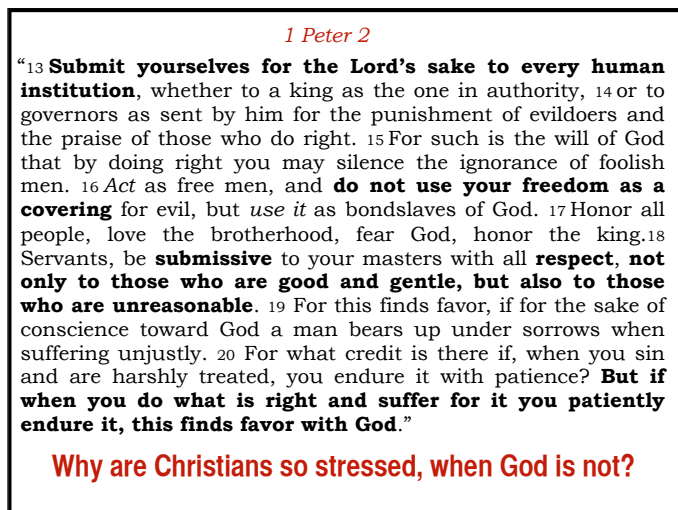




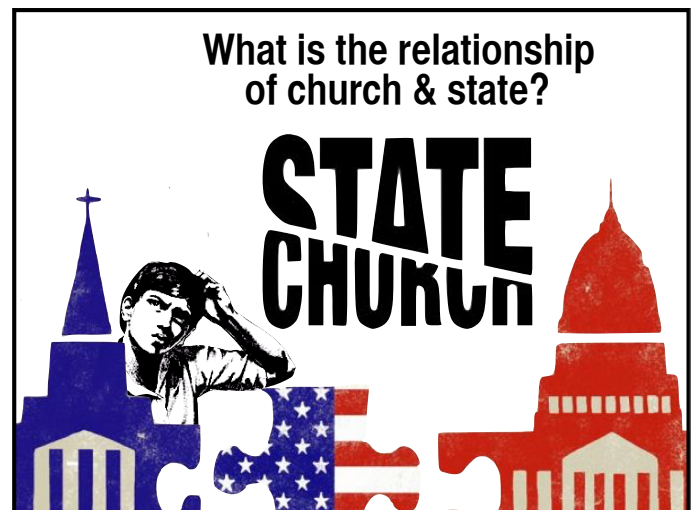
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2



3



4



5



6

#2 Take your baptism (**ANOINTING**) seriously!

Spiritual homesickness is a condition
that is to be **CULTIVATED**, not **CURED**.

1 Peter 1:1

“chosen of God” . . . reside as aliens”



Citizens of the
Kingdom
of God



Citizens of the
World of
humanity



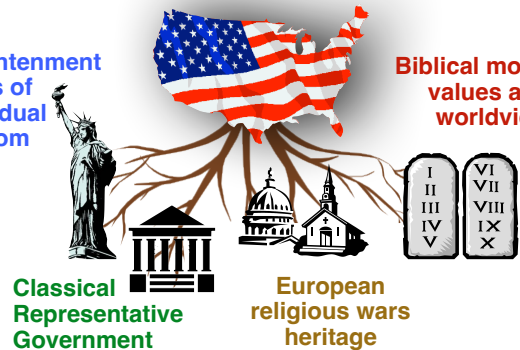
Citizens of the
Country of
residence

7

#3 Christians are **ALIEN ASSOCIATES** in American civic institutions.

Enlightenment
ideals of
individual
freedom

Biblical moral
values and
worldview



Classical
Representative
Government

European
religious wars
heritage

8

Christians should never apply for “spiritual citizenship” with this world.

John 18:36

“Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, **My kingdom is not of this realm.**”

Romans 12:2

“do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

“New Covenant” Christians are
KINGDOM builders (not nation builders).

They exercise their mission in **DIFFERENT WAYS**.

