



And You!

A Nation in Search of a Soul!



God, Government, and You

A Nation in Search of a Soul!

We are a nation in crisis because we have lost our moral and spiritual compass. Our problem is not a political problem, it is not a philosophical problem, and it is not a social problem solved by programs and free handouts. Our problem as a nation is a spiritual problem because we have drifted so far from God.

We are nation in Crisis. We have drifted from God in the area of politics, leadership, business, and even on the home-front. We must turn back to God in order to have hope as nation and if we do not turn back to our Creator soon then we will see our nation be utterly destroyed from the inside out. We have the false mentality that our greatest threat has become the nations around us yet this is not true, our greatest threat is the enemy within.

God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that his justice cannot sleep forever.

- Thomas Jefferson
Engraved on the Jefferson Memorial

We are a nation in crisis so let us respond:

- As Christians
- As the Salt of the Earth
- As the Light of the World
- As the Ambassadors of Hope

Purpose of Our Study

The purpose of this study is to look at current events that are taking place in our country and to bring them into the light of God's Word so that we can understand how to respond in a Biblical manner. We must use the inspired Word of God as our filter that determines what is morally right and wrong. We must also be ready to give a response to those around us as to the reason for the hope that we have. Now is the time for us to stand up for Christ, to stand for our faith, and to engage our country with the power of God's Word!

Micah 6:8 (NIV) – *He has showed you, O man, what is good.*

And what does the LORD require of you?

To act Justly, And to Love Mercy, And to Walk Humbly with Your God.

Psalm 33:12 (NASB) – *Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
The people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.*

Description of Classes

The class will take place over the course of ten weeks and we will cover several topics with regard to our nation and how we respond as Christians to the current events taking place around us. We encourage every participant in the class to bring in headlines, articles, or news commentaries that correspond with the topic being covered for that week.

God, Government, and You		
Week	Topic	Summary
September 23	Silencing God (Religious Expression, Hate Crimes Bill)	Imagine a nation that makes every attempt to silence God and His Word verses turning to it. You may not have to imagine much longer. How are you to respond as a Christian? Find out in this study.
September 30	Playing God: Part 1 (Abortion & Stem Cell Research)	Is there any nation, any government, or any man that is wiser than God? In this study we will examine what happens when a nation begins redefining basic moral codes and values that God has instituted since the beginning of creation.
October 07	Playing God: Part 2 (Health Care Reform)	
October 14	At the Crossroads: Part 1 (Siding with Iran or Israel)	Every nation and every individual will find themselves standing at the crossroads at some point in their existence, one road leads to life and the other to destruction. What if a nation chooses the path of destruction yet proclaims it is the best path for the citizens?
October 21	At the Crossroads: Part 2 (Human Rights)	
October 28	Giving All to Caesar (Love of Money)	God continually reminds us of the danger of the love of money. He warns us of the destruction that follows a life of indebtedness. Does this just apply to individuals or does it apply to a nation as well?
November 04	Searching for True North: Part 1 (Homosexuality)	Is there a true north when it comes to a nation's moral compass? Are morals meant to be defined by the next government officials in office? What is right and what is wrong and how do we respond?
November 11	Searching for True North: Part 2 (Sanctity of Marriage & Family)	
November 18	A Nation in Search of a Soul	Does a nation have a soul? Can a nation recover from turning away from God and if so then how can it be done? It starts with you and your church!



God, Government, & You Study One – A Nation at Risk

God is on the move in our country. God is moving the hearts of the broken and the wounded and many are yielding their lives to Him. God is reviving the Spirit of a Dead Church, for so many years the church has relied on programs and motivational speaking versus dealing with the Truth as presented by the Word of God. Yes, God is on the move in our country yet our country as a whole is drifting away from God. We are a Nation at Risk of crumbling from the inside out and now is the time for us to speak out as Christians.

Our current study will focus on three basic sections for our examination. You may be shocked by some of what you study through the course of this series. You may even be offended by some what you study but at the end of our series, you will have a better understanding about how, as Christians, we can respond to others in a Nation that is adrift. Our three sections of discussion for this lesson are as follows:

- **Section One – God and Government**
- **Section Two – God and Morality**
- **Section Three – God and Education**

The three sections that we will study come from the basic elements of a successful country that is described in the following verses.

Deuteronomy 4:5-9 (NIV) – ⁵ See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it. ⁶ Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." ⁷ What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? ⁸ And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today? ⁹ Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. ¹⁰ Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God

Micah 6:8 (NIV) – He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act Justly, And to Love Mercy, And to Walk Humbly with Your God.

Psalms 33:12 (NASB) – Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.

Proverbs 29:2 (NIV) – When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan...

Obadiah 1:1-2 (NIV) – ¹ The vision of Obadiah. This is what the Sovereign LORD says about Edom- We have heard a message from the LORD : An envoy was sent to the nations to say, "Rise, and let us go against her for battle"- ² "See, I will make you small among the nations; you will be utterly despised. ³ The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rocks ⁴ and make your home on the heights, you who say to yourself, 'Who can bring me down to the ground?'

Questions to Consider

- *What do these passages state about God and His role in a nation?*
- *What do these passages state about the fate of a nation: Pursuing God? Opposed to God?*

Section One – God and the Government

The first section of our study examines the area of God and Government. Many Christians have differing views on the role that they should play in getting involved with Government roles or politics. It is important for us to understand the role that God wants us to play when it comes to living within the boundaries of a nation that is going beyond the boundaries of morality and Godliness.

