British statesman Edmund Burke once said, “All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” In other words, if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem.

Citizenship in a free country is a blessing from God, but also a very serious responsibility. This booklet outlines seven ways Christians can be salt and light in our deeply troubled nation. As a Christian, you can help shape the America your children will inherit, starting today.
Your 7 Duties As a Christian Citizen

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In selecting men for office, let principle be your guide. Regard not the particular sect or denomination of the candidate—look to his character... It is alleged by men of loose principles, or defective views of the subject, that religion and morality are not necessary or important qualifications for political stations. But the Scriptures teach a different doctrine. They direct that rulers should be men who rule in the fear of God, able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness...

When a citizen gives his vote to a man of known immorality, he abuses his civic responsibility; he sacrifices not only his own interest, but that of his neighbor; he betrays the interest of his country.

—NOAH WEBSTER (1758–1843)
CITIZENSHIP IN a free country is a blessing from God. Our great system of self-government assures every Christian an opportunity to have a voice in the affairs of the nation. It allows us to say by our actions, “May Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.” Just as in the church and in the home, God wants us to do His will in government.

But too often we have disobeyed our Lord by our inaction. We have ceased to be the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world,” as Christ has commanded us. As a result, the moral fiber of America is rotting away—and our priceless freedom is in grave jeopardy. Secularism is hijacking every area of our national life and trying to silence the voices of all Christians. America is faced with the greatest crisis in its history. We are in danger of losing our nation, and our God-given freedoms to those who disdain the God of our nation’s founders.

If that should happen, our opportunity to help fulfill the Great Commission throughout the United States and the world could also be lost. Hundreds of millions may never have an opportunity to hear about our Savior.

British statesman Edmund Burke said, “All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for
good men to do nothing.” In other words, if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem. America is one of the last strongholds of freedom on earth—and citizens who are dedicated to God are the primary resource for the preservation of our freedoms, including the freedom to serve Him. Our founding fathers began the Bill of Rights guaranteeing freedom of religion for this very reason, because it is the only sure basis for all of our other freedoms.

Tens of millions of the people in the United States profess faith in Jesus Christ. By following the simple guidelines contained in this booklet, even a small percentage of us can be used by God to set this nation on a new course of righteousness for His glory. From the Book of Acts to the Abolitionist Movement, the past demonstrates again and again that a handful of dedicated individuals who band together can change the course of history. This booklet describes seven duties for the Christian who sincerely desires to be a part of the solution in America.

Charles Finney, who helped introduce half a million Americans to Christ, wrote in 1835:

*The time has come that Christians must vote for honest men and take consistent...*
ground in politics, or the Lord will curse them…God cannot sustain this free and blessed country, which we love and pray for, unless the Church will take right ground. Politics are a part of religion in such a country as this, and Christians must do their duty to the country as part of their duty to God…God will bless or curse this nation according to the course Christians take in politics.

His words are no less true for us today. Our nation’s course is up to us.

YOUR CHRISTIAN CITIZEN CHECKLIST

Mark Twain understood the importance of a Christian’s responsibility as a citizen. He wrote:

A Christian’s first duty is to God. It then follows, as a matter of course, that it is his duty to carry his Christian code of morals to the polls and vote them…If Christians should vote their duty to God at the polls, they would carry every election, and do it with ease…it would bring about a moral
revolution that would be incalculably beneficent. It would save the country.¹

With so much at stake in our nation, honestly answer these questions about your role:

☐ Do I pray faithfully for a spiritual revival to sweep America?

☐ Am I registered to vote? Do I encourage other Christians to register?

☐ Am I making a serious effort, along with my Christian friends, to become informed about the candidates and issues?

☐ Am I actively involved in helping to select and elect godly candidates to office?

☐ Do I vote in every election for the best candidates, regardless of party?

☐ Do I know how to shrewdly make God the issue in any situation, just like Jesus did, instead of continuing to react defensively to every cultural ill that comes along?

If you answered “no” to one or more of these questions, this booklet is “must” reading for you. It will bring you to a new realization that faith in our Lord implies obligation and duty to serve

¹ Collier’s Magazine (September 2, 1905): 17.
Him in all areas of life—including citizenship. And what is far more important, you will learn how to practice your citizenship for His glory.

