lower forms of life. Therefore people are not moral agents, but victims of circumstances. To the humanist man is the measure of all things, not God.

"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ."
Colossians 2:8

In households with television, the average child sees between 15 000 to 30 000 hours of television, and listens to over 10 000 hours of music, before leaving school (*Nielsen Media Research*, 1995). During that time he or she will have seen from 800 000 to 1,5 million acts of violence, including 192 000 to 360 000 murders depicted on television (*US News and World Report* 1996), and 240 000 to 480 000 sexual acts or references to sex (*Media Research Centre*). They will also have spent from 11 000 to 16 000 hours in school and less

than 2000 hours of conversation and interaction with their parents (*Media Wise Family*).
What values and worldview will they receive from these sources? What influence has the media had upon you?

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

Unless you make a conscious, deliberate and daily effort to study God's Word and apply the Lordship of Christ to all areas of life, then you will inevitably be conformed to the world. The news media, educational institutions and entertainment industry are seldom sympathetic to Biblical principles. What we see influences what we think and what we think influences what we become and what we do. Ideas have consequences. Actions flow from thought patterns. What form of education is moulding your thought patterns? What entertainment and news media is filling your mind?

"Be very careful, then, how you live-not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil." Ephesians 5:15-16

So, what has gone so wrong that even those who claim to be Christians can be guilty of deceit, theft, immorality and the promotion of pornography, prostitution, homosexuality, gambling and abortion? How can Christians belong to political parties which blatantly reject God's Law and promote such gross evils? How can Christians vote for parties which advocate legalised prostitution, gambling, homosexuality, pornography, abortion and euthanasia?

"There is no fear of God before their eyes." Romans 3:18

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 1:7). For a society to be prosperous and peaceful it is essential that the society be primarily made up of moral people. The foundation for a truly free and stable nation can only be laid in characters, minds and lives changed by the Grace of God. In order to be successful, a society needs to be made up of honest citizens who will not steal, diligent people who are hardworking and productive, compassionate families who are concerned for their neighbours and responsible workers who will fulfil their obligations and be faithful stewards of public resources. The essential foundations for morality are: **Faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ, and the **Fear** of God.

"Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in His commands." Psalm 112:1

Here we are getting to the heart of the problem. Most of our churches are devoid of the fear of the Lord, and far from delighting in God's commands, many Christians actually despise God's Law. How often have we heard preachers claiming that "*we are no longer under law!*" Yet the Bible defines sin as "*lawlessness*" (1 John 3:4). Those antinomians who reject God's Law need to heed the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them, but to fulfil them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law ...Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven, but whoever practises and teaches these commands will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven." Matthew 5:17-19

King Alfred the Great (849 - 899) of England, who laid the foundations of the Common Law, began his Doms with the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20), the Mosaic Case Laws (Exodus 21 - 23), the Golden Rule of Christ (Matthew 7:12) and other Biblical principles. **The principles of limited government and the foundations of individual liberty can be traced through Alfred to the Bible** (*A History of the English-speaking Peoples*). The Law of God is the only effective foundation for freedom and justice.

The Ten Commandments cover our responsibility to God, to our parents and to other people. Each command deals with a specific area (God, worship, speech, time, authority life, love, property truth and conscience). Each command includes prohibitions and each command includes an implicit right (Freedom of worship, the Right to know God's will and to do it, Freedom of speech, the Right to work and to rest, Respect for authority the Right to life, the Sanctity of marriage, Private ownership of property the Right to be protected from slander and Freedom of conscience). Adherence to God's Law would result in respect for God, respect for people and respect for property - a society where we could love our neighbour instead of fearing our neighbour.

"The Law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes." Psalm 19:7-8

How then can so many Christians claim that God's Law is no longer applicable to us today? Are we free to worship other gods? Can we now bow before idols and take God's Name in vain? May we desecrate the Lord's Day and dishonour our parents? May we kill - at least pre-born babies or the very old and infirm? May we now commit adultery, steal, lie and covet? Which of God's Ten Commandments may we break without fear of serious consequences? God is not a permissive God. He didn't give us the "*Ten Suggestions!*"

"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both body and soul in hell." Matthew 10:28

Only the fear of God can produce lasting justice and righteousness in individuals, families, churches and nations. Only to the degree that people fear God and obey His commandments can society function for the good and freedom of all its citizens. Honest and hard work abound when God is feared (Leviticus 25:43; Colossians 3:22).

Sound economic practices flow from the fear of God (Nehemiah 5:9-13).

"For the nation or kingdom that will not serve You will perish, it will be utterly ruined".
Isaiah 60:12

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord ..." Psalm 33:12

When something is repeated in Scripture it emphasises its importance. Loving God, His Name, His Law and His Word is mentioned 88 times in the Bible. Trusting God and His Word occurs 91 times. There are 278 references to Fearing God in the Bible. The Fear of God is mentioned more times than any other aspect of devotion. The reverential awe, respect and fear of God must be the fundamental attitude of our Faith. Any view of God which doesn't lead us to fear God and obey His Law cannot be a Biblical view.

"Great and marvellous are Your deeds, Lord God Almighty, just and true are Your ways, King of the ages. Who will not fear You, O Lord, and bring glory to Your Name? You alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before You, for Your righteous acts have been revealed." Revelation 15:3-4

Unless we as individuals, families, congregations, communities and nations return to God's Word, we will be doomed to suffer the inevitable consequences of humanistic situation ethics - escalating STD's, inflation and unemployment and increasing corruption, crime and violence.

It's God Law or chaos.

"See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction ... love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commands, decrees and laws; then you will

live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land..." Deuteronomy 30:15-16



Chapter 16

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21

Each command deals with a specific area.

Each command includes a prohibition.

Each command includes an implicit right.

Each command includes a call to action.

AREA	FORBIDS
1. God	Polytheism/Pantheism/Atheism
2. Worship	Idolatry of statues/icons/pictures/people/false religion
3. Speech	Profanity/false prophecies/blasphemy
4. Time	Desecration of Sabbath
5. Authority	Disrespect/dishonour/disobedience
6. Life	Murder/abortion/euthanasia
7. Love	Adultery/pornography/perversion/homosexuality
8. Property	Theft/socialism/laziness/bad stewardship
9. Truth	Perjury/gossip/slander/media bias
10 Conscience	Coveting/greed/selfishness/socialism

1. I am the Lord your God ... You shall have no other gods before Me.

Forbids: Polytheism, pantheism and atheism.

