

[PreserveLiberty.com](http://www.PreserveLiberty.com) -- *Biblical Principles of Good Government*

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Biblical Principles of Good Government One-Page “Primers”

God has given **America** a unique **Biblical and Constitutional foundation**, which gives us **liberty** and **affluence** to be the nation of greatest **influence** for the Gospel to the nations, sending forth more Christian missionaries and Gospel resources to the world than any other nation or nations (> 35% despite America’s comprising only 4.2% of world population). *Our God-given liberty is worth **praying** for, **working** for, and **fighting** to preserve!*

These one-page “Primers” are perfect for: use as sermon material, small group study, homeschool, Bible Study, and individual study. To “**Remember** the wonderful works of God” (Ps. 11:3, 111:4) causes us to **love** God more (for His gift of liberty) and to **be equipped** to **support Biblical and Constitutional ideas**, and to **resist evil anti-Biblical and anti-Constitutional ideas** that may be presented by various government officials and policy makers and which lead to the advancement of tyranny and the destruction of liberty!

Please read, share, and enjoy these simple **Biblical ideas** that have “turned the world upside down” by creating, in America, the greatest individual religious, economic, and civil liberty ever known in human history. I’d also strongly recommend that you read the short book entitled *The Bible and the Constitution of the United States of America* (available at www.FACE.net, and only **67 pages** short)!

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 We’re in a spiritual and cultural war -- **how can we protect America’s Biblical/ Constitutional foundation and our God-given liberty?** **Join us** for **national tele-prayer** for our leaders and nation (I Tim. 2, II Chr. 7:13-14) **every Saturday morning at 8am PT by dialing 951-799-9376**. To **locate** or **lead** a local monthly **prayer group**, visit [PreserveLiberty.com](http://www.PreserveLiberty.com). Free **prayer guides** are provided, a **prayer group “locator,”** and **links to help us understand America’s Biblical/ Constitutional foundation and to select God-fearing leaders.**

PreserveLiberty.com -- *Biblical Principles of Good Government*

God's Three Institutions—Key Idea #1 (in a series) Biblical Principles of Good Government Primer (PreserveLiberty.com)

God Created Three Institutions

God created three institutions, each with a distinct purpose. Each of the institutions functions best when Biblical principles serve as the foundation. Biblical ideas serving as the foundation of civil government does not suggest a compelled faith perspective, but an honest look at the history of men and nations reveals that a Biblical foundation in government uniquely begets unparalleled liberty for all citizens.



1. Family

The family is a collective body of persons including parents, children, and sometimes extended family members including grandparents, etc.

The family is responsible to cultivate Christian character, conscience, and self-control, and to evangelize and disciple children, equipping them to serve Christ and society. (Gen. 2:18, 24; Matt. 19:5-6; I Cor. 7:2; Heb. 13:4)



2. Church

The church is a house consecrated to the worship of God, the collective body of Christians (of those who believe in Christ and acknowledge him to be the Savior of mankind), and a place to gain instruction and encouragement

(Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22-23, 5:25-27)



3. Civil Government

Civil government is a system of political and social representation providing direction, regulation, control, and restraint: a state system of rules and principles. (Gen. 9:6; Ps. 2:10; Rom. 13:1-4; I Tim. 2:1-4)

The functions of civil government include:

- a. Advancing those who do good (Rom. 13: 3; I Pet. 2:13,14)
- b. Punishing those who do evil (Rom. 13:2,4; I Pet. 2:13,14)
- c. Securing the liberty and safety of the people (Preamble to the Constitution)

As we pray, “Lord, may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” we’re inviting God’s help in advancing His principles in every arena. The idea of promoting Biblical values in family and church is familiar to most people, but how can we advance Biblical principles in civil government?

Here are simple ideas regarding the advancement of Biblical principles in civil government:

1. First of all, pray consistently for those in authority (I Tim. 2:1-4)
2. Consistently advance Biblical values (Lk. 19:13) and select God-honoring leaders (Ex. 18:21)

When we advance Biblical values and God-honoring leaders in our cities, states, and nation, all people are blessed (Ps. 33:12, Pr. 14:34) and liberty is preserved so that the church can freely evangelize and disciple.

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Thinking Governmentally – It's Biblical — Key Idea #2 (in a series)

Biblical Principles of Good Government Primer (PreserveLiberty.com)

The Lordship of Christ – It's "governmental."

When we individually receive Jesus Christ, we each acknowledge Him as our Savior and Lord. **"Lord"** (**"Adonai"** in Hebrew, **"Kurios"** in Greek) is a governmental term meaning "Lord" or "Master." Submission to the lordship of Jesus Christ involves actively welcoming the His "government" in every arena of our lives. Ephesians 6:6 reminds us that it is our goal to, "Do the will of God from the heart."

Some Key Definitions

"Government" means **"direction, regulation, control, and restraint"** (Webster). When we ask Jesus to be Lord of our lives, we are asking him to **"govern"** (that is, to **direct, regulate, control, and restrain**) every aspect of our lives. What institutions and areas of our lives should the Lord and His Word govern?

God's Three Institutions:



1. Family (Gen. 2:18, 24; Matt. 19:5-6; I Cor. 7:2; Heb. 13:4)

Biblical principles should govern the use of our time, talent, treasure, thoughts, words, actions, and attitudes. In short, Christ and His principles should "govern" every area.



2. Church (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22-23, 5:25-27)

Biblical principles must rule the church in all areas including leadership selection (II Tim. 3).