**GOD’S PLAN FOR A NATION’S LEADERSHIP**

To protect His people, God warns against ungodly leaders. The rule of the wicked is a direct violation of His will. “The wicked will not rule the land of the godly, for then the godly might be tempted to do wrong” (Psalm 125:3). Instead, God’s plan is for us to have leaders who know Him and will rule according to His Word. “He who rules over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God” (2 Samuel 23:3, NKJV).

John Jay, first Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court, was one of the three men most responsible for drafting the Constitution. In 1816 he wrote:

_Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty—as well as the privilege and interest—of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers._

Voting for and supporting moral candidates who support moral public policies is the minimum required of Christian citizens in a system of...
self-government. Godly people must vote for godly rulers. Christian lawyer Michael Whitehead put it this way: “If America is to be saved, saved Americans must lead the way.”

THE SEVEN DUTIES

1. PRAY

Pray that God will send a great spiritual awakening to America, that many millions of our citizens will trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and that Christians will dedicate themselves to God for living Christ-centered lives, actively serving others within their families, their churches, and our nation.

GOD’S PROMISE TO HEAL A REPENTANT NATION

It is undeniable that our once great country, now mired in numerous social ills, is facing an unparalleled moral crisis, as well as a potential economic calamity. God alone holds the solution to our nation’s problems—and we hold the key. The healing of our nation begins with the prayers of His followers. “If my people who are called by my
name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

We can pray in the following ways.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

PRAY daily that the Spirit of God will enable you, by His power, to live a godly life and introduce others to Christ as their Savior. This is the first step to good citizenship.

PRAY daily that God will change the hearts of, or remove from positions of public leadership, those officials who are godless, worldly, and disobedient to Him. Remember that godless leadership in a nation is contagious. As King Solomon said, “If a ruler listens to lies, all his officials become wicked” (Proverbs 29:12, NIV).

PRAY daily that men and women of God will be elected to public office at all levels of leadership—local, state, and national—so that righteous authority is restored to government. Then our land will be healed and our country will experience the abundant blessings of God. “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD” (Psalm 33:12, NIV).
PRAY daily “for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity” (1 Timothy 2:2). In a democracy we must hold our leaders accountable, but praying for them is even more significant and effective. Pray that our leaders will be filled with godly wisdom and stand for what is right and true.

There are numerous resources online designed to help you pray more effectively for our nation. AmericanPrayerInitiative.org and Heritage Alliance.com are two that can help get you started if you are not already connected with a local prayer group.

After earnest prayer…

2. REGISTER TO VOTE

Register to vote so you can fulfill your God-given civic duty, fulfilling both your accountability to God and your responsibility for your fellow man.

IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY REGISTERED, DO SO AT ONCE
To serve God as a citizen, you must become a regularly participating voter. But you cannot vote
until you have registered your name, address, and other information with the proper authorities.

PRACTICE GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Voting is a matter of stewardship under God, yet many millions of God’s people throughout America are not even registered to vote. How can we as Christian citizens expect God to restore righteous leadership through us if we are unwilling to take a few minutes to register? Only as a registered voter will you be in a position to help elect godly officials. King Solomon writes, “Upright citizens are good for a city [state or nation] and make it prosper” (Proverbs 11:11).

Register as soon as possible so that you can vote in the next election, and in every election, as a service to God. If you are not familiar with registration procedures, contact your local city or county office for information or go to their website. Do an Internet search for “voter registration” plus the name of your city or county.

There may be a registration deadline several weeks before the election, so do not wait until it is too late. Voter registration forms are often readily available at post offices, libraries, or motor vehicle licensing agencies. In addition, churches are per-
mitted by law to invite a registrar to come to the church to register people to vote.

Once you have registered to vote, join with others…

3. BECOME INFORMED

Jesus said, “I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves” (Matthew 10:16). Jesus said we are to be “shrewd” (wise with street smarts) as we go out and engage society. Do you think it is possible to be “shrewd as snakes,” as Jesus commanded, if you are not well-informed?