Right implied: Freedom of worship.

2. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything... you shall not bow down to them or worship them.

Forbids: Idolatry of statues, icons, pictures, people or false religions.

Right implied: The right to know God's will to do it.

3. You shall not misuse the Name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His Name.

Forbids: Profanity, false prophecies and blasphemy.

Right implied: Freedom of speech.

4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work.

Forbids: Desecration of the Lord's Day.

Right implied: The right to work and to rest.

5. Honour your father and your mother.

Forbids: Disrespect, dishonour and disobedience towards our parents and anyone in authority over us.

Right implied: Respect for authority,

6. You shall not murder.

Forbids: Murder, suicide, abortion and euthanasia.

Right implied: The right to life,

7. You shall not commit adultery.

Forbids: Fornication, adultery, pornography, perversion and homosexuality.

Right implied: The sanctity of marriage,

8. You shall not steal.

Forbids: Theft, fraud, socialism, laziness and vandalism.

Right implied: Private ownership of property,

9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.

Forbids: Perjury, gossip and slander.

Right implied: The right to have one's name protected from slander.

10. You shall not covet ... anything that belongs to your neighbour.

Forbids: Coveting, envy, greed, selfishness and socialism.

Right implied: Freedom of conscience.

Obedience to the Decalogue would result in:

Respect for God

Respect for People

Respect for Property

The Ten Commandments cover:

I-IV Our responsibility to God

V Our responsibility to Parents

VI-X Our responsibility to People

The Ten Commandments are **the foundation for our rights**: Freedom of worship, the right to know God's will and to do it, freedom of speech, the right to work and to rest, respect for authority, the right to life, the sanctity of marriage, private ownership of property, the right to be protected from slander and freedom of conscience.



Chapter 17

Biblical Principles for Everyday Issues

ABORTION

Psalm 139:13-16; Exodus 20:13; 21:21-24; Prov6:17; Isaiah 44:24;

Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:41-44; Proverbs 24:11; 31:8; Psalm 127:3; Deut 14:16;

Matt 18:14

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Exodus 21:12-16; Gen 9:6; Lev 24:17; Num 35:33; Acts 25:10-12;

Rom 13:4; Prov21:15

CHILD ABUSE

Lev 18:21; Matt 10:14; 18:5, 6, 10; 25:35-40; Deut 6:7-21, Psalm 127:3

CRIME

Exodus 22:1-6; Lev 20:46; Numbers5:6-8; Eccl 8:11; 1 Peter2:13, 14

DEBTS & DEFICITS

Proverbs 22:7; Psalm 37:21; Romans 13:8; Deut 28:43,44

EDUCATION

Col 2:8; Prov22:6; 2Tim 2:15; 3:16,17; Matt 28:19; Romans 12:2; Psalm 111:10; Is 18:20; Psalm 78:3-7; Deut 6:2, 4-7; Deut 11:19; Eph 6:4

EVOLUTION

Gen 1:1; John 1:1; Hebrews 1:2; 11:3; Col 1:16, 17; Romans 1:18-25;

Psalm 14:1; 19:1; 2 Peter 3:3-5

FAMILIES

Gen 2:24; Matt 19:5; Eph 5:33; 1 Tim 5:8; Exodus 20:12; 2 Cor 12:14

GAMBLING

Ex 20:17; 1 Thess 4:5; Matt 16:26; Col 3:4, 5; Eph 5:5; Prov 21:25,26

HOME SCHOOLS

Prov 22:6; Deut 6:6-9; Eph 6:4; Deut 11:18-21; 1 Tim 4:12

HOMOSEXUALITY & PERVERSION

Gen 19:4-24; Lev 20:13; Romans 1:24-32; 1 Cor 6:9, 10; Deut 22:5; Lev 18:22; Hebrews 13:4; Jude 7

HUMANISM

Romans 1:22-25; Psalm 14:1; 2 Tim 3:1-5; Gal 1:10; 2 Peter 2:1

INFLATION

Lev 19:35, 36; Isaiah 1:22-25; Deut 25:13-16; Ez 22:18-22; Prov 11:1; 20:10;

Amos 8:5-7

JUSTICE

Isaiah 33:22; Deut 16:18, 19; Prov 14:34; 17:15; 23:10; 24:23-25;

Amos 5:21-24

MAKING COVENANTS WITH GOD'S ENEMIES

2 Chron 19:2; Isaiah 5:20-24; 28:15-18; Ps 108:13

NATIONAL DEFENCE

Nehemiah 4:13-23; Psalm 144:1,2; Ecc 3:1-8; Num 1:2-3; Judges 3:2;

Deut 20:1-4; Num 32:20; Judges 5:16-18, 23; Deut 28:1,7; Lev 26:14-17

PORNOGRAPHY

Eph 5:3-7; Ez 23:14-20; Matt 5:27-30; Gal 5:19-21; Luke 17:1-3;

James 1:15; Psalm 101:3; Colossians 3:5-10; Rom 1:23-28; Heb 13:4

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Acts 4:19; John 1:11, 12; Mark 10:17-22; 2Cor3:17; 1 Peter2:16;

Gal 5:1, 13; Acts 5:29; John 8:32-36

SATANISM

Exodus 20:3; Deut 18:9-13; Rev 9:20; 13:4; 14:9-11

SEX EDUCATION & VALUES MANIPULATION

1 Peter 1:16; Eph 5:1-6; Exodus 20:14

SUNDAY OBSERVANCE, KEEPING THE LORD S DAY

Ex 20:8-10; Isaiah 58:13-14; Lev 19:30; Ex34:21; Deut 5:12-15; Is 56:2;

Neh 13:15; Jer 17:27; Ezek20:13; 22:8; Acts 20:7; Rev 1:10

TAXATION

Exodus 20:15-17; 30:14, 15; 1 Samuel 8:10-18; 1 Kings 21:3; Ezra 7:24 TELEVISION

Romans 12:2; 2 John 10; Jude 4; Deut 13:3, 4; Psalm 1:1-3; Matt 5:29; 6:22;

Phil 4:8; Rom 1:28; 8:7; Psalm 94:11; Proverbs 15:26

UNITED NATIONS & WORLD PEACE

Psalm 127:1; Isaiah 2:2-4; 56:7; 59:13-15; Rev 18:4; Psalm 2;

Jeremiah 6:14; 8:11; 1 Thess 5:3; 2 Peter2:19; Jeremiah 17:5; Psalm 146:3

WITCHCRAFT & SUPERSTITION

Deut 18:9-13; Exodus 22:18; Lev 19:28-31; 20:6; 1 Sam 15:23;

1 Chron 10:13; Isaiah 8:19; Micah5:12; Gal5:20



Chapter 18

A Practical Strategy to Restore Biblical Values

In the Bible book of Nehemiah we read of a successful strategy that rebuilt the walls and gates of Jerusalem.