3. Civil Government (Gen. 9:6; Ps. 2:10; Rom. 13:1-4; I Tim. 2:1-4)

We are instructed to select God-honoring leaders (Ex. 18:21) and pray for them (I Tim. 2:1-4) in obedience to Scripture so that His principles will "direct, regulate, control, and restrain."

The goal of having Biblical principles govern in every arena advances the idea presented in the Lord's Prayer (Mt. 6:10), "Lord, Your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." We are called to "occupy [do business on His behalf] till He comes" (Lk. 19:13) and "overcome evil with good" (Rom. 12:21) displacing bad ideas with good Biblical ideas in every venue. **The observable reality is** that wherever Biblical principles **"govern"** (**direct, regulate, control, and restrain**), people of all faiths enjoy security for life, liberty, and property! Advancing Judeo-Christian principles in every arena is *not* divisive, political, or partisan; rather, it is a loving, moral, Biblical pursuit which history shows us produces the highest degree of individual liberty ever experienced in human history. **To the extent that Biblical principles govern, including in the man-made institutions listed below, all people are blessed:**

- 1. School / Educational Institutions**
- 2. Media / Press (TV, Radio, Internet, Newspapers), Social Media**
- 3. Business / Commerce / Financial Markets and Institutions**
- 4. Military**

To say that we want to honor Jesus and advance His principles in our families and churches, but not in civil government (Romans 13) is hypocritical and schizophrenic (a "divided mind"). Can we put "Jesus in the box" and honor Him and His glorious ideas only where it is "safe" and "non-confrontational?"

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Our Biblical Duties Toward Civil Government—Key Idea #3 (in a series)

Biblical Principles of Good Government Primer (PreserveLiberty.com)

If we are to preserve America's Biblical foundation and the liberty it gives us, what must we do?

1. Pray for all in authority over our cities, states, and nation

"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all ...who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life..." (I Tim. 2:1-2)

2. Select God-honoring leaders; vote to select leaders who uphold Biblical principles

"Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God... and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens." (Ex. 18:21)

"Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote that he is... executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country." (Samuel Adams, Father of the American Revolution) Voting involves "loaning" our God-given Sovereignty to others!

3. Advance His principles until He returns

"Occupy (do business on My behalf) till I come" (Lk. 19:13b) *"Faith without works is dead"* (Js. 2:26b)

"For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required" (Lk. 12:48) *"Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin."* (Js. 4:17)

4. Seek knowledge and wisdom – know Biblical principles and the issues of the day

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hos. 4:6a) *"Incline your ear to wisdom ...apply your heart to understanding"* (Pr. 2:2, 3, 5) Know the parties and candidates; vote to protect life & marriage.

5. Obey governing authorities and laws

"Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God." (Rom. 13:1; see also I Pet. 2:13, 14)

6. Resist tyrants and laws that violate Scripture

See Daniel (chapters 3 and 6) and Acts (chapters 4 and 5) for examples of Godly individuals who violated man's law in order to obey and honor God.

7. Remember God's good hand in giving America a unique Biblical foundation and liberty!

"He has made His wonderful works to be remembered..." (Ps. 111:4) *"Now consider this, you who forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver"* (Ps. 50:22)

Two additional related ideas include:

1. Teach our children Biblical principles of good government and America's Biblical foundation


It is vital that we embrace an intergenerational perspective including teaching our children about their duty to pray for those in authority, select God-honoring leaders, and understand America's Biblical foundation and the Biblical basis for liberty.

"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children..." (Deut. 6:6-7a)

2. Humble ourselves, pray, seek His face, repent

Our Founders practiced corporate prayer and repentance, proclaiming national days of prayer where Christians would humble themselves with fasting and cry out to God, seeking His aid for the nation and repenting of national sins (and for the church's sin of silent non-participation in the face of evil).

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, & pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin & heal their land." (II Chr. 7:14)

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National Days of Prayer: An American Tradition — Key Idea #4 (in a series)

Biblical Principles of Good Government Primer (PreserveLiberty.com)

Our Founders understood well our total dependence upon God's presence and protection as evidenced by George Washington's proclamation of a national day of prayer and thanksgiving on October 3, 1789 (below). With so much turmoil in America and the world, **dare we not** pray and humble ourselves with thanksgiving?

WHEREAS it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favour; and Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me "to recommend to the people of the United States a DAY OF PUBLICK THANKSGIVING and PRAYER, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness:

NOW THEREFORE, I do recommend and assign THURSDAY, the TWENTY-SIXTH DAY of NOVEMBER [1789] next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in **rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection** of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; -- for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been able to establish Constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted;-- for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge;-- and, in general, for all the great and various favours which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also, that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions;-- to enable us all, whether in publick or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us); and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

During the Constitutional Convention in 1787, Benjamin Franklin said:

"Mr. President, I have lived, Sir, a long time. And the longer I live, the more convincing proof I see of this truth: that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? ...Except the Lord build a house, they labor in vain that build it. ...**I therefore move that, henceforth, prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven be held in this assembly [Congress] every morning.**" (...And thus daily prayer in Congress was initiated.)

National Day of Prayer happens on **the first Thursday of every May**. Annual prayer events are good, but more frequent **month-by-month, city-by-city prayer** for our leaders and nation is needed!

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Liberty's Three Biblical Ingredients -- Key Idea #5 (in a series)

Biblical Principles of Good Government Primer (PreserveLiberty.com)

What are you and I doing today to advance Biblical liberty?



