

CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP Manual

How We Live Our Faith In The World

A Faith & Freedom
Christian Life Foundation Project



Christian Civics Training - Enhanced Edition – Not For Electronic Circulation

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Table of Contents

Topic	Page
Introduction	3
What is Christian Citizenship	5
Who Rules America	7
The Church's Role in Formation of Our Nation	10
The Difference Between Politics and Civics	14
A Godly Call to Action	16
Forming a Christian Citizenship Team (CCT)	20
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet with Your Pastor• Create An Atmosphere of Christian Citizenship• Identify the Issues• Strategies to Address these Issues• Be Faithful, Courageous, and Committed	
Building Your Team	22
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop Mission, Purpose, and Impact• Find Others to Help• Expanding Beyond Your Church• Resources	
Staying Connected	24
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordinate with State Leadership• Stay Connected with Other CCT's• Meet with Legislators• Help To Create other Church Teams	
Vote Kingdom	25
We Will Stand	26

INTRODUCTION

“God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the Gift of God.” Thomas Jefferson

It should not be a surprise to us that our nation has slipped from a God-centered focus to a philosophy of secularism which states that religion is the enemy of true freedom. For the secular world, freedom means to do what you want, when you want, and to whom you want without judgment or penalty. This has led us to abortion, same sex marriage, assisted suicide, attacks on religious liberty, and now trying to make pedophilia a disorder rather than a criminal act.

This has all happened because over 50 million Christians have stayed away from the public discourse of ideas and do not vote. We often confuse politics with civics. We have been told that politics is dirty, that we have a dual citizenship (citizenship in the Kingdom of God and citizenship as an American and that the two should not mix). Many pastors won't speak on the evils that many now call good. We have lost the ability to tell the difference between electing politicians and electing statesman.

As Christians have withdrawn from the world, those who are against God and against faith have taken control and now actively seek to destroy Christianity and promote an atheistic worldview in government, education, , science, technology, the economy, the media, and all forms of entertainment. All of these mediums attempt to marginalize people of faith, the church, our home life, and almost every other part of our lives and they seek to even destroy the founding principles of our nation.

It would seem that all is lost, but it is not. For while the secularists have gained control of most every aspect of our lives, we still have God on our side. It is time to respond as He would have us do. How is that? The Bible answers that question very directly:

Luke 19: 12-26 Is the parable of the three servants each given talents. One got 10, one got 5, and one got 1 talents. The one with the 10 and 5 both invested the talents and returned more to their master. The one with 1 talent buried it in the ground. “You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.”²² He said to him, ‘I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow?’²³ Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?.” Are we using our talents for God?

And this message from God:

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in everyone. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. (1 Cor. 12:4-7)

These two messages are clear. We are to use our own special talents given by God to work for His Kingdom. We do not hide, we do not surrender, and we do not forget that we are called to His service every day of our lives. So we must become not just citizens in the world but Christian citizens who serve God in the world. There is no dual citizenship; our citizenship is one with God.

Contributors

- John Radell, Director, Mid Atlantic Director, Faith and Freedom Coalition
- Larry Denver, Director, Faith and Freedom Coalition, Pennsylvania
- Charles Beatty, Director, Faith and Freedom Coalition, Pennsylvania
- Brenda Roames, Director, Faith and Freedom Coalition, New Jersey
- Bill Federer, Director, American Minute
- Craig Seibert, Director, The Christian Civics Training Initiative

What is Christian Citizenship

"Make sure of your commitment to Jesus Christ and seek to follow Him every day. Don't be swayed by the false values and goals of this world, but put Christ and His will first in everything you do." Billy Graham

"Christian Citizenship" is bringing God's perspective, principles and values to all domains in our society, where they can be heard and applied for the benefit of all people. These Godly values guide us in all actions, and lead us in all activities.

These values as stated in the Bible are:

- love God with all your mind and heart and strength
- love your neighbor as yourself
- act right and love what is right and good
- oppose evil at all levels
- be informed and engage in the issues of our day
- live our faith in all we do and protect the faith and the church

What we must understand as Christian citizens that we are co-regents in ruling our country. We as citizens have a civic responsibility to co-govern our nation, state, city, and local municipality. In a constitutional republic we pick people to represent us in our various levels of government. Their actions become ours by the proxy of our vote. So we have an everyday responsibility to watch over their actions and give them instruction on what they are doing right or wrong. God will not hold us guiltless should we allow their bad actions to go unchallenged.