Information

Nehemiah gathered his information from eye-witnesses. He investigated the situation personally confirmed the facts, separated truth from rumour and then presented the facts to the people and the authorities. We, too, need to gather and distribute information. We must support the various independent newsletter ministries such as:

Christian Action, PO Box 23632, Claremont, 7735, South Africa Web: www.christianaction.org.za

Christians For Truth, Private Bag 250, Kranskop 3550, South Africa Web: www.cft.org.za

Frontline Fellowship, PO Box 74 Newlands 7725, South Africa Web: www.frontline.org.za

Gospel Defence League, PO Box 587, Seapoint 8060, South Africa

JOY! Magazine, PO Box 2990, SomersetWest7130, South Africa Web: www.joymag.co.za

that are "*earnestly contending for the faith.*" We need to distribute these publications and spread the Word. Also see the Key Contacts Directory at the back of this book. We need to read more good Christian books.

Intercession

Prayer was an integral and essential foundation for Nehemiah's strategy. We need to establish prayer groups, prayer chains and prayer networks to seek God for revival, reformation and the restoration of spiritual life and Scriptural principles in our society (2 Chron. 7:14). We need to pray.

Involvement

Nehemiah enlisted qualified help, encouraged his workers, motivated them and organised them in delegated tasks. We need to get involved in Christian Action groups to restore Biblical, pro-life, moral and family values in our schools, stores, media, law courts and

government. Participate in the seminars and projects organised by Africa Christian Action (e-mail: info@christianaction.org.za, or write to: PO Box 23632 Claremont 7735), and Christians for Truth (e-mail: mail@cft.org.za or write to: Private Bag 250 Kranskop 3550). We need to get involved.

Investment

Nehemiah invested his time, his money, his resources and his very life in rebuilding Jerusalem. In the same way, we need to sacrifice and work for the necessary resources to support those people, publications and projects that will seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Implementation

Nehemiah did not allow any obstacle to prevent him from completing his task. Although he had limited resources, little experience and minimal security, he did not hesitate. Despite criticism, slander, discouragement and opposition, in less than two months he had transformed a pile of rubble into a secure wall for protecting Jerusalem. So too, we must stand firm and fight. We must put our plans into action and get involved in the Parents Teachers Association and School Governing Body in our local school or the home schooling movement. Write letters to your local newspapers and to members of parliament. Vote Biblically. We must make ourselves available to Bible based groups where we can help in co-operating with other Bible-believing Christians.

The problems in our society stem from human depravity. We have neglected God's Word and we have disobeyed His commandments. The Biblical solution to this wickedness is: repentance from sin, a return to studying the Bible, a rediscovery of the Biblical agenda, and reformation. In other words we need a Holy Spirit inspired obedience to God's Word to restore God honouring standards in every area of personal, family, church, community, economic, judicial and political life.

Let us work together to *"seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness"*. May we be found faithful. Faithful to His Word and faithful to His work.



Chapter 19

Understanding Other Worldviews

We are living in a world war of worldviews. The Bible warns us: *"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of the world rather than on Christ."* Colossians 2:8

Everyone has a worldview. Whether consciously or unconsciously whether consistently or inconsistently, everyone has a worldview, their set of pre-suppositions and assumptions (which may be true, partially true or false).

Our worldview consists of those sets of beliefs and presuppositions which we hold about the basic realities of our world. Our worldview determines our values, influences how we think and therefore guides how we live.

THE BASIC QUESTIONS OF LIFE

Our worldview needs to answer the basic questions of life:

1. **What is reality?** (Materialism maintains that there is no reality beyond the physical.)
2. **What is our basis of knowledge?** (Rationalism seeks to discover reality through human reason alone. Empiricism declares that reason alone is not sufficient. All our knowledge must be based upon information provided by our senses.)
3. **How can we know what is right or wrong?** (Existentialism evaluates everything from subjective personal experience. Agnosticism maintains that it is impossible to settle the primary questions in life because of the limitations of human knowledge.)
4. **What is man?** (The evolutionist maintains that we are matter in motion, evolved slime, monkeys who mutated, from goo to the zoo to you. From mud to monkeys to man. A cosmic accident. The result of random chance.)
5. **What happens to a person after death?** (According to Hinduism we are reincarnated in a kind of cosmic recycling of souls, either moving up the ladder to become holy cows, or sliding down, because of bad karma, possibly to become insects.)
6. **What is the meaning of history?** (Marxism maintains that history is driven by economic determinism. The post-modernist maintains that there is absolutely no meaning to history.)
7. **Why is there suffering and evil?** (The polytheist, who believes in many gods, maintains that it is because of conflict between the various gods.)
8. **What is the purpose for our existence?** (The hedonist maintains that we should live for our own personal pleasure. The materialist proclaims that *"he who dies with the most toys*

wins!" Humanism ultimately destroys all purpose for one's existence: "You came from nothing, you are going nowhere, life is meaningless.")

9. **How should we live?** (The Muslim claims that we should live in obedience to Sharia law - based upon the Quran and the Hadith - the teachings and practices of Muhammad.)

THE BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

1. The Bible makes clear that **God is ultimate reality**. "In the beginning was the "Word, and the "Word was with God and the "Word was God." John 1:1

2. **Our basis for knowledge is God's Revelation**. "In the past God spoke...through the prophets...but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son..." Hebrews 1:1-2

3. **We can know what is right and what is wrong from the Word of God**. "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

4. **Man was created by God but human nature is sinful**. Because we have been created by God there is some good even in the worst of us. However, because we are fallen, there is bad even in the best of us. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works..." Ephesians 2:10

5. After death, each one of us will face eternal judgment and either enjoy God's gracious rewards in **Heaven** or endure just punishment in **hell**. "Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment." Hebrews 9:27

6. **History is His story**. God is sovereign over history. "The most high is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and He gives them to anyone He wishes." Daniel 4:25

7. **Suffering and evil are a result of man's rebellion against God since the Fall**. "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." Galatians 6:7

8. **The purpose of our existence is to glorify God and to worship Him forever**. "Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31

9. **We should therefore live in obedience to the Bible**. "The Lord your God commands you this day to follow these decrees and Laws, carefully observe them with all your heart and with all your soul." Deuteronomy 26:16

UNDERSTANDING HUMANISM

By way of contrast, Humanism is a religion that deifies man and dethrones God. Francis Schaefer defined Humanism as: "The placing of man at the centre of all things and making him the measure of all things."

