EDUCATION in CRISIS

Blueprint for Restoring America’s Educational Success

by:
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Public Education....

Saying those words in a group of people seems to elicit an immediate emotional response. Everyone has an opinion regarding classroom size, teacher pay, funding, etc. Until serving in the legislature, I could have never imagined how much emotion is tied up in those two simple words.

Making matters worse, the conversation is driven by facts that are clouded in mistrust and half-truths so that even when irrefutable data is presented, it is obscured by an envelope of emotion.

Unfortunately, the public education community has exacerbated this problem by promoting a narrative that seeks to divide everyone into one of two factions: those who support public education and those who don’t.

After four years of digging into this subject and sitting on numerous K-12 education committees, I want to share a little of my observations and warn about the dangers of where I see education heading.

History shows us that the agenda taught in public schools today becomes the predominant belief system of our nation tomorrow. For the last 50 years, the secular progressive movement has sought to transform our nation with disastrous results as I will explain below.

*Please take twenty minutes or so to read this – it is an easy read. When you reach the end, I trust you will find this as informative as I did.*

As you read this article, know that my heart and desire is for you to see the love that’s ours in Christ – for it is His love that motivates what I’ve written; and I will continue to champion the very best in education policy for our state and nation.

Respectfully,
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The Current State of Education

For decades the state of Oklahoma grappled with the issue of funding for public schools. Just this spring, the legislature acted by passing a historic teacher pay raise averaging 16 percent.

Then, in proof that fact is often stranger than fiction, teachers engaged in a two-week long strike - after the pay raise was signed into law by the Governor! As a State Representative, I have never seen anything like it, and those who’ve worked at the Capitol for decades told me they had never seen anything like this…. not ever. The level of hostility, and the number of angry, disrespectful and threatening contacts was unprecedented.

Prior to the pay raise, some of the most puzzling emails we (legislators) received came from the Christian community when they told us that the “Christian thing to do” was to give teachers a pay raise. Then, when the teachers went on strike anyway, the message from the Christian community changed to “we need to pull together as Christians and educators for the sake of our kids.”

While, the public schools are filled with many wonderful people, there is a deeper issue at work; an issue that will affect the future of our state and nation.

Let’s begin by looking at the recently published national report card (NAEP) for public schools. It tells us that only 33 percent of 4th graders and 27 percent of 8th graders (average scores) in Oklahoma scored as “proficient,”¹. Furthermore, these results rank our state in the bottom-third for all subjects except 4th grade science where we rank in the middle.² When only one-third of our students rate as “competent” this is unacceptable.

Of course, the predictable response is that more money is needed for education; but if more money produced improved results, then Washington DC, which spends between $27,000-$29,000 per student, would have the best schools in the nation! Even though DC spends almost twice the national average³ and almost three times more than Oklahoma,⁴ their academic results rank below Oklahoma’s, and from two to four grade levels below the national average.
At some point we must acknowledge the truth that throwing more money at something does not mean better results. The problem is not in the amount being spent, but rather the philosophy our public education system has adopted.

Furthermore, America is in the top four in the nations of the world in education spending per pupil, yet our students consistently rank at or near the bottom on international testing in math, science, and reading with an unimpressive national average.

The problem is not isolated to K-12 education either. Only 27.3 percent of graduates from our state-run universities can secure a job in their degree field and three-fourths leave school with a debt-load of nearly $38,000.

In the next section, I will define the term ‘Secular Progressive’ because the Secular Progressives are primarily responsible for the changes that have occurred in public education over the last 50 years, resulting in these disappointing results.

**What is a ‘Secular Progressive’?**

‘Secularist’ is “an advocate of secularism; someone who believes that religion should be excluded from government and education.”

‘Socialism’ is “: any of various economic and political theories advocating collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods

2 a : a system of society or group living in which there is no private property

b : a system or condition of society in which the means of production are owned and controlled by the state

3 : a stage of society in Marxist theory transitional between capitalism and communism and distinguished by unequal distribution of goods and pay according to work done”
‘Secular Progressive’ is defined “as a non-religious person or organization that promotes and supports liberal change and reform.”

What Caused the Decline in Student Proficiency?
When we take a historical view of education across the United States, a picture begins to emerge that helps explain why American academics have been slipping for decades. If you doubt whether there has been a decline in academics, give any recent Oklahoma college graduate an eight-grade exit exam from the era of statehood and see if they can pass it. Few can handle what was required of eighth-graders in the early 1900s.

Many fundamental philosophical changes have occurred in education over recent decades that correspond to declining academic competencies. One of those changes is the strident secularism that now dominates the educational environment - an atmosphere that was not present a generation ago.

If you find yourself rolling your eyes, ready to dismiss the notion of secularism affecting academics as religious hyperbole, consider the compelling conclusions of researchers at Stanford’s Graduate School of Education. This study documented that after adjusting for a variety of background factors and behaviors, “adolescents who practice religion regularly perform better in school than those adolescents who do not.”

The study affirmed that increased religious atmosphere produces higher academic results.

Numerous previous studies have similarly affirmed that students in schools that incorporate religious principles and activities, the academic achievement is significantly higher than their counterparts in secularized education, and these impressive results are achieved at a much lower cost per student.

There will be those who object to these statements by pointing to exceptions they believe show the opposite. Nevertheless, such exceptions do not disprove the overall premise or the numerous studies documenting the results of the proposition.
Significantly, secularized education is a modern phenomenon, largely a product only of the past generation, and testing affirms that it leads to steadily falling academic outcomes. For over three centuries, educators ran to the presence and inclusion of religious principles, practices, and activities rather than from them, and the academic results during that time far surpass those of today; they gave us many of the scientific and mathematical breakthroughs that enabled our modern world.

The Bible at the Beginning of Public Education:
Let’s recall something of the history and purpose of public education as practiced in America for almost three centuries.

- The first public school law was passed (1647) to ensure that students knew the Bible and its principles so that when they became citizens they would be able to recognize when civil leaders promoted practices that encroached on limited government and the civil liberties of citizens.
- The first textbook (The New England Primer) published in America (1690) was filled with Bible lessons and principles; teaching freedom, liberty and good government. This was typical of all public education over the first century of American education and was intentionally and deliberately continued by those who founded the American constitutional republic.

