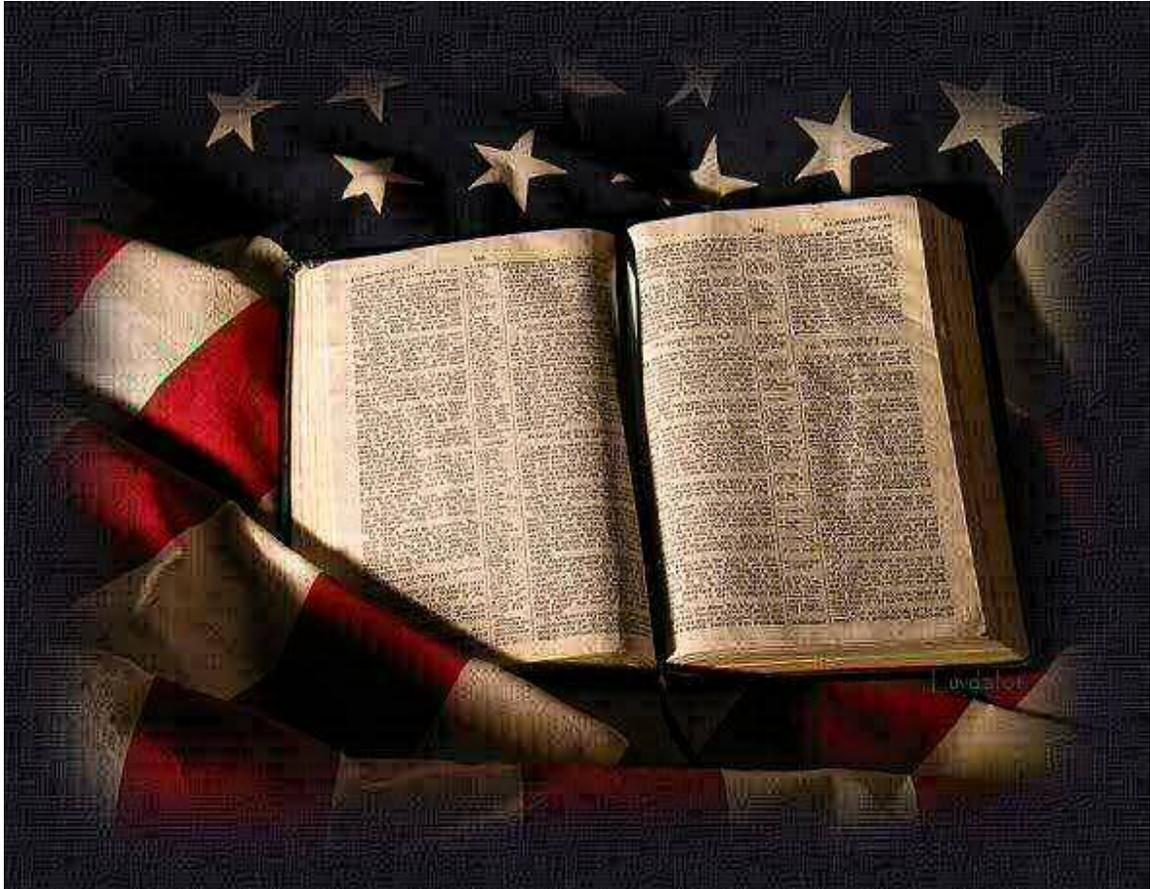


**GOVERNMENT IS NOT THE ANSWER
GOD IS!**



**Thirty-Forth Annual
St. Louis Area-Wide Lectureship
September 18-20
2014**

Welcome to the 34th annual St Louis Area-Wide Lectureship. A timely theme has been chosen. This being an election year and many questions arising from the statement, “separation of church and state” the theme will be “GOVERNMENT IS NOT THE ANSWER – GOD IS!”

What is missing in our nation? What is missing in our leaders. What is missing in our schools? What is missing in our homes? What is missing in our individual lives? Just, what is missing? Who is God? What is God? Where is God? What does God have to offer? All of these, I believe, are very important questions. If we can answer a few of them this, lectureship will be a success.

God has given us an inspired guide (II Timothy 3:16,17) the Bible. It contains everything we need for this life and the one to come (II Peter 1:3). We are blessed to have faithful brethren who will powerfully present from God’s word the subjects as assigned. Let’s be in attendance every session possible as we examine the Scriptures, desiring to be noble-minded (Acts 17:11).

Kendall Fox
2014 Director

GOVERNMENT IS NOT THE ANSWER – GOD IS!

THURSDAY SEPT, 18TH

- 2:00** **NO AUTHORITY EXCEPT FROM GOD** **JERRY JOSEPH**
3:00 **SO GOES THE HOME, SO GOES THE NATION** **WAYNE ROBBINS**
- 6:30** **SINGING**
7:00 **TODAY’S CULTURE AND THE CHURCH** **TIM KIDWELL**
8:00 **ABORTION, VIEWED BY GOVERNMENT AND GOD.** **RAY SULLINS**

FRIDAY SEPT. 19TH

- 2:00** **AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE** **WAYNE ROBBINS**
3:00 **PHILOSOPHIES OF MAN VS. PRINCIPLES OF GOD**
 DAVID CAMPBELL
- 6:30** **SINGING**
7:00 **SHOULD WE SUPPORT LEADERS OPPOSED TO MORAL PRINCIPLES**
 RAY SULLINS
8:00 **SAME SEX MARRIAGE, VIEWED BY GOVERNMENT AND GOD**
 JIM FAUGHN

SATURDAY SEPT. 20TH

- 9:00** **SHOULD CONGREGATIONS CONSIDER UMBRELLA SCHOOLS**
 DAVID CAMPBELL
- 10:00** **A DUMBED DOWN GOSPEL WILL NOT CHANGE OUR SOCIETY**
 TIM KIDWELL
- WOMEN** **GOD’S WOMAN IN TODAY’S CULTURE** **EDITH SULLINS**
11:00 **WHO IS IN CONTROL – GOVERNMENT OR GOD** **JIM FAUGHN**
YOUTH **DOES LEGALIZING DRUGS CHANGE THINGS WITH GOD**
 NELSON KIBBY

Biographical Information:

David Campbell is an elder of the West End Church of Christ in St. Charles, Missouri. He is a college professor teaching in Higher Education for thirty-six years. He earned a B.S. from Arkansas State University, an M. S. from the University of Mississippi, and a Doctor of Science from Washington University. Brother Campbell has been married sixty years. He and his wife have two children and one grandchild. He has a six DVD set on the eldership published by World Video Bible School. He has published a book, *Dehumanization: A Product of Darwinism*, available as a paperback and e-book through Amazon. He has, also, written articles for Think magazine.

Jim Faughn is a native of Metropolis, Illinois. After his high school graduation and receiving a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois, he returned to Metropolis to teach at the high school from which he graduated. He was baptized into Christ during this time and subsequently began preaching on a part-time basis.

In 1978, he began his first full-time local work in Vienna, Illinois. While preaching there, he received a Master's degree from what is now Amridge University. He has preached full-time in Vienna, Illinois, Dexter, Missouri, and, since January of 2001, has served as minister of the Central church of Christ in Paducah, Kentucky. Since December of 2003, he has also served as one of the elders. Four four-and-one-half years, he served as the Director of Off-Campus Advancement for Freed-Hardeman University.

Jim is married to the former Donna Turner of Metropolis, Illinois. They have two children and five grandchildren. Their daughter, Amber, is married to Jeremiah Tatum, who preaches for the Willow Avenue church of Christ in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. Their son, Adam, is married to the former Leah Moon. Adam preaches for the Lebanon Road church of Christ in Nashville, Tennessee.

Besides his local work, Jim has been invited to speak at gospel meetings, workshops, and lectureships in Alabama, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, New York, Tennessee, and Virginia. He has also made two mission trips to India. He has had articles published in various brotherhood publications and is the author of a book entitled *Have You Ever Considered?*

Jerry Joseph was born in Murray, Kentucky. He graduated from High School in Murray, growing up and working on a farm until moving to Calhoun, Kentucky, where he started preaching in November 1973. Jerry attended Murray State University, International Bible College, and Freed-Hardeman University. He has been married to Mary Lou since November 3, 1972. They have five children, two of which live in Murray, KY; one lives in Cookeville, TN; one lives in St. Peters, MO; and the youngest is in Thailand with her husband and three children doing mission work. They have nine grandchildren and a great-grandchild is expected in February.

Jerry has worked with congregations in Kentucky, Alabama, and Tennessee before moving to the St. Charles/St. Peters, Missouri, area in April 2004. He has been involved in radio/tv work over the years, and has preached in gospel meetings and on lectureships. He is presently serving as preacher and one of the elders for the St. Peters church of Christ, St. Peters, Missouri. He, also, serves as a teacher with the Online Academy of Biblical Studies (OABS).

Biographical Information:

Nelson Kibby is a deacon at the Fordland Church of Christ and is Board President of the Happy Hollow Bible Camp, Strafford Missouri. He has worked with the Springfield Police Department for 14 years in their Patrol Division, Community Action Team, and as a narcotics Detective and undercover agent. When not at work he helps on the family farm raising Angus cattle. He and his wife, Julie, have been married for 18 years. They have three girls.

Timothy Kidwell comes from a family of gospel preachers. Both his father and grandfather preached the gospel. Timothy is presently a preacher and an elder at the Branson church of Christ in Branson, Missouri, where he has worked for the past five years. He has served as a minister for the Lord's church for 34 years. He is, also, a Bible instructor for the Bible Institute of Missouri, Springfield, Missouri.

Timothy is a graduate of Freed-Hardeman University. He has worked with congregations in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Texas, Georgia. He spent eight years in Maryland doing stateside mission work. In addition, he has been a regular participant in mission trips to Guyana, South America, almost yearly for the past 16 years and has spoken on numerous lectureships and gospel meetings.

Timothy has been married to Robin (Lowe) Kidwell for thirty-five years. They have three daughters – Holly (McCormack), Autumn (McBrayer), and Reagan. Husbands of his two married daughters are also gospel preachers (Jon McCormack – Cassville, MO., Matthew McBrayer – Newton, KS.). The Kidwells also have six grandchildren with a seventh due in December.

Wayne Robbins has been an evangelist for 50 years. Over the years, in addition to his local work, he has preached numerous gospel meetings, and spoken on lectureships. He also has been an instructor for the following schools: Owassa School of Biblical Studies, Owassa, OK; Winfield School of Preaching, Winfield, KS; Great Plains Bible College, Wichita/Andover, KS. At one time he served as Spiritual Educational Director for the Tipton's Children's Home, Tipton, OK. He has also worked on several evangelistic campaigns.

Much of Wayne's life has been working with young people in Christian camps. He was a counselor for the Green Valley Christian camp for ten years in Rogers, AK. He also directed several sessions at Rock Creek Christian Camp, Norman, OK. And for the past 20 years he has been camp director for the Flint Hills Christian Camp, Sedan, KS. He is a member of the camp board and serves as camp secretary.

Wayne currently preaches for the North Summit Street Church of Christ, Arkansas, City, KS. He is completing his 21st year with the church there. Wayne is happily married to Gearldean (Dehart) Robbins. They have been married 58 years. They have six children.

Biographical Information:

Edith Pewitt Sullins was born to Christian parents in Memphis, Tennessee, and “was raised” in the Lord’s church. She has been married to Jerry Raymond Sullins for over 52 years. They have been blessed with four children and ten grandchildren. Their son and two oldest grandsons are gospel preachers. Her husband served as a local preacher in Tennessee, Indiana, Alabama and Arkansas for 20 years. For over 20 years, Edith served alongside her husband on mission fields living in Africa. Her husband founded and still oversees the Zambia School of Biblical Studies and the East Africa School of Biblical Studies in Uganda, East Africa. Annually, they return to Africa to supervise the schools and evangelize. Presently, her husband serves as an elder for the Kansas Expressway church of Christ in Springfield, Missouri, as well as Advisor to the schools of Preaching in Africa.

One of Edith’s greatest joys is teaching Ladies and Teenage classes in Africa. Presently, along with her family responsibilities, she serves as Librarian for the libraries she formulated for the Bible Institute of Missouri, Zambia School of Biblical Studies and East Africa School of Biblical Studies.