Alexander Solzhenitsyn describes Humanism as: "The proclaimed and practised autonomy of man from any higher force above him."

The theology of Humanism is **atheism** - the belief that there is no God.

The biology of Humanism is **evolution**. Man is a product of evolutionary chance.

The ethics of Humanism is **amorality**, or relativism. There are no moral absolutes.

The psychology of Humanism is **self-actualisation** or existentialism. Everything revolves around "self."

The sociology of Humanism is **a classless world society** - the abolition of the traditional family.

The economics of Humanism is **socialism** - the redistribution of wealth through government interference.

The politics of Humanism is **globalism** - a one-world government.

One can recognise **the Humanist agenda** in many films, articles and books:

Man is a product of evolutionary chance, and this theory must be taught as a fact of science in schools.

Education must be controlled by the state.

Education must be secular, free of moral absolutes, and non-Christian.

Sex education must be compulsory in the schools.

Pornography should be allowed as 'free speech'.

Abortion is a woman's right.

Homosexuality is an acceptable 'alternative lifestyle'.

Criminals are 'victims of society' requiring treatment and rehabilitation. Rather than punish criminals, it is society as a whole that should be punished.

The right of citizens to obtain, own and use firearms for self-defence must be limited and eventually eliminated.

All power and authority must be gradually and progressively centralized in big government.

The results of Humanism are written all over the pages of recent history: the revolutions, the massacres and totalitarianism of the Communist East; the permissiveness and decadence of the democratic West; the pornography plague, the drug epidemic, the crime explosion, the

escalating inflation, the abortion holocaust, and the AIDS and STD pandemics. These are just some of the inevitable results of the moral anarchy of Humanism.

"Why do the nations rage and the people plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against His anointed One: Let us break their chains, they say, and throw off their fetters. The One enthroned in Heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. Then He rebukes them in His anger and terrifies them in His wrath saying: I have installed My King on Hon, My holy hill.... Therefore you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear..." Psalm 2:1-11

UNDERSTANDING ANIMISM

Animism is **spirit worship**. It has been heavily promoted by some Hollywood films such as *Pocahontas*, *Brother Bear* and *Harry Potter*. Animism is the primary religion of millions of people scattered throughout Africa, New Guinea, the Pacific Islands, North and South America, Australia, New Zealand, India and Japan. Elements of basic Animism are also adhered to by many nominal Muslims, Buddhists and "*Christians*".

Animism involves **Necrolatry**, the worship of the souls of the dead. Tribal people tend to regard the departed ancestors as part of the clan and fear the harm that the departed can do to the living. They especially fear that those who died unnaturally will come back to haunt them. Animism involves spirit worship, believing in the existence of personal spirits or demons, as well as impersonal spiritual forces in nature, which inhabit the earth, the air, fire, water, trees, mountains and animal life. Life for the Animist is dominated by a host of taboos and rituals to placate the spirits.

Animism involves **naturism**, the personification and worship of the forces of nature. For example, the worship of the sun in Ancient Egypt, the sacred cow of the Hindus in India, and the sacred mountain of Shintoism in Japan. Naturism normally involves polytheism (the worship of many gods) and idolatry. In nature worship, rituals and sacrifices are intended to guarantee fertility. Human sacrifices are an extreme example of this.

Animism involves **totemism**, ("*Brother - Sister - Kin*") emphasizing the unity of the clan with some sacred plant or animal.

Animism involves **fetishism** (the superstitious belief that there is some spiritual energy or force in charms, amulets or fetishes). Normally witchdoctors are involved as Shamans, "*expert mediators*" who know the proper incantations and sacrifices at times of sickness and disasters to placate "*the spirits*." The witch doctors use **imitative magic** to bring harm to an enemy by attacking a representation of him (such as a voodoo doll!) or **contagious magic** which utilizes some hair clipping, nail paring, sweat, spit, or faeces to bring a curse on an individual. The blood of an animal (or a person) may be drunk in order to gain the strength of that animal or (in the case of cannibalism) person.

Animism is characterized by the absence of real love and hope. There are **no moral absolutes** (sin is seen as the violation of culture, custom and spirit forces rather than any

personal ethical transgression). The whole of life is pervaded with, and governed by, fear. Animism is pervaded by fatalism and a sense of helplessness in the face of external forces.

Heathenism does not deny God as much as ignore Him by worshipping natural forces and mysterious demon powers through magical ceremonies and sacrifices.

"When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you. You shall be blameless before the Lord your God. For these nations which you will dispossess listen to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the Lord your God has not appointed such for you." Deuteronomy 18:10- 14

UNDERSTANDING HINDUISM

Hinduism is actually a collection of religions incorporating Animism and philosophy, one god and many gods, vegetarianism and sacrifices. Hinduism is a pluralistic network of religious beliefs and systems ranging from the philosophical (self-realization), to *Vedic* (rituals and good works), to village Hinduism (idolatry, occultism and animism).

Hinduism is syncretistic, it absorbs elements of any religion it encounters. Widely perceived as a religion of tolerance, its global influence is significant through the New Age movement and the Hare-Krishna movement. Many concepts of Hinduism have become part of 21st Century post-modern culture including yoga, gurus, karma, reincarnation, and transcendental meditation.

The Hindu concept of god is **pantheistic**, and their theology is **syncretistic**. Hinduism, as a conglomeration of ideas, beliefs, convictions and practices, varies from people to people and from region to region. However, Hinduism can be understood under 6 broad categories:

1. **Philosophic Hinduism** is dominated by the authority of the *Vedas* and the *Upanishads*. Philosophic Hinduism teaches that there is a spark of divinity in man, hence to call man a sinner is blasphemous. Therefore there is no need for a saviour.

2. **Religious Hinduism** places strong belief in *Avatars* (incarnations of gods). Hindus are at liberty to choose their own god from amongst a pantheon of over 330 million gods. They teach that salvation can be obtained in one of three ways: the way of knowledge, the way of devotion, or the way of good deeds.