Consider, for example, Dr. Benjamin Rush, one of America’s foremost early educators and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. (He was considered by John Adams to be one of America’s three most notable Founding Fathers). Rush started five universities, was an early professor in several, and held several professorships at the same time. For his contributions, he is called the “The Father of Public Schools Under the Constitution.” This foremost of American public educators declared:

- [T]he Bible... should be read in our schools in preference to all other books because it contains the greatest portion of that kind of knowledge which is calculated to produce private and public happiness.
- The Bible contains more knowledge necessary to man in his present state than any other book in the world.
The great enemy of the salvation of man, in my opinion, never invented a more effective means of extirpating Christianity from the world than by persuading mankind that it was improper to read the Bible at schools.\textsuperscript{22}

Additionally, the first English-language Bible printed in America (1781) was described as “\textit{a neat edition of the Holy Scriptures for the use of schools}”\textsuperscript{23} and included a congressional endorsement announcing “\textit{the United States in Congress assembled...recommend this edition of the Bible to the inhabitants of the United States.”}\textsuperscript{24}

**Early Education & the 1\textsuperscript{st} Amendment**

In the first federal law to address education (1789), President George Washington coupled religion and public education, declaring:

> Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.\textsuperscript{25}

The framers of this law were also the framers of the First Amendment, and they believed that schools were a proper means to encourage the “\textit{religion, morality, and knowledge}” which was so “\textit{necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind.”} Significantly, most states were brought into the United States under a provision requiring compliance with this law as a condition for statehood,\textsuperscript{26} and even today many states still retain this educational requirement in their state constitution.\textsuperscript{27}

Founding Father, Fisher Ames, was responsible for the House language of the First Amendment in the Bill of Rights, and he urged that the Bible always retain its prominent role in American public education:

>[Why] should not the Bible regain the place it once held as a school book? Its morals are pure, its examples captivating and noble. The reverence for the Sacred Book that is thus early impressed lasts long; and probably if not impressed in infancy, never takes firm hold of the mind.\textsuperscript{28}
When Thomas Jefferson became President of the United States, he was made a regent for the brand-new Washington DC public school system. He created its original plan of education, and in that plan, students learned to read by using the Bible as their textbook. Through this action, we see that he was NOT a proponent of the separation of church & state as is being taught in today’s classrooms.

With over two centuries of the Bible and religion being part of public education, it is not surprising that the US Supreme Court unanimously ruled (1844) that the Bible would be taught in American schools:

Why may not the Bible, and especially the New Testament...be read and taught as a Divine revelation in the [school] - its general precepts expounded, its evidences explained and its glorious principles of morality inculcated?...Where can the purest principles of morality be learned so clearly or so perfectly as from the New Testament?

This policy continued unabated for over three centuries, ending just over a generation ago when the US Supreme Court engaged in a raw act of judicial activism and mandated all government schools become secularist. (Significantly, the Court itself openly acknowledged its ruling requiring the secularization of public schools was without either legal or historical precedent.)

It is indisputable that American academic scores have steadily fallen since that time. Statistically speaking, America has slipped from superior testing scores in the 1960s, to mediocre in the 1980s, to its current substandard scores today.

So... is America Really a Judeo-Christian Nation?

In the current world of political correctness, President Barak Obama made the infamous claim that America was not a Christian nation. Sadly, by that declaration he demonstrated that he was incredibly ignorant of our deep Judeo-Christian roots.

Across American history and into the present time, there have been literally thousands of official declarations about America being a Christian nation. For example, the US Supreme Court itself, in multiple rulings well
into the twentieth-century, affirmed that America was a “Christian country,”36 a “Christian nation,”37 and a “Christian people.”38 But today, few offenses will subject an individual to greater public derision than repeating what the Supreme Court (as well as presidents, federal courts, state courts, and state legislatures) said for centuries.

**Oklahoma Supreme Court - 1959**

[I]t is well settled and understood that ours is a Christian Nation, holding the Almighty God in dutiful reverence. It is so noted in our Declaration of Independence and in the constitution of every state of the Union....At public expenditure we engrave on our coins, “In God We Trust” and print the same on currency. Our National Motto adopted by joint resolution of Congress is “In God We Trust.” Our National Anthem closes with these words “In God is Our Trust.”...[W]e consider the language used in our Declaration of Independence, and in our national Constitution, and in our Constitution of Oklahoma, wherein those documents recognize the existence of God, and that we are a Christian Nation and a Christian State.39

Modern critics vehemently object to such statements but always refrain from offering any historic definition of what comprises a Christian nation as demonstrated by the American experience.

**What Exactly IS a Christian Nation?**

So, what is an accurate definition of America as a “Christian nation?” US Supreme Court Justice David Brewer (author of the unanimous 1892 US Supreme Court decision declaring America to be a Christian nation) addressed that question by first defining what a Christian nation is **not**:  

[I]n what sense can [America] be called a Christian nation? Not in the sense that Christianity is the established religion, or that the people are in any manner compelled to support it. On the contrary, the Constitution specifically provides that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” Neither is it Christian in the sense that all its citizens are either in fact or name Christians. On the contrary, all religions have free scope within our borders.
Numbers of our people profess other religions, and many reject all. Nor is it Christian in the sense that a profession of Christianity is a condition of holding office or otherwise engaging in public service, or essential to recognition either politically or socially. In fact, the government as a legal organization is independent of all religions. Nevertheless, we constantly speak of this republic as a Christian nation – in fact, as the leading Christian nation of the world.40

Interestingly, today’s critics regularly try to define a Christian nation by every superficial and false measurement that Justice Brewer and the Supreme Court identified and discarded.

So what is the correct definition? According to Justice Brewer, America is “most justly called a Christian nation” because Christianity “so largely shaped and molded it.”41 Very simply, America is a Christian nation because its values, society, and institutions have been shaped by Christian principles.