9

American DNA “sacred cows”

personal rights,
physical wealth,
political power,



10

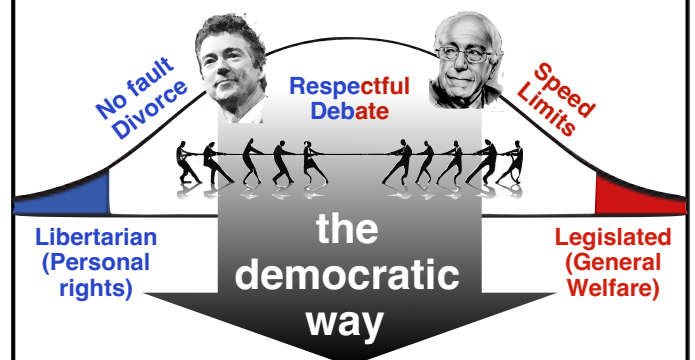
Tension is built in to our system of Government.



Diversity and Compromise are
our strength, not our weakness.

11

Democracy demands **Compromise** and “strongman” emperors hate it.



12

American exceptionalism (in a spiritual sense)
must be nuanced very carefully.

Patriotism	Nationalism	Imperialism
"render to Caesar"	"the city on a hill"	"under God"
Pay taxes Salute the flag Honor the officials	Put USA first Defend USA policy Export USA values	USA (OT promises) USA savior of world USA is the new Israel

America is not a new **"Israel"**
(holding a covenant with God),
nor is it **God's embassy on earth.**

13

***Our government is to promote
"the general welfare".***

"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect **union**, establish **justice**, insure domestic **tranquility**, provide for the **common** defense, promote the **general welfare**, and secure the **blessings of liberty** to **ourselves and our posterity**, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Constitution of the United States

14

Our government derives its powers NOT directly from God but through its citizens.

"We hold these Truths to be **self-evident**, that all Men are **created equal**, that they are endowed by their Creator with unalienable **Rights**, that among these are Life, Liberty, & the Pursuit of Happiness: — That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, **deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the governed**,"

The Declaration of Independence

15

America is not a "cut flower" culture.



embraces
a flower's
glory
(beauty)

while
denying
its basis
(root)



Every government has faith (religious) roots
that address unavoidable questions.

What is the core of human nature?
What makes a law just or unjust?
What is the purpose of society?
What gives rulers, legitimacy?

16

Michael
Novak

"The most remarkable and original
insight into the roots of modern
capitalism to be published
in many years."
—The Wall Street Journal

The Spirit of
Democratic
Capitalism



America was founded as a
secular state with the soul
of a church respecting a
generic god of nature.



Biblical
ethical spirit

17

Without a Biblical ethical spirit:

Capitalism

becomes the exploitation of
the "have nots" by the "have lots"

Democracy

becomes an endless litigation of rights or the
marginalization of the minority by the majority.

Pluralism

dignifies every divergence as an individual right.

Competition

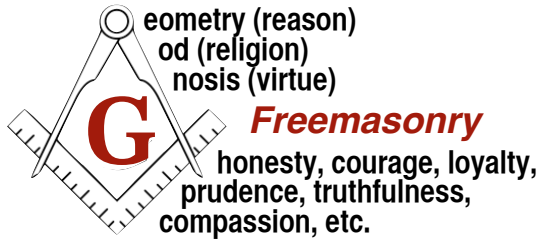
sidelines compassion, cooperation, and community.