VALUE KNOWLEDGE

Just as the untrained soldier is at the mercy of his enemy, the uninformed Christian cannot prevail against evil forces in the world of politics. Knowledge is essential to effective action. “The wise are mightier than the strong, and those with knowledge grow stronger and stronger” (Proverbs 24:5). To serve God effectively as a citizen, you must learn how to act for His glory within the framework of existing political processes.

How can you best begin?
ORGANIZE A CITIZENSHIP GROUP
There is a wise African proverb: “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” Even Jesus never sent out His disciples alone. Therefore, organize a citizenship group or an issue-oriented prayer group with your friends, or join an existing group, to educate yourself and others concerning the structure of government, issues, candidates, and how to serve God effectively in the political arena at your level of influence.

GATHER INFORMATION
You need reliable information and solid analysis, so do not rely on social media in your research. Many sources of information are available on the political process. Numerous organizations and ministries have educational websites providing summaries of current issues and updates on pending legislation. Many will send you regular updates by email if you request them. Newsletters, brochures, and fact sheets on specific topics can also put timely information at your fingertips.

Divide up the ballot issues and candidates (including judges and local officials) to research. Find out everything you can about candidates, keeping in mind that their demonstrated charac-
ter is far more important than their words. Plan to meet regularly, discuss the issues and candidates each person has researched, and then ask God for wisdom and insight.

KNOW THE CANDIDATES’ VIEWS

Make a sincere effort to obtain reliable information about all issues and candidates. Take time to attend any candidate forums or watch televised debates in national elections. Look very closely at the organizations with which they have associated. Whenever possible, try to discern how they have actually voted or behaved in the past. Don’t be deceived by what they say today. Past behavior is the best predictor of future behavior. Understanding this is critical to being “as shrewd as snakes” like Jesus commanded.

If any candidates are running for reelection, find out how they voted on issues of critical importance impacting our families and nation. Any candidate who has not vigorously defended religious freedom and supported biblical morality, in both word and deed, should never receive your vote (unless there is truly no better alternative). Remember, our religious freedom in America is the basis for all of our other freedoms.
Some organizations produce “Congressional Scorecards” on various issues to help you track elected federal officials’ votes. Other groups, at both the national and state levels, produce non-partisan voter education guides both online and in print to inform you of candidates’ views in presidential, congressional, state, and judicial races. Because these guides fully comply with IRS regulations, they may be distributed in churches, despite the politically motivated attempts of some to intimidate pastors from distributing them. You have a right—and a responsibility—to be fully informed before choosing those who will rule over you.

BEGIN NOW

Don’t procrastinate. None of us seem to have enough hours in the day, but knowing that your efforts here will greatly impact your family and community, elevate this to a high priority. Delay can be fatal to America. Do not allow anything to hinder you from becoming a well-informed Christian citizen.

Knowledge is useless without action…
4. HELP ELECT GODLY PEOPLE

Help select and elect men and women of God to public office at the local, state, and national levels. Support them faithfully throughout their terms of public service by lovingly sharing with them the biblical views on issues, praying for them, and encouraging them.

HELP RESTORE RIGHTEOUS RULE

Righteous rule brings rejoicing. “When the godly are in authority, the people rejoice. But when the wicked are in power, they groan” (Proverbs 29:2). The most effective way to restore righteous rule and rejoicing in America is to elect godly people to positions of authority. This can be done only by informed, praying Christians like you.

How can you accomplish this?

SELECT GODLY CANDIDATES

The Word of God gives us the basic qualifications of a good candidate. “Select...capable, honest men who fear God and hate bribes. Appoint them as leaders...” (Exodus 18:21).

The four qualifications listed in this passage are: demonstrated capability (competence in man-
aging business or professional affairs), honesty, godliness (spiritual maturity), and rock-solid integrity. Apply these God-given standards carefully and prayerfully in selecting your candidates.

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR PRECINCT
Local political precincts are the key to victory for a godly candidate. Contact the office of the candidate you support to learn how to get involved in your precinct. Consider becoming a precinct leader, and find other like-minded people in your precinct to serve with you. Your candidate may already know of some folks in your precinct so make sure to ask. Become a precinct leader. Acquire the official map covering your precinct, and assign each volunteer specific streets to canvas so that every home will be visited. Since there are approximately 185,000 precincts in the US, a relatively few godly people involved at the precinct level can help change the direction of this nation.