3. **Popular Hinduism** is influenced by ancestral tradition, worship of animals, temple cults, magic and exorcism. Popular Hinduism is primarily concerned with receiving blessings and prosperity from a god who protects its adherents.

4. **Mystic Hinduism** follows those who claim to have supernatural gifts of healing, the ability to perform miracles, to read the inner thoughts of people, and to prophesy the future. These mysterious and apparently spiritual gurus are seen as *Avatars* (incarnations of gods).

5. **Tribal Hinduism** is much influenced by Animism, spiritism, the occult, necromancy, and animal worship. The fear of the unknown produces instinctive dread over these followers' minds.

6. **Secular Hinduism** is increasing as more and more Hindus become nominal in their beliefs and indifferent to religious practices. They follow only those customs which fulfil their materialistic tendencies.

Underlying all Hindu behaviour, religious activity and thought is the doctrine of *karma*. According to Hindu thought, all of life is controlled by this law, the law of works. Your behaviour in a past life determines your fate in the present life, and your deeds in the present life determine your future reincarnation. The endless cycle of birth and rebirth is called *Samsara*- reincarnation. When you build up bad *karma*, you move down the ladder. If you have developed good karma, you move up the ladder. A Hindu works for the day when, having completed his karma, he will finally be able to break out of this cycle of reincarnation to escape into freedom called *moksha*.

Hinduism is a religion of **polytheism, pantheism and syncretism**.

Hindus believe that all religions lead to god. They, therefore, reject the need to change from one religion to another. Hindus also reject the concept of sin. Vivekamandasaid: "*It is a sin to call anyone a sinner.*"

Although the concept of salvation exists within Hinduism, it is understood as liberation from the cycle of rebirth, not forgiveness for one's own personal guilt. The Hindu doctrine of salvation is radically different from the Christian doctrine. Similarly, when a Christian speaks of being born again, a Hindu would generally think of reincarnation.

It is not necessary to defend the existence of God to Hindus, although, with their pantheistic concept of God, it is essential that we clarify and define who we mean by God. The Hindus have a great respect for sacred writings, including the Bible. Hindus will listen attentively to an exposition of Scripture.

Hindus also have a great respect for the person of Christ, the quality of His relationship with people, His teachings (particularly the Sermon on the Mount), His suffering, and His unique and vicarious sacrifice of Himself; all these have a strong appeal to the Hindu.

As Christian communicators, we need to build on this basic respect for Christ with an understanding of what Christ taught and who He is - the Word made flesh.

The Hindu doctrine of *karma* is a barrier to their understanding of Salvation. However, it can be used as a bridge to communicate the Gospel to Hindus. The Bible does teach that what we sow is what we reap. What we do now affects our eternity. However: "*It is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment.*" Hebrews 9:27

The Hindus must be told of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who by His vicarious suffering and death upon the cross, triumphed over sin and has taken upon Himself the penalty for all our sins. Hindus need to understand the Atonement.

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM

Islam, being a monotheistic religion which claims to build upon the foundations laid by Judaism and Christianity, has numerous points of agreement with Christianity.

Christians and Muslims agree that:

God created the world and all that is in it, as well as Heaven and hell.

God is all powerful, that He knows everything and that He is everywhere, all the time.

God has revealed His Will to mankind through the prophets.

God has given us laws, which should govern our lives and prevent us from doing wrong.

God will judge all people, some being permitted to go to Heaven, while all others are doomed to hell. Muslims are often allies of Christians in opposing Evolution, Atheism, pornography, gambling and abortion.

However, Islam contradicts the Bible by claiming that Jesus was no more than a prophet. Muslims deny the Deity of Christ. To the Muslim, Jesus was a good man, but not the Son of God. Islam denies the Trinity and the Atonement of Christ on the cross. In Islam, there is no Atonement or reconciliation of the sinner to God. Neither by means of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, nor by any other substitutionary sacrifice can sin be forgiven in Islam.

Much of the Quran is made up from Bible stories; however, they are often distorted and misunderstood. For example: Adam and Eve sinned, not in an earthly garden, but in paradise. They were cast down to earth after they had sinned. Noah had only one son, and he drowned in the flood. Moses, in the Quran, was adopted by pharaoh's wife, not his daughter. Although the Quran recites Moses' confrontation with pharaoh 27 times, not even once does it include the most integral part of the story - the Passover is omitted!

The Tower of Babel, according to the Quran, was built by pharaoh in Egypt! The Quran teaches that Mary, the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, was the sister of Aaron, and the daughter of Imran, who lived 1,500 years before the birth of Christ!

The Five Fundamentals, which all Muslims must believe in, include: One god, **Allah**; the existence of **angels**; the revealed **books** (*Taurat* - the Old Testament, particularly the books of Moses; the *Zabur* - the Psalms of David; the *Injil* - the New Testament, particularly the Gospels; and the Quran); the **prophets** sent by Allah, and **life after death**.

The Six Pillars of Islam are: the open **confession** of faith; the five daily **prayers** towards Mecca; the keeping of the **fast** each day during the full month of Ramadan; the giving of **alms**; the **pilgrimage** to Mecca; and **holy war** (*jihad*).

Despite the history of Muslims persecuting Christians, the Quran teaches that Jesus was born of a virgin, was holy and faultless, that He is the Messiah, the Word of God, a Spirit from God, that He created life, that He healed the sick, that He raised the dead, that He came with clear signs and miraculous wonders, as a sign to all mankind, that He is illustrious in this world and in the hereafter, and that He was raised to Heaven from where He will come back for judgment (Surah 4:171; 5:113; 19:19 -21, 91; 43:61).

What the Quran teaches about the Lord Jesus is a good place to start when witnessing to Muslims. Of which other prophet could it be said that he was holy and faultless, that he healed the sick and raised the dead and that he is coming again to judge?

EVALUATING ANYONE'S WORLDVIEW

To evaluate anyone's worldview, we need to ask the following general questions about any film producer, scriptwriter, director, author, journalist, politician, teacher or anyone else:

1. What are his fundamental beliefs about life?
2. What is he using to interpret the facts?
3. What are the practical implications of his worldview?
4. How consistent is his worldview?
5. What implications would it have for me personally?
6. What would it mean for the world in general?

