

The Facts of Life (Concisely Stated)

As Biblically Revealed (Note: Deut. 29:29)

The scriptures teach the following facts:

1. That there is a God.
2. " He is eternal (past and future).
3. " " " sovereign (supreme, independent creator and controller of the universe).
4. That He is infinite (perfect and infallible), and that He possesses unlimited powers and attributes: i.e., (1) Omni-potence, (2) omniscience, and (3) omnipresence.
5. That man was created in the image of God. For example, to be lord of the earth, with all the requisite ability--mental and physical--to develop, manage, and maintain its vast resources and potentials (for agriculture, industry and commerce, personal development and pleasures, etc.).
6. That there are heavenly beings called angels, who are ministering spirits that serve God, and man.
7. That there was an advent of sin, or evil--first in heaven, when Satan (Lucifer) acted in defiance of God, by trying to exalt himself to be "like the most high", and thereby fell from the grace of his position as chief of the angels, and that certain other angels followed him in disobedience to God. And, secondly, that sin first occurred on earth, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's specific command not to eat of the forbidden fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, instead of partaking of the tree of immortal life.
8. That the commission of that original sinful act resulted in a corruption of the nature of man, and corresponding judgment of eternal condemnation, not only for Adam and Eve, but for the entire human race--except:
9. That a selected number of mankind were predestinated for salvation from that decree; and thereby obtaining eternal life by the redemptive sacrifice of Christ's crucifixion.
10. As a result of the fall, natural man has no spiritual faculty, and is therefore unable to communicate with God, or understand biblical truths (that is, their intended spiritual meanings)--not even the gospel! He is dominated by a sinful nature, so that none of his deeds, works, etc. are morally acceptable to God.
11. Regenerated man (per item 9) is endowed with a spiritual capacity to know God, communicate with Him, and understand spiritual matters. He is a dichotomy of two contrasting natures. The old carnal nature, subject to the same unrighteous actions as the natural unregenerate man, but with a new nature, capa-

ble of acting favorably to God by obeying His word, and otherwise revealed will.

12. That the earth, including all creatures, plant life, etc. was also corrupted, or negatively affected by the fall of man. Nothing is perfect, or flawless in nature, since.
13. That there will be a redemption of the earth, and all of creation, by an act of God to purge and purify the earth for a future kingdom of God.
14. That a church was established as both an organism and organization of believers in one universal body, comprised of many local assemblies; each operating autonomously under God in the conduct of their personal and corporate affairs and responsibilities. Their purposes include worship of God, mutual edification, united testimony of doctrine and associated ministries related to the gospel and all other teachings of the bible.
15. That the bible (produced from correctly interpreted and translated manuscripts; they being products of the inspiration of God) is the church's sole authority for its required doctrinal beliefs (theology), and corresponding practices. Which may sound almost oversimplified as being an obvious truth which all believers would agree with--but the test of true conformity would reveal widespread failure to live by that tenet.

Commentary - on contemporary world events, philosophies, religions, secularist movements, etc. in the context of the foregoing governing principles (by one or more of which, is determined the eternal validity and significance of every thought and action of life).

Whatever is wrong with church, must be attributable to failure to properly respect and conform to some part or other of the above factors, i.e.

Item 3 - especially the sovereignty of God, as it relates to the church's theology. The fundamental doctrinal problem is attributable to the church's general constitutional belief in the Arminian concept of the doctrine of salvation. Which is a synergistic interpretation of the Gospel; that is, regarding to whom its truths are applicable, and how its promises are obtainable. In more familiar terms, it is the argument of free will vs. free grace. With the former, the acquisition of salvation requires the cooperative agencies or acts of both God and man. With the latter, the only active party in the salvation process is God. It is a thoroughly monergistic act of God, in which man is entirely passive--he has no decisive effect upon it, either to make it happen (by acceptance, etc.), or to cause it not to happen (by refusal, etc.) for whomever it is predestinated.

Item 4 - God's omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence.

If we acted more (much more) like we really believed that God truly and constantly sees all, knows all, and is everywhere at the same time, and has unlimited power to control and do everything that is ever required, or that he desires, wouldn't we be much better testimonies to those truths than we are? Our actions betray our statements of faith repeatedly throughout our lives as believers!

Item 5 - There is no small extent to which we have failed to be God's stewards--even recognizing the judgmental conditions God has placed on man and the earth, rendering our commission to be severely restricted, and impacted compared to Adam's original capacity. Of the various areas of development in the earth's history, too often secular interests have established authority by their claims, philosophies, etc., which Christians have usually failed to question, or put forth the required effort to make their own determinations of fact vs. what is often unproven theory. This is especially true in science (so-called) where fantasy is often proclaimed as truth (i.e., evolution).

Item 6 - The reality and ubiquity of angels, which corresponds with God's omnipresence, watchcare, and various activities and ministries, should also be taken more seriously, and be more continually aware to us. And in the evil, diabolical sense, so too should we be more knowledgeable and active in our resistance of Satan, the fallen angel, who never rests from his endeavors to alienate us from God, and cause us to act contrary to His will.