MOVE INTO ACTION
Serve your local precinct in the following ways:
1) Show up at the next precinct meeting.
2) Get acquainted with the residents in your precinct.

3) Actively enlist additional precinct workers who believe like you.

4) Obtain the latest official precinct map and list of registered voters in your precinct. You should be able to get this from your candidate.

5) Urge everyone who supports your candidate to register. Be sure to tell them how.

6) Make your candidate known by word of mouth and through literature distribution. You can get materials from your candidate’s office.

7) Strongly urge all who favor godly candidates to vote on election day. If necessary, personally assist them in getting to the polling place. At the very least make sure they know where it is.

YOUR KEY ROLE UNDER GOD
Since the key to election victory is at the precinct level, God’s people can and must serve in the precincts of America as a high-priority duty to Him. Five to ten dedicated Christians, each of whom
spend four to five hours every month in precinct service, can often help win their precinct for a qualified candidate who is spiritually mature. If this is done in a majority of the precincts in your election district, your candidate is much more likely to win the election.

**GOD WILL USE YOU**

Most importantly, your precinct service will provide excellent opportunities to share God’s love and forgiveness with others. As you serve God in your precinct, carry copies of the *Four Spiritual Laws* with you. Ask God to lead you to those who are ready to place their trust in Christ. Share God’s wonderful plan of salvation with them and invite them to worship God with you in your church. You will be a blessing to others, and your own life will be enriched.

Now that you are prepared . . .

**5. VOTE**

After becoming informed about the various candidates and issues, and wisely evaluating them on the basis of the Word of God, vote consistently in every election. It is your God-given duty.
WHY YOU MUST VOTE

In addition to praying, you must cast your vote to fulfill your Christian responsibility toward government. Exercise the opportunity for influence that God has given you through our unique system of self-government. If you fail to vote conscientiously for godly rule, evil will increase in our nation. “When the wicked are in authority, sin flourishes” (Proverbs 29:16). Our nation will then bear the consequences of the leaders we choose. “When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, but the LORD will not answer you…” (1 Samuel 8:18, NIV).

If you choose not to vote, you forfeit your moral right to decry the ungodly actions of your elected leaders. By not voting, you helped elect them. You bear the blame, and your children and grandchildren will suffer for it. Always vote. And vote as wisely as possible so that your conscience is clear before God. Only then can you be part of the solution.

It is commonly believed that elections in America are decided by a majority of the people. This is not so. Elections are decided by a majority of those who vote. As few as 16 percent of all eligi-
ble voters in a district can elect a member of Congress. Even presidents have been elected by an average of one-half the votes per precinct nationwide. The 2000 presidential election was decided by 537 votes in Florida (a difference of only one vote per 9 precincts).

Make sure you vote in the primary as well as the general election. Fewer people typically vote in the primary so your vote then carries more weight. Also, due to political gerrymandering, most congressional races are largely decided in the primary rather than the general election. Make your vote count.

How can you know for whom you should vote? Remember…

LET GOD’S WORD BE YOUR GUIDE

In making your decisions, let the Word of God be your guide. “Godliness makes a nation great” (Proverbs 14:34), so it is important to prayerfully seek God’s will in all political decisions. Israel invited God’s anger by selecting leaders without consulting Him: “They set up kings without my consent; they choose princes without my approval” (Hosea 8:4, NIV).
If there is no qualified candidate who is spiritually mature, vote for the one whose personal principles and platform most closely agree with your own Christian position based on the Bible. A small step in the right direction is better than no step at all. Keep in mind that not voting is not an option for the Christian who takes seriously the command of Jesus to be both salt and light.

**PRINCIPLES ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN PARTY**

Remember that the candidates’ principles are far more important than their party affiliation. To place confidence in unworthy candidates is a miscarriage of Christian stewardship. “Putting confidence in an unreliable person in times of trouble is like chewing with a broken tooth or walking on a lame foot” (Proverbs 25:19). Therefore, vote for men and women of proven character and moral integrity over your party loyalty.

