

JESUS IN AMERICA

Awakening the
Evangelical Church



FOREWORD



Dr. Al and Dr. Judy Howard

Dear Reader,

My name is Al Howard and for almost 46 years I have pastored the same non-denominational church in Long Beach, California. My wife Judy was involved in Pro-Life work when we married 37 years ago and she tried her best to get me involved. At the time we married she was involved in an organization called Crusade for Life. I truly believed at that time that the church was not to get involved in social issues and I was adamant about my position until at a prayer conference in 1983, God broke my heart for the children who were perishing daily through the cruelty of abortion.

Just as I was stubbornly against getting involved with the abortion struggle or allowing my church to become involved, now my whole

life was radically changed and I knew that I could never again be the man I was the day before God spoke to my heart and shared with me that the Gospel preached but not applied would be weak and ineffective.

The Lord arranged for Judy and me to find a wonderful facility that we called His Nesting Place. We have been there for over 33 years. We have housed over 7500 pregnant women, and helped them to bring their babies into the world. I have preached thousands of sermons to these women, but it was saving the babies' lives that glorified the Lord Jesus, and we know that one human life is worth more than a thousand sermons. And this is the kind of action the Lord wants from his church. We believe that every evangelical should get behind the Life Amendment to the Constitution that is now being sponsored by Crusade for Life, and then the evangelical church will truly become the Church of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely in Christ,

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THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

The First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States deals with personal freedom in America. With regard to religion, what the First Amendment specifies is that America shall not have an official church denomination, as England does. However, Americans are encouraged to select their preferred denomination. For the 13 colonies the religion was primarily Christianity, although there may have been a few Jewish believers. In the twenty-first century, Christianity continues to be the most prevalent religion in America, with Protestantism first and Catholicism second. In the Protestant sector, evangelicalism is the most accepted spiritual position. The First

Amendment does not say or imply that there is a Constitutional separation of church and state.

THE CONSTITUTION AND THE BIBLE

The Constitution is the major law of the United States. It was assembled in the late 18th century by the Founding Fathers of America, men of experience, character, and wisdom. They started from the premise that all men are created equal. There is reason to believe that most of them knew the Holy Scriptures, although the Constitution is not a religious document. It reflects Christian values because of the men who wrote it.

Considering the condition of America today, it is obvious that a new application of the Scriptures is very much in order. The Church of Jesus Christ is responsible for the moral values of society, and the church must take the leadership role in correcting the imbalance.



When the church becomes the moral leader in America, the society will follow suit. In most Christian church denominations, the separation of church and state is practiced. This is neither Constitutional nor biblical. There is nothing in the Bible that suggests the separation of church and state. The separation excuse is used by the church to avoid its biblical responsibility to correct society.

The Bible is clear on the sacredness of human life. The following scriptures express the sacredness of life and the seriousness of abortion. In the gospel of Luke 1:41-45, *when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"* In Psalm 139:13-16, the Psalmist David says, *For you*



created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days that were ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. Proverbs 24:11-12 says, Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, "But we knew nothing about this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay each person according to what he has done?

WORKING TOGETHER

The foundation of America's Christian denominations is the Bible. For all denominations the New Testament is essentially the same. The Old Testament in the Protestant Bible is the same as the corresponding Jewish scriptures. The Catho-



lic Old Testament has all of these books, but also has several additional books. In effect, all the Christian denominations have full access to the Word of God. Thus, the American denominations should be able to work together to rebuild the society into a powerful structure for life on a high moral plane. The question is, why is this not happening?

SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

There are several reasons for the failure of the denominations to rebuild society. The first is that the Protestant churches generally accept the separation of church and state. They say that the church has one job and the state has another, and each should mind its own business. As has been pointed out, this separation is neither Constitutional nor biblical. With the church's help,

Joining Church and State



working to enact a Constitutional Life Amendment to stop abortion in America will eventually lead to very beneficial changes throughout the social and cultural order. Currently, human issues are determined by the secular worldview.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12, The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

THE BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

A step that all the Protestant churches, the majority of which are evangelical, should take is to incorporate the Biblical Worldview into all their educational materials. This concept is based on the realization that the Bible's Old and New Testaments provide an answer to every human problem. The concept of the Biblical Worldview is to put the Bible's content into logical order, thus making its truths accessible and functional. The pastor can then lead his people into active involvement in uplifting the culture and bringing evils like abortion to an end.

Once individuals are saved, it is the obligation of the church to lead them in paths of righteousness. These are the Good Works that glorify the Lord Jesus. It is extremely important for the church to direct its people to value good works. It is the object of these Good Works to change the entire culture. The church is not just a place of worship, but a source of direction and leadership. This must go far beyond church attendance and missionary service. The church must promote the Biblical Worldview as the moral foundation for a restored United States of America.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

After his resurrection, Jesus met with his apostles in Galilee, to prepare them for presenting his church throughout the entire world. What Jesus said to them is called



the Great Commission. Jesus said, *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.* Matthew 28:18-20. A typical example of Jesus' commandments is presented in the parable of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:30-37.

It is important to realize that there is a difference between converts and disciples; disciples are learning and growing, and achieving essential moral goals. Furthermore, they are engaged in activities that will change the world. This is the goal of the church of Jesus Christ in this era and in this country. It is not sufficient to lead individuals to Christ and not help them to engage in activities that are beneficial to American society. Disciples are to be known not only by what they think or feel, but by what they accomplish. This is the goal to which the Lord was directing his apostles, and this is his goal today.