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Matthew 7:21

"The Founding Fathers understood that only by making government the servant, not the master, only by positing SOVEREIGNTY in THE PEOPLE and not the state can we hope to protect freedom." ~ President Ronald Reagan

We must take responsibility for our community to insure that we are witnesses to divine justice, not social justice. Real justice comes from God not man. Real justice is living the moral responsibility of our faith.

This means as Christians we are involved in government, education, community, and politics; because all domains are God's and we are His stewards here on earth.

We all have a personal relationship with God so, are we not called to live out that relationship in every action? There is nothing in our Constitution that

prohibits the expression or application of faith in the public square. The first amendment reads: ***“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”***

This simply means the federal government cannot create a national religion nor a single church of the United States. Christianity is the basis of what our Founding Fathers believed, lived and practiced in every aspect of their lives; including government. We must do the same thing and let our faith season all we are and all we do in all areas of life. We must engage in the dialogue of thoughts and ideas in the public square. In America, we have more than a right to let our faith shine forth; we have an obligation.

So “Christian Citizenship” requires us to act. We must inform members of our church when religious liberty is under attack and when the moral values of our families, culture and our nation are being undermined. We must train and equip those who run for office with an understanding of the Christian values on which this nation was built.

We must pray for all leaders. We must be stewards of our country or answer to God for our inaction. We should always start the discussion on good and evil and be ready to defend good at all times. “Christian Citizenship” is faithful, courageous and committed to “One Nation Under God.” Below are quotes on two aspects of Christian Citizenship:

Preach to government. *Ephesians 4:15*

We are to speak the truth to our governmental leaders. We dare not be silent because we are called to share the gospel with whomever and wherever God calls us. We need to tell every official that what is politically correct is sometimes morally wrong! It is Satan's strategy to keep good people silent in evil times. Your calling, and mine, is not to rise in the polls of popularity, but to pursue holiness! Without stammer or stutter or hint of equivocation, we need to speak up in truth for God's glory!”

Participate in government.

Daniel Webster said, “Whatever makes a man a good Christian makes him a good citizen.” Don't let the world intimidate you into believing the lie that the phrase, “separation of church and state” is a mandate for your eradication or worse, neutralization from governmental affairs! When you were saved, you weren't disenfranchised from the world. You were saved to impact the world for Jesus Christ; to bring glory to God with every moment of every day. The only hope for America is Jesus Christ! Your mission is to pray for the Holy Spirit to call sinners to Himself and for you to have an impact in your home, your neighborhood, your workplace, your community, and your nation for the glory of Jesus Christ.

~ JR, CS, BR, CB

Who Rules America

For the LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our king; he will save us. Isaiah 33:22

The title of this chapter is so critically important for **“we the people”** and our pastors. Our Founding Fathers held God to be sovereign the citizens of the nation were the rulers through their elected representatives. Lacking that understanding of how our Constitutional Republic was created, the President, Congress, and **“we the people”** have allowed a new King to rule the land: the courts.

The “King” According to our Constitution

The three quotes below show that Benjamin Franklin knew the government was a servant of the people. Samuel Adams knew that **“we the people”** serve God and that government serves us.

“In free governments the rulers are the servants, and the people their superiors and sovereigns. For the former, therefore, to return among the latter was not to degrade but to promote them.”
Benjamin Franklin

We have this day restored the Sovereign to whom alone men ought to be obedient. He reigns in Heaven, and with a propitious eye beholds his subjects assuming that freedom of thought and dignity of self-direction which He bestowed on them. From the rising to the setting sun, may His kingdom come!
Samuel Adams

But where, say some, is the King of America? I’ll tell you, friend, he reigns above, and doth not make havoc of mankind like the Royal Brute of Great Britain.... let it be brought forth placed on the Divine Law, the Word of God; let a crown be placed thereon, by which the world may know, that so far as we approve of monarchy, that in America the [divine] law is king.
Thomas Paine

So our Founding Fathers designed a government where the people were “king” and the counselors to the king were the pastors and the church. (See Bill Federer’s book- Who is the King in American and Who are the Counselors to the King. But God was ultimately the sovereign ruler over all.

However, in America, over time, the courts have assumed more and more power. They stopped ruling on what the laws said constitutionally, and shifted to begin to tell us what laws should be made. That not being enough, they further usurped their authority and began to create law themselves (throwing out prayer, legalizing abortion, making same sex marriage the law of the land) Who do we blame for this? Our Presidents? Certainly most presidents abdicated their executive authority to the courts.