Ray Sullins has been the minister for the Kansas Expressway Church of Christ in Springfield, Missouri, since 1998. Ray has also worked with congregations in Tennessee and Mississippi. He and His wife Cindy have three Children, Nikki, Trey, and Chase. Ray and Cindy did mission work in Africa for over 7 years back in the 90’s in the countries of Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia. Ray continues to make regular trips back to Africa, he speaks in various meetings and on lectureships, and he is the host of a weekly television program in Springfield, called “The Living Word.” Ray is also a regular instructor at the Bible Institute of Missouri in Springfield.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

No Authority except from God.....	1
Jerry Joseph	
So goes the Home, so goes the Nation.....	5
Wayne Robbins	
Today’s Culture and the Church.....	7
Tim Kidwell	
Abortion, Viewed by Government and God.....	9
Ray Sullins	
As for Me and My House.....	12
Wayne Robbins	
Philosophies of Man vs. Principles of God.....	14
David Campbell	
Should We Support Leaders Opposed to Moral Principles.....	18
Ray Sullins	
Should Congregations Consider Umbrella Schools.....	22
David Campbell	
A Dumbed Down Gospel will not Change Our Society.....	27
Tim Kidwell	
God’s Woman in Today’s Culture.....	28
Edith Sullins	
Who is in Control – Government or God.....	29
Jim Faughn	
Does Legalizing Drugs Change Things with God.....	31
Nelson Kibby	
Same sex Marriage, Viewed by Government and God.....	33
Jim Faughn	

NO AUTHORITY EXCEPT FROM GOD

INTRODUCTION:

1. Significance of a standard of authority is seen every day in our life. In school, at shopping, in sports, in securing licenses, etc., chaos and confusion would exist without some standard of Authority.
2. Submitting to the Authority of God in the three organizations that are of divine origin (that is, the Home, Government and the Church), is extremely important.
 - a. Their **Purpose** and **Place** is not by **Accident** but **According** to His Will (Genesis 1-2; Matthew 19:4-6; Romans 13:1-7; Ephesians 3:10-11).
 - b. Their **Presence** in and of itself does not mean the **Approval** of God (Genesis 3:16-19; Psalms 9:17; Revelation 2-3)
 - c. Their **Practice** is to be guided by and directed by His **Authority** (Genesis 2:16-17; Romans 13:1-2; Colossians 3:17)
3. Saying no to the Authority of God is possible.
 - a. Children can say no to the authority of parents.(Ephesians 6:1-4)
 - b. Citizens of a nation can say no to the authority of the people in power (Romans 13:1-7).
 - c. Children of God can say no to the leadership of a congregation and to the Laws of Christ.
4. Suffering of consequences will come when we do not see and submit to the authority of God.
5. In our Study as we examine the assigned topic, ***“No Authority Except from God”*** we will be looking at the Authority of God from the standpoint of ***(1) Recognizing it; (2) Regarding it; (3) Remembering it; (4) Rejecting it; and (5) Receiving it and thereby being rewarded.***

DISCUSSION:

- I. **RECOGNIZING** the Authority of God. (Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:29-30; 2 Peter 2:1; 1 John 4:1; Ephesians 4:14; 2 Timothy 3:15-17)
 - A. God is Authoritative (Genesis 1:1; Psalms 90:2; Jeremiah 32:17; Acts 17:25-29; Ecclesiastes 12:7)
 - B. God’s Son is Authoritative (Matthew 7:28-29; 11:28-30; 17:5; 28:18; John 5:27, 40; 14:6; Acts 2:36; 1 Timothy 6:15; Hebrews 12:1-3)
 - C. God’s Word is Authoritative (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; John 12:48; Colossians 3:17; 2 Peter 1:3; Acts 2:42; 2 John 9-11; Jude 3; 1 Peter 3:15).
- II. **REGARDING** the Authority of God.
 - A. It must be **Heard** (James 1:19; Matthew 13:13-17, 43).
 - B. It must be **Honored** (Luke 8:18; Psalms 119:97; Ecclesiastes 12:13).

- C. It must be **Handled Correctly** (2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Corinthians 2:17)
- D. It must be **Heeded** (James 4:7; Hebrews 2:1)
- E. It must be **Held on to** (1 Thessalonians 5:21)

III. **REMEMBERING** the Authority of God

- A. In our **Work** (1 Corinthians 15:58; 16:13)
 - 1. Sowing of the Seed (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; 1 Corinthians 3:5-10; Luke 8:4-21).
 - 2. Strengthening the Souls of others (1 Corinthians 16:13; Romans 14:19; Ephesians 4:29; 1 Thessalonians 5:11).
 - 3. Serving and Supplying others with that which is Suitable (Luke 10:25-37; Galatians 6:10; James 1:27; 1 John 3:17-18).

- B. In our **Worship** (John 4:24; Matthew 4:9-10; Hebrews 10:22; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16-17; Matthew 15:8-9; Leviticus 10:1-2; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:20-30; 16:1-2).
 - 1. As we analyze John 4:24 in view of our worship, let's notice (1) The Demand of it; (2) The Direction of it; (3) The Doing of it; (4) The Disposition in it; and (5) The Divine Authority in it.
 - 2. Some are not interested in following God's plan for acceptable worship and as a result, "Departures" abound including the use of mechanical instruments of music, hand-clapping, choruses, women preaching, women leading in all of the acts of worship, etc.

- C. In our **Walk** (Romans 6:3-6; 2 Cor. 5:7; Ephesians 5:2, 15; 1 Peter 2:21; 1 John 1:6-7)
 - 1. As we so walk and live our life, then our way of life will be distinct, different than the world, displaying to others a walk that desires more than anything to draw closer to God, to direct others to that way of deliverance and to develop a greater desire for and devotion to the Authority of God.
 - 2. This kind of walk will be seen in (1) the choices we make in life (Romans 6:16-18; Titus 2:11-12); (2) our conduct in the home, at school, at the work place, in the church and wherever we go (Matthew 5:13-16; Philippians 1:21, 27; 1 Timothy 4:12); and (3) the clothes we wear. It does matter to God how we dress (1 Timothy 2:9-10).

- D. In our **Words** (Matthew 12:36-37; Ephesians 4:15, 29; James 3:1-12; 1 Peter 4:11; Titus 2:1; 2 Timothy 4:2-4; 1 Peter 3:15).

IV. **REJECTING the Authority of God**

A. The **Replacing** of it. Many are not satisfied with God's authority so they reject and renounce it by replacing it with something else. We had better understand that we can't improve upon what God has to offer. When we look to something other than the Authority of God to guide and direct us we are looking to that which is inferior, inadequate and insufficient (Jeremiah 10:23; Proverbs 14:12). What are people looking to as a replacement for the Authority of God?

1. Some look to Popularity (John 12:42-43)
2. Some look to Personal likes and dislikes (Genesis 4:3-5; Leviticus 10:1-2)
3. Some look to the Passed laws (Daniel 6; Romans 13:1-7; Acts 5:26-29)
4. Some look to Preachers (1 John 4:1)
5. Some look to Presidents of schools (Jeremiah 10:23)
6. Some look to Publications of man (Galatians 1:6-9)
7. Some look to Parents and other family members (Matthew 10:37)
8. Some look to Pleasure (Ecclesiastes 2:1, 10-11)
9. Some look to Prosperity (Luke 12:12-15; Matthew 6:19-21)
10. Some look to Position in life & Power (3 John 9-10)
11. Some look to Philosophies of man (Colossians 2:8)

B. The **Reasons** for it

1. Doubt and Disbelief in God (Hebrews 11:6)
2. Desire to do what we want more than anything else (Jer. 10:23; Proverbs 14:12).
3. Disdain for the Will of God (Jeremiah 5:30-31; 6:10-17)
4. Dissatisfied with the Way of God (1 Kings 12:33)
5. Distorting of the Word of God (2 Peter 3:16)
6. Digesting the wrong spiritual food (1 Peter 2:1-2)
7. Distracted by worldly things (1 John 2:15-17; Romans 12:2)
8. Deceived by wishy-washy, weak preaching (2 Timothy 4:2-4; Galatians 1:7-9)

C. The **Results** of it

1. Denominationalism (John 17:20-21; 14:6; Ephesians 4:4-6)
2. Division among the brethren (1 Corinthians 1:10)
3. Distorted Messages being proclaimed (Galatians 1:6-9; 2 Peter 3:16)
4. Departures from the Truth about the Church (Matthew 16:18-19; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:16; 3:10-11; 4:4-6; 5:23-33; Acts 2:47; Philippians 1:1; Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 15:24)

5. Decisions will not be made that will help us spiritually. (Joshua 24:15; Proverbs 3:5-6; Colossians 3:1-2; Matthew 6:33; 16:26; 19:16-22; 2 Peter 1:5-11; Philippians 1:21)
6. Depriving ourselves of the Hope of Heaven (Matthew 7:21-23; Colossians 1:27; Titus 1:2; 2:13; Hebrews 6:19; 1 Peter 3:15)
7. Delighting our enemy the Devil (1 Peter 5:8-9; James 4:17)
8. Disappointing, Dishonoring & Disobeying God (1 Cor. 10:5; 2 Thess. 1:7-9)

V. **REWARD** of Submitting to the Authority of God.

A. There is the **Forgiveness** of Sins. Since sin is the universal problem (Romans 3:23; 6:23) of all accountable beings, then the greatest need is for the forgiveness of sin. God desires for all to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9) and has provided the way, the means by which man can be saved. The way authorized by God to be saved is through an obedient faith as one submits to the Gospel (Romans 1:16-17; 6:16-18; John 8:24; Luke 13:3; Matthew 10:32-33; Mark 16:16). Without the Gospel there is no...

1. Convicting of Sin (Acts 2:37)
2. Conversion (Psalm 19:7)
3. Changed life (2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:16-18)
4. Cleansing of Sin (John 15:3; Acts 22:16)

B. There is the **Fellowship** of God (1 John 1:6-7). The beauty of it is seen in that it ...

1. Demands my Commitment to Him (Matthew 16:24).
2. Drives one to Communicate with Him in prayer (1 John 5:14-15)
3. Develops a Closeness (companionship) with Him (1 John 1:3, 6-7).

C. There is the **Favor** of God that motivates us to endure. In having the favor of God we know of the ...

1. Care and concern that God has for His people. When we look at His promises for the faithful child, how comforting and compelling this is (Romans 8:28; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 15:58; Matthew 6:33; James 1:1-6; 1 Peter 5:8-9; Philippians 4:4-19)
2. Confidence we will have at (1) the Separation at Death (1 Corinthians 15:57); (2) the Second Coming (1 John 2:28) and (3) as we Stand before the great Judge (Acts 17:30-31; 2 Cor. 5:10)
3. Citizenship that is ours in the Everlasting Kingdom as we live a faithful life in accordance with the Authority of God (2 Peter 1:11; 1 Peter 1:4; 2 Timothy 4:6-8).

CONCLUSION:

1. The Authority of God must be Acknowledged and Appreciated.
2. The Authority of God must be Accepted as the only standard in religious matters.
3. The Authority of God must be Applied to the "whole" of our life.
4. The Authority of God when Attacked must be Answered.

