Lines

Foundations for Freedom

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The Memorial

It was 2:45 p.m. in Glendale, Arizona. Construction crews, police, and truck drivers were preparing for the largest single-day, single-venue memorial in American history. Crowds had yet to gather, but inquirers were out and about. With no clear directions on where to get in line or enter the stadium, rumors began to spread, and confusion was already setting in.

By 8:30 p.m., a small crowd had begun to gather, and it became seemingly clear that the entrance had been discovered. Mourners and supporters came out in droves. Folding chairs, blankets, and people began to line the street. Police patrolled the street, pacing back and forth in their

patrol vehicles, and order seemed to be contained.

It was now 12:30 a.m., and a gathering of a few hundred turned into a gathering of a few thousand. The energy was jovial, and an air of excitement filled the street. Red hats, white "FREEDOM" shirts, and American flags dominated the block. People were sharing their water, food, chairs, and anything else that could be shared with others. Social media influencers roamed the streets, taking interviews and pumping up the crowd.

At 2:30 a.m., the gathering of a few thousand turned into a gathering of tens of thousands, and people began overflowing into the street. The police force ramped up, horns began to blow, and megaphones were now in use, but they were insufficient for the crowd. The excitement was

overwhelming, but so was the confusion at this point. There had yet to be any direction on where we were to stand, where we were to enter, or when the gates would open. Times kept changing as the seemingly unexpected crowd began to gather. The environment stayed optimistic, but frustration and confusion were clearly setting in. Those, like myself, who had been out for 6 hours or more were standing next to those who had just arrived.

As 4:00 a.m. rolled around, the streets were impassable, and the police attempted to gain control of the crowd (numbers and overflow-wise, the overall environment remained calm and collected). There was an attempt to move us all back or spread us all out, but no one was budging. We were not giving up our spot, which we had waited six hours for, to someone who

had only been waiting for two. The attempts were futile, and eventually the police admitted they had lost control of the crowd. Although calmness remained, disorder and confusion remained. Those continuing the attempts to move the crowd blasted false claims over megaphones, such as us being at the employee-only entrance, and the gates could not open because so many people were standing against them, when in reality, the gates opened inward.

Finally, around 5:00 a.m., the Arizona State Police took control of the crowd to the best of their ability. They managed to split the crowd in two, using the yellow lines on the street as a guide. What can only be assumed as the Sargent came out with authority, clarity, and direction, which removed some confusion. His voice echoed in a deep tone, letting the

crowd know he was serious. Finally, we had some idea of what we were supposed to be doing. As the gates opened at 6:00 a.m., the Arizona State Police successfully made a path for employees to enter the stadium on time, and the crowd began to pour into the parking lot.

As we approached the stadium, we were greeted with orderly lines, first formed out of rope, which transitioned to metal barriers as we drew closer to the security checkpoints. Ahead of reaching the metal barriers, several people were jumping rope to cut in line. Although the rope lines did help, they were not as solid or clear as the metal barriers. By the time we arrived at the metal barriers, there was complete order, as we now had a clear direction of what we were supposed to do and where we were supposed to

go. We easily made our way through the security checkpoints, into the stadium, and found a seat. A few simple lines had dismantled the confusion.

I learned a great deal about humanity in those 24 hours. I love freedom, both as an American and as a Christian. However, freedom does not mean the absence of order. I hope to help the reader understand the necessity for order, restrictions, and control to further our freedom, not remove it. Freedom should not create chaos; when it does, we are no longer free but enslaved by the chaos itself.

General Freedom

Freedom is not dedicated to Christianity alone. Although true freedom can only come through Christ, there is a sort of general freedom that we must understand. There is a pandemic overtaking America today, and that pandemic is freedom. Not the freedom our founding fathers envisioned and fought for, but a selfish freedom. The problem with unchecked freedom is that it steals freedom from those who disagree. Too much freedom breeds bondage. Ironically, unchecked freedom most often benefits those who are morally deprived. General freedom still demands a moral center. There must be some moral order if freedom is to reign. The issue here, for the secular world, is that without an ethical God, morals are impossible to maintain, especially for the right reason. This is in part

why our nation must return to its Christian founding principles. Secularists can live within general freedom founded on Christian principles, but they are unable to establish general freedom on their own.