We can also ask certain specific questions:

1. **Intellectually** - What does he believe is true about himself and his place in history?
2. **Physically** - How does he treat, or mistreat, his body?
3. **Socially** - How does he interact with friends and enemies, the rich and poor, the strong and the weak?
4. **Economically** - What is his motivation in work and how does he spend his money?

5. **Ethically** - What moral guidelines and obligations direct his thinking about justice and righteousness?

WHY WE THINK AS WE DO

1. **Heredity** - The genetic makeup received from our parents.
2. **Culture** - The system of moral and aesthetic values in the society in which we live.
3. **Family** - Upbringing, events and relationships.
4. **National** - The political developments and crisis situations that affect each one of us.
5. **Education** - At home and at school.
6. **Entertainment** - The music we listen to, the films we watch, the books we read and the things we do.
7. **Relationships** - Our friendships, the people with whom we work, neighbours and marriage partner.
8. **Personal choices** - or the lack of them.
9. **Revelation** - God's acts of grace in communicating to us through His Word and in His works.

RECOGNISING HUMANISM IN THE MEDIA AND TEXTBOOKS

Agnosticism - maintains that it is impossible to settle the primary questions of life because of the limitations of human knowledge.

Atheism - the denial of the existence of God.

Egalitarianism - the belief that total equality must exist for everyone in every area of life: political, social, cultural, and economic. All opinions, talents and wealth must become equal, not merely in opportunity, but in result.

Existentialism - an introspective Humanism, an attempt to create a personal identity from a meaningless universe based on the subjective feelings the individual. *"Live for the moment!"; "My personal experience NOW!"*

Hedonism - the doctrine that elevates pleasure as the sole end and good in life. Our only duty is fulfilled in the gratification of one's own personal pleasure. *"Decrease the pain; increase the pleasure."*

Materialism - the belief that nothing exists other than matter. Everything else that exists is material and is only the result of the product of time, chance and matter. *"A whole lot of time, and a whole lot of nothing, made everything!"*

Nihilism - the theory that this universe is meaningless and without purpose. Nothing is worth living for.

Pantheism - the belief that God is identical with the universe. God and nature are synonymous. Everything is God and God is everything.

Relativism - the theory that truth is only whatever a particular individual or society decides that it is. There are no objective standards of right and wrong, no universal truths, and no absolute code of conduct. All truth is relative. Values clarification and situational ethics are expressions of this.

Utilitarianism - *"The end justifies the means."* The belief in Radical individualism, and autonomy unguided by virtue. Personal happiness and success are achieved and justified by whatever means are necessary to obtain them. Using circumstances and people is justified. The goal is everything. Whatever means are needed to reach it are utilized and justified.

Secular Humanism says: "There is no God to save us; we must save ourselves!"

Post-modernism says: "There is no absolute truth; we must create our own!"

New Age thought says: "There is no God; I am my own god!"

HUMANISM IS SELF DESTRUCTIVE

"At first the temptation is to see mankind as God. Then it becomes us as god. And finally it is me as god. So the progression moves from the worship of man, to the worship of us, to the worship of me. In the end all anthropolaters become Idolaters. 'I am god!' Like little antichrists that exalt to magnify themselves in the temple of their minds." - Dr. David Noebel

Evolution is an attempt to abort God retroactively. Evolution destroys all meaning, purpose, direction, justice and hope in life. *"You came from nothing, you are going nowhere, life is meaningless."*

Education - Secular Humanism is attempting to kill God by eradicating Him from the classroom and from the minds of the next generation. By eliminating the Bible as the basis for all knowledge, Humanists remove the very foundation of truth; they prohibit the only objective standard by which reality can be evaluated.

Ethics - Humanism has rejected the Law of God and is instead vigorously promoting situation ethics, amorality, existentialism, hedonism, pornography, homosexuality, sex education and abortion.

Entertainment - Superficial, sensational and immoral material predominates in the modern entertainment industry. It is producing an increasingly superficial, selfish, mindless and immoral society.

Economics - The unworkable wastage of welfare and socialism destroys incentive, initiative, income and industry.

Exhaustion - Bombarded by brainwashing and overstimulated by images, most people in our society are mentally, spiritually and emotionally exhausted.

"But those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength..." Isaiah 40:31

"Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15



Chapter 20

God, Government and the Ten Commandments

When Professor John Wycliffe of Oxford University produced the first hand-written translation of the New Testament into English (in the 14th Century), he wrote in the preface: *"The Bible is given for the government of the people, by the people, and for the people."*

American President, Abraham Lincoln, quoted from Wycliffe in his famous Gettysburg Address when he said: *"that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the face of the earth."* Lincoln also noted that: *"The philosophy of the classroom will become the philosophy of the government in the next generation."*

Many people labour under the delusion that the Bible has nothing to say concerning social structures, constitutional models or political affairs. However, while approximately 29% of the Bible deals with spiritual matters and our personal lives, 71% of the Bible deals with social, political and national issues.

Our Lord Jesus Christ taught important spiritual principles and concepts that affect every area of social and political life. To the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, Jesus said: ***"You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given to you from above."*** John 19:11 Civil authority is clearly delegated by, and answerable to, God.

The Bible is very clear that God has instituted civil government as ***"an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer."*** Romans 13:4. The civil government is called to be a minister of God's justice: ***"to punish those who do wrong."*** 1 Peter 2:14

The primary duties and responsibilities of civil government are the protection of law-abiding citizens and the punishment of law-breaking criminals. Psalm 101 reminds us that the duty of God-honouring rulers is to destroy the wicked, to root out evil and to protect the law-abiding.

Jesus taught that we are to: ***"Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."*** Matthew 22:21 The civil government does have certain legitimate rights and responsibilities, but these are very limited. We are to pay taxes (but any taxation as high as 10% was condemned as: *"oppressive"* 1 Samuel 8:10 - 18), to serve in the military when required, to testify in court as a witness to any crime, and to respect the life, property and reputation of our neighbours. However, our worship of God, the education of our children, our private property, our individual enterprise and personal views (freedom of worship, freedom of education, free enterprise, freedom of speech) are clearly not made in the image of Caesar and are outside of the lawful jurisdiction of a Bible-based constitutional state.

Our Lord upheld the authority of the moral, social, economic and political Laws of God as recorded in the Old Testament: ***"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the prophets• I have not come to abolish them, but to fulfil them. I tell you the truth until Heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law... anyone who breaks one of the least of these Commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven, but whoever practises and teaches these Commandments will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven."*** Matthew 5:17-19

In His public teaching, Jesus affirmed the Old Testament Laws against murder, theft and adultery (Matthew 5:21 - 27); the dishonouring of parents (Matthew 15:4); and perjury (Matthew 19:18). The Lord also affirmed the right to private ownership of property and the free market exchange and profit (Luke 16:11; 19:12-27; Matthew 20:1 - 15; 25:14-30).