Item 14 - The original church matrix (of Acts 2), the timeless model for all ages, is the paradigm and pattern for every church--not only to emulate, but which is, in fact, mandatory to conform to, to have a similar God-honoring testimony.

That is where the church, quite early in its history, deviated and failed to hold the line for which it was, and is, responsible. So that now, it has degenerated into the pathetic, dishonorable state of the Laodicean church of Rev. 3 prophecy. The words of that "history written beforehand" are piercing, and painfully revealing of the contemporary church's deplorable condition--but even as the prophecy states, knows not that it is looking in a mirror when it reads those words. This, brethren, includes most all of us, with rare exception. Yet, the ignorance and languor will largely continue on.

That is how deep and deceiving the corrupting influences have been, and which were inexcusably succumbed to by every generation of the church for some 2,000 years now.

When it should be in the throes of reformation efforts, it glories with false humility that it is part of the light on a shining hill that it is supposed to be. The death knell of "Ichabod" is more the truth of its character, than anything glorious.

Full, uncompromised truth faithfully held by believers is the only way that a Christian can be said to be walking or living in the full light of God's teaching. Any step deviating from maintaining the true interpretation of biblical doctrine, is a step away from, or out of the fulness of "light".

The truths (which are that light) are absolutes, which anchor us, and if we even tamper with them a little, we are slipping our moorings to whatever extent we modify or change our stance on those inviolable principles. And "tweaking" would almost invariably be only the beginning of eventual serious corruptions of doctrine, or theology.

Thus has been the case in the church's downhill history. Yet, ironically and sadly, instead of seeing the degenerated condition of the church, most of today's Christians live, talk, and act as if the church has been steadily improving with age and experience --even prospering and fruitful. "If anyone hath an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches". Rev. 2 & 3.

Item 8 and 10 - As for some of what is happening in the world today, regarding secularist attacks against Christianity, it is acting according to the dictates of the negative forces of those facts of life noted. They are following their innate dispositions. There is a technically accurate clarification in some protest statements, that are made regarding our nation's heritage as being represented to be characteristically Christian, or under the aegis of God. What was typical early in our country, is far from true now.

We must here face another fact of life, which should be considered an incontrovertible reality, or result of Items 7, 8, and 10 --effects of the fall.

The people on earth who can legitimately claim to be under His protection--even primarily in His interest are the believers, the actual Christians. Of course, many benefits of God's providence are common to mankind in general. But these are temporal versus spiritual.

Other than Israel, who is the centerpiece of God's plans--no nation can be identified as being "under God", per se; or as having a special relationship with Him. At least, not in this age. In the early years of our country, yes--to the extent that its inhabitants were mainly believers. That is, Christians who had left the oppression of England and other nations, for religious freedom in a new land.

But in the course of intervening history that characterization has been essentially lost, or reduced to a minority situation. Our nation is largely and increasingly secular which is typical of most of the world.

It is a world living under the interim conditions of an impending judgment--when except for the church (true believers), all other

mankind will be eternally separated from God and His future kingdom.

This is the irrevocable decree of everlasting condemnation resulting from the original sin of Adam and Eve--the life-affecting consequences of which were imputed^{to} their future progeny (the entire human race), as well as transmitted morally and physically through procreation.

So when, for example, the phrases "one nation under God", or that the United States is a "Christian nation", "in God we trust", "God bless America", etc. are questioned as not applicable to everyone's beliefs, the objectors are technically right. In fact, it can safely be stated that a large majority of the population are not personally related to, or involved with God. Even the many who may nominally claim to be Christians, or believers, are really not.

It isn't saying so that makes one a believer (or "under God"), it is being so which results from a direct transformation by God of those whom He has chosen to save (regenerate) --that are restored to a spiritual relationship with God that was lost in Adam.

From a comparative standpoint, then, Christians have no priority in the temporal matters of society (in its present temporary judgment state--under Satan, as "prince of this world"), except as God may direct them to carry out their responsibilities of life, whatever they may be. In a theocracy, which will be established for the millenium, Christians will then be employed by God to help maintain order and justice in every facet of societal life.

In other words, man will not have the liberty to do whatever he decides, but will have to submit to the will of God in everything he does, and probably there will be more forced compliance, or punitive consequences, than cooperation or obedience. All that Christians can be positive of (or need to be) is their glorious future in eternity, with its promised perfections for their everlasting fulfillment and joy. This also includes personal and collective (church) answers to prayers, and blessings in this life, too, which may extend to societal affairs as well (but the latter are not particularly promised for reasons previously noted, per various Facts of Life items).

There may be other expressions that could be made of the Facts of Life principles, parameters, etc. noted, but they are effectively laws, one or more of which, operate to cause or affect every act and situation of life.

Contrary to the predominant radical, liberal ideology and culture, which denies moral and creational absolutes--there are definite controlling principles which work their powers whether they are acknowledged, or subscribed to, believed, or not!

This is God's world, and all things ultimately (inevitably and precisely) follow His laws and principles. Nothing is ever really by chance, or in man's independent control.