Christian Freedom

Like many, for years, I felt that following Jesus was restrictive. The church I grew up in had a significant focus on sin and what we as Christians should and should not do. There was little to no mention of freedom. The Christian life, as far as I could tell, was restrictive, boring, and filled with rules. Being a Christian felt far from freedom. As a result, I rebelled. I was not going to let Christianity restrict me from living. In an ironic sort of way, I wanted to be free. That so-called freedom that I chased after, however, brought chains. It seemed as though there was no such thing as freedom. If freedom were really about being free, I, for one, was not living in freedom.

For years, I attempted to live unrestricted (A.K.A. free). Not fully unrestricted. I had a basic moral

consciousness, but I did what I wanted within the boundaries of my own moral understanding. This freedom I was chasing ultimately turned out to be me chasing after everyone else's approval, which led to me doing some pretty foolish things. Honestly, as I look back at this today, I am not sure who I was trying to get approval from or why. I do understand now, however, that what I thought was freedom was really an emotion tied to the lifestyle I wanted to live. I believed that if I felt a certain way, I was living in freedom. I thought that freedom should produce a certain feeling. If I felt poor, restricted, or offended, I was not living in freedom, and if I felt great, unrestricted, or understood, I was living in freedom. I don’t think, if we were honest with ourselves, that this is far from the way many Christians view freedom.

This, however, is not what Christian freedom is. This is not what the Bible defines as freedom. In fact, biblical freedom is far from what the world understands as freedom.

The Prerequisites of Christian Freedom

Before we look at freedom itself, we need to take a look at Jesus' instructions to his followers and those who desire to follow him. I think you will find that His instructions are far from a worldly understanding of freedom. In the book of Matthew, we find Jesus telling the rich man to sell all of his possessions and give them to the poor (Matthew 19:16-30). In the book of Luke, we find Jesus sending out the twelve disciples and telling them to take nothing with them (Luke 9:1-6). In all four books of the gospel, we find Jesus telling his followers that they are not worthy of following Him unless they lay down their lives and pick up their cross daily (Matthew 10:34-39; Mark 8:31-38; Luke 9:23-27). Furthermore, the Bible tells its readers that Christians will be hated and persecuted (John 15:18-27; Matthew

10:16-25). In Matthew 10:5-42, Jesus teaches that he did not come to bring peace, but a sword, and that he came to turn family members against each other. There are many more biblical examples of what Jesus teaches his followers regarding how they must live their lives and what they will endure. All of which, like those above, are contrary to how much of the world views freedom. Yet, no matter how ironic it may seem, when we choose to live as Jesus instructs and endure those things we are to endure, freedom is the outcome.

For Christians, freedom means something different than it does to the world. The freedom the Bible teaches is a freedom only available through Jesus. This type of freedom can only be understood through the power of the Holy Spirit working in the

lives of those who follow Jesus and have dedicated their lives to this following. However, I do want to provide some sort of content that I believe will better help you, the reader, understand what true Christian freedom really is.

Paul's Instruction of Freedom

Many Americans have this strange idea that freedom releases us from all responsibility for our actions. That is, unless those actions are opposed to our lifestyle and personal moral interests. Freedom, according to many Americans, is a license to kill, both literally and figuratively. However, this understanding of freedom has major flaws. Religious freedom under this guise would necessitate the practice of religions that oppose other religions, even to the point of murdering those who practice a different religion. This makes no logical or rational sense. Freedom cannot mean absolute freedom from responsibility. Sexual freedom also has flaws. The allowance of sexual freedom has degraded the foundation of modern society and families. Laws have been put in place that

remove some freedoms of those who are opposed to certain sexual freedoms. How is this freedom? Just because one is free to do something does not mean they should, nor does it mean that there are no consequences.

Paul writes about this idea in Galatians chapter five. Paul understands freedom in the sense that we are no longer slaves. Slaves to what? Sin. Because of Jesus, all people now have the opportunity to be set free from the bondage of sin. However, once one is set free from sin, they do not receive permission to live however the flesh pleases. Their freedom from sin allows them to live their life dedicated to Christ. We are to control ourselves through the Spirit. Freedom does not equate to indulgence. Freedom leads to self-control to achieve our purpose.

Paul points out that what we want as humans is in conflict with what the Spirit wants. Our freedom through Christ does not mean we can indulge in those things in conflict with the Spirit, but rather it means we are now free to choose the things that are in line with the Spirit. Even freedom comes with restraints. As Christians, we know that we cannot be free as Paul explains on our own. Paul points out that if we walk by the Spirit, we will not gratify the flesh (Galatians 5:16). No matter what one wants to believe, there are always two forces at work, our flesh and the Spirit. So Paul's instruction on freedom is clear. Yes, we are free from sin, thus free to do as we want; however, what we want conflicts with the Spirit. Furthermore, we were set free to live for the Spirit, not for ourselves.