Characteristics of a Christian Nation:

It can be irrefutably demonstrated that many of the most laudable civic characteristics enjoyed in America today (but absent in so many other nations) are the direct result of Bible teachings, including:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A republican elective form of government</th>
<th>Protection for religious toleration and the rights of conscience</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A free-market approach to religion that ensures religious diversity</td>
<td>Public education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A free-enterprise economic system</td>
<td>Due process in the courts / a just and restrained judicial process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National benevolence</td>
<td>Many other aspects of American life and culture</td>
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</table>

Many Presidents have openly affirmed:

In the formative days of the Republic, the directing influence the Bible exercised upon the fathers of the Nation is conspicuously evident.... We cannot read the history of our rise and development as a Nation without reckoning with the place the
Bible has occupied in shaping the advances of the Republic. \cite{roosevelt}

**President Franklin Roosevelt**

For we can truly be said to have founded our country on the principles of this Book. The Holy Bible was the most important possession that our forebears placed aboard their ships as they embarked for the New World. \cite{lyndon}

[T]he teachings of the Bible are so interwoven and entwined with our whole civic and social life that it would be literally—I do not mean figuratively, I mean literally—impossible for us to figure to ourselves what that life would be if these teachings were removed. \cite{teddy}

And there are many other such declarations as well. And notice, too, some of the presidential affirmations of America as a Christian nation:

America was born a Christian nation – America was born to exemplify that devotion to the elements of righteousness which are derived from the revelations of Holy Scripture. \cite{woodrow}

In these last 200 years, we have guided the building of our Nation and our society by those principles and precepts brought to earth nearly 2,000 years ago on that first Christmas. \cite{lyndon}

Let us remember that as a Christian nation . . . we have a charge and a destiny. \cite{richard}

[A]merican life is builded, and can alone survive, upon . . . [the] fundamental philosophy announced by the Savior nineteen centuries ago. \cite{herbert}

[T]his is a Christian Nation. In this great country of ours has been demonstrated the fundamental unity of Christianity and democracy. \cite{harry}

Numerous other Presidents agreed that America is a Christian nation, including John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, John Quincy Adams, John
Tyler,54 Zachary Taylor,55 James A. Buchanan,56 Abraham Lincoln,57 Ulysses S. Grant,58 William McKinley,59 Franklin D. Roosevelt,60 and Dwight Eisenhower.61

Sadly, President Barack Obama is the only president to declare otherwise.62

**Congress**

Like our Presidents, the US Congress also agreed that America was a Christian nation, declaring, for example, in 1852-1853:

**HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:** Had the people, during the Revolution, had a suspicion of any attempt to war against Christianity, that Revolution would have been strangled in its cradle. At the time of the adoption of the Constitution and the amendments, the universal sentiment was that Christianity should be encouraged, not any one sect [denomination]. . . . In this age there can be no substitute for Christianity; that, in its general principles, is the great conservative element on which we must rely for the purity and permanence of free institutions.63

**SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:** We are Christians, not because the law demands it, not to gain exclusive benefits or to avoid legal disabilities, but from choice and education; and in a land thus universally Christian, what is to be expected, what desired, but that we shall pay a due regard to Christianity?64

In 1856, the House of Representatives also declared:

> [T]he great vital and conservative element in our system is the belief of our people in the pure doctrines and divine truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.65
Throughout the twentieth-century, the federal government frequently produced artwork to help inspire and encourage Americans to act, including the War Bond poster below from World War II, denouncing those who attacked the Bible. And even in national conservation efforts, the Bible played a key role, with Smoky Bear shown in prayer, and Bible verses being used in conservation efforts.

Judiciary
The Judicial Branch was as outspoken on this issue as the Executive and Legislative Branches. In fact, because the Supreme Court on multiple times acknowledged America to be a Christian nation, it is not surprising that it regularly invoked Christian principles as the basis of its rulings on marriage, immigration, foreign affairs, domestic treaties, and other areas.

And state courts were just as forthright as federal courts in their declarations on this subject. For example:

[O]ur laws and institutions must necessarily be based upon and embody the teachings of the Redeemer of mankind. It is impossible that it should be otherwise. And in this sense, and to this extent, our civilization and institutions are emphatically Christian.  

ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT, 1883

Democracy is the outgrowth of Christianity. Although the constitutional decree of freedom of religion and worship
embraces any faith . . . ours is a Christian nation.  

**Kentucky Court of Appeals, 1945**

Our great country is denominated a Christian nation. . . . We imprint “In God We Trust” on our currency. Our state has even sometimes been referred to by cynics as being in the “Bible Belt.” It cannot be denied that much of the legislative philosophy of this state and nation has been inspired by the Golden Rule and the Sermon on the Mount and other portions of the Holy Scriptures.

**Mississippi Supreme Court, 1950**

No other religion in the world observes a Sunday Sabbath except Christianity.

As Expected, many clauses in the Constitution provided abundant evidence for what all three branches openly acknowledged. For example, Article I, Section 7, ¶2, stipulates that the president has ten days to sign a law, “Sundays excepted.”

The South Carolina Supreme Court (1846) affirmed:

Christianity is a part of the common law of the land, with liberty of conscience to all. It has always been so recognized….The U. S. Constitution allows it as a part of the common law. *The President is allowed ten days [to sign a bill], with the exception of Sunday.* The Legislature does not sit, public offices are closed, and the government recognizes the day in all things….The observance of Sunday is one of the usages of the common law recognized by our US and state governments….Christianity is part and parcel of the common law.

For decades, the specific recognition of the Christian Sabbath in the Constitution was cited by state and federal courts as proof of the Christian nature of our governing documents. Many other clauses also have a similar Biblical foundation. In fact, speaking of the Bill of Rights (which was the capstone on the Constitution), US Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren declared:

I believe no one can read the history of our country without realizing that the Good Book and the Spirit of the Savior have
from the beginning been our guiding geniuses....I believe the entire Bill of Rights came into being because of the knowledge our forefathers had of the Bible and their belief in it: freedom of belief, of expression, of assembly, of petition, the dignity of the individual, the sanctity of the home, equal justice under law, and the reservation of powers to the people....I like to believe we are living today in the spirit of the Christian religion. I like also to believe that as long as we do so, no great harm can come to our country. 75

The historical evidence is indisputable. For centuries, whether from the viewpoint of the citizen or the public official, America was viewed as a non-coercive Christian nation, with liberty of conscience for all.

**How do we Treat those of Non-Christian Faith?**

Today, many wrongly point to the First Amendment of the Constitution as the reason that public religious acknowledgements and practices must be excluded from the public arena. But concerning religion, the First Amendment only says “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof....” The first part of this oft-quoted Amendment is known as the Establishment Clause - it forbids Congress from creating a federally-established church of the kind that dominated Europe when this Amendment was written.