– Jerry Joseph

AS GOES THE HOME, SO GOES THE NATION
Prov. 14:34

INTRODUCTION:

- A. In the beginning our nation was formed on Biblical principals – mostly Christian principles. Ten Commandments represented a standard of morality.
 - B. Bible principles penetrated all areas of society.
 - 1. Those who enacted laws believed in God and Jesus Christ. They read their Bibles and handed down judgments made on Christian principles.
 - 2. All areas of society held the Bible’s standard high and condemned life styles that weakened the home. They condemned promiscuous lifestyles. Pregnancy out of wedlock was condemned. The idea of abortion was abhorred.
 - 3. Public schools adopted the same rule of conduct. In the early days, the Bible was used as a reader and its principles were strictly enforced.
 - C. A major shift came in the 1960's. Our values and moral system changed drastically. It started on our college campuses and spread to the media. It began at first as a protest against the Vietnam war, but rapidly became a movement against traditional society and authority. Violent acts were carried out and were justified as a force of change. From all this came the belief that there were no absolute standards. Traditional marriage was degraded to people just living together. The need for commitment was minimized. Children were born in unstable environments. We are reaping the results of this philosophy even as we speak.
 - D. Our Supreme Court became affected and handed down rulings that struck at the heart and core of Christianity.
 - 1. The Bible and prayer were taken out of school. Evolution, atheism, and homosexuality were acceptable, and no one dared to speak out against them.
 - 2. Abortion became legal. Millions of babies have been killed.
 - 2. In a nutshell, we have a new value system that permits one to do everything that feels good. There are no absolute truths, and nothing is sacred.
 - E. Fifty years later we see Christianity and the church under attack. Many of our elected officials embrace this new value system and have become tolerant of ungodliness and false religions. God has been taken out of just about everything.
 - 1. We are now under attack by foreign religions that our forefathers would not have tolerated for one moment.
 - 2. The number of God-fearing candidates running for public office has shrunk drastically.
 - F. What do we do? As our families go, so goes the nation.
- I. CHURCHES OF CHRIST NEED TO MAKE GODLY HOMES A HIGH PRIORITY IN OUR TEACHING. (Attention: Elders and Preachers of local congregations).
- A. Need to stress the Biblical definition of home and marriage.
 - 1. One man and one woman (Mt. 19:4; Gen. 2:22, 24). Adam needed female companionship. God made Eve for him.
 - 2. Marriage is not polygamy (multiple wives), and is not polyandry (multiple husbands).
 - 3. Marriage does not exist between members of the same sex. A man and a woman is the specification (Gen. 2:24). Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve. Homosexuality is universally condemned (Gen. 19; Rom. 1:26; Jude 1).
 - 4. Sexual relations are only permitted within marriage (Heb. 13:4; Prov. 5:15-21). All deviations from the divine pattern are condemned.

- B. Teach commitment to marriage and agape love – servant love (Phil. 2:3-4). It is to be until death. Many think that the grass is greener on the other side, but we need to stress that the grass is green on you side of the fence if you water it.
- C. Teach that the home is a divine institution.
 - 1. The home has fellowship with God when it follows divine patterns.
 - 2. Joy and happiness can be found in a godly home.
- D. This will help make us more qualified candidates.

II. PARENTS NEED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY IN ESTABLISHING A CHRISTIAN HOME.

- 1. Teach and train their children (Eph. 6:4; Deut. 6:6-9). Make the time for it.
- 2. Teach respect for authority.
 - a. For God (Ecc. 12:13), parents (Col. 3:20), elders (Heb. 13:7), and government (Rom. 13).
 - b. Teach that actions and choices have consequences. If we go against God's establish order we will reap what we sow (Gal.6:7, illustration).
- 3. Teach principles of morality (1 Thess. 4:1-8).
- 4. Teach honesty, what it is and isn't (Col. 3:9; Eph. 4:25).

III. THE CHURCH NEEDS TO STEP UP OUR OUTREACH, INCLUDING TO CHRISTIAN HOME.

- A. Evangelism is extremely important in this. The more we convert, the more people we will have establishing godly homes (if we do our teaching properly).
- B. Need to broaden our aim.
 - 1. Advertize in paper, radio, and TV. Have lectureships teaching on the home.
 - 2. Our websites need to have a section on the home.
- C. We may not convert the world, but we can let them know where we stand. The more minds we can change, the better our nation is going to be. We need to launch out in faith.

CONCLUSION.

- A. The home is vital to our nation, as well as the church.
- B. A hurricane can be caused by the beating of a butterfly's wings. With God's help we can have a great influence on our nation.
- C. Do you need an investment that will return great dividends? Invest in the home.

Today's Culture and the Church

Tim Kidwell – Branson, MO

Introduction

“Times are changing,” has been the battle cry of people in every generation. They argue that in order to stay relevant one must change with society. Members of society have even come to expect the church to “update” its teaching and practices based upon what is culturally acceptable. They argue that the Bible is outdated and should be changed to reflect modern thinking and practices. Sadly, some entire congregations have been persuaded to bow to the pressure of what is desired by man, or is politically correct.

1. What changes in society are being pushed and accepted in the religious world?

a. In our culture it is acceptable for women to preach, lead singing, lead prayers, serve communion, etc.

- i. The question is not: “What might a woman be permitted to do?”
- ii. The question is: “What should a man be doing to fulfill his God-given responsibility to be a spiritual leader?”
- iii. 1 Tim. 2:11-13; 1 Tim. 2:8.

b. In our culture homosexuality is acceptable.

- i. But does God accept homosexuality just because our culture accepts it?
- ii. Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9.

c. In our culture an emotionally charged atmosphere is equivalent to a spiritual atmosphere.

- i. Worship **must** be in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24; Col. 3:17,
- ii. The worship atmosphere must be reverent (1 Cor. 14:40).

2. Has God changed with the times?

a. God of the Old Testament has not changed.

- i. I AM (Ex. 3:14).
- ii. I change not (Mal. 3:6).

b. God of the New Testament has not changed.

- i. “The same yesterday, today, and forever” (Heb. 13:8).
- ii. God of the O.T & N.T. sound like the same God.

3. What can man change with God's approval?

a. What did God of the Old Testament allow people to change?

- i. "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take anything from it" (Deut. 4:1-2).
- ii. What could man change under the old law? Nothing!

b. What does God of the New Testament allow people to change?

- i. Do not add nor take away from His words (Rev. 22:18-19).
- ii. What can man change under the law of Christ? Nothing!

Conclusion

In the 1950's and 60's the Lord's church was the fastest growing religious body in America. Today we are far from the top of that list. What is the difference between then and now? What has changed?

Some promote change in the church along the lines of comfort zones, generation tastes, and cultural biases. By doing this, they claim, the church will remain relevant in the lives of people. Times are changing, but truth has not changed. Truth is always truth no matter how much time passes by.

What must the church do in order to remain relevant in today's culture and in the future? Preach the unchanging truth that sets man free from sin (John 8:32; 2 Tim. 4:2).

ABORTION, VIEWED BY GOVERNMENT AND GOD

PS. 139:13-16
BY RAY SULLINS

INTRODUCTION:

1. In 1 Samuel 8, we read about the unquenchable thirst of Israel to be like all the other nations around them.
2. It is sad but true that you and I fall into the same trap today on a regular basis.
3. As we look around and see what the other religions are doing, or what those of this world believe and practice, we are no doubt enticed:
 - a. Thus, we often are pulled into the same desires by our own human weaknesses.
 - b. We often begin to long for and desire to be like those around us, to have what they have, to do what they do.
 - c. And like Israel, God to is displeased with our actions.
5. In this lesson, we want to consider a great social ill of our day.
 - a. One that often sounds good at face value, that many religious people of the day buy into (in the case of rape).
 - b. A sin that cuts to the heart of what the Bible teaches on such subjects.
 - c. This evening we are talking about Abortion.

I. WHAT IS OUR SOCIETIES VIEW OF THIS PRACTICE?

- A. On January 22, 1973, the Supreme court of this great country of ours, ruled in the case of Roe Vs Wade that a woman could have an abortion for any reason at any stage of her pregnancy:
- B. Since this decision was made, here are some of the facts:
 1. More than 30 million babies have been aborted in this nation alone.
 2. Compare this figure to the 1 million Americans who have lost their lives in all the wars America has ever fought.
 3. To break it down further, in the U.S. there are over 4000 abortions every day. This equals one abortion every 20 seconds.
 4. In fact, during this sermon there will have been over 100 abortions.
 5. Furthermore, after the several hours or so which we have spent together tonight in worship, there will have been well over 200.
 6. And what about worldwide, well there are over 40 million babies aborted each year!
 7. Because of these facts, I would not just call abortion a problem in our world, it seems to be an epidemic with growing popularity and expanding borders.
- C. How do you feel about such statistics?

II. NOW LET'S GO TO THE SOURCE FOR ALL ANSWERS IN LIFE, GOD'S WORD:

- A. What does the Bible say on this matter?
- B. Well, the fundamental question is, "When does life begin?"
 - 1. We've all heard it before, "but they are not babies until they are born."
 - 2. Is the child in the womb alive?
 - 3. If so shouldn't we consider it as alive and even human?
 - 4. If not, really none of this makes any difference anyway.
- C. Let's go to the Bible to see what God's Word says. We will start in the Old Testament:
 - 1. Let's read together from Jeremiah 1:5, where we learn that we were formed by God in the belly.
 - 2. God recognized Jeremiah as a person before he was born.
 - 3. What did Job think about this matter? (Job 3:3, 3:16; 31:15) His life began at conception and God fashioned him as a child in the womb.
 - 4. Isaiah understood the same facts in Isaiah 44:24, 49:5.
 - 5. Next let's look at King David's words in Ps. 51:5, 139:13-14.
 - 6. Is there any doubt what these inspired writers of the Old Testament thought and knew from God?
- D. What about this truth in the New Testament?
 - 1. In Luke 1:41, we read that the baby leaped in its mother's womb.
 - 2. The same Greek word for baby in womb is used also in Luke 2:12; except in Luke it is talking about the already born Jesus.
 - 3. Have we forgotten that we are all from God and all about Him, Acts 17:25-28
 - 4. Didn't Moses say that in the beginning we were created in the image of God? (Gen. 1:26,27)
 - 5. That would mean that we are God's fleshly creation at the point of conception.
- E. There is no doubt that God and His inspired writers knew the point which human life begins, and that is when life is started at conception.

- F. We must also consider what the Bible says about taking life?
1. Is suicide or murder okay?
 2. Do we have a right to give and take life?
 3. Certainly not for only God has that power.
 4. Furthermore, in both the Old and New testaments murder and killing was condemned.
 5. Life was in the blood and life was controlled by God.
 6. In fact, in proverbs 6:16-19, amongst the things God hates one thing listed is murderer (consider the exact words used in verses 16-17).
 7. Do you know of any blood more innocent than a babies or an infants?
- G. My question has always been, "if we can choose life or death while a child is in the womb, why can't we also choose later?"
1. If I don't like the child, its looks, get tired of it, why can't we just get rid of it?
 2. Oh, but Ray no one would ever do that.
 3. You need to do more reading about abortion and what it is all about.
 4. Have you ever heard of the many tests they do to help women decide if they want their baby or not?
 5. Have you ever read or watched a documentary on Partial birth abortions? By the way, these are actually legal!
 6. This is a gruesome process, where they begin to deliver the child and then after it is exposed enough to destroy the life, they kill it. This includes tools to destroy the body and even to vacuum it up (can't even say what all is included in this horrible process).

CONCLUSION:

1. Brethren we need to wake up and think about the seriousness of the sin of abortion.
2. But you say, "Ray, it will never affect me, I would never do it or be involved in it."
3. Don't be so sure! It might often be closer than you think in your families, among your friends.
4. Who will we choose to serve, God or Man?

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE
Joshua 24:15

INTRODUCTION:

- A. At this point in time, twenty-five years or so had passed since coming into Canaan. The land was mostly at peace. There were still nations that needed to be driven out. Joshua is getting old and feels the need to address the nation on remaining faithful.
 - B. Joshua had called all Israel together earlier and given them admonition (Josh. 23:1-11).
 - 1. He reminded them of what the Lord had done for them – good things (v.3-5).
 - 2. They were to be courageous and keep the Law of Moses so they would not turn to the right hand or the left (v.6). The nations would tempt them to do evil. Keeping the law would keep them from straying.
 - 3. They were to stay far away from the gods of the nations (Some were still among them). They were not to even mention their names (v.7).
 - 4. They were to hold fast as they had done until this time (v.8).
 - 5. They were to be careful to love the Lord their God (v.11). This would keep them faithful.
 - C. Joshua again calls the people together in Shechem to give further instructions (24:1-15).
 - 1. He warns them of the gods that their fathers worshiped on the other side of the River.
 - 2. He gave them a brief history of what God had done for them, and then tells them to “...fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord!” (v.14.)
 - 3. Joshua then gave them a choice, and then gave the statement in our text (24:15).
- I. JOSHUA RESOLVED THAT HE AND HIS HOUSE WOULD SERVE THE LORD.
- A. The evidence was so strong that God was on the side of Israel. He simply could not put that aside.
 - B. His faith had been strong from the beginning. He was a faithful spy, and had faith Israel could take the land of Canaan (Num. 13-14).
 - C. The gods of the land had nothing to offer beyond this life. God was the only true God and the only one that is worth serving.
 - D. The people answered Joshua and said they would serve the living God. However, one generation later they had forgotten God (Judges 2:10).
 - E. If “me and my house” is to survive in this world of sin, we must have just as strong a faith in God as Joshua (1 John 5:4). To have this great faith, we must give attention to reading, exhortation and doctrine (1 Tim. 4:13).
- II. JOSHUA AND FAMILY WOULD REMAIN FAITHFUL REGARDLESS OF WHAT EVIL WAS SURROUNDING THEM.
- A. What evils did Joshua and family have to face?
 - 1. He was surrounded by polytheistic religions (many gods). Their rituals appealed to the carnal nature of man.
 - 2. They practiced prostitution like the cults. It was believed that union with a temple priestess (prostitute) would aid in the fertility of the land’s vegetation.
 - 3. Worse still was the practice of human sacrifices, particularly child sacrifices.
 - 4. Joshua would face all this and pressure from his own nation, yet he vowed to remain faithful. He had faith that God would still fight for him and see him through.

