America’s Godly Heritage

Skyline Baptist Church

(notes taken from wallbuilders.com materials)
Taxation without representation was only grievance number 17 out of 27. It was given little emphasis in Declaration, yet it is the one most known today.
Declaration of Independence

Greater Grievances Listed:

The Abuse of representative powers (11x more often)

The Abuse of military powers (7x more often)

The Abuse of Judicial Powers (4x more often)

Stirring up domestic insurrection (2x more often)
The “Economic” view of history has come to replace the actual view of history.
Religion of the Founders

- The modern story tells us that most of the founders were deists or secular.
## Religion of the Founders

**Signers of the Declaration of Independence**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Religious Affiliation</th>
<th># Signers</th>
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<td>Episcopalian/Anglican</td>
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<tr>
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Religion of the Founders

SIGNERS OF THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

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<tr>
<td>Huguenot</td>
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<tr>
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http://www.adherents.com/gov/Founding_Fathers_Religion.html
Religion of the Founders

Delegates to the Constitutional Convention of 1787 including Signers of the Constitution

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<tr>
<th>Religious Affiliation</th>
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http://www.adherents.com/gov/Founding_Fathers_Religion.html
George Washington

- Account from an 1856 Maryland History Textbook
“By the all-powerful dispensations of Providence, I have been protected beyond all human probability or expectation; for I had four bullets through my coat, and two horses shot under me, yet [I] escaped unhurt, although death was leveling my companions on every side of me”. – George Washington

Colonel George Washington takes over command from the dying General Braddock, at the Battle of the Monongahela (Braddock’s Defeat), July 9, 1755

Indian Chief Guyasuta, 15 Years Later:
“I have traveled a long and weary path that I might see the young warrior of the great battle. I am come to pay homage to the man who is the particular favorite of Heaven, and who can never die in battle.”
George Washington

- Account from an 1856 Maryland History Textbook

- ...today, this story has disappeared from textbooks.
“The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity...I will avow that I then believed, and now believe, that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God.”
Early Education
Early Education

A Wise Son Maketh a glad father, but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

Better is a little with the fear of the Lord, than great treasure & trouble therewith.

Come unto Christ all ye that labor and are heavy laden and he will give you rest.

Do not the abominable thing which I hate saith the Lord.

Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
Early Education

Questions about Commandments:
- What’s the fifth Commandment?
- What’s forbidden in the fifth commandment?
- What’s required in the sixth commandment?
- What’s forbidden in the sixth commandment?
Declaration Signer Charles Carroll entered college at the age of 10.
Fisher Ames entered Harvard when he was 12 years old.
Benjamin Rush graduated from Princeton when he was only 14.
Andrew Jackson who later became a US president, was only 12 years old when as a Soldier in the American Revolution, he was captured and made a prisoner of war by the British.
Early Education

When John Quincy Adams was 8 years old, he performed musket drills during the revolution with the famous Massachusetts minutemen. When constitution signer William Livingston was 14, he moved in among the Mohawk Indians to live as a missionary. James Iredell, a justice placed on the Supreme Court by George Washington, was appointed a public office in North Carolina to oversee financial matters when he was 17 years old.
Early Education

John Trumbull, a law student under John Adams and a justice on the supreme court of Connecticut had already read through the Bible for the first time when he was 4 years old. When he was 6, he won a Greek contest against his local minister. And when he was 7½ years old, he passed the entrance exam to Yale University, but his parents decided to hold him out until he was 13 so that he could attend college with his peers.
Early Education

When John Quincy Adams was 14 years old under this system of education, he received a congressional diplomatic appointment to the Court of Catherine the Great of Russia as secretary to the Ambassador.
Early Education

John Quincy Adams Career went on to Include:
- Foreign Ambassador Under Two Presidents Under Washington and Adams
- Secretary of State under President James Monroe
- US Senator
- 6th President
“Why is it that, next to the birth-day of the Saviour of the world, your most joyous and most venerated festival returns on this day? Is it not that, in the chain of human events, the birth-day of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Saviour? That it forms a leading event in the progress of the gospel dispensation? Is it not that the Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer’s mission upon earth? That it laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity?”
“Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty – as well as the privilege and interest – of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.”
Washington’s Farewell Address

Used as a Separate text book in schools for over a century.
Students were taught that Washington’s farewell address was the most significant political speech ever delivered to the nation.

- 45 years in public Service.
- Commander in Chief who won the Revolution.
- 2 terms as the first president.
- Served as president over the Convention that gave us the constitution.
- He was the president who called for the first amendment and the bill of rights and he was the president who oversaw its formation.
Washington’s Farewell Address

He told America what had brought us success, and warned what must continue in order to maintain it. His Farewell address has not been mentioned in most textbooks for nearly 6 decades. The problem with the address today is its religious emphasis. His address has reappeared in some college text books minus his 4 most overt religious warnings.
“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars.”
Washington’s Farewell Address

The two foundations for prosperity in America were religion and morality, and no one could be called an American Patriot who ever attempted to separate politics from the Nation’s two foundations.
United States: Longest Single form of Government
235 Years

- France has been through at least 7 completely different forms of government in the past 200 years.