The second part of the Amendment is called the Free Exercise Clause, and if forbids the government from regulating, interfering with, or controlling religious activities, expressions, or beliefs.

So, does being considered a Christian nation preclude or harm other people who are of are not of the Christian faith? That is, are Muslims, Hindu, Atheists, or others considered as, or treated as second class citizens when compared with the Christian majority? Of course not!

As numerous quotes above from Supreme Court justices and courts have clearly explained, this is definitely not the case. If fact, in this land founded on the Bible and the Christian faith, Muslims living here since 1619, Jews since 1640, and so forth—all being openly welcomed and
having the freedom and right to set up their own religious expressions and practices, or even none at all.

Being considered a Christian nation in the American experience ensures a free-market approach to religion that is non-coercive and voluntary by protecting the freedom of religious conscience for all.

It certainly does not require the removal or cessation of any traditional Christian or Biblical expression or belief. How amazing (and absurd) it would be to use the civil and religious freedoms provided by the Bible and the Christian faith to exclude the Bible and the Christian faith from every aspect of public life!

It is a Biblical Christian nation that provides freedom of religion for all - a fact openly acknowledged by those from other leading religions today. For example, numerous American Jewish leaders strongly and openly defend America as a Christian nation. Notice some of their unequivocal declarations:

This is a Christian country—it was founded by Christians and built on broad Christian principles. Threatening? Far from it. It is in precisely this Christian country that Jews have known the most peaceful, prosperous, and successful existence in their long history. 76 JEFF JACOBY, JEWISH COLUMNIST

Christian America is the best home our people have found in 2,000 years…[T]his remains the most tolerant, prosperous, and safest home we could be blessed with. 77 AARON ZELMAN, AUTHOR, HEAD OF JEWISH CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

[I] believe that it is good that America is a Christian nation….Too many Americans do not appreciate the connection between American greatness and American Christianity. 78 DENNIS PRAGER, BEST-SELLING JEWISH AUTHOR, NATIONAL COLUMNIST, TALKSHOW HOST

This is a Christian nation, my friends. And all of us are fortunate it is one….Speaking as a member of a minority group – and one of the smaller ones at that - I say it behooves those of us who don’t accept Jesus Christ as our Savior to show some gratitude to those who do, and to start respecting the values and traditions of the overwhelming majority of our fellow citizens, just as we
keep insisting that they respect ours. 79 BURT PRELUTSKY, NATIONAL JEWISH COLUMNIST

Clearly this nation was established by Christians....As a Jew, I’m entirely comfortable with the concept of the Christian America. 80 The choice isn’t Christian America or nothing, but Christian America or a neo-pagan, hedonistic, rights-without-responsibilities, anti-family, culture-of-death America. 81 DON FEDER, JEWISH COLUMNIST

Without a vibrant and vital Christianity, America is doomed, and without America, the west is doomed. Which is why I, an Orthodox Jewish rabbi, devoted to Jewish survival, the Torah, and Israel am so terrified of American Christianity caving in. 82 God help Jews if America ever becomes a post-Christian society! Just think of Europe! 83 RABBI DANIEL LAPIN, BEST-SELLING AUTHOR, TALKSHOW HOST

There are many similar pronouncements from those in America of non-Christian religions. In fact, most American Muslims today experience greater freedoms and rights in this Bible-based nation than they do in their own Muslim lands.

So, do other religions suffer at the hands of the Christian majority in America? The answer is not just “no,” it is a resounding “NO!!!”

Christians are not just fair because they are good people, they strive to do the right thing because they are guided by a sense of morality that comes from the Bible - a morality woven throughout the Constitution and Declaration of Independence. The respect that Christians have towards others who may have opposing beliefs has created a nation that allows everyone to enjoy opportunities and rights that transcends ethnicity, color, religion, age, or gender.

Of course, that is not the case with citizens in most other lands in the world. Across the globe, those from minority religions often suffer at the hands of the majority religion of the country, whether in Southwest Asia, Southeastern Asia, much of the Middle East, throughout Africa, and so forth. This is common—except in Christian America, which is a haven for the persecuted of all faiths.
Sadly, during the genocide of Christians at the hands of ISIS in the Middle East, the previous administration accepted a very small amount of Christian refugees fleeing death. In fact, in the last year of that administration, of more than 15,000 refugees accepted, only 53 were Christians—\(^{84}\) and Christians were the most-targeted victims! In the 5 years refugee from Syria were admitted to the US, only 199 out of the 19,324 refugees were Christians.\(^{85}\) Fortunately, this practice has now been reversed in the current administration,\(^{86}\) but it is amazing how secularists (whether in government, courts, the media, or academia) are willing to accept anything and everything - except the Bible and Christians.

**What Changed - How did we Become Secularized?**

In the 1960s, there was a concerted movement (including the courts, education, politics, and other areas) to transforms America into a secularist nation rather than a Christian one. Instead of honoring the Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses of the Constitution, these leaders worked to create a state-established religion of aggressive secularism.

**Public Schools are Teaching Religion**

Sadly, our government-run public schools were among the first to enthusiastically embrace the change implemented in the 60’s, and it has been met with disastrous results. Textbooks today are very different from textbooks of previous generations - it is not difficult to extrapolate the societal behavior and beliefs that stem from each set of teachings.
### Worldview Comparison

| **Biblical Worldview**  
(Taught before the 1960’s) | **Secularism**  
(Taught today) |
<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There is a God</td>
<td>There is nothing Divine – there is no God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mankind is intentionally created in God’s image and has inherent worth and value</td>
<td>Mankind is the random result of a secular, unguided, evolutionary process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>God has a purpose for every individual, and desires to have a personal relationship with each person, lovingly guiding and caring for them</td>
<td>Life is random with no innate purpose or overarching meaning except the betterment of the society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are moral absolutes and specific God-given, inalienable rights</td>
<td>There are no moral absolutes—right and wrong is individually determined based on the popular trends or feelings at that time</td>
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Today, we get to see firsthand what happens when a godless secularism, with its moral relativism, has been taught for a generation in our public schools; it leads to anxiety, hopelessness, and moral decay. The moral absolutes that ensure a safe, stable, and prosperous culture are mocked and rejected, and our children are paying the price.