- B. What do we and our families face today? (Rom. 1:18-32).
 - 1. Immorality (Col. 3: 5-10). Families must continually put to death things of the flesh. (Everywhere – schools, work, social, and recreation, especially TV).
 - 2. Materialism (1 John 2:15-17). Put to death the thought of loving the world.
 - 3. Many religions. These put pressure on us to compromise truth. Pressure is on to accept other churches who practice error.
- C. We must make the resolve that we will serve the living God no matter what is happening around us.
 - 1. God has loved us and done so much for us, such as salvation through Jesus. We should want to remain faithful to Him.
 - 2. He has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3).
 - 3. He has given us the Christian graces that we may never fall (2 Pet. 1:5-11).
 - 4. He has promised to help us remain faithful.
 - a. He will never leave or forsake us (Heb. 13:5).
 - b. In every temptation there is a way of escape (1 Cor. 10:13).
 - c. We can resist the devil and he will flee from us (James 4:7).

CONCLUSION:

- A. Parents, it is not going to be easy, but we can save our families if we will serve the living God.
- B. Through Christ we can do all things which are necessary (Phil 4:13).
- C. Let us all say with Joshua, “But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

The Philosophies of Men and the Principles of God
David Campbell

“Liberal Protestantism and scientific materialism slowly drained Western Civilization of the metaphysical.” Quoted from The Anxious Age by Joseph Bottum-2014

“Progressives are “religious fundamentalists” searching for an earthly redemption. Quoted from Fight Fire With Fire by David Horowitz-2013.

Introduction: What is Philosophy?

First we should look at the word itself, *philo* is a Greek word for love and *sophia* is the Greek word for wisdom. Two other words will need attention; as well they are *logos* and *mythos*. The Greek word *logo* has a connotation of communication, to communicate or analyze the world by means of pure thought. The word *mythos* implies fables, stories or legends. In Greek thinking the *mythos* precedes the *logos*. John tells us John 1:1 that the Word (*logos*) was first. The philosophers dedicated themselves to the pursuit of knowledge by means of pure thought.

Greek philosophy began about 700 BC. The thoughts of the philosophers were not filtered by a priestly order. Thales, an early Greek philosopher, in 580 BC reasoned that milk came from grass consumed by a cow.

The philosophers, Paul met in Athens in the 60's AD, were the Stoics and the Epicureans named for their respective schools. The Stoic believed in natural law and wise men should follow virtue only to govern all things. The word virtue (the Greek word is *arête* meaning moral excellence) is a scriptural word found in 2 Pet 1:5. The Epicureans on the other hand held forth the values for luxuries and sensuous pleasures especially in eating and drinking. Hedonism is a form of Epicurean thinking.

I. Dark Ages to the Enlightenment

The church was introduced into history in 33 AD and a unity of the gospel was found in the first century. Heresies and disputes arose and by the 4rd century an apostate church began to dominate history. This was a period known as the dark ages. The domination of the cleric and their views of mankind led to further divisions. These religious quarrels produced a period of history called the Reformation. The attempts to reform did not alter its thrust, which led to violence with the start of the 30-year war in 1618 and ending in 1648 with the treaty of Westphalia.

The Enlightenment period was a reaction to religious factions, cleric hierarchy and their association with tyrannical monarchies led to civil disharmony. The philosophers Descartes, Hobbs, Kant, Voltaire, and Rousseau were among the leading writers of that period. These writers fostered a movement away from the Biblical writings (which were only then becoming available to the public in their native language).

The Enlightenment period gave way to the modern age of Science and Reason during the 19th and 20th century and was known as Modernism. Some of the leading

thinkers of that period were Hegel, Darwin, Marx, Nietzsche, Dewey and Sartre moved the superiority of mankind to a higher level with the decline and finally the death of God (Nietzsche's conclusion). They were often referred to as the agents of death.

"The master builders of the Culture of Death (philosophers, scientists and intellectuals) collaborated, perhaps unwittingly, in creating an intricate game plan composed of half-truths, innuendos and carefully placed academic fabrications craftily woven together in a veneer of public relations finesse. Their individual salesmanship is second only to the gullibility of their audience and to the willing acceptance of their fare by the mainstream media". This is a quote from Judie Brown, President, of the American Life League, Inc.

- I. How do we discover truth?
 - A. Discovered Truth:
 1. Deduction: A conclusion follows from the premises (a previous statement or an assertion that serves as the basis for discussion.)
 2. Induction: The premises are empirical (relying or based on an experiment or observation, rather than theory). This is the basis for modern science.
 - B. Revealed Truth:
 1. Subjective: presented to the mind directly, Luke 10:21-22 and 1 Pet 1:12.
 2. Objective: Presented to the senses such as sight or hearing as in Gal 1:16, Rom 1:18 and 2 Pet1: 16.
 3. Does not change, Titus 1:2 and Heb 13:8.
- II. Philosophies of Men: The works of men are not based in scriptural revelations and hence subject to change with time and events.
 - A. Modernism came to a close after WWII with its absolute thinking and solutions. The eugenic movement with its genetic determinism gave us sterilization for the cure of poverty, alcoholism and mental retardation.
 - B. We live in the Post-Modernism age with its multiculturalism, political correctness and self-actualization.
- III. Environmentalism (a post-modern philosophical movement) is the product of socialism, specieism, loss of human dignity and an end time cataclysm.
 - A. Origin:
 1. The work of Thomas Malthus (1776-1834) an English economist, states, "The power of a population so superior to the power of the earth to produce subsistence of man, that premature death must in some shape or other will visit the human race." (1798)
 3. This quote contrasts with Gen 1:28, Gen 9:1 and Ps 127:3-5.
 - B. Founders of Modern Environmentalism
 1. Rachel Carson-Silent Spring (1962)
 2. Paul Ehrlich-Population Bomb (1968)
 3. Barry Commoner-Closing the Circle (1971)
 4. E.F. Schumacher-Small is Beautiful (1973)
 - C. Premises of their works

Carson's Silent Spring drew attention to chlorinated hydrocarbons used in pesticides such as DDT and their ecological effects and dangers. Ehrlich's book accelerated the thinking of over population of humans on this earth ushering in the ZPG (zero population growth) movement. His work was a modern extension of Thomas Malthus' work of the 19th century. He predicted a major collapse of the environment from too many people in the 1970's. John Holdern, President Obama's present scientific advisor was a co-author in 1968 with Paul Ehrlich on a paper about overpopulation. Barry Commoner rejected Ehrlich thesis but was concerned with environmental decline due to man's activities. He proposed four environmental premises:

1. Everything connects to everything else.
2. Everything must go somewhere
3. Nature knows best
4. There is no such thing as a free meal.

Schumacher established the principle of getting the most from minimal consumption such as agricultural production without the use of technology, high energy utilization and using organic farming techniques.

D. The Green Party was formed to implement the above ideals based on

1. The use of ecological principles
2. Social justice based on egalitarianism:

Quote from Steward Brand in the Whole Earth Catalog;

"We have wished, we eco-freaks, for a disaster or a social change to come and bomb us into the Stone Age where we might live like Indians in our village, with our localism, our appropriate technologies, our gardens, our homemade religion guilt free at last."

3. Grassroots democracy (they pursue totalitarianism to enforce the required regulations needed to achieve their goals).
4. Non-violent protest (many have resulted in violence and destruction).

E. The New Age Religion: This form of environmentalism was formulated from the writings of James Lovelock and his Gaia (Greek god of the earth) hypothesis.

1. Earth's systems are single and self-regulating.
2. Human activities have an influence on the environment.
3. Global changes cannot be understood as a simple cause - effect relationship.
4. Critical thresholds and abrupt changes characterize the Earth's systems.
5. The Earth's systems have moved well outside the range of natural variables.
6. This religion is monistic (materialism), pantheistic, humanistic and ecologically orientated.
7. Works of fiction related to their endeavors:
 - a. Michael Crichton, M.D. novel in 2003, State of Fear.
 - b. Ken Follett's' novel in 1998, The Hammer of Eden.

Crichton has developed an acronym to reveal a lot about the movement
It is PLM. The P stands for politicians need fear to control the people, L
stands lawyers need dangers to litigate and M standing for the media to capture
readership.

8. The environmental formula for reforming the nation: I=PAT.

I is impact, P is population, A is affluence, and T is technology

E. Environmentalism is by nature cataclysmic. Mankind will not destroy the
earth. God created it and He will destroy it, 2 Pet 3:10-11 and judge it,
Rev 20:12-15. Global warming is not the major problem, however what
lies ahead will not be a gentle warming trend but a sudden destruction
which mankind with all his knowledge cannot produce, achieve nor stop,
Rev 22:7.

“For we did not follow cunningly devised fables (mythos) when we
made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but
were eyewitnesses (empirical-objective reasoning) of His majesty.” 2 Pet
1:16

SHOULD WE SUPPORT LEADERS OPPOSED TO MORAL PRINCIPLES?
MATTHEW 22:15-22
BY RAY SULLINS

INTRODUCTION:

1. Since the very beginning of time we have learned many things from secular and religious History!
2. One thing that really sticks out in my mind is the fact that for thousands of years, we can confirm that most peoples and nations of this earth have been ruled and governed by others.
3. There are many similarities between these rulers and governing authorities over the many centuries, whether you consider them from a secular or religious standpoint.
4. It is important to note:
 - a. That since the beginning of the world, we find that people for the most part have been ruled by monarchies and dictatorships.
 - b. In most of History, we find that once a family came in power that dynasty would continue until overthrown.
 - c. Most of the time, the common man had no input in such things and could do nothing about the situation!
 - d. The only time we see change is when people got fed up enough with rules and governments, so much so that they would overthrow them. However, usually these were just replaced with more of the same!
5. With these facts, I want to consider our situation today as Christians:
 - a. We have the privilege and opportunity to be involved in a democracy!
 - b. We are each able to do our part, to be involved and make a difference. We can take part in choosing who is over us and how they will govern.
6. This morning, we want to go to the Bible and see what God said about our responsibility to be properly involved citizens in the secular realm.
 - a. Again, we must consider this from the understanding that we live in a special and privileged time.
 - b. We are more able today to be involved, than perhaps man has ever been able to be since the beginning of time.
 - c. However, let me clarify up front that this lesson is not about what party we should join or about specifically who we should vote for.
 - d. However, we want to consider many religious principles so that we can understand God's Will in relationship to all these things.
7. So let's begin with this question: "What does God's Word say about our responsibility as Christians to our Government?"

I. WE ARE TO BE OBEDIENT TO THOSE IN AUTHORITY!

A. Jesus was obedient and submissive:

1. Consider the story of Jesus in Matthew 22:15-22.
2. The Pharisees were trying to trick Jesus as they asked Him about taxes!
3. On one hand, you had the Creator, and on the other Caesar's face on their money and coins!
4. Jesus said, "Render to Caesar the things which are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's."

B. This shouldn't be strange to us for God went as far as to even tell slaves to be obedient to their masters:

1. This truth is found in Ephesians 6:5-8.
2. We are to be obedient to all who are over us! The reason is, when we are others see Christ in us.
3. We glorify God through our character of obedience.
4. What about a master with a servant who didn't obey, yet claimed to be a Christian.
5. If Christ can humble himself to be a man, and to die as a man, we should be willing to do the same in this life!