Congress? The members of Congress have refused to stand up to the courts the power of the purse or the power of limiting the courts jurisdiction which they have control over. So they just went along with the courts.

So in essence, the courts have become king in deciding for all of us what is law and what is not; and therefore, how we must all live our lives.

The ones with the greatest responsibility for what has happened are “we the people” and our counselors, the pastors. We have shied away from our responsibilities as “king,” and counselors have abdicated the Word of God to the decisions of the courts.

More quotes about this from our Founding Fathers:

“You seem to think it devolved on the judges to decide on the validity of the Sedition law. But nothing in the Constitution has given them a right to decide for the Executive, more than the Executive to decide for them. Both magistrates are equally independent on the sphere of action assigned to them. The judges, believing the law constitutional, had a right to pass a sentence of fine and imprisonment; because the power was placed in their hands by the constitution. But the Executive, believing the law to be unconstitutional, were bound to remit the execution of it; because that power has been confided to them by the Constitution. That instrument [the Constitution] meant that its coordinated branches should be checks on each other. But the opinion which gives to judges the right to decide what laws are constitutional, and what not, not only for themselves in their own sphere of action, but for the Legislature and executive also, in their spheres, would make the judiciary a despotic [tyrannical] branch.”
Thomas Jefferson

“Sovereignty resides in THE PEOPLE; they have not parted with it.”
Justice James Wilson

In short, the Founding Fathers said there was no final supreme arbiter of the Constitution. The three branches have the responsibility of determining the constitutionality within its own branch. Yet the courts have assumed the role of king and now nine unelected judges decide all laws, action, culture and religion for all 350 million of us.

The Commission of the Pastor

God is Sovereign, the people rule as His proxy, (as did the Apostles), therefore this means that pastors have the rulers of America sitting in their church pews every Sunday. It is time to counsel the king every Sunday with the truth of God’s word and its application to societal issues and civil government. And its time to show the desperate need for Christians to be involved in the discourse and development of ideas and laws for our nation. We must remove the courts as “king” and renew the truth that in America the people are “king.”

Wake Up America

In America the cities are failing, education is failing, and religious liberty is under attack. The people and the other branches of government sit shivering in fear of the courts and the political machines and activists donors that keep the courts in power. This is not right. The courts should have a healthy fear of the other branches of government and the people themselves.

Imagine traveling through a kingdom to visit the king, and on the way you witness all kinds of corruption and crime, even crime being committed by servants of the king. As you enter the king's chamber, he reluctantly asks you, "Did you see all the crime and corruption, I wish someone would fix it." It is time to remind ourselves that "WE THE PEOPLE" have the power to rule in America. It is our responsibility to fix it.

~ BF, BR, JR, CB

The Church's Role in Development of our Nation

***"In the name of God, Amen...Having undertaken,
for the glory of God, and advancements of the
Christian...in the presence of God, and one another,
we covenant and combine ourselves together into
a civic politic."*** *Mayflower Compact 1620*

On November 11, 1620 the Pilgrims (then known as Separatists), wrote the first governing document of Plymouth Colony. This group, originally headed to Virginia, were blown off course and settled in an area where they needed to establish their own "self rule" They established their own government and governing documents. As you see, the first to enter their document was God. The Mayflower Compact was written around the Christian faith, and set forth a Christian Vision of those who lived under its agreement.

IN 1638, Christian groups lead by Thomas Hooker broke away from the Puritan Massachusetts, relocated in Connecticut and in 1639 wrote the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut. It stated:

***"For as much as it hath pleased Almighty God by the
wise disposition of His divine providence so to order
and dispose of things...and well knowing where a
people are gathered together the word of God requires
that to maintain the peace and union of such a people
that should be an orderly and decent government
established according to God...do therefore associate
and conjoin ourselves to be as one Public State."***

Again, God was first in their minds as they created the foundations of a new form of government. The new Americans loved God first, their new nation second, and pledged an oath to God and each other third. The foundations of government in the new nation were set firmly on faith.