### The Current State of Affairs

The students who have gone through our schools in the past generation are Millennials and Gen Z-ers. “Millennial” describes those generally born between 1981 and 1996 (although some measurements include a birth year as late as 2000). Generally, they are the children of the Baby Boomer generation and were born in the years approaching the new millennia that began in 2000—thus, “Millennials.” Gen Z-ers are those following Millennials, and some date them as those born after 1995.
Surveys show the attitudes and behaviors of this past generation are dramatically different from those of any previous generations. As even Wikipedia points out, they are marked by “an increase in a liberal approach to politics and economics.” They have been educated in an increasingly left-leaning and secular progressive education system. Previous generations remember starting each school day with the Pledge of Allegiance, prayer, and receiving an education that actively encouraged or reinforced traditional values and Biblical morality. Not so for Millennials and Gen Z-ers.

Words such as “absolutes” and “moral values” have been replaced with “choice” and “preferences.”

The strong leftward tilt of Millennials was very evident in the 2016 presidential primaries. Young voters, by a margin of 75 to 17 percent, supported Bernie Sanders over Hillary Clinton. They thus preferred full-fledged socialism (the position of Bernie Sanders) to progressive liberalism (the position of Hillary Clinton), even though they were unable to define socialism or point to any socialistic nation in history characterized by prosperity, opportunity, or upward mobility for those in lower classes.

Nevertheless, they believed that Socialism was the best and most fair system, so they wanted it in America. In fact, most Millennials currently prefer Socialism, Communism, and Fascism to free-market capitalism.

A full 53 percent oppose constitutionally protected free speech, and 19 percent see violence as an acceptable response to speech they don’t like.

There is a substantial gap between the values of Millennials and the understood societal expectations (even if not followed) of their parents. With the Millennial culture’s general rejection of traditional values, sexuality is seen as being without any boundaries. Consider the following statistics.

Of the current generation (unlike previous ones) 58 percent believe casual sex is “morally acceptable” and only 25 percent believe it is morally wrong for a couple to live together with no intention of getting married. The rates of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) among this
group is soaring,\textsuperscript{98} and they have the highest rate of undiagnosed HIV of any age group.\textsuperscript{99}

Traditional male-female marriage is not highly esteemed, and a sizeable percentage of them say the traditional statement \textit{“that sex should only be within a marriage between a man and a woman”} is really an anti-gay sentiment.\textsuperscript{100} Two-thirds see gender as fluid rather than fixed,\textsuperscript{101} and half see gender as a spectrum of various identities.\textsuperscript{102} 57 percent seek out pornography\textsuperscript{103} and 45 percent see it as \textit{“morally acceptable.”}\textsuperscript{104}

Within this group, the onset of both marriage and adulthood are being dramatically delayed, if not discarded. Individual preferences and personal pleasure are the measuring stick for right and wrong rather than truth, results, traditional values, or Biblical morality.

By the way, measurements of other areas are also of concern. For example, although the US Constitution explicitly guarantees equal civil rights to all races, Millennials believe the document is \textit{“racist”} and \textit{“discriminatory.”}\textsuperscript{105} And even though Christianity has provided more global benevolence and benevolent institutions than any other religion in the history of the world,\textsuperscript{106} Millennials view Christianity’s adherents as \textit{“hateful”} and \textit{“bigoted.”} \textbf{Furthermore, even though some three-fourths of the Founding Fathers opposed slavery or led anti-slavery societies, Millennials see them as terrible men who were \textit{“racist”} and believed in \textit{“white privilege.”}}\textsuperscript{107}

Even though churches are the most charitable organizations in America\textsuperscript{108} and do more than any other to help the poor and those in need (through disaster relief, half-way houses, job training for released prisoners, food pantries for the hungry, shelters for the homeless, foster homes, hospitals and health care, addiction dependency support, and much more), Millennials largely believe that churches are houses of \textit{“religious bigotry”} and \textit{“intolerance.”} It is not surprising that Millennials’ attendance at religious services has plummeted.\textsuperscript{109}

\textbf{In the past generation, we have produced a postmodern culture.} Postmodern means \textit{“a radical reappraisal of modern assumptions about culture, identity, history, or language”}\textsuperscript{110} that results in a blanket rejection of all that went before.
Truth and morality have become purely subjective, being individually determined. In fact, 74 percent of Millennials now believe there is no absolute truth or moral absolutes.\textsuperscript{111}

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr saw early indications of this change, and openly warned against it:

\begin{quote}
[I] often wonder whether or not education is fulfilling its purpose. A great majority of the so-called educated people do not think logically and scientifically....To save man from the morass of propaganda, in my opinion, is one of the chief aims of education. Education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction. The function of education, therefore, is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically....If we are not careful, our colleges will produce a group of close-minded, unscientific, illogical propagandists, consumed with immoral acts. Be careful, brethren! Be careful, teachers!\textsuperscript{112}
\end{quote}

Students now graduate with very clear and strong opinions on many subjects, but those opinions often routinely contradict empirical evidence to the contrary.

For instance, many of Oklahoma’s teachers chose to strike even after receiving the largest pay increase of their career paid for by the largest tax increase in a generation. All that seemed to matter at the time were the emotions behind the movement - incontrovertible data no longer mattered.

How do you Change a Nation’s Belief System?

In Genesis 18:19 (NIV) God said ‘For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.’”

Shaping a nation requires that you begin by shaping the hearts and minds of the young people. A quote attributed to President Abraham Lincoln wisely notes:
The philosophy of the schoolroom in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next.

In 1984, Samuel Blumenfeld wrote *NEA: Trojan Horse in America* where he explained that the way to transform America is through the public schools.

Education has always been seen as the key to securing a fundamental transformation in America. Nearly a century ago, the Progressive Education Society, and Progressive Educators from Robert Ingersoll to John Dewey worked to change both the pedagogy and content of public education. It required decades before their followers and successors were able to secure the changes they sought, with open hostility to traditional Judeo-Christian beliefs and values. As has been documented above (and as will be seen below), those changes are now very evident.

**America’s Cultural Civil War**

At this very moment, America is engaged a cultural civil war. The two sides include:

1. Those who understand our Biblical foundations and recognize that the prosperity we enjoy today is the result of our reliance and adherence to the God of the Bible
2. Those who want to re-shape America into a nation where rights and values are defined by the government, with these rights changing based upon the whims of the political landscape.