- Italy has been through at least 51.
Sources of the Founders’ Quotes

University of Houston Study

- 15,000 writings from the era of the founders (10 year project)
- Isolated 3,154 direct quotes from the founders and identified the source of each quote.
Sources of the Founders’ Quotes

University of Houston Study

- Baron Charles de Montesquieu quoted most often at 8.3%

- Sir William Blackstone was second at 7.9%

- John Locke was third at 2.9%
Sources of the Founders’ Quotes

University of Houston Study

The founders quoted directly from the Bible 4 times more often than they quoted Montesquieu, 4 times more often than Blackstone, and 12 times more often than they quoted Locke.

34% of the Founders’ quotes came directly out of the Bible.
Sources of the Founders’ Quotes

Blackstone’s Commentaries on Law - 1768

Quoted for over the next 100 years to define words, settle disputes, and examine procedure. It was considered the Final word in the Supreme Court.
Sources of the Founders’ Quotes

Blackstone’s Commentaries on Law
- 1768

Charles Finney
Evangelist of 2nd Great Awakening

Received his call to the ministry after having determined to become a lawyer, commenced a study on Blackstone’s commentary on law. He noted that Blackstone not only provided the laws, but also provided the **Biblical foundations** on which those laws were based.
Blackstone’s Commentaries on Law - 1768

“The doctrines thus delivered we call the revealed or divine law, and they are to be found only in the Holy Scriptures. Upon these two foundations, the law of nature and the law of revelation, depend all human laws; that is to say, no human laws should be suffered to contradict these.”
Sources of the Founders’ Quotes

Many of their quotes came from men using the Bible to arrive at their conclusions.
Concepts of American Government Based on Scripture

Three Branches of Government

Isaiah 33:22

“For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.”
Concepts of American Government Based on Scripture

Separation of Powers

Jeremiah 17:9
“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”
Concepts of American Government Based on Scripture

Tax Exemption for Churches

Ezra 7:24

“All we certify you, that touching any of the priests and Levites, singers, porters, Nethinims, or ministers of this house of God, it shall not be lawful to impose toll, tribute, or custom, upon them.”
“No purpose of action against religion can be imputed to any legislation, state or national, because this is a religious people...This is a Christian nation.”

Only 16 Pages in the Court records, but the court provided 87 different historical precedents for their decision in those 16 pages.

Court stated that there were many other precedents that could be sighted, but that 87 should suffice to conclude that **we are a Christian Nation**.

The Court bases its rulings on precedents for consistency in rulings.
1844 School in Philadelphia announced that they would teach the students morality, but not religion.

“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 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?”
The US Supreme Court Ruled that schools would use the Bible to teach morality.

Modern court rulings often repudiate rulings issued by the Founding Fathers themselves.
“Whatever strikes at the root of Christianity tends manifestly to the dissolution of civil government.”

- dealing with a man who used profanity to distribute written literature defaming God, the Bible, and Jesus Christ.
- The Court’s reasoning was that an attack on Jesus Christ was an attack on Christianity, and an attack on Christianity was an attack on the foundation of the Country.
- 3 months in prison and $500 fine.

1811 – nearly 2 decades after the 1st amendment was in place.
SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

We so often hear the First Amendment coupled with this phrase. However, the First Amendment merely states:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

The words “separation,” “church,” or “state,” are not even found in the first amendment. “Separation of church and state” appears in NO founding document.
The First Amendment went under nearly a dozen iterations until the final wording was decided, and the discussions leading to the decision of the final wording are recorded in congressional records.

Clearly show the intent of the First Amendment:
- Not to have one denomination running the nation (like we had in Great Britain)

This intent was well-understood as evidenced by court rulings after the first amendment.
“By our form of government, the Christian religion is the established religion; and all sects and denominations of Christians are placed on the same equal footing.”
THOMAS JEFFERSON
3rd President

Believed that the First Amendment simply prevented the federal establishment of a single denomination.

In a letter to Benjamin Rush on September 23, 1800, President Jefferson committed himself to not allow any denomination to achieve the “establishment of a particular form of Christianity.”
SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE
Source of the phrase:

Danbury Baptists to Thomas Jefferson November 7, 1801
(Danbury Baptists of Connecticut)

They were concerned that “free exercise of religion” appeared in the First Amendment. To them, this implied the government had the power to regulate religious expression.

The believed that freedom of religion was a God-granted, unalienable right, and that the government should be powerless to restrict religious activities unless those activities cased someone to “work ill to his neighbor.”
President Jefferson’s response on January 1, 1802, to the Danbury Baptist Association:

“The First amendment has erected a wall of separation between church and state” – to ensure that the government would never interfere with religious activities.

Today, only that phrase is heard and repeated with neither the context, or the explanation given in the letter, or its application by earlier courts.
Today, only that phrase is heard and repeated with neither the context, or the explanation given in the letter, or its application by earlier courts.