Prior to the American Revolution the King of Spain, trying to bring peace between the Catholic Church and the newly formed Protestant Reformation; signed a treaty that said each country's faith is according to the faith of their king. This idea caused even more persecution against those whose faith did not match the king's. The newly formed United States of America said something entirely different. Our Founding Fathers believed that

- All men are created equal
- They are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights
- Those rights are life, liberty and pursuit of happiness

- Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed

The governed in this case said our nation is a Christian majority that believes in God; but no one Christian faith is above another. They accepted God's divine power as absolute, and as a key part of our laws, government, and structure as a nation. Our nation's future was tied to the Christian faith, was linked to our founders actions and the Bible was tied to the documents that set us free from Britain, The Declaration of Independence established our form of government and rules of order were established through the U.S. Constitution.

These quotes show that truth:

George Washington

"It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and Bible."

"The propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained"

"What students would learn in American schools above all is the religion of Jesus Christ. It is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favors."

John Adams

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

Thomas Jefferson

"God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the Gift of God?...That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever."

"I am a real Christian – that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus Christ."

There are hundreds of quotes on this topic from our Founding Fathers. They knew that the building blocks of liberty were firmly set in the word of God; and that our nation could not, or would not survive without a loyalty to Him who granted us grace to win our independence. The importance of this could not be more boldly stated:

Patrick Henry

"It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ. For this very

reason peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here."

Pastors were also heavily involved in our founding. Their sermons for over 150 years, from 1620 to 1776, informed and inspired the people. Logically, the first act of the Continental Congress in 1774 was to pray. That established habit has happened ever since.

Once the Constitution was put into operation , the first Speaker of the House of Representatives was a pastor - the Rev Frederick A. Muhlenberg,

Prayer and the Christian faith were laid as the cornerstone of the foundation of our nation; remove this cornerstone and our society and our nation will collapse.

Consider these additional words from our Founding Fathers.

The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity. I will avow that I then believed, and now believe, that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God John Adams

I conceive we cannot better express ourselves than by humbly supplicating the Supreme Ruler of the world . . . that the confusions that are and have been among the nations may be overruled by the promoting and speedily bringing in the holy and happy period when the kingdoms of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ may be everywhere established, and the people willingly bow to the scepter of Him who is the Prince of Peace Samuel Adams

Called on the people of New Hampshire . . . to confess before God their aggravated transgressions and to implore His pardon and forgiveness through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ . . . [t]hat the knowledge of the Gospel of Jesus Christ may be made known to all nations, pure and undefiled religion universally prevail, and the earth be filled with the glory of the Lord Josiah Bartlett

Grateful to Almighty God for the blessings which, through Jesus Christ Our Lord, He had conferred on my beloved country in her emancipation and on myself in permitting me, under circumstances of mercy, to live to the age of 89 years, and to survive the fiftieth year of independence, adopted by Congress on the 4th of July 1776, which I originally subscribed on the 2d day of August of the same year and of which I am now the last surviving signer Charles Carroll

As to Jesus of Nazareth, my opinion of whom you particularly desire, I think the system of morals and His religion as He left them to us, the best the world ever saw or is likely to see. Benjamin Franklin

"that universal happiness may be established in the world [and] that all may bow to the scepter of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the whole earth be filled with His glory." John Hancock

The great pillars of all government and of social life [are] virtue, morality, and religion. This is the armor, my friend, and this alone, that renders us invincible. Patrick Henry

I recommend a general and public return of praise and thanksgiving to Him from whose goodness these blessings descend. The most effectual means of securing the continuance of our civil and religious liberties is always to remember with reverence and gratitude the source from which they flow. John Jay First Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

I am a Christian in the only sense in which He wished anyone to be: sincerely attached to His doctrines in preference to all others. Thomas Jefferson

The blessing and protection of Heaven are at all times necessary but especially so in times of public distress and danger. The General hopes and trusts that every officer and man will endeavor to live and act as becomes a Christian soldier, defending the dearest rights and liberties of his country. George Washington "

Were we founded on Christian beliefs? The answer could not be more clear. They lived by, were guided by, and endorsed the Christian faith and doctrine. It guided their thinking, their writings, their seeking of Independence, and the formation of our laws.

Dr. Martin Luther King said, "Darkness cannot defeat darkness only light can. Hate cannot defeat hate only love can." Dr. King's words run true and only fortify that which our Founding Fathers believed. *Jesus answered* Dr. King and all of us by saying,

"I am the way the truth and the life." John 14:6

Our nation's heritage, foundation and hope was in God's divine providence. Without Him, our nation would not have prospered.