Already, we have seen over 1,400 legal attacks on traditional religious expressions in recent years. Simple public acknowledgments of God, even by a private citizen, are no longer tolerated in public venues, school or otherwise. For example:

In Minnesota, a state employee was barred from parking his own car in the state parking lot because he had religious stickers on the car’s bumper.

In Saint Louis, Missouri, a school official caught an elementary student praying over his own personal lunch; he ordered the student out of his seat, reprimanded him in front of the other
students, and took him to the principal, who ordered him to stop praying. 115

In Russellville, Kentucky, a library employee was barred from wearing her personal necklace because it had a small cross on it, 116 and in Clymer, Pennsylvania, a school employee was actually suspended for wearing her personal necklace with a cross. 117

In Wisconsin, a citizen riding a public bus was forbidden to give a fellow rider a book containing Bible stories. 118

In Balch Spring, Texas, senior citizens meeting at a community senior center were prohibited from praying over their own meals. 119

In Orono, Maine, a third-grader who wore a T-shirt containing the words “Jesus Christ” was required to turn his own shirt inside out so the words could not be seen. 120

In Eau Claire, Wisconsin, college students serving as residential assistants were prohibited from holding Bible studies in their own private dorm rooms, even though discussion groups on any other topic were permitted in dorm rooms. 121

In Saratoga Springs, New York, a five-year-old kindergarten student was forbidden to say a prayer over her own lunch, and was scolded by a teacher for doing so. 122

In Memphis, Tennessee, a library offered shelves for displaying community advertisements and announcements. When a local church placed a notification of its upcoming Christmas program and a small Nativity scene on the shelf, the library required the removal of Joseph, Mary, Jesus, and the Wise Men from the scene, leaving only the farm animals. 123

There are many additional examples. 124 In fact, the enforced compartmentalization is now so aggressively coercive that:

Four Christian evangelists at a public festival near Detroit were arrested for answering questions from those who asked them about their Christian faith. 125
In Orange County, California, a pastor was arrested for playing Christian music at his picnic table in a public park. 126

Two Gideons were arrested in Florida for standing on a sidewalk for giving Bibles to those who wanted them. 127

A Christian father was arrested in Lexington, Massachusetts for objecting to the public-school teaching about homosexuality and gay marriage to his kindergarten son. 128

A 67-year-old man in Georgia was arrested for passing out Christian tracts on a public street. 129

In Philadelphia, eleven Christians were arrested for holding up signs with Bible verses during a “Gay Pride” parade down the city’s streets. 130

In Sacramento, California, a Christian youth pastor was arrested after he struck up a casual conversation about faith with fellow shoppers at a mall. 131

In Wichita, Kansas, a pastor was arrested for standing on a public sidewalk and giving out Gospel tracts. 132

Today, Public Schools are Teaching Secularism

Whether we have children, grandchildren, nephews or nieces; what happens in public schools affects us all.

Just think, little Johnny and Sally have been in their parents loving care for about five years before starting school learning about life, beliefs, values, morals and family structure.

Then one day, they head off to public school and learn what the ‘state’ thinks about those beliefs that their parents instilled. They will learn that God does not, in fact exist; since intelligent people do not believe in that sort of nonsense. They may even be ridiculed by teachers if they stand their ground on the existence of God. They will be taught how to roll a condom on a banana and be told that abstinence is old fashioned, and that oral sex is not really sex. That bullying is wrong because the ‘state’ says it’s wrong, not because it violates God’s word... after all... God does not exist.
Prior to the 1960’s, public schools taught objective morality, a belief that certain things were wrong because they violated a God-given set of ethical laws. Since the 1960’s, our schools have taught subjective morality, and look where it has gotten us. Subjective morality says “All morality is based on individual value judgments regarding any given moral issue at hand…. when it comes to deciding what is morally right and what is morally wrong, a subject (a person) must apply their subjective valuation of the issue before they can decide where they stand.”  

When our children receive well over 1000 hours of subjective morality training in public-school and only 50-100 hours of objective morality training in church each year, should we be surprised when our kids succumb to an agenda that has been designed by PhD’s with the sole purpose of hijacking the hearts and minds of our young people?

A Word about Critical Thinking in Schools

As an engineer, I love problem solving. Successful schools pride themselves on their ability to teach critical thinking and problem solving. With the push toward STEM jobs, the ability to solve problems is incredibly important.

Part of critical thinking is the ability to analyze data and draw a logical conclusion even when the data presented appears contradictory or confusing.

During the 2017 legislative session, the Oklahoma legislature heard a bill (SB393) that would have allowed schools to teach intelligent design alongside of evolution. Mind you, these schools would have still been required to teach evolution, but the bill would have given public schools the opportunity to teach that there are alternative theories to how we came into being.

Intelligent Design holds “that certain features of the universe and of living things are best explained by an intelligent cause, not an undirected process such as natural selection.”

Ironically, this bill was a critical thinking bill that would have encouraged students and teachers to approach a very contradictory subject in a way that allows students to hear various theories and then develop their own
conclusion. The bill died because of those who only want one theory taught in schools.

In science, we have laws and we have theories (ideas). A law is something that is a proven fact with years’ worth of empirical data supporting it. For something to move from a theory to a law, the scientific community must make sure that they are correct beyond a shadow of a doubt.

A law must be:
1. Observable
2. Testable
3. Repeatable
4. Otherwise it is a theory

From a scientific standpoint, both evolution and intelligent design are theories for a whole host of reasons including the fact that they don’t meet the three criteria above. Nevertheless, public schools teach evolution as though it is a law and intelligent design is not even allowed to be taught as an alternative theory.

If we are intellectually honest, belief in evolution and belief in God both take faith! What is more, they are both theories that explain the origin of the universe and life; at the very least deserving equal treatment in the classroom.

What Do We Do Now?
First, we need to accept that there is a danger. If we have the attitude that ‘it has always been like this’ then the future of our nation is uncertain at best. Our nation is being transformed, and public schools are the conduit through which this transformation is taking place.

Many people say that this transformation is not taking place in their school, but I will explain that every public school in America is part of the problem.

Here is how you know your school has been impacted by the secularist agenda - suppose one of your teachers wants to pray with a student about some needs in their life. If that teacher has a principle that looks the other way or condones this, the teacher may feel safe; but what
happens when their principle leaves or the school board gets wind of this? All it takes is for some attorney to write a letter threatening to sue on the grounds of ‘separation of church and state’ and the school board will bow in obedience.