II. WHAT ABOUT THE BIBLE SAYING THAT WE CAN NOT SERVE TO MASTERS?

A. Can we be Christians and citizens too?

1. Certainly, we are all citizens of the U.S, but we are still Christians.
2. We actually serve two Kingdoms as followers of God:
 - a. We are citizens of the Kingdom of God, spiritual.
 - b. We are citizens of the kingdoms of this earth, fleshly.
3. Obviously, God's Kingdom is the superior one, but God tells us to be in subjection and obedient in the secular kingdom also.
4. However, what if these two conflict or if we find contradiction?
 - a. God's Kingdom is greater!
 - b. We must stand with God against the wickedness of this world.
 - c. We must even stand against laws of our land that are contrary to His will.
 - d. Wouldn't that also include those who promote or push that which is contrary to God?

- B. Paul understood this well as a citizen of Rome!
1. Remember when he was brought before his accusers and he appealed to Caesar?
 2. In Acts 22:25-29, we know that Paul felt he was a citizen of Rome, as well as of God's kingdom.
 3. If there were contradictions, who would Paul have sided with? Obviously he would side with God, even to the death!
 4. Again In Acts 5:28-29, we read, "we ought to obey God, rather than man!"
 5. Paul also addressed this issue to the Romans 13:1-7!
 - a. Who appoints, sanctions (allows) all governing authorities? God does!
 - b. If we resist those appointed by God don't we resist God's Will as well?
 - c. Those over us are also under God for all are subject to Him!
- C. What did Peter think about all this?
1. Consider with me God's Word in 1 Pet.2:13-17.
 2. Notice what we learn in verse 15; we silence the ignorant over us by just doing what they say!
 3. Peter knew he was under others and subject to the governments of the day.

III. FINALLY, WHAT ABOUT OUR INVOLVEMENT TODAY?

- A. Beside obedience, we must get involved or else we shirk our responsibility.
1. We have a chance to vote and choose who is over us.
 2. Those over us determine our laws and freedoms to do the will of God.
 3. If we get involved, we can make a difference for the sake of God.
- B. So the question is, "What should be our guide in voting and being involved in politics."
1. Obviously, we are Christians first therefore our ultimate purpose must be God!
 2. Thus, we must look for Godly character, Christian principles, Biblical standards!
 3. We won't find those who we consider faithful to God or even brethren, nor did Paul, but we can look for those who's ideologies best support and promote that which is according to God's Will.

- C. You might say, but Ray those don't exist.
1. I would say you're right, at least not to perfection, but some are far more godly and principled than others!
 2. We must look for those who support Godly principles and toward those who will allow us to continue doing His Will!
- D. Let me ask you some questions from this premise, "If Christ were here today, how would He vote?"
1. You might first say, but would He?
 - a. Certainly He would, for even the law and government says we are supposed to and Jesus followed the law!
 - b. Furthermore, wouldn't He have wanted to make a difference so that He could have freedom to do the Will of the Father?
 - c. Jesus Himself said He came to bring peace if possible (Romans 12:18).
- *WHAT WOULD JESUS LOOK FOR MOST OF ALL IN A CANDIDATE?**
- a. How much taxes we will pay?
 - b. How the secular school system will be?
 - c. How the Medicare system will benefit me more?
 - d. Would these types of issues be first on His list? No! (they only deal with the physical)
- *I THINK WE KNOW WHAT HE WOULD FOCUS ON!**
- a. So, who would He vote for?
 - b. Would Christ vote for those who believe in and promote alternative lifestyles?
 - c. What about same sex marriages? Would Christ support that or those who do?
 - d. Would Christ vote for those who believe in or promote the killing of infants in the womb of a woman?
 - e. Would Christ vote for a man who rejected Jesus Christ as the Son of God?
- E. My question to us this morning is, How can we vote for and support men who believe and promote that which is contrary to the Bible, God's Word which He has given us!
- a. But now you might say, "it's getting hard to find anyone I can vote for?"
 - b. I agree, but it might become more of a vote of what we are against than what we are for!
 - c. At times we might have to choose the lesser of two evils to be able to support the basic freedoms we have to continue to live and to accomplish God's Will in our society.

CONCLUSION:

1. In Proverbs 29:2, we read, “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.”
2. Again in Proverbs 14:34, we read, “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.”
3. So will you do your part to make a difference in our society for the sake of God, or will you just allow Satan to take over?

Should Congregations Encourage
Home School Groups
Or “Umbrella” Schools
David Campbell

Introduction:

First, we need to define the word “umbrella” technically as a home school cooperative. Everyone should be familiar with the common device found in almost every home. However, the word itself has more connotations than the usual cloth stretched over a metal frame. It is defined as a comprehensive protective organization, alliance or strategy.

The words protective alliance (co-op) with a strategy devised for the spiritual shelter for our youth is the definition we are using here. I want to direct your attention to Ps 105:39, “He spread a cloud for a covering and fire to give light in the night.” The psalmist is speaking of what took place in Exodus 13:21. A cloud to cover (umbrella) and a light (the word) to guide are a description of our alliance. This is how best to define what we are planning here. The alliance is with the home schooling families coming together in a common shelter (church building) to enlighten the souls of their children collectively.

The alliance will provide not only scriptural fellowship of kindred minds, but also a place to build bonds and the mental fortitude to enrich, strengthen and solidify their faith. The challenge facing our youth is greater today than any other time in history. The wolves of destruction surround and interact with us daily. The American school system is not advancing moral principles nor is the media fostering the ideals of Christian living. The foundation laid by their parents and other Christian helpers will be a shield against Satan’s fiery darts. This alone would be a worthy undertaking for any congregation to enrich the lives of their youths. Teaching the young is what God requires and expects, Deut 6:4-7, “you shall teach them diligently,” (done with care and steady effort).

I. Legal Aspects:

- A. The umbrella school is a support mechanism for those already home-schooling their children.
- B. The home school families have a minimal amount of record keeping and providing standardized testing.
- C. The congregation will provide classroom space and accommodations for group activities.
- D. Compliance with all laws related to homeschooling.
- E. Accreditation is not required and will not be sought.
- F. The eldership at West End will have the oversight of the group meeting here in as most of the families are members here. The parents will oversee the education of their children.
- G. Enrollment will be limited to those who are members of the Church of Christ.
- H. Fees will be determined by the congregation to cover added cost of operation.

II. The Changing Nature of American Education: Period of 1870 to 1914:

- A. NTA from 1857 to 1870

1. The NTA fostered Bible reading using the KJV
2. Resolution of the 1869 NTA convention:

“The Bible should not only be studied, venerated and honored as a classic for all ages, people and language in educational institutions, but devotedly read and its precepts inculcated (impressed on the minds by frequent repetition) in all common schools of our land.”

 - a. Notes on the above, the KJV of the Bible was part of the curricula in all schools.
 - b. It was to be given due honor.
 - c. It will be studied by all cultures and languages (no political correctness or multiculturalism)
 - d. The Bible is to be read and impressed on the mind by memorization and repetition.

B. NTA Changes to the NEA:

In the 1880's several years after the NTA had become the NEA, change was apparent. In the period between 1870 to 1880 the NTA had merged with several educational groups becoming the NEA. The most liberal and powerful of the groups was the NCE (National Council of Education). The NCE was a group of elite educators. These educators wanted to remove religious instruction, then called Common Christianity, and secularize the American educational system (Smith, page 175).

In 1884, William Torrey Harris, (of Harris-Stowe University) the superintendent of the St. Louis public school system, made this statement, “The ideal of education is the ideal of humanity, which is the religious ideal.” Harris had formed the first philosophical journal in the United States. He strongly urged the philosophical works of Hegel (dialectic synthesis-something is what it is by not being something else), Kant (founder of modern liberalism that self is autonomous), Nietzsche (autonomy and religion are incompatible) Froebel (founder of the kindergarten movement and free work produces learning) and others to be used in education. He along with others saw the importance of using philosophy in education to replace the Biblical teachings of the past.

Charles De Garmo was educated in Germany and received an advanced degree from the University of Halle in 1886. He gave a speech at the 1890 NEA convention entitled, *Relation of Instruction to Will Training*, In this speech he states, “Direct religious instruction has been banished from the school, American schoolmen must show that secular instruction can and will develop moral character.” At the 1891 conference he suggested a plan to accomplish this by using fairy tales, myths, legends, folklore and higher drama to do so. If, we examine what De Garmo is saying, children's will can best be fostered and developed by philosophy and myths of men replacing God's truth. Will training became an important factor in the 20th century. Hitler's most common phrase was “It is my will.”

James Greenwood, superintendent of the Kansas City School System, stated this in 1903, “I believe the entire separation of church and state is

the correct one.” So does the present NEA and the ACLU. Do you know what the Constitution really say about this statement? Amendment I says, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion”. Where do you find the word “separate” in that statement? However, this statement is found in a 2003 text on education; “The first amendment of the US Constitution which requires the separation of church and state is a cornerstone of American democracy”. Prior to 1870 the nation must have been unaware that the word separate was in the 1st amendment!

The withdrawal of religion from education can be observed in the *Journal of Education* removal of the word “God” from their articles; 1876 had 50%, 1881 had 31% and 1886 had only 10% of the articles with a reference to God in them.

The superintendent became the lightning rod of the school system and its evolution. We had seen two of those already, Harris and Greenwood. In 1923 only 35% of the superintendents had post-baccalaureate degrees yet 10 years later the number had risen to 60%. Why was the superintendent so important? He was the pivotal person in altering the American elementary and secondary schools. The local Boards hired them; they planned and directed curricula, as well as the staff.

1. They pushed for the popular demands to provide efficient mass education.
2. They reacted favorably to innovations from the Progressive reformers.
3. They acted in context with the local Boards of Educations

By 1885 all states had state superintendents, which pushed for teacher certification. They claimed expertise by supporting the Progressive reformers and demanding the professionalization of all teachers. The superintendents allied themselves with the new psychological findings within the education departments of research universities. The child-centered movement (Rousseau’s concept) and psychology (Freud) shifted education from religious concepts to science, as understood then. This trio of superintendents, child-centered education and findings in psychology produced by the research universities altered education into what it is today.

When God does not exist (as presently observed in the school systems today) what has replaced His Word? Maybe a quote by Josef Stalin to H.G. Wells in 1934 will be a clue; “Education is a weapon, whose effect depends on who holds it in his hands and at whom it is aimed.” Both the author and the correspondent were atheists!

If we do not educate our youth then they will. Their curricula is directed and grounded in anti-Christian views. As Christian we are to imitate Christ, note His statement in Luke 22:42, “... not My will, but Yours be done.” With this in mind it our privilege to do so and may His name be glorified in the future by the lives of those who attend.

References:

1. Smith, Christian, PhD.; *The Secular Revolution: Power, Interest, and Conflict in the Secularization of American Public Life*; University of California Press; 2003.
2. Johnson, James A., et.al; *Essentials of American Education*; Allyn-Bacon; 2003.

A Dumbed Down Gospel Will Not Change Our Society.

Tim Kidwell – Branson, MO

Introduction

There are those today who are calling for a “Make me feel good, I am OK, you are OK, Jesus died for my sins, so don’t bother me with the facts, tickle my ears gospel.” They cry, “Just preach Jesus crucified, the rest is not as important.” The problem with their position is that in order to preach Christ crucified one must also preach self-crucifixion (Gal. 2:20). The message of self-crucifixion requires a person to live righteously (make changes) as they begin life anew in Christ Jesus (Rom. 6:1-13; Ti. 2:11-12). Only the righteous (those who make changes) will inherit eternal life (Mat. 25:46). To be righteous one must practice righteousness (make changes) (1 Jo. 3:7). To practice righteousness one must know all the truth that sets us free from sin (Jo. 8:32). Anything short of teaching the whole truth will fall short of helping the lost to make the changes that are required to live a righteous life (Mat. 7:21).

To preach Christ crucified is to identify the church which Jesus purchased with his blood that was shed on the cross (Acts 20:28). In identifying the one church, true worship must be practiced (John 4:24), and the one faith must be taught (Eph. 4:5).