- *What is a Christian's role meant to be when it comes to involvement with a government? Explain.*

Matthew 22:17-21 (NIV) – Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

1 Timothy 2:1-3 (NIV) – I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior...

Romans 13:1 (NIV) – Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

- *What are marks or attributes of a nation that is pursuing God?*
- *What are marks or attributes of a nation that has drifted from God?*
 - *How has a Christian been called to respond when this happens? Explain.*

It is evident that the Christian is meant to subject themselves to the leadership of the country yet we are subject to the higher authority of serving God in all circumstances. We are called to be the salt and light of the world which means that we stand against injustice but in a peaceful manner. We will be persecuted and may even be thrown in prison but we have been called to stand for righteousness.

Romans 12:18 (NIV) – If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Quote from Thomas Jefferson (3rd U.S. President, Drafter and Signer of the Declaration of Independence)

"God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the Gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever; That a revolution of the wheel of fortune, a change of situation, is among possible events; that it may become probable by Supernatural influence! The Almighty has no attribute which can take side with us in that event." – **Notes on the State of Virginia, Query XVIII, p. 237.**

Section Two – God and Morality

The next section of our study deals with the basic area of morality within a nation. We must wrestle with the basic question as to whether morality can be legislated or is there a standard of morality common to mankind no matter where you live or what your economic status may be.

Questions to Consider

- *Can you legislate morality?*
 - *What does it mean to legislate morality?*
 - *What is the danger of this type of mentality?*
 - *Is God against legislating morality? Explain.*

- *What does a nation look like that lives as an immoral nation? Explain.*

It is a fact that God defines very clearly that there is a standard of morality that has been established by His Word and His Will as outlined in Scripture. This standard of morality is all inclusive to every single individual and nation in the world. Not following God and His moral code is simply sin against Him alone and will eventually cause separation from Him.

- *What is God's standard of morality?*
- *How do you reclaim it in your own life? In your nation?*

Exodus 20:1-20 (NIV) – ¹ And God spoke all these words: ² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ³ "You shall have no other gods before me. ⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand {generations} of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷ "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. ⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. ¹² "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³ "You shall not murder. ¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ "You shall not steal. ¹⁶ "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. ¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

¹⁸ When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance ¹⁹ and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die." ²⁰ Moses said to the people, "*Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.*"

Matthew 22:36-40 (NIV) – ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

The actual Biblical definition of immorality is seen in the following definitions.

Original Word	Word Origin
porneiōa	from (4203)
Transliterated Word	Phonetic Spelling
Porneia	por-ni'-ah
Parts of Speech	TDNT
Noun Feminine	6:579,918

Definition

1. illicit sexual intercourse
 - a. adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, intercourse with animals etc.
 - b. sexual intercourse with close relatives; Lev. 18
 - c. sexual intercourse with a divorced man or woman; Mk. 10:11,
2. metaph. the worship of idols
 - a. of the defilement of idolatry, as incurred by eating the sacrifices offered to idols

According to the Word of God, a life of immorality will only bring destruction. This is also true for a nation. Let us begin to reclaim the moral heritage of our nation.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NIV) – Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Examine the Immorality of Today – Check out this Current Ad

The Ashley Madison Agency of Toronto, Canada has launched a dating service designed to help married people commit adultery! The motto on their website proclaims: ***“Life is short. Have an affair!”*** They claim to have more than 3.5 million subscribers. They are advertising their “Infidelity Service” through television and magazine ads and through their website, television stations, radio, and billboards all across our country. Check out this Billboard.



One of their ads shows a stone tablet that looks like the Ten Commandments. The commandment that is highlighted reads: “Thou shall make money from adultery.”

“In the last days . . . men will be lovers of pleasure

Section Three – God and Education

The final section that we examine comes to us as we reflect on the aspect of education. God cares deeply for the education of His people. He speaks about this in Deuteronomy in great detail because without education, people will not be able to defend themselves against the attacks of Satan and our future generations will not understand or know the God Truth and Righteousness that brings Salvation.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (NIV) – ⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Questions to Consider

- *What does this passage describe as the importance of education when it comes to ensuring a Godly heritage among our children and righteous living among ourselves? Explain.*
- *Is the institution of Godly education under attack in our country? Give examples to support your answer.*

Benjamin Rush (Signer of the Declaration of Independence and Ratifier of the U.S. Constitution)

"I know there is an objection among many people to teaching children doctrines of any kind, because they are liable to be controverted. But let us not be wiser than our Maker. If moral precepts alone could have reformed mankind, the mission of the Son of God into all the world would have been unnecessary. The perfect morality of the Gospel rests upon the doctrine which, though often controverted has never been refuted: I mean the vicarious life and death of the Son of God." – **Essays, Literary, Moral, and Philosophical, published in 1798.**

Conclusion

We have been charged by the Word of God to confront ungodliness and unrighteousness in the most Godly and peaceful manner that we can. We have a great responsibility to educate ourselves in order to be ready to give a defense for the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Many will seek hope in days ahead and are currently looking for "Hope they Can Believe In!" Let us give them the real Jesus!