So, assuming we accept the fact that a danger exists, what do we do now? It seems that there are 3 primary groups that are impacted by what is happening.

These include (each group will be addressed toward the end):

1. Parents
2. Teachers & Administrators
3. The Church

We really have two choices. We can continue to live life as usual and hope things get better, or we can push back against the onslaught of secularism. Let’s examine these choices:

**Choice #1:**
There is an age-old saying that goes something like this…. ‘the definition of insanity is to do the same thing over and over and expect different results’.

I believe that if we silently live our lives and hope for the best, our nation will look radically different when the next generation moves into a position of leadership. Using the last 50 years as a guide, the freedoms we all enjoy today will be a thing of the past. Only those who follow the state’s (big brother’s) rules of conduct will be considered first class citizens and the rest of us will be given the ‘opportunity’ to attend re-education camps with the sole purpose of teaching us how to be more accepting of everyone’s else’s values. **We will have traded peace and security today for oppression tomorrow.**

**Choice #2:**
If we push back on the secularist agenda that has overtaken our schools, it is likely we will suffer today, but the long-term hope is that we can change the direction of our nation for the sake of our children.
What Really is the Purpose of Education?

Before we move on, it seems prudent to ask ourselves... ‘why do schools exist?’

**Reasons I’m told Schools Exist:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feeding our children</td>
<td>Provide bullying training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide sex education training</td>
<td>Educate students to be a productive workforce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Train students to learn to problem solve</td>
<td>Train/develop students musical abilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Train/develop students athletic abilities</td>
<td>Provide an environment for social interaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide counseling services</td>
<td>Provide services for special needs children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide free daycare</td>
<td>Etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You will notice that the ‘services’ public schools provide take up quite a bit of the list.

I think most would agree that our state and nation have a multitude of needs. The questions we must answer are:

1. What services and/or social responsibilities do we want public education to be responsible?
2. How much time/money should be spent on educating our children vs. meeting social needs?

It is important to answer this question because the more time schools and teachers spend on meeting social needs, the less time they have for the real purpose of school – educating our children.

As schools have departed from the classical education methods used for hundreds of years and have taken on more social responsibilities, the strain it has placed on our schools and teachers has been overwhelming.

Historically, the purpose of education was to cultivate virtue and wisdom. The student did not ask, “What can I do with this learning?” but “What will this learning do to me?”
We’re preparing our children to be adults in a changing world; a world where we can’t predict what issues they will face, the laws that will be voted on or the people they will interact with. They are being taught ‘how’ to think.

This method of education was used for hundreds of years culminating in an intellectual framework that resulted in personal freedom, blessing and prosperity.

Is Mankind a Spiritual Being?
Whether we are talking about a medical doctor treating a person’s physical or emotional needs or a public school trying to meet a students’ needs, the question is:

   Do we believe that a person is purely physical & emotional, or do we believe that mankind has a spiritual component?

In order to answer this question, let’s examine two different worldviews of humanity:

1. Secularist view: man is purely physical & emotional
2. Biblical/Spiritual view: man is spiritual, physical & emotional

If we agree with the secularist view of humanity, then we only treat the persons’ physical and/or emotional need. This is how public schools attempt to meet the needs of our students.

If we believe in the spiritual view, then public schools today are only treating 2/3rds of the student as they point to ‘separation of church & state’. The founders knew that public schools must address the spiritual and physical needs of the student, which is why they insisted that the Bible be a cornerstone of public education. The founders believed a healthy Biblical outlook on life results in a healthy society.

If we accept the fact that people have a spiritual component, the question then becomes... who should be supplying the services to meet the social needs of our communities – the school or faith community?
1. If we intend to only treat 2/3rd of the person, government (i.e. public schools) is a great place to do this.

2. However, if we want to treat the whole person, then the local church or faith community is the single best place to meet the needs of people.

A Question for the Christian Community?

The last command the Lord gave was “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.” (Mt 28:19-20 NIV).

God gave this command to his followers because He knew that we are His hands and feet – we are the living examples of His goodness and it is our responsibility to take His Gospel to the world. The term Gospel means ‘Good News’. Do we really believe that we have the Good News?

Whether we serve people as an elected official, schoolteacher, or city manager, our duty is to take the Gospel everywhere we go. ‘For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.” (Rom 1:16 NIV).

This ‘Good News’ is what has made America different than any other nation on earth!

Galatians 2:20 (NIV) reminds us however that “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Living by faith is not something we regulate to parts of our life and not to others. It doesn’t mean needless proselytization or Bible thumping and it never means disrespecting the beliefs of people of other faiths, but it does mean that Christians approach all people with the joy of our salvation. It also means that Christians approach all places with the Good News of Jesus Christ, whether they be our private homes or a public building or schoolhouse.
If we truly believe that we have the “Good News,” then it’s time to get off the fence. Why would we ever leave God at the door when we enter a public school or government building?

The Challenge

Parents, what will we do?
As parents, we have a responsibility to ‘train up our children in the way they should go’¹³⁷ and to ‘train up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord’¹³⁸.

The question we must all answer is this: do we feel that the secularist progressive philosophy taught in public schools today is consistent with our family’s worldview.

In effect, are we willing to accept the fact that public schools will actively train up our children by teaching them that:

1. There is no God
2. There are no moral absolutes (subjective morality)
3. That traditional values no longer matter
4. That there is no eternal purpose to their life because there is no God
5. Capitalism is bad and needs to be replaced by Socialism

The question ultimately becomes how we respond to this dilemma?

Teachers & Administrators, what is your responsibility?
This section is directed to the Christian community.

I know that public schools are filled with good people, many who are devout Christians that have a desire to reach the hearts and minds of young people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The question I will challenge you with is how far out of the box can you move without fear of getting into trouble? Just thirty years ago, we sang ‘Christmas’ songs right before ‘Christmas’ vacation. We celebrated St. Valentine’s day and we used the Bible in classrooms for almost 300 years.
As a Christian teacher or administrator, please understand that the secularist public-school system has waged war against your belief system. When asked to give an account of your time in the classroom, how will you answer?