1. Evangelism: spreading the Gospel, produces: **spiritual liberty** (freedom from sin's control), **liberty of conscience** (freedom of offense toward God and man – Acts 24:16), **Christian conscience**, and **self-government** (self-control, the seed of all liberty, Gal. 5:23, Eph. 6:6) in those who come to Christ! *The truth shall make you free (Jn. 8:32). Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (II Cor. 3:17).*
Internal liberties give rise to external liberties (religious, economic, and civil) as “self-government” moves outward from the *individual*, to the *family*, to the *church*, and finally out to “*the gate*” (i.e., the seat of civil government). More about liberty will follow in a primer entitled *Christ, the Author of Liberty*.
2. Discipleship (Mt. 28:19): instruction in God's Word, including our duties toward civil government, provides a Biblical foundation for advancing liberty and security as people internalize Biblical principles including loving their neighbors as themselves (Mt. 7:12) and obeying God from the heart (Eph. 6:6) rather than obeying based on external compulsion. *Christ and His ideas set men and nations free!*
3. Public Policy Participation (this only requires a small but consistent investment of time and effort):
 - a. Praying for our leaders (I Tim. 2:1-4) and nation (II Chron. 7:14)
 - b. Advancing Biblical values (Lk. 19:13) and God-honoring leaders (Ex. 18:21), beginning at the local level (Ex. 23:29)*(Like a three-ingredient recipe, all three ingredients above are required to create and preserve liberty.)*

Evangelism and Liberty are Interrelated...

People of Judeo-Christian faith are called to assure that Biblical principles remain the foundation of our civil government through the selection of God-honoring leaders (Ex. 18:21). Otherwise life, liberty (including our freedom to evangelize), and property will be compromised by ungodly leaders and bad law.

An estimated 80-85% of the missionaries to the world in the Name of Jesus over the past 200 years have come from America, and America is less than 5% of world population! America's religious, economic, and civil liberty is worth preserving for Gospel purposes. This requires that we protect America's Biblical foundation by praying for our leaders and selecting God-honoring leaders, beginning at the local level.

Non-partisan church involvement advancing Biblical values and God-honoring leaders in government is a small effort which does not detract from evangelistic efforts; rather it helps ensure unobstructed future evangelism! **Evangelism** begets liberty as those who come to Christ become *free from sin's control* and *self-governing* (a necessary prerequisite of liberty). **Liberty** (religious, economic, and civil) is the ideal environment for the Gospel to advance. When people of faith are involved in all three areas, primarily concerned with evangelism and discipleship, but also actively advancing Biblical values and God-honoring leadership in civil government, then Gospel dissemination can proceed unhindered in the future.

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America's Judeo-Christian History — **Key Idea #6** (in a series)

Biblical Principles of Good Government Primer (PreserveLiberty.com)

Does America have a distinctly Judeo-Christian heritage? While America is not a theocracy (i.e., there never has been a compelled faith perspective), our history is undeniably rooted in Biblical principles from which all freedom flows. Absent a Judeo-Christian history and foundation, there would be no America and no liberty! We can preserve America's Biblical foundation as we pray for our leaders (I Tim. 2) and work together to select God-honoring leaders (Ex. 18:21). Here are snapshots of our Biblical history:

1. **52 of the 55 Founding Fathers who worked on the Constitution were members of orthodox Christian churches** and many were evangelical Christians (David Barton, Wallbuilders.com).
2. A study conducted at the University of Houston involving a sample of over 15,000 writings revealed that **94% of the Founders' quotes were directly or indirectly based on the Bible** (David Barton).
3. Key components of our governmental structure are clearly derived from Scripture:
 - a. **The rationale for the Separation of Powers** comes from **Jeremiah 17:9** based on the Biblical idea of fallen man
 - b. **The structure of the three-Branch System of Government** comes from **Isaiah 33:22** and
 - c. **Tax Exemptions for Churches** comes from **Ezra 7:24**.
4. **Our Founders instituted prayer at the beginning of every session of Congress and a Chaplain system in the military.**
5. The **Motto of the American Revolution** was "**No King but King Jesus!**"
6. The **Bible** was called the "**Great Political Textbook of the Patriot.**"
7. **Noah Webster** (Founding Father, Author of Webster's Dictionary, educator, largely responsible for Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution) said: "The religion that has introduced civil liberty is the religion of Christ and His apostles... to this we owe our free Constitutions of Government. ...No truth is more evident to my mind than that Christian religion must be the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people."
8. **John Quincy Adams**, America's sixth President, said (in a speech delivered on July 4, 1837, at Newburyport, Massachusetts): "Is it not that, in the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Savior? ...Is it not that the Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer's mission upon earth? That it laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity?"
9. The **Mayflower Compact**, dated November 20, 1620, records the purpose for the Plymouth colony and subsequent expansion across North America, "**for the glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith...**" **This is the American Covenant**, that is, the document which organized the first civil government with linkage to the Great Commission and based on the principle of Christian self-government! (Please refer to *The American Covenant*, a book by Marshall Foster.)
10. Our **Declaration of Independence**, dated July 4, 1776, makes **four direct references to God** and our dependence on Him.
11. Our **US Constitution** was ratified on September 17 "**in the Year of our Lord**" 1787 (Article VII, subscription clause) which refers directly to Jesus Christ! Its principles are distinctly Biblical.
12. Our **National Motto** is "**In God We Trust**" (on our currency, etc.). Our **Pledge of Allegiance** contains the verbiage "**One Nation under God.**"

If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do? Ps. 11:3 (see also Ps. 50:22, 111:4)

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America's Unique Biblical Foundation -- Produces Liberty for All *Key Idea #7 (in a series)*


Biblical Principles of Good Government Primer (PreserveLiberty.com)

Great ideas are worth defending! If there were no Jesus, there would be no America and no liberty!