In 1832, founding father Noah Webster warned young people that the preservation of our government depends on their choosing righteous leaders:

> When you become entitled to exercise the right of voting for public officers, let it be
impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose for rulers just men who will rule in the fear of God. The preservation of a republican government depends on the faithful discharge of this duty; if the citizens neglect their duty and place unprincipled men in office, the government will soon be corrupted; laws will be made, not for the public good, so much as for selfish or local purposes; corrupt or incompetent men will be appointed to execute the laws; the public revenues will be squandered on unworthy men; and the rights of the citizens will be violated or discarded. If a republican government fails to secure public prosperity and happiness, it must be because the citizens neglect the divine commands, and elect bad men to make and administer the laws.²

6. AFTER ELECTION DAY, KEEP GOING!

After election day, keep going! Keep your citizenship group together and work closely with other

² Noah Webster, History of the United States (New Haven, CT: Durrie & Peck, 1832), 336–337.
godly people to help bring God back into the public forum as the founders of this nation intended and modeled.

Rome wasn’t built in a day, the slave trade was not outlawed in a year, and America will not be turned around in one election cycle. To be good stewards of our responsibilities as Christian citizens, we must take a serious look at everything we do and say each day and then make intentional decisions about how and where we will invest our time, talent, and treasure.

If you have already formed an issue-oriented prayer group or citizenship group, continue to build on that foundation after the election. Meet monthly for prayer and discussion and invite others to join you. Ask God to show you specific areas where you can continue to make a difference for your families and community. Consider how you can impact the future in the following ways…

IMPACT THE FUTURE WITH YOUR PHONE

There are many ways you can be actively involved and impact the future with your phone.

When an issue being considered by Congress, your state legislature, your city council, or the
local school board impacts the religious or moral environment in your community, call the appropriate person to express your support or opposition. Gather the phone numbers and emails of your elected officials ahead of time so you can act while you are thinking about it. Each time you act, let your friends know what you have done and ask them to do likewise. Social media makes this easy. Be intentional!

Calling has an immediate impact. If your elected representative’s office receives a high volume of phone calls on an issue, it is far more likely to be passed along to your representative quickly, especially if the phone lines get tied up making it difficult for the staff to conduct business.

When a company engages in behavior that impacts the religious or moral climate in your community, call the appropriate person to register your gratitude or disappointment. Do not call just when you are displeased. Encouraging good behavior usually motivates companies to continue more of the same. This could be a movie theater, a television station, a local business, or even a corporate advertiser on the other side of the country.

The point is, you have a phone; make your voice heard. Use your phone and social media to help shape America’s future. Be persistent, but
always be considerate. Remember, as followers of Jesus, we don’t just want to win a battle, we want to win people.

IMPACT THE FUTURE WITH YOUR POCKETBOOK

In America we make choices every day about where we will spend our money. Jesus said we are to be “faithful stewards.” This has direct implications for the material resources God has given to each of us. This means more than just investing wisely and tithing faithfully. This also means strategically spending our money every day in ways that will promote God’s kingdom and withholding resources from the forces of evil. Exercise your freedom to choose by becoming a shrewd consumer.

So what does this look like? At the bare minimum it means supporting Christian-owned companies like Hobby Lobby, Chick-fil-A, and Interstate Batteries with your finances. Their owners regularly take courageous stands for Christ by being clear about their primary allegiance to God in all they do, and also by refusing to bow to the will of godless government officials when they try to coerce these businesses into violating God’s commands. When you have a choice of where to
shop, spend your money at the businesses that most closely align with your values.

The Faith Equality Index at www.faithdrivenconsumer.com is a great tool to help you in this regard. It ranks companies on the degree to which they actively promote or oppose biblical faith and values in the marketplace. It allows you to quickly compare similar types of companies, evaluating them based on their openness or hostility to the Christian faith so you can be a wise consumer.

Voting with your pocketbook also involves choosing not to spend your money on movies that intentionally misuse the name of Jesus. The Ten Commandments say, “You must not misuse the name of the LORD your God. The LORD will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name” (Exodus 20:7). Websites like MovieGuide.org and Dove.org can help you find out which movies degrade God’s name. Hollywood creates movies in order to make money. We can each do our part as Christian citizens to put Hollywood on a fiscal diet until they change their behavior. Money is leverage—for good or for evil.