As a Christian school board member, you have an even greater responsibility - will you be able to say that you defended the gospel and pushed back against the onslaught of secularism, or were you responsible for allowing this secularist agenda to advance?

The future of our nation rests on the shoulders of our public-school administrators, teachers and school board members because the students of today will be the leaders of tomorrow. Being a Christian in the classroom means more than just being nice to your students. It means actively taking the gospel in a loving, respectful & gracious way everywhere you go, knowing that you will suffer persecution for it.

**Pastors, what is your responsibility?**

The responsibility for the changes I’ve outlined lie squarely on the shoulders of the Christian Church. As leaders, our job is to be the ‘watchman on the wall’\(^\text{139}\), and we have stood by and allowed our culture to be co-opted by the Secular Progressives.

If this message resonates with you, please recognize that the public school seeks to transform the heart and mind of our young people into a belief system that completely disagrees with the beliefs of the church.

We must do more than just support the public schools. We must pray and ask God to give us wisdom to know how to engage in the schools so that we can return our nation to the foundation it was built upon.

**50 Years from Now**

The future of America is in the hands of the church, teachers/administrators/school-board members and parents.

It is clear why the founders of our nation recognized the importance of a public education system built on a Biblical foundation; for today, we are enjoying the benefits of that decision.
If our nation continues to replace this Biblical foundation with a secularist progressive agenda, we can expect changes in our society that we cannot imagine.

My hope and prayer are that this article sparks a desire in those across our state and nation who have the same concerns, and that public education once again takes its rightful place in our society; for if not, I believe the enduring values of religious liberty, free speech, along with the open and free society envisioned by our nation’s founders may not survive.

Acknowledgements
To my wife, a prayer warrior and a constant source of support and encouragement – thank you. Thank you to my family and close friends, for without you this document would not have been possible. Phil, our conversations about worldview and life purpose have been instrumental as these ideas were formulated.

To all the prayer teams who are called to pray for those in elected office – it is an honor to kneel beside you. Thank you.

Thank you to those who have stepped into the culture war, especially my good friends who have provided so much input, critical feedback and historical data.

Finally, thank you to my constituents, it has been an honor serving District 69.

I am grateful to God for allowing me to serve our great state and community – without this time of service this document would have not been possible.

God Bless
Footnotes

11 http://www.yourdictionary.com/secular-progressive
25 Acts Passed at a Congress of the United States of America Begun and Held at the City of New-York, on Wednesday the Fourth of March, in the Year 1789 (Hartford: Hudson & Goodwin, 1791), p. 104, August 7, 1789.
26 For example, State constitutions across the decades reflecting this requirement include: the 1802 Ohio (The Constitutions of the United States of America (New York: Evert Duygkinck, 1820), p. 369, Art. 8, Sec. 3); the 1817 Mississippi Constitution (The Constitutions of the United States of America (New York: Evert Duygkinck, 1820), p. 469, Article 6, Section 16); the 1858 Kansas Constitution (“Leavenworth Constitution,” Kansas Memory (at:
http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/207410/text), Art. 1, Sec. 7; the 1875 Nebraska Constitution (“Nebraska State Constitution (copy of manuscript),” University of Nebraska (at: https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1002&context=nebraskaconstitution), Art. 1, Sec. 4); etc.

27 See, for example, “North Carolina State Constitution,” ncleg.net (at: https://www.ncleg.net/Legislation/constitution/ncconstitution.html), Art. 9, Sec. 1; “Nebraska Constitution,” Nebraska Legislature (at: https://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/articles.php?article=I-4&print=true), Art. 1, Sec. 4; “Ohio Constitution,” The Ohio Legislature (at: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/laws/ohio-constitution/section?const=1.07), Art. 1, Sec. 7.


33 In *Engel v. Vitale* the Supreme Court did not cite any previous court decisions to establish precedent as is generally done with Supreme Court decisions.


42 Franklin D. Roosevelt, “Statement on the Four Hundredth Anniversary of the Printing of the English Bible,” *American Presidency Project*, October 6, 1935 (at:


59 James D. Richardson, A Compilation of Messages and Papers of the Presidents (New York: Bureau of National Literature 1897), p. 6292, William McKinley to the Congress of the United States, December, 1897.  
63 Reports of Committees of the House of Representatives Made During the First Session of the Thirty-Third Congress (Washington: A. O. P. Nicholson, 1854), pp. 6, 8  
66 See, for example, *Davis v. Beason*, 133 U. S. 333, 341-344, 348 n (1890); *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints v. United States*, 136 U. S. 1, 49 (1890); etc.

67 See, for example, *U. S. v. Macintosh*, 283 U. S. 605, 625 (1931); etc.

68 See, for example, *Ross v. McIntyre*, 140 U. S. 453, 463 (1891); *Kinsella v. Krueger*, 351 U. S. 470 (1956); *Reid v. Covert*, 354 U. S. 1 (1957); etc.


70 *Richmond v. Moore*, 107 Ill. 429 (Ill. Sup. Ct., 1883).

71 *Mordecai F. Ham Evangelistic Ass’n v. Matthews*, 30 Ky. 402, 189 S.W. 2d. 524 (Ky. Ct. of Ap., 1945)

72 *Paramount-Richards Theatres v. City of Hattiesburg*, 210 Miss. 271 (Miss. Sup. Ct., 1950)

73 *City Council of Charleston v. S. A. Benjamin*, 2 Strob. 508, 518-521 (Sup. Ct. S.C. 1846)


85 PolitiFact, “No evidence for Trump claim that it was 'impossible' for Syrian Christians to enter U.S.” http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2017/jan/29/donald-trump/no-evidence-trump-claim-it-was-impossible-syrian-c/


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133 What is the difference between objective morality and subjective morality? https://www.quora.com/What-is-the-difference-between-objective-morality-and-subjective-morality


137 Proverbs 22:6

138 Ephesians 6:4

139 Watchman on the Wall, Ezekiel 33:1-9
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I SUPPORT:
• Keeping education a TOP PRIORITY in Oklahoma
• Reforms to make education MORE EFFICIENT
• Improving classroom spending WITHOUT RAISING TAXES
• Traditional Values, Life and the Second Amendment

I DO NOT SUPPORT:
• The legislatures’ desire to CONTINUALLY RAISE TAXES
• Increasing our reliance on UNSTABLE income sources

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