Ideas have consequences. All religious systems have principles which, as they are applied, produce a form of civil government. The Judeo-Christian principles below (which have blessed America *uniquely among the nations* with unsurpassed security for life, liberty, and property) stand in stark contrast with the pagan ideas of man and government. America has a Biblical foundation, not a compelled faith perspective, and this Biblical foundation gives unparalleled liberty and opportunity to *all* of its citizens, regardless of their faith perspective.

1. Man is fallen and capable of wickedness (Jer. 17:9), therefore, the powers of civil government must be separated (the Biblical form for the three separate branches of government, Isaiah 33:22).
2. God-granted inalienable rights to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness (private property and free enterprise): this stands in stark *contrast* to the idea of Man-granted privileges ("divine right of kings" which allows the sovereign to live "above" God's and man's law).
3. God's principle of individuality: Exalts God and explains how He works through individuals and individual nations; each person is a unique and valuable creation of God.
It exposes the *error* of secular collectivism (*i.e., the idea that the state has value, not the individual*) and the error of individualism separate from Christ. (I Corinthians 12:4-11)
4. The Christian principle of self-government: In order to have true liberty, man must be governed internally by the Spirit of God *rather than* by external forces. Government is first *individual*, and then extends outward to the *family, church, and community*. The principle of self-government involves God ruling internally from the heart of the individual and is dependent upon man's obedience to "the spirit of the law of Christ" (Rom. 8:2; Prov. 16:32; Rom. 8:2; Eph. 6:6; I Tim. 3:5)
5. America's heritage of Christian character: The image of God engraved *inside* the individual brings dominion and change to his *outside* environment. The Founders understood that Christian Character (based on a strong sense of accountability to God) in governmental leadership is essential to the preservation of liberty in America. The model of Christian character is the Pilgrim and Patriot character. Becoming accountable for one's individual actions and productivity is the fruit of Christian character. (Matt. 7:24-29; Acts 24:16; Phil. 4:13; II Tim. 4:7)
6. Private property with conscience as the most sacred of all property: Christians are required to exercise faithful stewardship of their God-given sense of right and wrong which is the key to the proper use of private property. Conscience is also a tool for the development of self-government as each child learns to submit his will. (Acts 5:4, 24:16; Eph. 2:10; I Tim. 3:9; II Tim. 1:3; Heb. 13:18)
7. Planting the seed of local self-government and the importance of the home: Identifies the Judeo-Christian home's responsibility for maintaining religious and civil liberty under law (and the fruits of local sovereignty) including teaching and practicing industry, charity, and obedience to all laws not contrary to Scripture. (Deut. 6:1-9; 10:12-14; Is. 9:6; Lk. 9:6)
8. The Christian principle of voluntary union: God wants His children to cooperate and work together politically, commercially, and in meeting community needs through voluntary consent, without compromising a Christian conscience or Scriptural separation. (Ps. 133:1; I Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:1-3)

Liberty can be preserved only if we consistently **pray** for our leaders and nation (I Tim. 2, II Chr. 7:14), **remember** and teach the wonderful works of God (Ps. 111:4) in giving America a Christian foundation, and **select** God-honoring leaders (Ex. 18:21) who will protect America's Biblical foundation, including the ideas above).

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Pastor Involvement – Key to Securing and Preserving Liberty *Key Idea #8 (in a series)*

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Pastors serve as watchmen, exhorting Christians to fulfill their Biblically-defined civic duties (including the Biblical ideas of praying for our leaders and selecting God-honoring leaders), **warning** of danger, and **apprising** Christians of vital moral and public policy issues of the day (e.g., protecting life, marriage, and religious liberty, etc.). **Consider the prominent role that many pastors played in the American Revolution:**

One such example is that of John Peter Muhlenberg. In a sermon delivered to his Virginia congregation on January 21, 1776, he preached from Ecclesiastes 3—the passage which speaks of a season and a time to every purpose under the sun. Arriving at verse 8, Muhlenberg noted that this surely was not the time of peace; this was the time of war. Concluding with a prayer, and while standing in full view of the congregation, he removed his clerical robes to reveal that beneath them he was wearing the uniform of an officer in the Continental army! He recruited over 300 men who became the Eighth Virginia Brigade. John Peter Muhlenberg finished the Revolution as a Major-General, having been at Valley Forge and having participated in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, Stonypoint, and Yorktown. [Paul Wallace, *The Muhlenbergs of Pennsylvania* (Pittsburgh: Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 1950), p.188]

Another minister-leader in the Revolution was the Reverend James Caldwell. His actions during on battle inspired a painting showing him standing with a stack of hymnbooks in his arms while in the midst of a fierce battle against the British outside a battered Presbyterian Church. During the battle, the Americans had run out of wadding for their guns, which was just as serious as having no ammunition. Reverend Caldwell recognized an ideal solution: he ran inside the church and returned with a stack of Watts Hymnals—one of the strongest doctrinal hymnals of the Christian faith (Isaac Watts authored “O God Our Help in Ages Past,” “Joy to the World,” “Jesus Shall Reign,” and several other classic hymns). Distributing the Watts Hymnals among the soldiers served two purposes: first, its pages would provide the needed wadding; second, the use of the hymnal carried a symbolic message. Reverend Caldwell took that hymn book—the source of great doctrine and spiritual truth—raised it up in the air and shouted to the Americans, “Give ‘em Watts, boys!” the famous cry that inspired that painting and its title (**and** as if to say: deliver pure Christian doctrine—the source of our liberty—forcefully to the enemy). [*The Revolutionary War: America’s Fight for Freedom*, Bart McDowell, ed. (Washington D.C.: National Geographic Society, 1967), pp.150-151.]