The goal isn’t to boycott businesses, but to take steps each day to promote God’s perspective throughout our society. We can do that by choos-
ing to support businesses and people who either promote what is good, or at least don’t encourage what is contrary to God’s character. As a Christian, you can be a good citizen by making strategic spending choices with your finances every day.

**IMPACT THE FUTURE WITH YOUR PRESENCE**

Likewise, there are many ways we can make an impact on society with our presence. We can attend school board meetings, city council meetings, and town halls in order to make our voice heard. The forces of secularism are great at this; as representatives of the King of kings, we should likewise be willing to stand up for what we believe.

We can also volunteer for organizations like the Salvation Army or the Union Gospel Mission, which actively promote Jesus while meeting the needs of the poor. We can personally serve others through food pantries and homeless shelters, where we find many opportunities to introduce hurting people to the God who deeply loves them.

And most important, be sure to teach your children how to be good citizens—not just of the US, but also of God’s kingdom. Make sure your children receive spiritual training from you. Daily
family devotions and weekly church attendance are vital. Organizations like AWANA can help you to teach your children Bible verses. Christian schools, or homeschooling, can be a wise choice. But no matter what else you do, your children need you to personally teach them who God is every day. If you don’t, who will? Go to DiscoverGod4Kids.com if you need help getting started. And above all, pray for their spiritual health daily. Prayer moves the hand of God.

You can’t do everything, but you can take steps today to have a godly impact on your family, community, and nation. Ask God what He wants you to do today.

7. MAKE GOD THE ISSUE

Nothing in life is more important than how we see God. That is what drives us and determines our actions, including how we vote. In fact, we can trace all of our problems, personally and nationally, to our view of God. That is why it is of critical importance to make God the issue wherever we go every day. Rather than simply reacting to society’s ills, we need to keep the focus on God as the starting point in all of our cultural debates.
YOUR VIEW OF GOD MATTERS

Our individual view of God determines whether we believe in “our God-given rights” and “our God-given freedoms,” or whether we demand “my rights!” and “my freedoms!” Your view of God is the cause, and everything else is a symptom. Even your worldview is a symptom of your view of God. Understanding God’s character is therefore critical to making shrewd choices for the future of America. As Romans 1:21 says, “They began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused.”

WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD

When America was founded in 1776, an American citizen heard an average of 3,000 sermons over the course of a lifetime regarding personal accountability to God and responsibility for our fellow man. As Jesus said, we are to love God and love our neighbor (Matthew 22:37–40). As a result, in the eighteenth century, if a man’s barn burned down, his neighbors viewed it as their personal responsibility to help rebuild it. When the farmer down the road was sick during the harvest, they helped bring in his harvest. This was
even the driving motivation for the abolitionist movement in the nineteenth century.

On the other hand, if a man was lazy, he was offered a job, not a handout. If a student failed a class, he repeated it until he earned a passing grade. If a reporter lied, he was fired on the first offense.

When most members of society believe they are accountable to God and responsible for their fellow man, the free market system works well because we don’t leave people behind in our communities. We hold each other accountable but show compassion to those who truly need it. Even moral pollution decreases because we are better equipped to make others-centered decisions rather than pursuing our addiction to self-indulgence resulting in alienation from God and each other.

Here is the bottom line. If we teach children that God is irrelevant, like our public schools do today, they will act like it. If we want individuals to behave as though the God of the Bible exists, we must teach them that He does. For over fifty years our educational system has taught our children that God, at best, is irrelevant and now our leaders behave as though God is irrelevant. It’s a simple case of cause and effect.
If the core problem in society truly is how we see God, then the solution is obvious. The only credible answer is for us to help our neighbors to better understand who God is and why it matters. It is not a quick fix. It takes time. The local pastor cannot do it alone because many Americans rarely walk into church anymore. Besides, it’s not your pastor’s responsibility to help your neighbors better understand who God is; it’s yours. That’s why God put us in this nation and in our communities.