1. A dumbed down gospel is a secular gospel.

- a. Instead of an atmosphere of reverence we have elaborate light shows;
- b. Comedians and concerts. Dramatic productions. Prizes.
- c. Worship must be authorized (John 4:23-24; Col. 3:17, 1 Cor. 14:40).

2. A dumbed down gospel is a social gospel.

- a. Instead of the Bible, life lessons are learned from television shows:
- b. Andy Griffith, Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer, Charlie Brown Christmas.
- d. Only the gospel has the words that pertain to godly living (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

3. A dumbed down gospel will not sustain a person when trials occur.

- a. Phil. 4:13.
- b. Ja. 1:2.
- c. 2 Pet. 1:2-3.

4. A dumbed down gospel will not save the lost.

- a. The power to save is in preaching the whole counsel of God.
- b. Rom. 1:16.
- c. Acts 20:27.

Conclusion

What must the church do/preach to be effective in producing godly changes in the modern age?

1. What did Jesus preach to produce change in His society (Jo. 12:49)?
2. What did Jesus command that the apostles proclaim so that change would take place in their society (Mat. 28:18-20)?
3. What are we commanded to do to produce change in our society (2 Tim. 4:1-5).

God's Woman in Today's Culture

Edith Sullins

NOTES

WHO IS IN CONTROL --- GOD OR GOVERNMENT?

INTRODUCTION

- I. "WORLD EVENTS" MAY CAUSE US TO WONDER WHO IS IN CONTROL OF THE WORLD, EVENTS, ETC.
- II. THIS LESSON WILL SEEK TO ENHANCE OUR (HOPEFULLY ALREADY FIRMLY HELD) UNDERSTANDING THAT GOD IS, IN FACT, IN CONTROL.

BODY

- I. STATEMENTS/ACTIONS BY ARROGANT RULERS & OTHERS THAT DIDN'T TURN OUT EXACTLY LIKE THEY'D HOPED
 - A. Gen. 11:1ff; tower of Babel --- not a government, but an idea of men
 - B. Ex. 5:1-2; Pharaoh --- "Who is the Lord that I should obey Him..."
 - C. Dan. 4:29-33; Nebuchadnezzar's humiliation
 - D. Dan. 5:1-31; Belshazzar's party
 - E. Matt. 2:1-23; Herod's attempt to "eliminate the king of the Jews"
 - F. Acts 12:20-24; Herod Agrippa I displaying himself in royal apparel
- II. OTHER INDICATIONS THAT "SOMEBODY IS IN CONTROL" BESIDES US
 - A. Gen. 15:13-16
 - B. 1 Sam. 8:1-22; Israel's desire for a king (How did Samuel know to make his prediction?)
 - C. The replacing of Saul with David
 - D. Various prophecies against nations
- III. ALL OF THIS COMES TOGETHER IN 1 CONVERSATION; JOHN 19:10-12
 - A. Pilate's claim to authority
 - B. Jesus' statement that Pilate's position was given to him "from above"
 - C. An interesting part of this is that this caused Pilate to seek to release Jesus.
 - D. This concept does not just apply to Pilate
 - 1. Daniel 2:20-23
 - 2. Rom. 13:1
- IV. A CONSIDERATION OF DANIEL 4:17
 - A. God is the ultimate ruler.
 - B. The men/governments that are in place are there because God wants them there.
 - C. 2 things true about those men/governments ---
 - 1. They may not be godly men
 - 2. They are God's servants
 - D. Other scriptures that support this.
 - 1. Is. 44:28-45:4
 - 2. Jer. 25:8-9
 - 3. Acts 4:27-28
 - D. Events take place, people are put in power, etc. "...in order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men..."

V. A MENTAL TRICK WE MAY HAVE PLAYED ON OURSELVES --- CONFUSING LEGALITY WITH SPIRITUALITY --- THE CONSTITUTION WITH THE BIBLE --- AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP WITH CITIZENSHIP IN THE KINGDOM

A. Consider the implications of these words from our Declaration of Independence (especially the highlighted ones) –

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

1. There was recognition of the Creator.

2. There was also a strong emphasis on the powers and rights of citizens.

B. One of the challenges that preachers on foreign fields have is to make sure that they are converting people to the Lord and not to the American way of life.

C. The “legality vs. spirituality” part of this discussion

1. The Nazis were doing what was legal when they killed Jews and others.

2. Today, many are doing what is legal when innocent babies are killed.

3. What happens when laws change?

4. What law was Herod Antipas disobeying when he was married to his brother Phillip’s wife? (cf. Matt. 14:1-12)

D. We may often forget that the people “in charge” when the church was established and had such remarkable growth were among the most vile and corrupt in history.

VI. WHAT SHOULD CHRISTIANS DO?

A. **Pray**; 1 Tim. 2:1-2

B. **Pay**; Mark 12:17

C. **Obey**; Rom. 13:1-4; 1 Peter 2:13-17; Acts 5:29

D. **Stay** (a citizen)

1. There is nothing wrong with “political involvement” as long as it does not become our religion.

2. There is nothing wrong with relying on the rights we have as citizens (cf. Acts 22:22-29; 23:27).

D. **Say**; “that the living may know” --- It is the church’s job (*our* job) to tell people about the God who is in control.

CONCLUSION

I. REV. 11:15

Drug Presentation
Detective Nelson Kibby
Springfield Police Department, Narcotics

Government is not the answer.

- Romans 13:1-7
 - Some in the Church don't like this
 - "I am an American!" "I have rights!"
 - God's Word trumps the Constitution
 - New Testament Church as our example of
 - Matthew 5 .
- Impressment
 - Roman citizen to carry a soldier's load
 - First mile = compulsory; what about 2nd?
 - Unpopular concept in U.S.
 - John 18:36 – "...My Kingdom is not of this world..."
 - We are citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven FIRST.
Americans 2nd.
- RULES!! RULES!! RULES!!
 - How are Christians supposed to know what we can or can't do, according to the government?
 - The answers are in the Bible
 - If we do what is according to the Bible, we will do what is RIGHT!
- Show Respect
 - We always obey God's word no matter the consequence.
 - A law we "just don't like"? Remember Romans 13!

Goals of this Presentation are to Communicate the following:

- Christians should not be involved in Evil just because the government says it's Legal.
- Drug use for the purpose of altering your actions and state of mind is sinful despite the laws of the land. Remember, God's law prevails.

Christians are Different!!

- I John 2:15 "Do not love the World..."
- Colorado and Washington for Recreational marijuana
- California, Nevada, Oregon; decriminalized marijuana

- Matthew 5:14-16 – “You are the light of the world....”
 - Uniform Picture
- Can a Christian use body and mind altering substances?
 - I Corinthians 6:9-10
 - “....nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers.... Will inherit the kingdom of God.”
 - Common drug types (discussed in detail later)
 - I Corinthians 6:19-20
 - Our bodies as a temple

Choices, Consequences, Reasons for trying drugs

- James 1:14-15
- Drug Dealers; What are they? Commonalities among drug dealers

Common Drug Types and their side effects

- Marijuana
- Methamphetamine
 - Meth Sores
 - Meth Labs
- Cocaine Base
- Cocaine HCL Salt
- Prescription Pills
- Heroin
- MDMA
- Tobacco
- Alcohol
 - Dangers of Teenage Drinking

Conclusion

- Matthew 6:13-14
- I John 5:4

SAME SEX MARRIAGES

INTRODUCTION

- I. 11 FACTS ABOUT SAME SEX MARRIAGES --- from <https://www.dosomething.org>
 - A. The Netherlands became the first country to legalize gay marriage in 2001.
 - B. Since then, 10 more countries worldwide have legalized gay marriage including South Africa, Belgium, Sweden, Canada, Spain, Norway, Iceland, Argentina, and Portugal.
 - C. Massachusetts was the first state to legalize gay marriage in 2004. Since then, 8 more states have made same-sex marriage legal: Iowa, Vermont, Maine, New York, Connecticut, Washington, Maryland, New Hampshire and Washington D.C.
 - D. California legalized gay marriage, but it was outlawed with the passing of Proposition 8 in November 2008.
 - E. Alaska and Hawaii were the first states to legally ban gay marriage in 1998.
 - F. 38 states ban same-sex marriage, some by constitutional amendment, some by law, and the majority by both.
 - G. 7 states provide some, if not all, spousal rights to unmarried couples in domestic partnerships, including: California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, Maine, and Wisconsin.
 - H. 5 states recognize civil unions for gay couples, not including the states who have replaced civil unions with same-sex marriage. Civil unions grant some but not all of the legal benefits of marriage. The states include: New Jersey, Rhode Island, Delaware, Hawaii, and Illinois.
 - I. On May 9, 2012, President Obama made US History when he told ABC News, "I think same sex couples should be able to get married." Obama was reelected for a second term in November, 2012.
 - J. In recent polls, about 70 percent of voters under the age of 30 support same-sex marriage.
 - K. Though gay marriage wasn't legal until the 2000s, gay couples were getting married on TV shows in the 1990s. Sitcom Roseanne featured a gay marriage in 1995 while Friends featured a lesbian wedding in 1996.
- II. SOME MAPS, CHARTS, & OTHER INFORMATION --- from www.hrc.org

NOTE: These will be made available as handouts and will reflect information that was, hopefully, current on August 18, 2014)

III. THIS PRESENTATION WILL ATTEMPT TO ANSWER 3 QUESTIONS

- A. How did we get here?
- B. What does our government say about it?
- C. What does God's Word say about it?

BODY

I. HOW DID WE GET HERE?

- A. Discuss a "history" of homosexuality from a sociological viewpoint
 - 1. Greek mythology includes some homosexual exploits of some of the gods
 - 2. Some ancient cultures tolerated it; ex. Egypt, Greece, Rome
 - a. The Greek language, for example, had no word to describe this relationship
 - b. Alexander the Great had homosexual lovers
 - c. Some of "leading citizens" of Roman Empire
 - d. Sometimes these relationships were between a prominent man and a younger man/boy
 - e. In some of these cultures, some types of same-sex unions were given legal acknowledgment
 - f. Same-sex unions were more common among males than females due, in part, to the fact that males enjoyed more economic, social, and political freedom.
 - g. It should be noted that, in many of these cultures, there was usually
 - h. It should also be noted that "Over time, Rome experienced a similar trajectory as Greece between the early republic and the later empire, and negative attitude toward same-sex unions and non-procreative sexuality increased with the rise of Christianity in the Roman Empire (Pickett). By the fourth century, anxiety toward obviously pervasive same-sex unions reached a peak when the state passed a law promising punishment to anyone entering a same-sex marriage (Eskridge).
—from www.randomhistory.com/history-of-gay-marriage.html
 - 3. Many of the "world religions" (Buddhism, Hinduism, Confucianism, etc.) were/are silent on this subject.
- B. A (very) brief overview of the views of "Christendom" and western civilizations over the centuries
 - 1. "There is some evidence that same-sex relationships enjoyed relative freedom during the early middle ages."
—from www.randomhistory.com/history-of-gay-marriage.html
 - 2. During the thirteenth century, sodomy laws became more prevalent and were enforced.

3. During the next few centuries, there appears to have been less tolerance for, and punishment of, homosexual behavior; both in the religious organizations and civil governments. The culmination of this may be the Nazi treatment of homosexuals (and others who did not “fit the norm.”)
- C. The impact of Karl Benkert aka Karoly Maria Kertbeny --- 1824-1882
1. Austrian born Hungarian psychologist
 2. Credited with coining term “homosexuality”
 3. Suggested that homosexuality is inborn
 4. A natural corollary to this would be that any laws against homosexuality would be a violation of basic human rights.
- D. Other “experts” believed homosexuality to be a *disease* and would search for a cure --- including electric shock treatment. 3.
- B. Discuss a “history” of homosexuality in US in the twentieth & twenty-first century (from www.infoplease.com)

NOTE --- this will also attempt to answer the question what does our government say about it?