~ JR, CS, BF

The Difference Between Politics and Civics (Is an Important Difference to Know)

We live in challenging times. A majority of Americans are concerned about the cultural direction of our country. When asked what would make the biggest difference in a change of direction, a majority responded “a return to traditional moral values.”

God has provided a path for such a solution. It entails His followers practicing and living out their faith in their personal lives, in their family life and in their public life as well. This requires that people of faith be taught and equipped to have a biblical worldview about all of life.

This is where the challenge can come in.

In this day and age, so many topics that are biblical topics have been labeled as political by cultural leaders. Once they are labeled as such, the church is threatened to “stay out of politics” and not discuss these topics. Even the church’s own members will shut a pastor down or complain if there is any perception that a pastor or church leader might be commenting on one of these topics that is deemed to be “political.”

So, the biblical topics of life, marriage, human sexuality, work, welfare, purpose of civil government, self defense, ethics, and so many others are no longer preached about from our pulpits, or discussed in our Sunday schools, simply because the cultural powers that be have said the church is not allowed to say anything.

We need a change of thinking!

One way to change this paradigm is to change how we talk about “church and politics.” A transformation in both thinking, and in how we approach teaching about these cultural topics from a biblical perspective, can be achieved simply by identifying the difference between “Politics” and “Civics.”

Politics

If you were to take a look at several modern dictionaries, you would find these definitions and phrases are identified with the word “politics:”

- The study of political units
- Opinions on political questions
- Social relations involving intrigue to gain political power
- Understanding how government bureaucracy works in order to gain power and use government bureaucracy to further political aims
- Gaining political power or advantage

You will notice the recurring theme that bubbles to the surface is this idea of “getting, keeping, and using political power.”

Civics

In contrast, as you take a look at the idea of civics, a very different set of definitions and phrases are associated with the word.

Civics is the study of...

- rights and duties of citizenship.
- government with attention to the role of citizens
- humans as members of society, or to civil affairs

Here the theme is about the role of citizens as a part of civil society. It starts with personal responsibility, then responsibility to family and responsibility to others. Ultimately, then, government's role is the protecting of the God given rights of all.

What a difference in definitions!

Politics – “How can I get, use, and keep power?”

Civics - “How can I understand, participate, and serve?”

Politics vs. Civics

To expand the comparison and contrasting further, this list of word associations helps differentiate the two words.

Politics	Civics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People• Personalities• Persona [crafted media image]• Parties• Programs• Propaganda• Power• Privilege• Pandering• Pushiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Society• Structures• Sphere of Responsibility• Stability• Character• Competency• Freedom• Liberty• Nature of God• Nature of Man• Principles

Notably, as you look at these lists, you could replace the heading on each list with the words “Politician” on the left side and “statesmen” on the right side.

For more information on this go to: <http://christiancivicstraining.org/role-of-the-church/>

Wow!

What if the church took this new language set, and went about the business of teaching Christian Civics and discussing the cultural issues of the day and combined that with training future Christian Statesman to serve in our local, state, and national governments? What a difference that would make!

~ CS

A Godly Call to Action

"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 underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house."

Matthews 5:13-15

A godly call to action is fulfilling Jesus' command to be "salt and light" in the world. Jesus makes it clear that this is a part of a Christian's way of life.

This call of being "salt and light" is not only a process of personal evangelism and sharing the message of God's love with others. It is God's plan for keeping and preserving culture. It is God's plan to mature us and grow us as believers.

When we as Christian citizens take God's principles, perspectives and values into all domains of life, we are challenged to learn what the Bible says about the cultural issues of our day, and then learn how to articulate those ideas to others. This has the affect of "growing" us. When these biblical ideas are challenged, or when we run into another perspective, it causes us to have to go back, and dig deeper, and learn more about the Bible and about our faith.

At a minimum, the call to action for every citizen in the United States is to exercise the stewardship of their vote. Mark Twain captured the possibility that this simple act of faith could have a profound impact on our nation:

"It will be conceded that a Christian's first duty is to God. It then follows, as a matter of course, that it is his duty to carry his Christian code of morals to the polls and vote them. Whenever he shall do that, he will not find himself voting for an unclean man, a dishonest man.

If Christians would vote their duty to God at the polls, they would carry every election, and do it with ease. Their prodigious power would be quickly realized and recognized, and afterward there would be no unclean candidates upon any ticket, and graft would cease. If the Christians of America could be persuaded to vote God and a clean ticket, it would

bring about a moral revolution that would be incalculably beneficent. It would save the country."