YOU CAN BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION

So, here is our daily choice. Either we go out and engage our friends in dialogue over the core issue underlying all our cultural ills, or we go home, close the door, and concede the battle. Those are our only two real choices. No one else can make that daily choice for you or me. Continuing to play Whack-A-Mole with the cultural ills of our day is an insufficient strategy to cure America. Either we make God the issue or America will continue down its current path to her own demise. Choose today—and then again tomorrow.

The next time someone brings up a symptomatic issue, such as abortion, same-sex marriage,
or racism, respond by saying, “There is nothing wrong with [insert the issue]—unless God actually exists.” Then add, “In fact, if God does not exist then Hitler, Stalin, and the Ku Klux Klan did nothing wrong, since right and wrong are a fairy tale on the level of Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny apart from God’s existence.” Like Jesus modeled, intentionally move the conversation from the symptom to the cause. In the long run, it is far more productive to talk about God’s relevance to an issue than to have an argument about an isolated cultural ill outside of the larger context of who God is. If you want to learn more about how to make God the issue in effective ways, read GOD Is the Issue: Becoming an Agent of Real Change by Brad Bright.

The Bible says, “It is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it” (James 4:17). In other words, if you choose not to be part of the solution, you are part of the problem.

YOU CAN’T GIVE AWAY WHAT YOU DON’T OWN

Are you daily experiencing the joy and peace Jesus promised, despite your circumstances? Do you have a vibrant, personal relationship with the Creator God? If not, then you are unwittingly part
of the problem, because unlike the federal government you can’t give away what you do not own.

Let me be clear, I’m not talking about whether or not you wholeheartedly believe in Jesus or are going to heaven. I want you to look in the mirror and ask yourself whether the joy and peace that Jesus promised to you is your daily, moment-by-moment experience, or whether you are consistently weighed down by your fears, addictions, anxieties, or worries. Have you tried hard to live the Christian life but still feel broken inside? Recent surveys indicate that 90–95% of people today sitting in American churches daily live in spiritual defeat. Either this means that Jesus lied, or they missed something. Which do you think it is? Now if this describes you, I assure you, there is hope!

In most cases the real problem is an erroneous or incomplete view of God.

YOU CAN’T FIX YOURSELF, BUT YOU CAN FIX YOUR VIEW OF GOD
Have you tried to fix the broken parts deep inside in order to please God but just ended up frustrated? The truth is, you can’t fix yourself. (If you could, then why did Jesus have to die?) You can, however, fix your view of God. If with an open heart you intentionally deepen your view of God to more
closely align with Scripture, you will wake up in the very near future and realize you have changed. Why? Because you cannot deepen your view of our amazing God and not change in response. It really is that simple—and that profound.

The Christian life is nothing more than a trust relationship between you and the Creator God. You can trust God only to the extent that you actually know Him. Even your moral behavior cannot rise above your view of God. But always remember that God’s primary goal is not to change your behavior; it is to change what you love. Do you think it is possible that you might have some misconceptions about God that could be preventing you from fully trusting and loving Him today?

To gain a better understanding of the Creator who loves you passionately, read GOD: Discover His Character by Bill Bright. And please visit us at www.BrightMedia.org where you will find resources to assist you in laying a personal foundation today that will empower you to help change America tomorrow. We must begin by making God the central focus in our own daily lives, and then making Him the pivotal issue across America so that freedom may flourish like it once did. Either that, or we must concede
defeat, forfeiting our God-given freedoms. That is our choice.

DEDICATION TO FREEDOM
When the signers of the Declaration of Independence affixed their signatures to that historic document, they were well aware that if the colonial cause failed they would be executed as traitors. They were that dedicated to the cause of freedom, because they believed they were accountable to God and responsible for their fellow man. Any less dedication on our part will result in a loss of that precious freedom for which they and thousands of others were willing to die. We dare not fail them, ourselves, and far more importantly, our Lord, to whom this nation was dedicated. America is now faced with its greatest crisis in history. If you consider yourself a follower of Jesus and care about your country, now is the time to act.
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British statesman Edmund Burke once said, “All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” In other words, if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem.

Citizenship in a free country is a blessing from God, but also a very serious responsibility. This booklet outlines seven ways Christians can be salt and light in our deeply troubled nation. As a Christian, you can help shape the America your children will inherit, starting today.