Freedom Through Choice

The freedom saga began all the way at the beginning. Adam and Eve, shortly after being created by God, were given instructions. They were also given the choice to obey these instructions or disobey them. This opportunity of choice is another prerequisite of freedom. God told Adam and Eve that they could eat from any tree in the garden with the exception of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (Genesis 2:4-25). The choice was now theirs. To eat or not to eat, that was the question. And don't you know it, along came the devil spitting lies and temptation into the ears of the couple. Adam and Eve now had a choice. Listen to God or listen to the serpent (the devil). They were free to make their choice. Unable to avoid the temptation, Eve went to the Tree of the Knowledge of

Good and Evil, picked one of its fruits, and took a big ole bite. Then, to perpetuate the problem, she gave it to Adam, and he, too, took a big ole juicy bite. Freedom, not without consequence, led to the demise of perfection here on earth and ushered in the human condition called sin.

God, in His perfection, created mankind in His image, with absolute freedom, which presented itself in the form of choice. Adam and Eve were free to do what they willed. Eat from the tree or not. However, their choice also determined not only the direction of their lives, but also the direction of the lives of every human being thereafter. Even in the beginning, freedom was given with instruction. God drew the line in the sand. Freely choose A and X will be the outcome; freely choose B and Y will be the outcome.

The Old Testament is not the only place in the Bible that talks about freedom through choice. Going back to the rich man whom Jesus told to sell all of his possessions and give to the poor. This man had a free choice. To sell or not to sell? That was the question. He was free to follow Jesus as long as he freely chose to obey the instructions of Jesus. When Peter is asked in Acts 2:37 what the people had to do to be saved, he did not say, “Nothing. You are already saved.” No, he said, “Repent and be baptized…” (Acts 2:38a). These people had to make a choice and were free to make that choice. However, their choice would determine their salvation. Without choice and without the consequence of said choice, freedom cannot exist. We have been created for lines. Lines help us distinguish right from wrong, guide us in knowing what to do, and

show us the direction to take, thereby avoiding chaos. Freedom was first found through choosing whether to cross the line or not.

Freedom Through Order

There was a time in my life when I was proud to be the outcast, the loan ranger, you could say. Order seemed restrictive and limiting. I wanted to serve God the way God told me to, the way I wanted to. However, as I matured in my faith, I began to recognize the importance of order, restrictions, and guidelines. Yes, there are significant changes needed within the modern church order; however, order is still needed to maintain righteousness. Throughout history, we find that without order, there is chaos.

When writing about spiritual gifts and their use and order in worship, Paul provides us with God's instruction (1 Corinthians 14:26-40). Even with the gifts given to us by God himself, there is order. Paul is sure to mention that "For God is not a God of disorder but of

peace…" (1 Corinthians 14:33). Order is given to us so that chaos remains in check and so God can be glorified. Paul ends this instruction with a simple reminder, "But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way" (1 Corinthians 14:40). God has given us the freedom to worship him, to love him, and to spend eternity with him; however, there is an expectation of order. Thus, true freedom revolves around order.

The church is not without exception. All throughout the New Testament, we find order in the church. In Ephesians 4:1-16, Paul writes about the gifts given to the church for the sake of unity and maturity. Unity is not possible without order. We also see elders appointed to local churches to maintain order (Titus 1:5), we see Paul afraid that disorder has

occurred in the Corinthian church (2 Corinthians 12:20), we see the command to be subject to governing authorities because God has placed them there (Romans 13:1-2), and there are many more biblical examples we could cite.

Freedom Through Law

For those opposed to law, law seems confining. Regardless, without law, there is no order. Law is the line civil societies need to prevent chaos. Like general freedom, law is based on some moral foundation. When a society abandons its laws and allows its moral foundation to crumble, chaos, disorder, and confusion prevail. Law, intrinsically, must not be made, changed, or removed based on emotional upsets. Law can only be made, changed, or removed based on a moral standard. Because freedom must include law as the line which we follow, freedom too must be based on a moral standard.

When a civil society begins to remove its moral standard, which can only be based on biblical principles, the society falls apart, and freedom no

longer exists. Freedom does not and cannot exist when two conflicting beliefs are allowed to co-exist. Thus, the necessity of law. Law ushers in freedom. Again, the issue with the current state of America is that it is becoming overtly anti-Christian, removing much of the moral basis on which it was founded. As a result, American freedom is eroding.