It was the pastors’ teachings in the decades preceding the Revolution about the Biblical principles of government and God-granted inalienable rights **that empowered Americans to defend Biblical liberty** and oppose British tyranny at places like Lexington, Concord, and throughout the American Revolution. **Had the pulpits not flamed with the Biblical principles of liberty, America might still be a British colony!**

Today, it’s vital that pastors and people of faith understand and act upon the Biblical “recipe” for liberty: a) evangelism (Jn 8:32, 36), b) discipleship (Mt 28:19), c) advancing righteousness in the public square including praying for our leaders (I Tim 2) and selecting God-fearing leaders (Ex 18:21). It’s the only way to preserve religious, economic, and civil liberty, all of which are essential to preserving our freedom to evangelize. [**For more info**, see *Biblical Principles of Good Government Primer #5* at PreserveLiberty.com.]

- “All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.” – Edmund Burke
- “God grants liberty **ONLY** to those who love and are willing to defend it.” – Daniel Webster

A great resource is the book: *Political Sermons of the American Founding Era* (ISBN 0-86597-191-2).

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PreserveLiberty.com -- *Biblical Principles of Good Government*

Biblical Principles for Leadership Selection — Key Idea #9 (in a series)

Biblical Principles of Good Government Primer (PreserveLiberty.com)

Biblical Principles of Leadership Selection & Our Duty to Select Leaders Based on Biblical Standards
Where the head goes, the body follows. We have a sacred duty to “loan” our God-given Sovereignty¹ through our vote to government leaders who create law that will protect life, marriage, and America’s Biblical foundation (the source of liberty for all). These are unifying Biblical Ideas, not divisive “political” Ideas.

Getting the big rocks into the jar – unifying, Biblical criteria for selecting leaders:


1. **God-honoring... able men** (Exod. 18:21)
Jethro instructed Moses, who was civil Sovereign ruler of Israel, to select **God-fearing leaders** who are “**able men.**” Uniquely among the nations, God has made us (*We the People* in America) “Sovereign Citizens” of the United States. We have a loving, moral, Biblical duty to select God-honoring local, state, and federal leaders. **Being “God-fearing”** suggests that a leader honors God and Biblical principles, and knows that one day he or she will give account to God. **“Able men”** suggests that they have the **experience** to rule, and are in fact **electable**.
2. **Pro-life** (Exod. 20:13, Prov. 6:16-17)
The sixth Commandment instructs us not to kill. Proverbs 6:16-17 add to this by saying that the Lord hates hands that shed innocent blood. God the Creator is unabashedly pro-life!
3. **Pro-marriage / Pro-family** (Gen. 2:24; Mark 10:6-9)
Genesis 2:24 describes God’s first institution, the family, and how God unites husband and wife. Mark 10:9 warns us not to separate what God has joined together. Even secular sources confirm that when **man-woman marriage and family** are promoted, health and prosperity increases -- crime and costs decrease.

Since Jesus is not running for office, there is no perfect candidate. It’s our duty to **vote for the most Biblical-thinking God-fearing candidate possible** (Ex. 18:21) who’s **electable**. **Not** to do so is give one’s vote to the most evil candidate!

Additional Biblical ideas that can be applied when selecting leaders

1. **Individuals bear full responsibility** for their own actions and choices (Deut. 31:29, Gal. 6:5, I Tim. 5:8)
2. **Indebtedness should be avoided** – by individuals and nations (Prov. 13:22, Rom. 13:8, II Cor. 12:14)
3. **Helping the poor** (James 1:27) is best accomplished by the use of **private property** ownership (Exod. 20:15-17, Acts 5:4) **guided by Christian conscience and charity**. **Socialism is not a Biblical idea!**
4. **The preservation of America’s sovereignty is vital** as the Pilgrims wrote that the North American endeavor was “for the glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith.” Because of America’s Biblical foundation (Ps. 11:3), we enjoy the greatest liberty and wealth known throughout history. God has used America as the *great fountainhead of the Gospel to the world* -- over 80% of the missionaries go forth from the USA. We dare not dilute this “American Covenant” by being “merged” with other nations.
5. **Good environmental stewardship** (Gen. 1:26-28) **is to be valued, but not environmental radicalism** which replaces God with “nature,” devalues human life, and defies common sense and scientific evidence.
6. **Oppose all immorality** – pornography is not “free speech” (Ex, 20:14, Lev. 18:22, 1 Cor. 6:18, Eph. 5:3)
7. The nation that **honors Israel** is **blessed**; our national policy toward Israel is vitally important (Gen. 12:3)!

When choosing between morally-weak candidates, pick the one who is **most in support of Biblical values**. **The long-term solution** lies in consistent prayer for our leaders and work toward the selection of God-honoring leaders, beginning at the local level. We must “raise up” God-honoring leaders from the local level! This can be aided via the production of *non-partisan local* voter guides and *non-partisan* voter registration.

