The Church and the Future of America

Part 2

I. Biblical Principles for Flourishing Society

Micah 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

II. The phenomenon of the American experiment

A. Faith of the Pilgrims
B. Influence of the Evangelical Churches
C. Respect for private property
D. Respect for the law
E. Separation of the three branches of government
F. Generous philanthropy

III. Contemporary Problems of America

Proverbs 3:7–10 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. 8It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. 9Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; 10then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

Romans 1:21–22 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22Claiming to be wise, they became fools,
A. Loss of the essence of the Christian life.

Religion brought forth prosperity, and the daughter destroyed the mother. ¹

B. Growth of humanistic ideology

C. Decreasing Biblical influence

The first one is that we would like to be known as a ministry in ten years that is unashamed of everything in the Bible. Probably nobody would have thought to say it like that fifty years ago. They probably would have said fifty years ago, “We want to be known as standing for what’s in the Bible,”

But the reason that feels like the way it needs to be said is because the people who are caving on social issues like this one are caving because they’re ashamed of what the Bible says. They’re embarrassed by it. It looks to the world like hate speech or like Neanderthal ethics. And if you don’t have your roots very deep in God, very deep in the Bible, so that what the world presses in on is not controlling you, you’re going to cave. ²

D. Losing the fear of God and rejecting God

E. Loss of common sense

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The loss of a correct understanding of the role of truth and commitment to it leads to a catastrophic destruction of society as a whole.

IV. The church’s attitude to current events

A. Trust in God’s sovereignty

Act 17:24-27 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

¹ Cotton Mather, https://u-s-history.com/pages/h1168.html
² John Piper, Desiring God
**Isa 40:15-17** Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust… 17 All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

**Isa 40:26-27** Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing. 27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"?

*Our strength is not in how many people we can convince that God is the Lord of the Universe but to what degree we are convinced in it.*

**Joh 19:8-10** When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. 9 He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?"

**Joh 19:11-12** Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin." 12 From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar."

**B. Understanding the earthly in the light of the heavenly**

**Isa 11:1-3** There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. 2 And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. 3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

**Isa 11:4-6** but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. 6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

**Joh 18:36-37** Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." 37 Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world-- to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice."

**1Th 1:9-10** For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God. 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

**Tit 2:11-13** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

**1Pe 1:3-5** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
Phi 3:18-21  For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

C. Christ’s life in our lives

1 Peter 1:6–8  In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.

1 Corinthians 16:22  If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come!

1 John 2:15–16  Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

1 Peter 2:6  For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

1 Peter 2:7–8  So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” 8and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

1 Peter 2:9  But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:11–12  Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

1. Love God’s Word

1 Peter 2:1–3  So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. 2Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— 3if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Deuteronomy 6:4–7  4Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

2. Love the Church of Jesus Christ

1 Peter 2:4–5  As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
Christian parents must view church as the highest and utmost priority for their family’s weekly schedule. … For many children growing up with Christian parents, the priority of the family is told otherwise. Many Christian parents have bought into the larger culture’s portrait of the good childhood, complete with incessant sports activities, violin and ballet lessons, and activities perceived to boost a child’s eventual college admissions application. Exposure to God’s people and a gospel-saturated community is essential for the nurturing of children in this secularized age.

We have little chance of convincing others of the value of something that we do not value ourselves.

3. Be kind and respectful towards those in authority

1 Peter 2:15–17 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. 16Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. \textit{Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.}

4. Be kind to everyone

1 Peter 3:9 Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

John 13:35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

5. Be fair and honest at all times

1 Peter 3:14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,

6. Share the Gospel where possible

1 Peter 3:15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

D. Trust in Christ

1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, \textit{set your hope fully} on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

E. Prayer

2 Timothy 2:1–5 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. 3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. 5 An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

Philippians 4:6–7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.