Freedom Through Religion

This leads us into freedom through religion, another line that humanity must follow. America was founded on Christian principles; there is no denying that. This, in and of itself, presents a significant problem for those who base freedom on emotions or personal preferences rather than law. Christianity, which again, America was founded on, is ideologically and theologically opposed to all faith communities and religions. Some are relatable to certain aspects of Christianity, but at their cores are opposed. Thus, when a nation that is founded on Christianity allows freedom of religion for all religions, there will eventually be a clash, and freedom erodes.

Although on the surface, religious freedom, as many Americans understand it, sounds great. It is not

only impossible, but it is also destructive to the line. Allowing other religions to practice freely alongside a multitude of others creates a break in the line, resulting in multiple lines, which can lead to chaos and confusion. Which line is right? Which line should I be in? Furthermore, people move from one line to another. The truth of the matter is that practicing Muslims are not compatible with practicing Christians, from a freedom perspective. Their beliefs are ideologically and theologically opposed to one another. As a nation, we must retain our laws, which are based on Christian principles, and anyone or any practice that is opposed to that either must leave, cannot come here, or abide by our nation's founding standards. There is no other way to retain our freedom. This does not mean that practicing another religion other than

Christianity should be illegal. Still, it does suggest that if they choose to practice their religion, they must do so within the bounds of America's laws and founding principles. Which, ironically, is not possible. Freedom can only come through the mutually accepted religious principles.

Biblical Belief System

Belief systems have had a significant impact on the freedom of American citizens. However, not all belief systems stem from the same line. As we have already pointed out, lines are necessary for order and civilized societies to exist. The concept of freedom that many people in the United States of America hold is the result of multiple belief systems attempting to merge into a single line. This merge, however, has also created chaos and confusion. Like a newly formed crowd of people attempting to merge into a line that has been established for hours, emotions flare, and frustration enters.

The belief system that one adheres to determines the society in which one can obtain freedom. Rarely, if ever, can a new belief system enter

into a society and function freely unless society as a whole changes its belief system to match the one that entered. Unless this change happens, freedom must be based on the existing belief system. Although it is a worthy goal, mutual freedom cannot exist when multiple belief systems coexist, as multiple lines of thought exist. No matter what one wants, thinks, or feels, to obtain freedom, this line must remain intact and uninvaded.

America seems to have forgotten that our founding belief system is Christian. The basic principles and freedom that Americans are fighting for stem from this belief system and cannot be separated from it. Ironically, those fighting for freedom who oppose this belief system are not fighting for freedom; they are fighting for acceptance. The problem,

however, is that this fight has begun to alter the American belief system, which in turn is changing American freedom, and ultimately, the country itself. The America that was founded is no longer the America that was founded. We have become something entirely different because people lack the understanding of what American freedom really is. America itself is a belief system. When the people oppose this belief system, conflict arises, and when those who oppose it gain positions of power, the threat to this belief system becomes real. The United States of America is a free country because of its belief system. When this belief system changes, American freedom will no longer exist. The American belief system is the line Americans need to maintain order, and for freedom to prevail.

Secular Belief System

Although the American belief system is overtly Christian, we must address the reality of the secular belief system in America as well. Secularists, of course, are free to believe what they wish, and in some ways live out their belief systems as they want. However, it is crucial to understand that any aspect of the secular belief system that opposes the American belief system must not be allowed to impact how the United States of America operates and the laws that are made. If an established belief system allows an external belief system to affect how a nation operates, the country will eventually cease to exist as intended.

We have begun to see many aspects of secular belief systems creep into America. The secular concept of free speech, freedom of religion, sexual

freedom, and personal rights has begun eroding the foundational Christian belief system. Obviously, there is nothing inherently wrong with free speech, freedom of religion, sexual freedom, and personal rights; when these are unchecked against the established belief system, they become something entirely different. This does not only go for nations established under a Christian belief system. It applies to any belief system a nation adheres to. Countless nations are founded on a secular belief system where Christianity is opposed to that nation's laws and founding belief system. In these nations, Christians are not free to live as they wish. Freedom for Christians in these nations is non-existent, and there are significant consequences for those who attempt to oppose them.