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¹ **Sovereignty** is defined as supreme power, authority, and autonomy. We loan our Sovereignty to others via our vote.
Biblical Principles of Good Government -- *Key Ideas* (Visit PreserveLiberty.com/)

PreserveLiberty.com -- *Biblical Principles of Good Government*

Engaging in the Spiritual and Cultural War – A 3-Step Biblical Approach

Key Idea #10 (in a series)

Biblical Principles of Good Government Primer (PreserveLiberty.com)

Over the past several decades, I've observed that while the Judeo-Christian community has enjoyed some victories, we continue to lose ground. The main reason for this is that **we have not prayed together consistently for our leaders and nation** (I Tim. 2, II Chr. 7:14) and **we have not built an ongoing "standing army"** of people of faith who work together consistently to advance Biblical values and God-honoring leaders (Lk. 19:13, Ex. 18:21) overcoming evil with good (Rom. 12:21).

Concerned people of faith ask the following question: **"What can I do to help win the spiritual and cultural war to protect life, marriage, America's Biblical foundation, with help and training, but without a big time commitment?"** Public Awareness Ministries answers with a specific prayer-based ministry model:

Step 1: PRAY together monthly for our leaders and nation (I Tim. 2, II Chr. 7:14) **one hour every month**

The Bible teaches us "first of all" to pray for our leaders (I Tim. 2) and our nation (II Chr. 7:14). There is a special **power** in gathering to pray (Mt. 18:19, 20) which builds **unity** in the body of Christ. *Public Awareness Ministries freely provides a webpage and Prayer Guides for all prayer groups monthly. Please visit the "Prayer Groups" link at PreserveLiberty.com. It takes a new group **three minutes** to sign up via the "PRAYED-UP" link at PreserveLiberty.com.*

Step 2: EQUIP WITH and APPLY Biblical principles of good government foundational to America

To effectively promote Biblical values and God-honoring leaders, it is vital to understand the Biblical foundation of American government that secures every liberty we hold dear. **Can our Constitutional Republic and the freedom it gives be sustained if we forget the basic principles that form its foundation** (Ps. 11:3, 50:22, 111:4)? Just a few minutes of **study** every month helps us to love Him more and to be less vulnerable to counterfeit un-Scriptural ideas that erode liberty AND we must **teach our children** (Deut. 6) the precious Biblical principles of liberty! *Public Awareness Ministries produces free one-page Biblical Principles of Good Government "Primers" (please also visit FACE.net and Wallbuilders.com).*

Step 3: Non-partisan local WORK to advance Biblical values and God-honoring leaders


God's Word calls us to "occupy" on His behalf until He returns (Lk. 19:13). We are reminded to select God-honoring leaders from the local level up (Ex. 18:21). Like the Nehemiah approach to re-building the wall around Jerusalem, **prayer and work go together**, and it's not a "one size fits all" approach. One church may do non-partisan voter registration. Another group may circulate a petition to protect innocent unborn life or marriage. Another may produce local voter guides. *Public Awareness provides free resources and training. We are presenting a free **grassroots training teleconference series** (every third Monday evening), bringing subject matter experts to teach on a variety of vital topics (visit the "WORK" link at PreserveLiberty.com).*

Public Awareness Ministries 501c3 is UNIQUE in that it combines these Biblical ideas in one ministry:

1. **Prayer-based**, equipping with God's word, building unity in the body of Christ (rather than "activism" first)
2. **Local-based** starting at the city level – Ex. 23:29-30 (rather than initial focus on state and federal levels)
3. **Marathon-ministry**-focused with a long-term perspective (rather than a "project" or "event" mentality).

Public Awareness Ministries is a non-partisan ministry focused on consistent united local prayer for our leaders and nation, while also grooming local citizens to work to advance Biblical values and God-honoring leaders. If we reclaim our cities, then we can get our states and nation back.

Imagine the impact of thousands of local **prayer groups** across the USA that also **work together** to protect life, marriage, America's Biblical foundation and the liberty it gives us!

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The American Covenant (and the blessings of covenant-keeping)

Key Idea #11 (in a series)

Biblical Principles of Good Government Primer (PreserveLiberty.com)

The American Covenant

Late in 1620, the Pilgrims left England and sailed west for Virginia to be part of the Jamestown colony and begin a new life where they could freely worship God according to the dictates of their conscience. Had they arrived in Jamestown, they would have been governed by the Virginia Compact. Providentially, the Mayflower was blown off course and landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts.

As a result, the Pilgrims had to write their own governing document: *The Mayflower Compact*. In this historic document, penned in November of 1620, the Pilgrims stated that this endeavor to North America was, “**for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith.**” *The Mayflower Compact* linked America to the **Great Commission** (Mt. 28:19), and for the first time organized a civil government based on the idea of **Christian self-government** (Eph. 6:6). This is The American Covenant. So, how did it work out?

God’s blessing on America: the great fountainhead of the Gospel to the world

History reveals that God has blessed America with a Biblical foundation in government. As a result, American citizens enjoy a level of religious, economic, and civil liberty (*and wealth*) unprecedented in human history.

America has a population of about 310 million, representing < 5% of the world’s seven billion people. Mayflower Institute reports that 80-85% of all missionaries sent out to the world (and most humanitarian aid) in Jesus’ Name have come from America over the past 200 years. *America has been the great fountainhead of the Gospel to the world for the past two centuries!* Is it any wonder that America faces attacks from foreign enemies (e.g., Taliban, Al Queda, Hamas, Hezbollah, Iran, North Korea, Venezuela, etc.) and domestic enemies (e.g., abortion advocates, same-sex marriage advocates, pornographers, secular humanists, atheists, evolutionists, Americans United for Separation, ACLU, etc.) who hate God and His principles?