1. A timeline ---
 - a. **1924** - The Society for Human Rights in Chicago becomes the country's earliest known gay rights organization.
 - b. **1948** - Alfred Kinsey publishes *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*, revealing to the public that homosexuality is far more widespread than was commonly believed.
 - c. **1951** - The Mattachine Society, the first national gay rights organization, is formed by Harry Hay, considered by many to be the founder of the gay rights movement.
 - d. **1955** - The first lesbian-rights organization in the United States, the Daughters of Bilitis, was established in San Francisco in 1955.
 - e. **1956** - The Daughters of Bilitis, a pioneering national lesbian organization, is founded.
 - f. **1958** - Joe Cino, an Italian-American theater producer, opens Caffè Cino. Caffè Cino is credited with starting the Off-Off-Broadway theater movement. Six years after Caffè Cino opens, it hosts the first gay plays, *The Madness of Lady Bright*, by [Lanford Wilson](#), and *The Haunted Host*, by Robert Patrick.
 - g. **1962** - Illinois becomes the first state in the U.S. to decriminalize homosexual acts between consenting adults in private.
 - h. **1966** - The world's first the transgender organization, the National Transsexual Counseling Unit, was established in San Francisco.

- i. 1969 - The Stonewall riots transform the gay rights movement from one limited to a small number of activists into a widespread protest for equal rights and acceptance. Patrons of a gay bar in New York's Greenwich Village, the Stonewall Inn, fight back during a police raid on **June 27**, sparking three days of riots.
- k. **1973** - The American Psychiatric Association removes homosexuality from its official list of mental disorders. Harvey Milk runs for city supervisor in San Francisco. He runs on a socially liberal platform and opposes government involvement in personal sexual matters. Milk comes in 10th out of 32 candidates, earning 16,900 votes, winning the Castro District and other liberal neighborhoods. He receives a lot of media attention for his passionate speeches, brave political stance, and media skills.
- l. **1976** - San Francisco Mayor George Moscone appoints Harvey Milk to the Board of Permit Appeals, making Milk the first openly gay city commissioner in the United States. Milk decides to run for the California State Assembly and Moscone is forced to fire him from the Board of Permit Appeals after just five weeks. Milk loses the State Assembly race by fewer than 4,000 votes. Believing the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club will never support him politically, Milk co-founds the San Francisco Gay Democratic Club after his election loss.
- m. **1977** - Activists in Miami, Florida pass a civil rights ordinance making sexual orientation discrimination illegal in Dade County. *Save Our Children*, a campaign by a Christian fundamentalist group and headed by singer Anita Bryant, is launched in response to the ordinance. In the largest special election of any in Dade County history, 70% vote to overturn the ordinance. It is a crushing defeat for gay activists.
- n. **1978** - On **January 8**, Harvey Milk makes national news when he is sworn in as a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Running against 16 other candidates, he wins the election by 30 percent. Milk begins his term by sponsoring a civil rights bill that outlaws sexual orientation discrimination. Only one supervisor votes against it and Mayor Moscone signs it into law. John Briggs drops out of the California governor's race, but receives support for Proposition 6, also known as the Briggs Initiative, a proposal to fire any teacher or school employee who publicly supports gay rights. Harvey Milk campaigns against the bill and attends every event hosted by Briggs. In the summer,

attendance greatly increases at Gay Pride marches in San Francisco and Los Angeles, partly in response to Briggs. President Jimmy Carter, former Governor Ronald Reagan, and Governor Jerry Brown speak out against the proposition. On **November 7**, voters reject the proposition by more than a million votes.

On **November 27**, Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone are assassinated by Dan White, another San Francisco city supervisor, who had recently resigned and wanted his job back, but was being passed over because he wasn't the best fit for the liberal leaning Board of Supervisors and the ethnic diversity in White's district. San Francisco pays tribute to Harvey Milk by naming several locations after him, included Harvey Milk Plaza at the intersection of Market and Castro streets. The San Francisco Gay Democratic Club changes its name to the Harvey Milk Memorial Gay Democratic Club.

- o. **1979** - About 75,000 people participated in the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights in Washington, D.C., in October. It was the largest political gathering in support of LGBT rights to date.
- p. **1980** - At the 1980 Democratic National Convention held at New York City's Madison Square Garden, Democrats took a stance supporting gay rights, adding the following to their plank: "All groups must be protected from discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, language, age, sex or sexual orientation."
- q. **1982** - Wisconsin becomes the first state to outlaw discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.
- r. **1984** - The city of Berkeley, California, becomes the first city to offer its employees domestic-partnership benefits.
- s. **1993** - The "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy is instituted for the U.S. military, permitting gays to serve in the military but banning homosexual activity. President Clinton's original intention to revoke the prohibition against gays in the military was met with stiff opposition; this compromise, which has led to the discharge of thousands of men and women in the armed forces, was the result.
On **April 25**, an estimated 800,000 to one million people participate in the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation. Several events such as art and history exhibits, public service outings and

workshops are held throughout Washington, DC leading up to the event. Jesse Jackson, RuPaul, Martina Navratilova, and Eartha Kitt are among the speakers and performers at a rally after the march. The march is a response to “Don't Ask Don't Tell”, Amendment 2 in Colorado, as well as rising hate crimes and ongoing discrimination against the LGBT community.

- t. **1996** - In *Romer v. Evans*, the Supreme Court strikes down Colorado's Amendment 2, which denied gays and lesbians protections against discrimination, calling them “special rights.” According to Justice Anthony Kennedy, “We find nothing special in the protections Amendment 2 withholds. These protections . . . constitute ordinary civil life in a free society.”
- u. **2000** - Vermont becomes the first state in the country to legally recognize civil unions between gay or lesbian couples. The law states that these “couples would be entitled to the same benefits, privileges, and responsibilities as spouses.” It stops short of referring to same-sex unions as marriage, which the state defines as heterosexual.
- v. **2003** - The U.S. Supreme Court rules in *Lawrence v. Texas* that sodomy laws in the U.S. are unconstitutional. Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote, “Liberty presumes an autonomy of self that includes freedom of thought, belief, expression, and certain intimate conduct.”
In **November**, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that barring gays and lesbians from marrying violates the state constitution. The Massachusetts Chief Justice concluded that to “deny the protections, benefits, and obligations conferred by civil marriage” to gay couples was unconstitutional because it denied “the dignity and equality of all individuals” and made them “second-class citizens.” Strong opposition followed the ruling.
- w. **2004** - On **May 17**, same-sex marriages become legal in Massachusetts.
- x. **2005** - Civil unions become legal in Connecticut in **October**
- y. **2006** - Civil unions become legal in New Jersey in **December**.
- z. **2007** - In **November**, the House of Representatives approves a bill ensuring equal rights in the workplace for gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals.
- aa. **2008** - In **February**, a New York State appeals court unanimously votes that valid same-sex marriages performed in other states must be recognized by employers in New York, granting same-sex couples the same rights as other couples.

In **February**, the state of Oregon passes a law that allows same-sex couples to register as domestic partners allowing them some spousal rights of married couples.

On **May 15**, the California Supreme Court rules that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry. By November 3rd, more than 18,000 same-sex couples have married. On November 4, California voters approved a ban on same-sex marriage called Proposition 8. The attorney general of California, Jerry Brown, asked the state's Supreme Court to review the constitutionality of Proposition 8. The ban throws into question the validity of the more than 18,000 marriages already performed, but Attorney General Brown reiterated in a news release that he believed the same-sex marriages performed in California before November 4 should remain valid, and the California Supreme Court, which upheld the ban in May 2009, agreed, allowing those couples married under the old law to remain that way.

November 4, voters in California, Arizona, and Florida approved the passage of measures that ban same-sex marriage. Arkansas passed a measure intended to bar gay men and lesbians from adopting children. On **October 10**, the Supreme Court of Connecticut rules that same-sex couples have the right to marry. This makes Connecticut the second state, after Massachusetts, to legalize civil marriage for same-sex couples. The court rules that the state cannot deny gay and lesbian couples the freedom to marry under Connecticut's constitution, and that the state's civil union law does not provide same-sex couples with the same rights as heterosexual couples.

On **November 12**, same-sex marriages begin to be officially performed in Connecticut.

bb. **2009** - On **April 3**, the Iowa Supreme Court unanimously rejects the state law banning same-sex marriage. Twenty-one days later, county recorders are required to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

On **April 7**, the Vermont Legislature votes to override Gov. Jim Douglas's veto of a bill allowing gays and lesbians to marry, legalizing same-sex marriage. It is the first state to legalize gay marriage through the legislature; the courts of the other states in which the marriage is legal—Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Iowa—gave approval.

On **May 6**, the governor of Maine legalized same-sex marriage in that state in Maine; however, citizens voted to overturn that law when they went to the polls in November, and Maine became the 31st state to ban the practice.

On **June 3**, New Hampshire governor John Lynch signs legislation allowing same-sex marriage. The law stipulates that religious organizations and their employees will not be required to participate in the ceremonies. New Hampshire is the sixth state in the nation to allow same-sex marriage.

On **June 17**, President Obama signs a referendum allowing the same-sex partners of federal employees to receive benefits. They will not be allowed full health coverage, however. This is Obama's first major initiative in his campaign promise to improve gay rights.

On **August 12**, President Obama posthumously awards Harvey Milk the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

cc. **2010 - March 3**, Congress approves a law signed in December 2009 that legalizes same-sex marriage in the District of Columbia.

August 4, Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker rules that Proposition 8, the 2008 referendum that banned same-sex marriage in California, violates the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause. "Proposition 8 singles out gays and lesbians and legitimates their unequal treatment," Vaughn writes. "Proposition 8 perpetuates the stereotype that gays and lesbians are incapable of forming long-term loving relationships and that gays and lesbians are not good parents."

December 18, the U.S. Senate votes 65 to 31 in favor of repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell, the Clinton-era military policy that forbids openly gay men and women from serving in the military. Eight Republicans side with the Democrats to strike down the ban. The ban will not be lifted officially until President Obama, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, and Admiral Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, agree that the military is ready to enact the change and that it won't affect military readiness. On **Dec. 18**, President Obama officially repeals the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" military policy.

dd. **2011 - June 24**, New York passes a law to allow same-sex marriage. New York is now the largest state that allows gay and lesbian couples to marry. The vote comes on the eve of the city's annual Gay Pride Parade and gives new momentum to the national gay-rights movement. The marriage bill is approved with a 33 to 29 vote. Cheering supporters greet Gov. Andrew Cuomo as he arrives on the Senate floor to sign the measure at 11:55pm, just moments after the vote. After making same-sex marriage one of his top priorities, Cuomo emerges as a true champion of gay rights.

ee. **2012 - February 7**, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in California rules 2-1 that Proposition 8, the 2008 referendum that banned same-sex marriage in state, is unconstitutional because it violates the Equal

Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. In the ruling, the court says, the law "operates with no apparent purpose but to impose on gays and lesbians, through the public law, a majority's private disapproval of them and their relationships."

February 13, Washington becomes the seventh state to legalize gay marriage.

March 1, Maryland passes legislation to legalize gay marriage, becoming the eighth state to do so.

May 9, President Barack Obama endorses same-sex marriage. "It is important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same-sex couples should be able to get married," he said. He makes the statement days after Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan both came out in support of gay marriage.

Nov. 6, Tammy Baldwin, a seven-term Democratic congresswoman from Wisconsin, prevails over former governor Tommy Thompson in the race for U.S. Senate and becomes the first openly gay politician elected to the Senate. Also on Election Day, gay marriage is approved in a popular vote for the first time. Maine and Maryland vote in favor of allowing same-sex marriage. In addition, voters in Minnesota reject a measure to ban same-sex marriage.

ff. **2013 Feb. 27**, in a policy shift for party members, several Republicans back a legal brief asking the Supreme Court to rule that same-sex marriage is a constitutional right. More than 100 Republicans are listed on the brief, including former New Hampshire Congressman Charles Bass and Beth Myers. Myers was a key adviser to Mitt Romney during his 2012 presidential campaign. The brief is filed as the U.S. Supreme Court prepares to consider overturning Proposition 8, the California initiative banning same-sex marriage, as well as overturning the Defense of Marriage Act, a federal law passed during Bill Clinton's presidency, which defines marriage as between a man and a woman.

March 26, the Supreme Court begins two days of historical debate over gay marriage. During the debate, the Supreme Court consider overturning Proposition 8, the California initiative banning same-sex marriage, and the Defense of Marriage Act, a federal law passed during Bill Clinton's presidency, which defines marriage as between a man and a woman. The Supreme Court's decision will be announced in June 2013.