~ Mark Twain, Colliers magazine, September 2, 1904

That is a remarkable and powerful **“Call To Action.”** But the Godly **“Call to Action”** can be and should be more than just voting.

The call to action might be sharing a biblical perspective with a family member or friend. It might be attending a school board or city council meeting. It might be making a phone call to a city, state or federal official. It might be finding, promoting and electing someone to public office. It could be so many things. This manual will help you decide what a personal action plan for yourself, and your team might be. (See “Forming a Christian Citizenship Team.”)

We are challenged by Pastor Charles Finney that we are duty-bound to this greater level of engagement, not only for ourselves and this current generation, but for generations to come.

“The church must take right ground in regard to politics [civic engagement]. Politics [civic engagement] are part of a religion in a country as this, and Christians must do their duty to their country as a part of their duty to God. God will bless or curse this nation according to the course Christians take in politics [civic engagement].”

~ Charles G. Finney, Lectures on Revivals of Religion, 1868

A Christian who has never considered living out their faith in this more comprehensive fashion may entertain the thought that it might be hard or at sometimes scary.

Well it can be. It is new territory for many. But you have a promise from the Lord Jesus Christ, that **“Surely I am with you until the end of the age.”** You will find that when you study what God’s thoughts and principles are on a matter, and you take the action step of sharing this in the public realm, that you will experience the presence of God in a unique way.

You will have a sense of being on a mission with God and being used by Him. You will grow in your confidence of, **“Hey I did that once. I felt God’s strength. He truly was helping me and my courage is strengthened. I know I can take that step of faith again.”**

When you move into this **“Call to Action,”** you move into a new level of courageous living and into a new dimension of “experiencing” God.

A Christian might also say, **“Well I don’t want to offend people or keep people from coming to faith.”** This is a false fear and can keep us from the Jesus’ calling of being “salt and light.”

In reality, a Godly call to action that is done in the love of Christ, with the proper amount of “salt and light” for the cultural setting you are in, will actually have a different affect. It will actually draw people to the faith.

Consider this from Albert Einstein:

“Being a lover of freedom, when the revolution came in Germany, I looked to the universities to defend it, knowing that they had always boasted of their devotion to the cause of truth; but no, the universities were immediately silenced.

Then I looked to the to the great editors of the newspapers, whose flaming editorials in days gone by had proclaimed their love of freedom; but they, like the universities, were silenced in a few short weeks....

Only the Church stood squarely across the path of Hitler’s campaign for suppressing truth. I never had any special interest in the Church before, but now I feel a great affection and admiration for it because the Church alone has had the courage and persistence to stand for intellectual and moral freedom. I am forced to confess that what I once despised I now praise unreservedly.”
~ Albert Einstein

What a powerful testimony to God’s church!

So, remember to be anchored in prayer, just as Nehemiah was as he began the work of Cultural Restoration. He first heard about the terrible condition of Jerusalem, and his heart was burdened, and he cried out to God.

“O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants,

I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s house, have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name.

Nehemiah 1:5-11

After seeking God in prayer, Nehemiah took the time to do “boots on the ground” reconnaissance in Jerusalem, so he could assess the real state of things, and then he came up with an action plan.

That is what you will do too. You will take the time to get a proper “lay of the land” for the cultural issues in your community, city and state. You will seek out and study the biblical ideas around a particular issue, and come up with an approach that might allow you to effectively express your ideas in a public context.

Then ask God for courage, and take a step of faith and express yourself.

Take this courage from Nehemiah.

“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 home.” Nehemiah 4:14

Remember these words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer:

“Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”

~ CS, JR

FORMING A CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP TEAM

**Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.
Proverbs 27:17**

1) Meet with your Pastor - The first step is to meet with your pastor to discuss the idea of a Christian Citizenship team in your church and ask for approval. You must be ready to do the work. The last thing a pastor needs is to have one more thing that takes away from pastoral activities. The pastor is there to give advice and you are responsible for keeping the pastor informed.

2) Create an atmosphere of Christian Civics and Christian Citizenship

– It is important to create a foundational understanding on the biblical principles of self-government, the institution of the family, the role of the church in society (evangelism, discipleship, salt and light), and the proper role of civil government (to restrain evil and to allow good to flourish). Understanding the faith, courage and Providences of God in our nation's founding is also critically important in order to bolster our faith today. Understanding the biblical principles behind the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution provide people of faith incredible resolve to see those principles restored today. You can use www.ChristianCivicsTraining.org to help create this atmosphere at your church.