The American Covenant and America’s Biblical Foundation under attack

The domestic enemies who strike at God, His principles, and His authority, who seek to separate God and His principles from America are the biggest threat to America’s Biblical foundation and our liberty to share the Gospel. The Bible reveals that God’s presence, protection, and blessing depart when the people break covenant with God and dishonor His principles. If we allow God to be “kicked out” of America, and if God’s presence and protection depart, can we then resist the foreign enemies who seek to destroy us from without?

In 1962 and 1963, contrary to the wishes of 97%+ of Americans and with virtually no public protest or outcry, key Supreme Court decisions (*Abington v. Schempp*, *Murray v. Curlett*, and *Engel v. Vitale*) removed prayer, the Ten Commandments, and Bible reading from our classrooms, thus officially kicking God and His word out of public school after a 340-year history there. These actions affected 39 million students and over 2 million teachers, and resulted in significant losses of liberty, morality, and lawfulness in America since the early 60’s. But American people of faith took no action to resist these hostile judicial acts against God and His principles.

Our Sacred Duty

We have a sacred duty to protect America’s Biblical foundation and the liberty it begets by consistently **praying** for our leaders (I Tim. 2) and **working** to select God-fearing leaders (Ex. 18:21) who preserve America’s Biblical foundation. *These are Biblical, not political, pursuits.* When we faithfully do these things, all people are blessed (Ps. 33:12, Pr. 14:34, Pr. 29:2) with liberty, opportunity, and security. **Here’s how:**

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PreserveLiberty.com -- *Biblical Principles of Good Government*

Liberty is a FOUR-Letter Word—Key Idea #12 (in a series)

Biblical Principles of Good Government Primer (PreserveLiberty.com)

Liberty is a **four**-letter word requiring us to **pray, know, vote, work, give, and love** to preserve it:

1. **PRAY** consistently for our leaders and nation:

- ✓ We are called to **pray** for our leaders and nation (I Tim. 2, II Chron. 7:14), and special blessings result when we pray **together consistently** (Mt. 18:19-20). The war we fight is won, not by might, nor by power, but **by His Spirit** (Zech. 4:6).

2. **KNOW** that civil government is God's creation, we have Biblical duties toward it, and that God has blessed America with a Biblical foundation which gives us freedom to evangelize:

- ✓ God created three institutions, each with a distinct purpose (**family**—Gen. 2:18, **Church**—Mt. 16:18, and **civil government**—Rom. 13), and each functions best when Biblical principles serve as the foundation. **As we pray, “Lord (Adonai), may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” we’re inviting God’s help in advancing His principles in all of God’s three institutions.**
- ✓ **We have specific Biblical duties toward civil government** including **praying** for our leaders and nation (I Tim. 2, II Chr. 7:14) and **advancing** Biblical values and God-honoring leaders (Lk. 19:13, Ex. 18:21), without which America’s Biblical foundation¹ and the **liberty** it gives us cannot be maintained. (*For a one-page summary about America’s Biblical foundation, please see the **Biblical Principles of Good Government** link (sheet #7) at PreserveLiberty.com.)*
- ✓ God made His wonderful works to be remembered (Ps. 111:4). If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do (Ps. 11:3)? God’s people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hos. 4:6, Ps. 50:22). *Forgetting God’s blessing toward our nation is disastrous!*

3. **VOTE** to elect God-honoring leaders and **WORK** to advance Biblical values:

- ✓ God’s Word calls us to **advance Biblical values and God-honoring leaders** (Lk. 19:13, Exod. 18:21). Today, we can do this through our **vote and related activities** (which can include *non-partisan* voter registration, and production and distribution of *non-partisan* voter guides, all of which are permissible activities at church and other 501c3 organizations).

4. **GIVE** to candidates and organizations that advance liberty:

- ✓ Since the church is a center of evangelism and discipleship (steps #1 and #2 in producing and maintaining liberty²), we should give to our local church. It is also important to give to candidates and organizations that work to protect life, marriage, Israel, and America’s Biblical foundation (the source of our liberty to freely evangelize).


5. **LOVE** (we take the actions above because we love Jesus and we love people):

- ✓ Speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15) and respond with love even to those who are hateful toward us (Lk. 6:27). A soft answer turns away wrath (Pr. 15:1). Over the years, there have been some who have correctly sought to advance Biblical values and God-honoring leaders, but sadly have done so without Christian love. We will be truly effective when we do this vital work in a spirit of Christian love, even when those who oppose God and His ways act hatefully.

*(It is possible to preserve liberty **only** if a preponderance of Judeo-Christian people do the above...)*

All Things of Great Value Require Maintenance and Investment

When we pray and work together locally to protect the Biblical foundation of our nation, all people are blessed, and liberty is preserved, including religious liberty to freely proclaim the Gospel (Ps. 33:12, Pr. 29:2, Jn. 8:32).

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² The three-step Biblical “recipe” for **liberty** involves: **#1) evangelism** (Jn 8:32, 36), **#2) discipleship** (Mt 28:19), **#3) praying** for our leaders, and **selecting God-honoring leaders** (I Tim. 2, Ex 18:21).

PreserveLiberty.com -- *Biblical Principles of Good Government*

Exploding the Myth of “Separation of Church and State” -- Key Idea #13 (in a series)

Biblical Principles of Good Government Primer (PreserveLiberty.com)

Why words and their changing definitions matter so much

In the 1962 case *Engel v. Vitale*, the Supreme Court redefined the meaning and application of the word “church.” For 170 years prior, the word “church”—as used in the phrase “separation of church and state”—was defined by the court to mean “**a federally established denomination.**” This simply meant, as indicated by historical writings and by numerous court cases, that the Founders always intended Biblical principles to be a part of our government, but that *no single federal denomination* would be established (as had happened with the Church of England in Great Britain).