April 29, Jason Collins of the NBA's Washington Wizards announces in an essay in *Sports Illustrated* that he is gay. "I'm a 34-year-old N.B.A. center. I'm black and I'm gay," he writes. "I've reached that enviable state in life in which I can do pretty much what I want. And what I want is to

continue to play basketball. I still love the game, and I still have something to offer. My coaches and teammates recognize that. At the same time, I want to be genuine and authentic and truthful." Collins is the first active athlete in the NBA, NFL, NHL, or MLB to make the announcement.

May 2, after same-sex marriage legislation passes in both houses of Rhode Island's legislature, Governor Lincoln Chafee signs it into law. The new law, legalizing same-sex marriage, goes into effect on August 1, 2013.

May 7, Governor Jack Markell signs the Civil Marriage Equality and Religious Freedom act, legalizing same-sex marriage for the state of Delaware. The new law goes into effect on July 1, 2013.

May 13, in Minnesota, the State Senate votes 37 to 30 in favor of legalizing same-sex marriage. The vote comes a week after it passes in the House. Governor Mark Dayton, a supporter of same-sex marriage, says he will sign the bill the following afternoon. Gay couples will be able to marry in Minnesota in August 2013.

June 26, the Supreme Court rules that the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional. In a 5 to 4 vote, the court rules that DOMA violates the rights of gays and lesbians. The court also rules that the law interferes with the states' rights to define marriage. It is the first case ever on the issue of gay marriage for the Supreme Court. Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. votes against striking it down as does Antonin Scalia, Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas. However, conservative-leaning Justice Anthony M. Kennedy votes with his liberal colleagues to overturn DOMA.

July 17, Queen Elizabeth II approves a same-sex marriage bill for England and Wales. Her approval comes a day after it passes in Parliament. While the queen's approval is simply a formality, her quick response clears the way for the first gay marriages to happen as soon as 2014 in England and Wales. The bill allows same-sex couples to marry in both religious and civil ceremonies. It also allows couples currently in a civil partnership to convert it into a marriage. Scotland is currently considering its own new legislation on same-sex marriage.

Aug. 1, Minnesota and Rhode Island begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples this month.

Oct. 21, in an unanimous vote, the New Jersey Supreme Court rejects Gov. Chris Christie's request to delay the implementation date of same-sex weddings. Same-sex couples in New Jersey begin to marry. Just hours later, Christie drops his appeal to legalize same-sex marriages.

Therefore, New Jersey becomes the 14th state to recognize same-sex marriages...

Nov. 5, Illinois becomes the 15th state to recognize same-sex marriages when the House of Representatives approves the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, which passed the state Senate in February 2013. Governor Pat Quinn, a strong supporter of same-sex marriage, will sign it into law. The new law will be implemented on June 1, 2014.

Nov. 12, Hawaii becomes the 16th state to recognize same-sex marriages when the Senate passes a gay marriage bill, which had already passed in the House. Governor Neil Abercrombie, a vocal supporter of gay marriage, says he will sign the bill. Beginning December 2, gay couples who are residents of Hawaii as well as tourists can marry in the state. Hawaii is already a very popular state for destination weddings. State Senator J. Kalani English says, "This is nothing more than the expansion of aloha in Hawaii."

gg. **2014, Jan. 6**, the United States Supreme Court blocks any further same-sex marriages in [Utah](#) while state officials appeal the decision made by Judge Shelby in late December 2013. The block creates legal limbo for the 1,300 same-sex couples who have received marriage licenses since Judge Shelby's ruling.

Jan. 10, the Obama administration announces that the federal government will recognize the marriages of the 1,300 same-sex couples in Utah even though the state government has currently decided not to do so. In a video announcement on the Justice Department website, Attorney General Eric Holder says, "I am confirming today that, for purposes of federal law, these marriages will be recognized as lawful and considered eligible for all relevant federal benefits on the same terms as other same-sex marriages. These families should not be asked to endure uncertainty regarding their status as the litigation unfolds." With federal approval, same-sex couples will be able to receive spousal benefits, like health insurance for federal employees and filing joint federal income tax returns.

May 19, same-sex marriage becomes legal in Oregon when a U.S. federal district judge rules that the state's 2004 constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage violates the Equal Protection clause in the U.S. Constitution.

May 20, a judge strikes down the same-sex marriage ban in Pennsylvania, making the state the 18th to legalize gay marriage. The judge rules that Pennsylvania's 1996 ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. The state is the last in the Northeast to legalize same-sex marriage. Before now, the state did not even recognize domestic partnerships or civil unions

II. WHAT IS THE “OFFICIAL POSITION” OF SOME RELIGIOUS GROUPS?

A. Three major groups in the United States --- This material is from www.christianbiblereference.org

1. Roman Catholic --- Basing itself on Sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as acts of grave depravity, tradition has always declared that "homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered. They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved.

The number of men and women who have deep-seated homosexual tendencies is not negligible. This inclination, which is objectively disordered, constitutes for most of them a trial. They must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided. These persons are called to fulfill God's will in their lives and, if they are Christians, to unite to the sacrifice of the Lord's Cross the difficulties they may encounter from their condition.

Homosexual persons are called to chastity. By the virtues of self-mastery that teach them inner freedom, at times by the support of disinterested friendship, by prayer and sacramental grace, they can and should gradually and resolutely approach Christian perfection.

--- From Catechism of the Catholic Church, (c) 1994, United States Catholic Conference, Inc.,
<http://www.nccbuscc.org/catechism/text/index.htm>

2. Southern Baptist --- We affirm God's plan for marriage and sexual intimacy - one man, and one woman, for life. Homosexuality is not a "valid alternative lifestyle." The Bible condemns it as sin. It is not, however, unforgivable sin. The same redemption available to all sinners is available to homosexuals. They, too, may become new creations in Christ.

--- From Position Statements, Copyright (c) 1999 - 2001, Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention,
<http://sbc.net/default.asp?url=position-statements.html>

3. United Methodist --- Homosexual persons no less than heterosexual persons are individuals of sacred worth. All persons need the ministry and guidance of the church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. Although we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching, we affirm that God's grace is available to all. We implore families and churches

not to reject or condemn their lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.

Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to supporting those rights and liberties for homosexual persons. We see a clear issue of simple justice in protecting their rightful claims where they have shared material resources, pensions, guardian relationships, mutual powers of attorney, and other such lawful claims typically attendant to contractual relationships that involve shared contributions, responsibilities, and liabilities, and equal protection before the law. Moreover, we support efforts to stop violence and other forms of coercion against gays and lesbians. We also commit ourselves to social witness against the coercion and marginalization of former homosexuals. From The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church--2000, ¶161G, 162H. Copyright 2000 by The United Methodist Publishing House, <http://www.umc.org/abouttheumc/policy/>

- B. Summary of denominational positions in North America and Europe --- from Wikipedia.org

This material will be available as a handout

III. WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY ABOUT IT?

- A. Homosexuality is dealt with in the Bible, but there is no mention of "marriages"

1. Gen. 19:5
2. Lev. 18:21-22
3. Lev. 20:13
4. Judges 19:22
5. Rom. 1:26-27
6. 1 Cor. 6:9-10
7. 1 Tim. 1:8-10

- B. Attempts by some to say that homosexual relationships are looked upon with favor, or at least without condemnation, in the Bible:

1. David and Jonathan; 1 Sam. 18:3-4; 2 Sam. 1:26
2. Ruth and Naomi; Ruth 1:14
3. Jesus and the apostle John; John 13:23, et al

- C. "Arguments" in favor of a more tolerant "biblical" view (or at least attempts to question widely and historically held beliefs)

--- from www.christianbiblereference.org

1. It is often pointed out that there was no concept of a loving, consensual same-sex relationship in Biblical times. Neither was there an awareness of an innate sexual preference. Homosexual acts were viewed as a violation of the "holiness code" of Leviticus which separated the Israelites from the conduct of the pagan peoples of the world⁷. So the question arises whether

consensual homosexual acts violate Bible teachings, or were the Bible passages intended to apply only to homosexual acts involving idolatry, rape, prostitution or pederasty?

2. Even if consensual homosexual acts are not specifically addressed, would they be prohibited under the more general prohibition against "fornication" or "sexual immorality?" (Matthew 15:18-20, Mark 7:20-23, Galatians 5:19-21) The Bible never gives a list of exactly what acts are considered immoral, so there is no definite answer to this question.
3. Is the husband-wife model desirable for everyone (Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:4-5, Mark 10:6-8), or not (Matthew 19:10-12, 1 Corinthians 7:7-9)?
4. Is the New Testament prohibition against homosexual acts an important spiritual law for all times? Or was it more just a warning against creating a scandal by violating the cultural norms of that time in history, as in the case of slavery (1 Corinthians 7:21-22, Ephesians 6:5-6), the role of women (1 Corinthians 14:33-35), dress (1 Corinthians 11:4-7), etc.?
5. Are homosexual acts especially serious sins, as suggested by Leviticus 20:13? Or are they relatively minor sins because they were not mentioned in the Ten Commandments or by Jesus, and there are only 7 other mentions in the Bible? (In comparison, the sin of hatred is mentioned 21 times, lying and false testimony 30, greed, avarice and covetousness 40, theft 42, adultery 52, murder 57, self-righteousness 79, and idolatry 169 times.)
6. Is a consensual homosexual relationship any more abominable to God than the worldliness and other sins that we are all guilty of? (Matthew 5:21-22, 5:27-28, 6:24-25, Mark 7:20-23, Luke 17:26-27, Colossians 3:2, 1 Timothy 6:10, 2 Timothy 3:2-7, Hebrews 13:5, etc.)

D. A SUMMARY OF BIBLICAL TEACHING

- A. God's Word is ---
 1. Inspired --- 2 Tim. 3:16-17
 2. Accurate --- arguments from science, history, prophecy, etc.
 3. Perpetually relevant --- Jude 3
- B. Sin (any sin) is transgression of God's Law --- 1 John 3:4
- C. Fornication is sin --- 1 Cor. 6:18; Gal.5:19
- D. Fornication consists of any sexual act outside the bonds of marriage
- E. God will judge fornicators; Heb. 13:4
- F. Those who practice sin **and** those who condone sin "...deserve to die..." (Rom. 1:32)

- E. Matthew 19:4-6 should answer the "argument" that Jesus never addressed the subject of same-sex marriages.

CONCLUSION

I. WHAT CAN/MAY/ SHOULD CHRISTIANS DO?

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing”

--- Edmund Burke

- A. Practice the teaching of Matt. 7:1-5
 - 1. This passage does **not** teach that it is wrong to correct another.
 - 2. This passage **does** teach that I must be careful about my own lifestyle and motivation as I correct others.
- B. Take a stand (be a “gap-stander”) --- Ezekiel 22:30
- C. Get out from under the bushel and out of the saltshaker --- Matt. 5:13-16
- D. Dare to be different
 - 1. 1 Peter 2:9-12
 - 2. 1 Peter 4:2-5
- E. Pray --- 1 Tim. 2:1-3
- F. Get past the “grasshopper complex”
 - 1. Things are not as dire as we might be led to believe.
 - a. Quotes from “The Daily Briefing” by Albert Mohler for August 11, 2014
NOTE: The information from which he obtained the quotes will be provided in a handout.
 - 1) “The highest human rights court in Europe has told European LGBTs that they have no human right to same-sex marriage...”
 - 2) “The court further said ‘it cannot be said that there exists in any European consensus on allowing same-sex marriage’ and that same-sex marriage is allowed in only ten of the 47 member states of the Council of Europe.”
 - 3) “The decision flies in the face of ongoing LGBT claims that same-sex marriage is about to sweep in the world. In fact, same-sex marriage is recognized in only 18 countries out of more than 200 listed in the CIA World Fact Book or the 192 member states of the UN.”
 - b. The July 15, 2014 online edition of *The Washington Post* reported on a National Health Interview Survey that stated: “Less than 3 percent of the U.S. population identify themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual.” NOTE: a handout will be provided
 - 2. Don’t forget the power of God; Rom. 8:31ff

II. ULTIMATELY, WE CAN NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF WHERE OUR TRUE CITIZENSHIP IS --- PHIL. 3:20-21