Lastly, getting a biblical perspective on the issues of the day – life, family, marriage, education, defense, economy, taxes, immigration, justice, poverty, racism, the environment, religious liberty, and the proper role of civil government is critically important.

3) Identify the Issues - It is important that you identify the issues in your state that impact the faith, religious liberty, and the church. As you identify the issues you then must prioritize those you will address first and how you will communicate them to your church. It is also important to bring up national issues since they will always find their way to your state.

4) Strategies to Address Issues - Pick issues that are important to your faith and to your local community. In picking one issue (like being able to practice our faith in the public square) and one other issue (for instance education and our children's future) you will maximize the number of people in your church who will want to participate and will act on the information. [Faith and Freedom can help you in this process.] Study the issues first, so you can speak intelligently about the particulars and be ready with solutions to the problems.

The best strategies are the ones that are simple and direct. Such as:

- 1) Tell the truth about what the issue is, what it will do, and why it will impact your church and congregation in a position paper.
- 2) Ask for permission to distribute the paper to your church.
- 3) Meet with other groups and explain the issue and ask for their help.
- 4) Talk with political party leaders and legislators to explain the issue, the impact it will have, and why it will help or hurt the community.
- 5) Hold a press conference to explain and then meet privately with the press to review. Remember the press is not your friend or your enemy but most media outlets have a personal bias on issues.
- 6) Remember, politicians are mostly motivated by re-election.
- 7) Create a voter registration team to be active before all elections.

4) **Be Faithful, Courageous, and Committed**-We are Christians first, and must follow the word of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore we act:

- with compassion and generosity;
- in humility before God and
- a reliance that it is His strength that makes change.

We have courage because God leads us, and we are strong because His Word guides us. Even in the face of defeat we must remain committed to continuing this work. We are called to be faithful, not successful. Do not let failure push you away, and do not let success fill you with pride. Those who are against God and our country will never stop trying to defeat either. We must be diligent in our work and in our efforts so that we keep the holy fire of freedom alive for this and future generations.

"Religion and morality are the essential pillars of civil society."

George Washington,

~ JR, CB, BR

BUILDING YOUR TEAM

**Two [are] better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour
Ecclesiastes 4:9**

1) Develop a Mission and Purpose, and Impact

Christian Citizenship Project

Mission: To use the *Christian Citizenship Leadership Manual* within churches to form civic action teams. These teams will:

- Create an atmosphere of Christian Citizenship
- Become involved in the public discourse of ideas, solutions, and policy.
- Help to form Christian Citizenship Teams in your area and unite to start conversations about rebuilding our state and national culture.

Purpose: To provide pastors, faith group leaders and organizations with a clear vision of what it means to be a Christian Citizen. To educate our congregations on the connection between our founding documents and our nation's Christian roots while dispelling the myths of dualism and separation of church and state. To be a resource by directing these groups to materials, organizations, and websites that can assist them in education within their churches.

Impact: By using this team approach, we will help influence a national resurgence in faith-based involvement in our nation's return to "One Nation Under God." The teams would form thousands of actions centers across our nation to defend the faith, protect the Constitution, and to return our nation to its founding moral culture.

2) Find Others to Help such as:

- Liberty groups, other church groups, family, and political groups.

Your goal is to bring them to the faith message first. Follow Jesus and the rest falls in line.

3) Expanding Beyond Your Church - The most effective network is one that is focused on the same mission and purpose. In order to accomplish this, you must link with other like minded churches and groups. The best way to know what any church or group is about is to do the following:

- Attend the church services and get to know the pastor.

- If it is an organization and not a church, attend their meetings; talk with group leaders and members.
- Identify yourself and your group and what you support.
- Once you find out that they are of the same mindset, hold an event together or join in one of their events as a sponsor.
- Identify groups who are not totally like minded, but have an opportunity to move more in your direction. Find an issue that you do have in common and work on that issue.
- In some cases you may have to shake the dust from your sandals and move on. While you want to give all relationships a chance; you have to be able to determine when that just can't happen.