America Is What It Is

For those of you reading this and have made it this far. However, I am unapologetically Christian and understand that this is not an appeal for Christianity or even a Christian nation. Conversion desires aside, America is a Christian nation, and we must accept that. Our personal desires are irrelevant when it comes to how the country is run and what laws are put in place. If we want America to remain strong and free, regardless of our beliefs, we must adhere to the basic founding principles set forth by our Founding Fathers.

On a personal level, if you decide to live opposed to this belief system, that is your prerogative. However, you should not be surprised if the majority of society opposes your way of life, nor should you attempt to change the way society views your way of

life, especially from a law perspective. Again, this is not an appeal to Christian beliefs. This is basic common sense, logic, and rationale. You can apply this to any nation and its belief system; America's happens to be Christian from a foundational aspect. We don't have to like it, but we do have to accept it. If you don't accept it, you do not want a free America; you want a selective America based on your own desires, and that is far from freedom.

You Can't Force the Line

A good line is pre-established. A guiding force, put in place before the crowd arrives, that cannot be changed. When we attempt to change an established line, we upset the established order, one that has already been accepted. Once an order has been accepted, it is difficult to change or interfere with. This is the current situation in America. Those who are opposed to the established order are attempting to force the line to lead somewhere else. However, we cannot force a line to go in a different direction without upsetting order and creating chaos.

Broken lines lead to broken structure, broken structure leads to a broken system, and a broken system leads to a broken nation. Lines are essential for humanity. We were created for order. When we

attempt to go against the established order, chaos reigns, and freedom is held captive by those who reject it. It is not honorable to go against the established order, the established line. It is selfish and self-serving, which is the opposite of freedom. When our personal freedom enslaves those of an accepted established line, American freedom is denied.

A Godly Government

Politics and government are often viewed as synonymous, but this is not entirely accurate. This distinction became clear to me during the memorial service for a popular political and faith advocate. As I sat among mourners, listening to government leaders speak, I experienced a moment of revelation. They did not speak in terms of political talking points, but kept the focus on Charlie and the Christian faith. In that moment, I understood something profound: politics is the business side of government, while government is the leadership side of politics. Politics seeks votes; the government seeks vision.

When the government lacks godly leadership, politics inevitably turn into mere maneuvering strategies for power, influence, and control. It becomes

a game of agendas, rather than a pursuit of justice and righteousness. Charlie's memorial reminded me that leadership is not just about policy; it is about posture. It is about the heart behind the decisions, the moral compass that guides the government. And when that compass is not aligned with God's truth, the consequences reach far beyond the ballot box.

That day opened my eyes to the urgent need for a godly government. Not a government led by perfect individuals, but rather, a government guided by biblical principles. A government that acknowledges the authority of God, seeks wisdom from Scripture, and governs with humility, justice, and mercy. Regardless of political affiliation or personal belief, this truth stands: without a government rooted in godliness, freedom cannot flourish. It may survive for a time, but it

will not thrive.

Freedom, in its most valid form, does not mean doing whatever we want. It is the ability to live right, within the lines given to us. And that kind of freedom requires a foundation and a moral framework that remains stable, unaffected by cultural trends or popular opinion. Biblical principles provide that framework. They remind us that justice must be impartial, that leaders must be servants, and that power must be held with reverence.

Living by this truth is not always comfortable. It may require voting for candidates who do not reflect our personal lifestyle choices or who may not appeal to us on an individual level. Furthermore, it may mean supporting policies that challenge our preferences or stretch our comfort zones. Scripture calls this “denying

self” or “dying to self” (Galatians 2:20; Galatians 5:24; Luke 9:23; 2 Corinthians 5:17). These are not easy commands, but they are necessary ones. Our vote is not a tool for self-expression, but the opportunity to retain or establish a godly government that supports freedom. We vote not to enshrine personal preferences into law, but to preserve the liberty that allows us to live as a free nation. This perspective changes everything. It moves us from asking, “What do I want?” to asking, “What does God desire?” We are reminded that civic engagement is not separate from spiritual obedience. For Christians, every action, including how we engage in government, is meant to glorify God the Father through Jesus Christ. That includes how we think about government and how we speak about leaders.

A crucial question we must ask ourselves is this: Are the freedoms we seek aligned with the founding values of our nation, values that were, for the most part, shaped by biblical principles? This question is not optional; it is essential. They help us recognize when freedom is being used to serve the people, and when it is being manipulated to serve personal agendas.

American freedom was, and still should be, about creating a nation where truth can flourish, where families can thrive, and where Christian faith can be freely expressed.