The separation of church and state frustrates the Lord's plan and reduces the vital task of bringing the society into a morally acceptable condition. Unfortunately, today's evangelical churches are failing to

correct the society and this condition must be changed before the church of Jesus Christ can complete the role for which Jesus intended it when he gave the apostles the Great Commission. The drastic condition of America today dictates a New Reformation of evangelicalism.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Under the direction of Jefferson, Madison, Washington, Adams, Hamilton and others, America won the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. As a result, America was prepared for growth. The Civil War was a terrible conflict, but slavery was defeated and also in this era abortion was brought under control and it was



"I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that his justice cannot sleep forever."

Thomas Jefferson



made illegal by every state in the union. The Christian Church, in its many denominations, was a powerful figure of moral authority.

In the first quarter of the 20th century some denominations were displaying liberal tendencies. By general consent, in 1930 the Protestant Church accepted artificial contraception. Rather quickly the size of families grew smaller, but immigration kept America growing. Although many men were lost in two World Wars, the population was boosted in the late 40s by the Baby Boomer generation. However, family life was not following the Biblical Worldview.

In the second half of the 20th century America was in a serious condition of moral decay. Divorce was very common, and more couples were cohabiting than were getting married. Further, abortion was made legal on demand up to term throughout the United States, and were being done at over a million a year. In addition, teen sexuality was



considered a part of growing up. Moving to the 21st century, sodomy and gay marriage have both been legalized by the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition, several states have legalized physician-assisted suicide. This is the moral atmosphere that confronts the Church of Jesus Christ of today. It can be seen that the country is in bad shape because the church is in bad shape. As this evil progression took place, many of the Protestant churches became evangelical churches. Typically the evangelical churches accept the separation of church and state, which frees them from their obligation to the state. As a consequence the culture continued its downhill slide. And this is the moral condition that the church and the culture are manifesting today. What can be done about it?



"All human situations have their inconveniences. We feel those of the present but neither see nor feel those of the future; and hence we often make troublesome changes without amendment, and frequently for the worse."

Benjamin Franklin

It is essential for evangelical churches to be involved in pro-life activities. Christian women get abortions just like the secular

ones. Thus it is mandatory for the church to act before the woman has an unwanted pregnancy. The best approach is for the church to show films like “The Silent Scream,” and distribute descriptive printed material. Special training sessions should also be held for the youth of the church. In addition to protecting the men and women of the fellowship, it is vital for them to have a clear perception of what abortion has done and is doing to the society. There are many ways that abortion can be reduced by Christian involvement until a Life Amendment is enacted. The

distribution of appropriate literature and sidewalk counseling of pregnant women directly at the abortion facilities glorifies

Jesus by saving innocent human lives. Church groups can be easily trained to do this type of counseling.



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

John Adams

This presentation began with a discussion of religion and the church as presented in the First Amendment to America’s Constitution. In this context religion was identified

as Christianity, and the church was any of a number of denominations. Then the 19th century was seen to be a time of turmoil which ended with two positive developments, namely the end of slavery in America, and the end of legal abortion in every state of the union. However, the 20th century became an era of great moral decline, which continues to this day in the 21st century.



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

George Washington

To understand better the moral significance of these developments, the Biblical Worldview was discussed. The critical point was the condition of evangelicalism in America today. To achieve a Constitutional Amendment for Life, it is essential to have the evangelical churches involved.

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN ACTION

Approximately 48 percent of American adults consider themselves to be Protestant Christians. There are over 300,000 Protestant

churches in America, and most of them are evangelical churches. These churches are nominally against abortion, but do not get involved in this issue. Thus, the entire evangelical church needs to become more active in the society. In true Christianity, it is not what we think or say that glorifies Christ, but what we do.

The Life Amendment advocates are now working diligently to draw in the evangelical churches because the Lord wants their involvement in the final

elimination of abortion. Abortion has already killed over 60 million unborn citizens and kills more every day. The final answer to the disaster that has been caused by the legalization of abortion in America rests with the church. Above all, the church should promote the enactment of a Constitutional Life Amendment by encouraging people to vote for pro-life candidates. This Amendment is the first step in bringing about a New Reformation in the Church of Jesus Christ in America. In the twenty-first centu-



"I am a firm believer in the people.

If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crises. The great point is to bring them the real facts."

Abraham Lincoln

ry, the Evangelical Church will have to deal with problems similar to those that faced Martin Luther and John Calvin in their respective Reformation ministries. The Evangelical Church knows that its ministry should be changing the culture. It is vital that the evangelical leaders repent of their failure to direct the culture's moral behavior. Crusade for Life stands firmly beside the Evangelical Church as these critical changes take place.

AMENDMENT FOR LIFE

SECTION 1.

As used in this Constitution, the word *person* shall mean and refer to any and every living human being from the beginning of its biological existence as a human organism.

SECTION 2.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

PROPOSED LIFE AMENDMENT

The concept of the New Reformation is amplified by three booklets regarding the proposed Life Amendment.

The first booklet, *Ending Abortion In America*, summarizes the pro-life cause and introduces the concept of a Life Amendment to the Constitution.

The second booklet, *How The Life Amendment Benefits America*, expresses the wide range of value that the Life Amendment will bring to pass in our country.

The third booklet, *Achieving The Constitutional Life Amendment*, covers the required action which will bring the Life Amendment to reality.

The full content of these booklets is available on the Amendment website, www.lifeamendment.org.

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