4) Resources:

Creating an Atmosphere of Christian Civics and Christian Citizenship

- **Christian Civics Training** – www.ChristianCivicsTraining.org – Hundreds of free on-line videos (2min to 6min long) and other free resources that can be used Sunday School classes, small groups, Christian Schools, and social media campaigns. Sign up for a monthly email. A special curriculum page has been set up for the Faith and Freedom Coalition at <http://ChristianCivicsTraining.org/CurriculumFFC/> . Contact – Craig Seibert – USCivicsTraining@gmail.com
- **American Minute** – www.AmericanMinute.com – Sign up for a daily, American Minute history email. Dozens of books written by Bill Federer on American History and society today. Contact – Bill Federer - wjfederer@gmail.com

Identifying and Strategically Addressing the Issues

The Faith and Freedom Coalition (FFC) is called of God to be a resource to pastors, churches and Christian Citizens to bring God's perspective, principles and values to all domains in our society. Let us serve you.

- www.ffcdelaware.com – John Radell – johnradell@reagan.com
- www.faithandfreedomnewjersey.org – Brenda Roames – faithandfreedomcoalitionnj@comcast.net
- www.ffc-pa.com - Larry Denver – lbdenver65@yahoo.com

~ JR, CB, BR, CS

STAYING CONNECTED

Coordinate with State Leadership – Faith & Freedom Coalition has a state affiliate leader in your state. Go to www.ffcdelaware.com and ask them who the leader is in your state. They will direct you to that person. That person will also be able to link you to The Christian Civics Training, and to the American Minute. FFC is your grassroots ground force, The US Civic Training Initiative is your on line civics training, and the American Minute is your history resource and speakers' bureau. FFC state affiliate leaders will be able to walk you through the process of establishing a local network.

Stay Connected With Other Christian Citizenship teams (CCT) - Your FFC state affiliate can also link you to other CCTs in your state or area. It is always good to connect with them to try and coordinate the issues you are working on. The more groups working on the same issue, in unity, the more likely you are to win the issue. So unity of purpose is one of the greatest weapons we have to recapture our culture.

Meet With Legislators – It is important to know the legislators in your state. Especially the leaders of each of your state senate and house committees. You should visit them, even if they are not friends of your issues, to get to know them. The more you meet with them, discuss issues rationally, and work with them for the betterment of your state, the more likely they are to be receptive to your ideas. Don't always go asking for things, sometimes ask how you can help, especially on a issue you would champion.

VOTE KINGDOM

When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan. Proverbs 29:2

In order to live a moral and Jesus-purposed life, we must recognize when we need to stand silent, when we need to stand and fight, and when we need to become the voice that leads others to the glory of God. To do that we must accept and nurture all of Jesus' teachings to the world hungry to find His Kingdom.

To live this moral and ethical life, through the teachings of the Gospel and to defend a culture that leads to service to others, trust in God, and faith in our Savior; means that we must insure that those who we pick to represent us in Congress are people of upright and good stature.

To that end we must:

- Bring people of faith from all Christian denominations, together to stand against the government intrusion into our churches positions on marriage, life, and family; VOTE KINGDOM.
- Understand the attacks against people of faith who do not want to violate their faith by participating in sacrilegious ceremonies and activities.
- Stop the assaults on religious liberties which diminish our culture, our Christian way of life and understand what those assaults are.
- Live life for the Kingdom. We must understand our responsibilities as Christians in our everyday life and stand with God by voting Kingdom.
- Get involved in the public discourse of ideas and support those platforms that protect faith. We vote Kingdom and platforms that support Kingdom not candidates or political parties. It's about civics not politics.

We are the shepherds of our national direction and we will be judged by God for how we leave this nation to our children's children. To vote for anyone who supports abortion, same sex marriage, or the demeaning of our Christian life goes against all that we have been taught by God.

"Voting Kingdom" is an action and a statement for each individual; that they are following after Jesus Christ and seeking to follow his teachings

~ JR

WE WILL STAND

"And I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none."

Ezekiel 22:30

There comes a time when we must decide who we stand with and what we stand for. If it is God; then we must stand for His glory, obey His word, carry our crosses, and live all aspects of our life according to His word. There are no vacations from the word of God.

Today, America faces a crossroads. One road leads us to destruction and following false Gods, and one follows the one true God of Israel. We will be judged by the road we take. It is time to stand and follow God. It is time to stand for what is right and just, it is time to trust God. We do that by living His word in work, play, politics, governing, and all of our actions.

Today you must choose, do you STAND with God, or do you follow the secularism that is trying to consume our nation?