18

“... the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God ...”
Declaration of Independence

“American civil religion”

“Progressive, Patriotic, Protestantism”



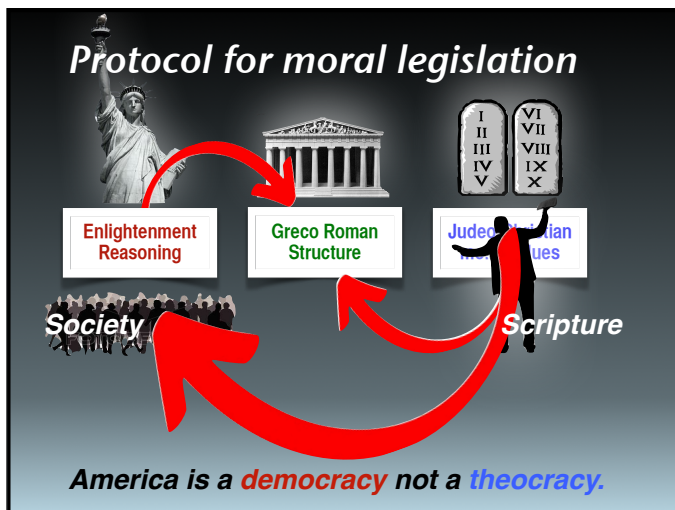
19

How is the Christian faith to influence the American system of government?



20

Protocol for moral legislation



21

#4 As ambassadors we seek to influence a secular state with humane virtues that will Glorify God and civilize culture.

Our tools are Virtue, Voice, and Vote.

- We are **peacemakers** who nurture a culture where the Gospel can be seen & shared.
 - We model **community** that will inspire.
 - We influence **legislation** that promotes the general welfare of the nation.
 - We demonstrate **peace** that the world can't give, take away, or stop longing for.

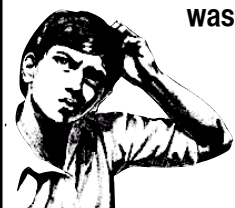
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The ambassador is above all a PEACEMAKER.

Matthew 5:9

“Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called sons of God.”

- Jesus was prophetically called **“Prince of Peace.”**
 - Jesus’ unlike Muhammad was **never a military leader.**
 - Early christians were noted for their **pacifism.**
 - The greatest peace is the **Gospel.**



23

Romans 12

“18 **If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.** 19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but **leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.** 20 “But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Jeremiah 29:7

“**Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile**, and pray to the Lord on its behalf; for in its welfare you will have welfare.”

Galatians 6:10

“So then, while we have opportunity, **let us do good to all people**, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”

24

As ambassadors we are called to challenge all people to be true to themselves as humans who bear the **IMAGE OF GOD** in this life.

John 10:10

"I came **that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.**

We sin and fall short of our calling to bear God's Image and **need the Gospel - God's grace in the Word & Way of the Cross.**

Romans 8:29

"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined **to become conformed to the image of His Son,**"

25

The **"Way of the Cross"** is a vital part of the ambassador's peacemaking.

In Matt.4:1-11 Satan tempts Jesus and us to build God's Kingdom with Satan as contractor.

- **Spiritual over material food,**
- **Servanthood over entitlement,**
- **Means as a part of ends.**

"8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory; 9 and he said to Him, **"All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me."** 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'"

26

Christians are called to be **AMBASSADORS** of human dignity, peace, and virtue.

The world's fire around us

will be eclipsed by the Spirit's fire inside us.



27

How can a Christian sleep well at night as an Anointed, Alien, Ambassador?

1. **Take your baptism seriously - 1 Pet.3:21**
2. **Perspective - Resist Satan's bait - Matt. 4:8-11**
3. **Expectation - Limit your calling - 1 Cor.5:12**
4. **Attitude - Self sacrifice - Phil.2:5-8**
5. **Charity - Promote the general welfare - Matt.7:21**
6. **Empathy - Be a peacemaker - Rom.12:18**

28

How to generate more light than heat in politics.

- **VIRTUE, VOICE, VOTE** - We don't have the option of withdrawing.
- **Stay homesick** - Don't place hope in political systems, America, or human leaders.
- **Stay cool** - Political power, economic prosperity, military might, & social utopia are not the WAY.
- **Promote the "general welfare"** - Discern what is in the public's best interest for the "long term."
- **Political systems** are important but not more than political leaders.



- **Encourage wise civil servants** - who are both civil and servants of the people.

29

Hard Questions



30