Our Lord also taught that civil authorities are to be public servants (Matthew 20:25 28): ***"The kings of the gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves."*** Luke 22:25 - 26

It is for this reason that officials in civil government are called *"ministers"* or *"servants"* of God. The concept that civil government is a servant of its citizens is a uniquely Christian idea that originated from these verses. Hence the term *"Prime Minister"* - as the first servant.

While most groups today emphasise external solutions to our many social problems - salvation through politics, or through changed social structures and laws - the teachings of Christ emphasize the need for internal change, within our hearts and minds. ***"For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander..."*** Matthew 15:19

True freedom comes from within. The foundations for a truly free and prosperous nation can only be laid in characters, minds and lives changed by the grace of God. In order to be successful, a society needs to be made up of honest citizens who will not steal, diligent workers who are hard-working and productive, compassionate families who are concerned for their neighbours, responsible workers who will fulfil their obligations and be faithful

stewards of public resources. For nations to be strong, their families need to be strong. For governments to be good, their citizens need to be good. Those who cannot control themselves are not capable of ruling over a city (Proverbs 16:32). Those who cannot manage their household well are not qualified to lead others (1 Timothy 3:4-5).

God has instituted **four spheres of government**:

1. **Self-government** - symbolised by our conscience.
2. **Family government** - symbolised by the rod of discipline.
3. **Church government** - symbolised by the keys of church discipline.
4. **Civil government** - symbolised by the sword of justice.

God also established, in the government of Israel, **ten key principles of freedom**:

1. **A written constitution** (covenant), based on the revealed Word of God, to define clearly and restrict the powers of government.
2. **A separation of powers** and functions into three branches of civil government: **Executive** (the king or judge), **Legislative** (the Council and Sanhedrin) and **Judicial** (the elders or judges in each community). These three branches of government are based on how the Lord revealed His Government (Isaiah 9:6 - 7): *"For the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Law Giver, the Lord is our King..."* Isaiah 33:22
3. An **independent judiciary** and **the right to a fair trial** (2 Chronicles 19:5 - 7). In Deuteronomy 19:15-19, the principles for a fair trial were set out: a) one is innocent until proven guilty, b) the right to due process of law, c) witnesses must personally confront the accused, d) a matter must be established by two or three witnesses, e) judges must be impartial.
4. A **national legislature** (law making body) where one house was composed of representative judges or officials elected by the people (Deuteronomy 1:13 - 17): *"But select capable men from all the people - men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain - and appoint them as officials..."* Exodus 18:21
5. A **second house** in the legislature was composed of two hereditary elders from each of the eleven tribes (or geographic areas) of Israel in addition to 24 priests from the tribe of Levi and two scribes from each of the 12 tribes. This formed the Sanhedrin.
6. An **executive officer** (judge or king) elected under the guidance of God and with the consent of the elders (Deuteronomy 17:14-20; 1 Chronicles 11:3).
7. A **decentralized state** with most responsibilities and powers resting on the local government, the family and the individual. (Centralization of power in a unitary state has always been a pagan tendency as seen in Nineveh, Egypt and Babylon.) Because power

corrupts, it is wise to limit and divide the powers of civil government in a system of checks and balances. (Exodus 24:1; Deuteronomy 1:13-17; Acts 17:26)

8. A **citizen's army** (militia) made up of trained citizens who have the right and duty to bear arms for the defence of their home, family, community and nation. (Numbers 1:2-3; Judges 3:2; Deuteronomy 20:1-4, 9)

9. A **free market economy** based on the private ownership of property and individual free enterprise. Any taxation of 10% or higher was defined as *oppression* and any taxation of property, or inheritance, was strictly forbidden. Institutions and individuals involved in the full time service of the Lord were not allowed to be taxed. Biblical economics also forbid *unjust weights* (unbacked currency) and *measures* (inflation). (Exodus 20:15, 17; Deuteronomy 19:14; Proverbs 10:2-4; 1 Thessalonians 3:10; 1 Samuel 8:10-18; 1 Kings 21:3)

10. An **education** programme controlled by parents, aided by the Church, but independent of the state. (Deuteronomy 6:7; Ezra 7:23-24; Matthew 28:19; Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 2:8)

The Ten Commandments not only provide the foundations for all social order, but they are also the foundations for all our rights. Each Command deals with a specific area: God, worship, speech, time, authority, life, love, property, truth and conscience.

"The Law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The Commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes." Psalm 19:7-8

The Ten Commandments cover our responsibilities to God, our responsibilities to our parents and our responsibilities to people. Obedience to the Decalogue would result in: **respect for God, respect for people and respect for property.**

"The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." Psalm 19:7

Each Command includes a prohibition. For example: *"You shall have no other gods before Me..."* forbids polytheism, pantheism, and atheism. However, each Command also includes an implicit right. For example, the first Commandment implies freedom of worship.

Similarly, when the Third Commandment forbids profanity, false prophecies and blasphemy, and when the Ninth Commandment forbids perjury, gossip, or slander, these are the only restrictions given to speech. Outside of those limited prohibitions, there is freedom of speech.

Aside from forbidding idolatry in the Second Commandment and covetousness, greed and selfishness in the Tenth Commandment, we have freedom of conscience.

Where the Sixth Commandment forbids murder, suicide, abortion and euthanasia, it entrenches the right to life, just as the Seventh Commandment prohibiting fornication,

adultery, or perversion, entrenches the sanctity of marriage. Similarly by the Eighth Commandment forbidding theft and fraud, it entrenches the right to private ownership of property.

The Ten Commandments are the foundation for all these rights:

1. Freedom of worship.
2. The right to know God's Will and to do it
3. Freedom of speech.
4. The right to work and to rest.
5. Respect for authority.
6. The right to life.
7. The sanctity of marriage.
8. Private ownership of property
9. The right to be protected from slander.
- 10 Freedom of conscience.

The Bible defines sin as "*lawlessness*" 1 John 3:4.