However, in 1962 the Court explained that the word “church” would now mean “**a religious activity in public.**” This was the turning point in the interpretation of the First Amendment and the basis for kicking prayer out of public schools despite its presence there for 340 years and despite a court-ordered poll which showed prayer and Bible reading in public school was consistent with the beliefs and wishes of 97% of Americans.

• Simply put, re-defining the word “church” to mean “a religious activity in public” was a deception designed to confuse people into thinking that the Founders wanted to ban “religious activity in public,” when the historical record³ clearly shows that all they wanted to do was to prohibit a “federally established denomination” from coming to power and running the nation.

The notion of “separation of church and state” (that is, the separation of religious ideas and activities from government) is a recent one with no Constitutional, legal, or historical basis. The Constitution protects (via the 1st Amendment), rather than forbids, religious liberty even in public arenas. We must pray, work, and fight as needed to preserve religious liberty and keep the door for the Gospel open.


A simple test of Constitutionality involves asking the question: “**Does the activity in question establish a single federal denomination?**” For example, does a student praying over a lunch in a public school create a single federal denomination (such as making us all Baptists)? **If the activity in question does not establish a federal denomination, then that activity is Constitutional.** In fact, the truest definition of “Constitutional” is quite simple: it means that **if** the framers of the Constitution did it, **then** it is Constitutional.

For example, the signers of the Constitution did all of these activities thereby making them “Constitutional.”

- ✓ They prayed before, during, and at the conclusion of government meetings in public places
- ✓ They used the Bible as a source of principles for the design of American government (e.g., Is. 33:22)
- ✓ They brought pastors in to teach Congress in the Capitol, especially on Sundays during Congressional session when many Members of Congress lived too far away to commute home for weekends
- ✓ Established a chaplain system for the Congress and the military.

(For detailed information about separation of church and state, please read *Original Intent* by David Barton.)

Also, consider these words and their changing meanings: “choice,” “gay,” “diversity,” “tolerance,” and “living together.” People of faith must avoid the politically correct practice of using worldly terms that euphemize sin, for example, saying “she’s pro-choice” instead of saying “she’s pro-abortion” or “pro-death.” Whoever controls the vocabulary, controls ideas and thinking.

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³ A significant example of the Founders’ intention simply to prohibit “a federally established denomination” from running our nation are the **initial “drafts” of the First Amendment** which stated this idea explicitly.

PreserveLiberty.com -- *Biblical Principles of Good Government*

America is a Constitutional Republic, Not a Democracy--Key Idea #14 (in a series) Biblical Principles of Good Government Primer (PreserveLiberty.com)

Miriam-Webster defines **Democracy** as: “rule of the majority.” While we do employ democratic ideas (such as electing leaders to certain offices by a majority of the votes), America is a Constitutional Republic.

Miriam-Webster defines a **Republic** as “a government in which supreme power resides in a body of citizens entitled to vote and is exercised by elected officers and representatives responsible to them and governing according to law” (i.e., the *Constitution*, in the United States of America).

In a **pure Democracy**, each person shapes public policy by voting *directly* for the issue. In a **Constitutional Republic**, each person shapes public policy *indirectly* by voting elected officials into office – in essence, loaning them our Sovereignty -- and then the elected officials make public policy. In our Constitutional Republican form of government, the individual citizen has the opportunity to make public policy directly only via the ballot initiative process. Otherwise, it is the elected officials who directly make policy.

A **Democracy** can run aground, for example, if the moral compass of “the majority” gets off kilter, and “the majority” decides that murder should be legalized. Does the majority’s belief that murder should be legalized make it correct? **Democracy has been described as follows:** There are two wolves and one lamb, and they are going to vote to determine who will be eaten for lunch, which equates to mob rule with no absolute standard of protection for our most vulnerable citizens.

On the other hand, a **Republic** is supposed to safeguard against “popular” ethics and legal relativism by placing moral people in power who are accountable to the voters **under the absolute standard of the law** (i.e., the *Constitution*, based on Biblical law). An elected official has a duty to vote against public sentiment if the will of people is against the law! Because purely democratic government is subject to the whims of popular sentiment (rather than building society’s legal foundation on absolute truths and standards, e.g., the *Ten Commandments*), our Founding Fathers wrote and spoke against democracy as our form of government.

According to *The Federalist Papers* (No. 10: Madison):


“A **pure Democracy**, by which I mean a society consisting of a small number of citizens, who assemble and administer the government in person, can admit of no cure for the mischiefs of faction. ...Such Democracies have ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention; have ever been found incompatible with personal security or the rights of property; and have in general been as short in their lives as they have been violent in their deaths.

A **Republic**, by which I mean a government in which... **representation** takes place, opens a different prospect and promises the cure for which we are seeking. ... The two great points of difference between a Democracy and a Republic are: first, the delegation of the government, in the latter, to a small number of citizens elected by the rest; secondly, the greater number of citizens and greater sphere of country over which the latter may be extended...

However small the **Republic** may be the representatives must be raised to a certain number in order to guard against the cabals of a few; and that however large it may be they must be limited to a certain number in order to guard against the confusion of a multitude.”

Note the **Pledge of Allegiance**: “I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the **Republic** for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Also, **Article IV, Section 4 of the United States Constitution** states: “The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a **Republican** Form of Government...”

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Biblical Principles of Good Government -- *Key Ideas* (Visit PreserveLiberty.com/)