The contrast between godly and worldly leadership grows starker each day. We see it in the decisions made behind closed doors, in the numerous fake or biased news stories produced by the media,

and in the laws that are passed and those that are ignored. The martyrdom of Charlie stands as a sobering reminder of this divide. It revealed the cost of standing firm on your beliefs and the urgency of speaking truth.

However, our vigilance must be rooted in godly conviction, not worldly reaction. Our motivations must not stem from fear or anger; instead, we must be rooted in truth, informed by Scripture, and empowered by the Spirit.

This chapter was not written to convert, though transformation is always a hope. It was written to point out a truth that cannot be ignored: freedom without godliness is fragile, and government without a biblical foundation is unstable.

A godly government is another essential line

necessary for order and for preserving freedom. Without it, tyranny is always a threat, chaos runs rampant, and our founding principles as a nation are eroded. A godly government does not guarantee perfection, but it does offer direction in an otherwise directionless world.

As we consider our role in shaping government, whether through voting, advocacy, or prayer, let us remember that we are not just citizens of a nation; we are ambassadors of Christ. Our commitment to Christ comes first, and our responsibility is to reflect His character in every sphere of influence. Let us pursue a government that honors God, protects freedom, and leads with righteousness. And let us never forget that the health of our nation depends on the holiness of our leadership.

The Church and Freedom

Although a godly government is necessary for freedom, it cannot exist without the church. The church is not a footnote in the story of our nation; it is the key to freedom itself. This is where things get messy. Over time, much of the American church has drifted from its biblical foundation, falling prey to the same cultural pressures that have compromised government. The church has too often become a reflection of society and culture rather than a reflection of Christ.

Yet there is hope. The Bible offers a clear picture of the church and its intended function. It is not a building, a brand, or a weekend event. The church is a living body, a community of believers committed to following Jesus and obeying His teachings. But restoring the church to its biblical structure is not about

giving a good sermon or offering better programs. Restoring the church will take committed followers of Jesus who are willing to live sacrificially, love radically, and lead courageously and boldly.

We find in the book of Acts that freedom was the result of the gospel being shared and received. Those who accepted the message of Jesus began to function like a loving, Spirit-filled community. They shared resources, ate meals together, prayed together, and lived with purpose. And it was through this church that the early believers influenced their cities, their governments, and eventually the world.

As a biblical church, we can usher in a godly government by living as Jesus commands us to live and by influencing those around us, especially those called to leadership and public service. Not everyone

is called to serve in government, but every believer has the potential to influence those who are. Whether through mentorship, prayer, encouragement, or example, the church has a responsibility to shape the character of those who lead. A godly government begins with godly people, and godly people are formed in the context of the church and discipleship.

This brings us to the greatest commandment of all: to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20). If we want to live in a free country founded on Christian principles, we must disciple those the Lord places in our lives. Discipleship is not a passive invitation to attend church, nor is it a checklist of religious activities. It is intentional, relational, and transformational, involving one-on-one teaching, modeling, and training that equips less mature believers to obey what Jesus

taught. When the church obeys Jesus' teachings, maintaining a godly government becomes more likely. Why? Because, in part, discipleship fosters integrity, wisdom, and courage, which are qualities essential for effective godly leadership.

It is time for the church to step outside the four walls. Sunday morning is not the pinnacle of Christian life; it is where we grow in our knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. We must begin living Monday through Saturday the same way we live on Sunday. Our faith must infiltrate our workplaces, neighborhoods, schools, and our engagement with government. The church must realize that following Jesus is not a religion or a set of rituals; it is a way of life, one that involves totally surrendering to Jesus, allowing Him to lead every aspect of our lives,

including our thoughts, decisions, relationships, and influence.

This is the only way a godly government will remain. And it is the only way America will remain free. Freedom is not sustained by laws alone; it is sustained by virtue. And virtue is cultivated in the soil of faith. When the church lives as it was intended to, it becomes a foundational force in society, a source of wisdom, compassion, and conviction.

This leads to the conclusion that if you truly desire freedom, peace, and unity, following Jesus is the only answer. There is no getting around this. You may fight it all you want, but the reality of this truth remains the same. Church, we must disciple with intention, lead with integrity, and love with boldness. The future of our nation depends not only on who holds office but on

who obeys the teachings of Christ. Church, let us be the ones who live out the gospel, share the gospel, and shape the world through the gospel. And let us never forget that without the church, America as it was intended to be ceases to exist.

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