Jesus said: "*If you love Me, you will obey what I command.*" John 14:15

"Hate evil, love good• maintain justice in the courts... let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never failing stream'." Amos 5:15, 24

As George Washington declared: "*Religion and morality are the indispensable supports to good government.*"

"He knows not how to rule a kingdom, that cannot manage a province; nor can he wield a province, that cannot order a city; not he order a city, that knows not how to regulate a village, nor he a village, that cannot guide a family, nor can that man govern well a family that knows not how to govern himself, neither can any govern himself unless his reason be

Lord, and his will and appetite his vassals; nor can reason rule unless herself be ruled by God and wholly be obedient to Him." Hugo Grotius



About the Author

Dr. Peter Hammond is a missionary who has pioneered evangelistic outreaches in the war zones of Mozambique, Angola and Sudan. Often travelling by off road motorbike, Dr. Hammond has travelled hundreds of thousands of kilometres to deliver Bibles to persecuted Christians in Africa and Eastern Europe. In the course of his missionary activities Peter has been ambushed, come under aerial and artillery bombardments, been stabbed, shot at, beaten by mobs, arrested and imprisoned. On some mission trips he has flown far behind enemy lines to the beleaguered Nuba Mountains in Central Sudan with tonnes of Bibles, books and relief aid. He has then walked throughout the war devastated Nuba Mountains showing the Jesus film in Arabic, proclaiming the Gospel, training pastors and evading enemy patrols.

Rev. Peter Hammond is the Founder and Director of Frontline Fellowship the Chairman of Africa Christian Action and of The Reformation Society. He is the author of Victorious Christians - Who Changed the World, Answering Skeptics, Practical Discipleship, Faith in Action, Faith Under Fire in Sudan, Holocaust in Rwanda, the Great Commission Manual, Putting Feet to Your Faith, In the Killing Fields of Mozambique, The Greatest Century of Missions, Slavery, Terrorism and Islam, The Greatest Century of Reformation and The Power of Prayer Handbook. He has co-authored or contributed to: Fight for Life, Make a Difference, The Pink Agenda and South Africa - Renaissance or Reformation? He is also the Editor of both Frontline Fellowship News and Christian Action Magazine and a Contributing Editor of JOY! magazine.

For over 33 years, Peter has been dedicated to assisting persecuted Christians and to working for Reformation and Revival in Africa. Peter has developed the Biblical Worldview Seminar and Great Commission Course to mobilise Christians to comprehensively apply the Lordship of Christ to all areas of life and to effectively fulfil the Great Commission.

Peter was born in Cape Town (in 1960) and brought up in Bulawayo (in what was then war torn Rhodesia - now Zimbabwe). He was converted to Christ in 1977, worked in Scripture Union and Hospital Christian Fellowship, served in the South African Defence Force and studied at Baptist Theological College, Cape Town. He earned a Doctorate in Missiology and has been Awarded an Honourary Doctorate in Divinity. Peter is married to Lenora (whose missionary parents Rev. Bill and Harriett Bathman, have pioneered missionary work into

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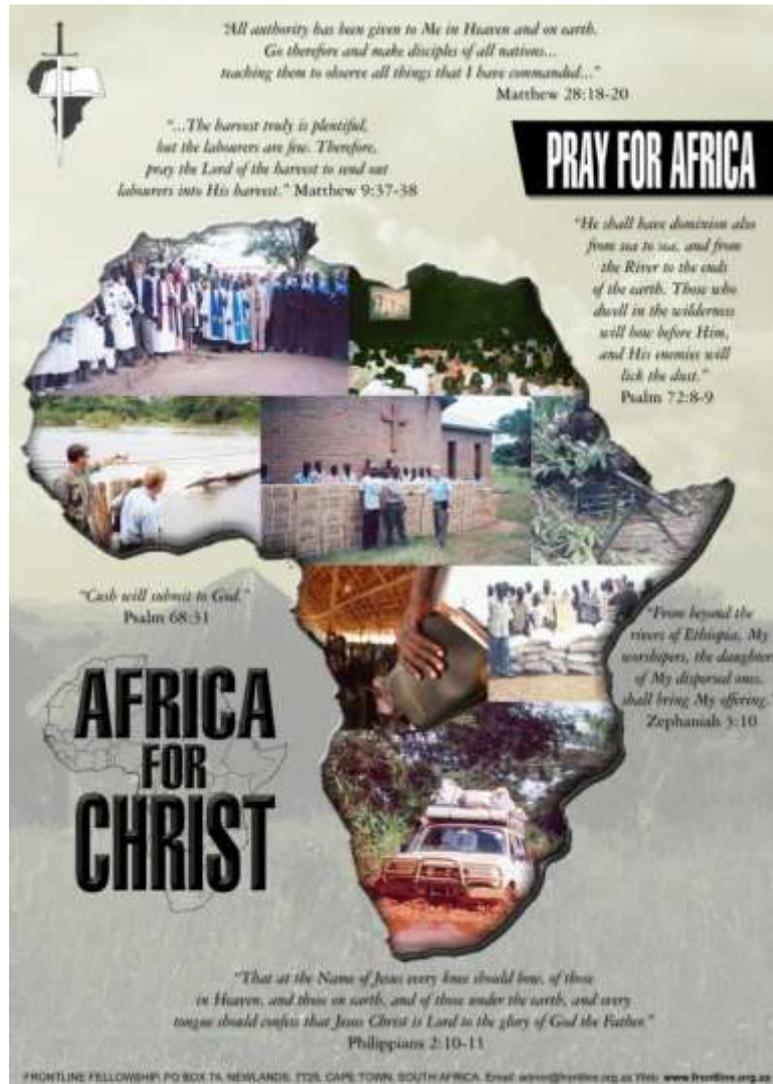
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*"All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on earth.
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...
teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded..."*
Matthew 28:18-20

*"...The harvest truly is plentiful,
but the labourers are few. Therefore,
pray the Lord of the harvest to send out
labourers into His harvest."* Matthew 9:37-38

PRAY FOR AFRICA

*"He shall have dominion also
from sea to sea, and from
the River to the ends
of the earth. Those who
dwell in the wilderness
will bow before Him,
and His enemies will
lick the dust."*
Psalm 72:8-9

"Cath will submit to God."
Psalm 68:31

**AFRICA
FOR
CHRIST**

*"From beyond the
rivers of Ethiopia, My
worshippers, the daughters
of My dispersed ones,
shall bring My offering."*
Zephaniah 3:10

*"That at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those
in Heaven, and those on earth, and of those under the earth, and every
tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father."*
Philippians 2:10-11

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