The clear understanding of the First Amendment for a century and a half: it prohibited establishing a single national denomination.
House Judiciary Committee
1853 Petition to remove Religion from Govt.

House Judiciary Committee Report March 27, 1854
“Had the people [the Founding Fathers], during the Revolution, 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 its amendments, the universal sentiment was that Christianity should be encouraged, but not any one sect [denomination].” “In this age, there is no substitute for Christianity...That was the religion of the founders of the republic and they expected it to remain the religion of their descendants.”
2 Months Later:
“The Great vital and conservative element in our system [the thing that holds our system together] is the belief of our people in the pure doctrines and the divine truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”
Jefferson’s letter remained unused and fell into obscurity until 1878.

A group resurrected Jefferson’s letter hoping to use it as an issue to their advantage.

The court responded with a lengthy segment from Jefferson’s letter and ruled that it was permissible to maintain Christian values, principles and practices in official policy.

For the next 15 years as that controversy continued, the US Supreme court continually cited Jefferson’s letter to ensure that Christian principles remained a part of government.
Jefferson’s letter fell into disuse again for the next 70 years until this case:

“The First Amendment has erected ‘a wall of separation between church and state.’ That wall must be kept high and impregnable.”

This was a new philosophy for the courts.
SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE
Dr. William James (1842-1910)
Father of Modern Psychology and strong opponent of religious principles in government and education.

“There is nothing so absurd but that if you repeat it often enough people will believe it.”
Began to speak of “separation of church and state,” saying, “This is what the Founders wanted – separation of church and state. This is their great intent.”

The court no longer quoted the founders or retrieved any precedents for their rulings. They just generically claimed that this is what the founders wanted.
A dissenting judge warned that continuing talk about the “separation of church and state” would make people think it was part of the Constitution.
This case for the first time separated Christian principles from education. It struck down school prayer.

Even the World book Encyclopedia of 1963 yearbook noted that this case was the first time that there had been a separation of church and state in education.
The court redefined the meaning and application of a single word: “church”
For 170 years before the case, the court defined “church” as being a federally established denomination.

The 1962 Case redefined “church” to mean any religious activity performed in public.

The court had just determined that no longer did the constitution prohibit the establishment of federal denominations, it would now prohibit the free exercise of religious activities in public settings.
The current doctrine defining “separation of church and state” is brand new. It is not from the Founding Fathers, and it is not in any founding document.

School prayer had never before been challenged because school prayer had never before established a national denomination and therefore had always been acceptable.
Church of the Holy Trinity v. the United States (1892) – 87 precedents
Engel v. Vitale (1962) – 1st case in court history to use 0 (zero) precedents for its decision.

With two more cases in 1963, the court also removed Bible reading, Bible classes and religious instruction from the schools.
Dallas High Schools Bible Study Curriculum
New Testament course for High School Students - 1946

Authorized by the School Board

Required as a Graduation Course

Contained in-depth study, including doctrine and memory work
Reaffirmed the ban on school prayer

(2) Banned school Bible reading

“If portions of the New Testament were read without explanation, they could be and...had been psychologically harmful to the child.”

No precedents were used for the decisions. The rulings were issued as announcements.
Allowed prayer over lunch in school as long as no one could tell it was a prayer.
The court declared a 4-line nursery-rhyme unconstitutional. The reason: although the word “God” was not mentioned, if someone were to hear the rhyme he might think it was talking about God.
“If the posted copies of the Ten Commandments are to have any effect at all, it will be to induce the school children to read, meditate upon, perhaps to venerate and obey, the Commandments...[which] is not a permissible...objective.”
“We can never allow the Bible to be pushed to the back of the classroom. It must always remain in the forefront.”
“Human law must rest its authority ultimately upon the authority of that law which is Divine...Far from being rivals or enemies, religion and law are twin sisters. Indeed, these two sciences run into each other. The Divine law...forms an essential part of both.”
"Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers and our Country."
The “Unconstitutional” Prayer covered 4 areas:

(1) “upon us” (students)
(2) “our parents” (families)
(3) “our teachers” (schools)
(4) “our country” (the Nation)

Before 1962-1963:
The courts used Biblical guidelines in all 4 areas.
George Washington’s Farewell Address: “Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds...reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.”
In 1960, only 15 percent of teen births were to unmarried teens. In 2000, 79 percent of teen births were to unmarried teens.

Every moral metric for High School Students skyrocketed astronomically After the changes in the schools
- Pregnancy rates
- STD’s
- Drug Use
- Pre-marital sexual activity
George Washington’s Farewell Address:
“Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.”
In the early 20th Century, The courts turned down cases on divorce because it did not see itself as the proper authority to rule on something it had not made (the family). God made the family. They limited their number of reasons for divorce to the reasons given in scripture. Since God created the family, the court should use his rules in dealing with it.
FAMILIES

The Decades leading up to 1960 all showed steady decrease in divorce rates.

But since then, American has become #1 in the world for divorce rates.

Unwed cohabitation is up 546% from 1960-1990.
SAT scores plummeted for 18 consecutive years after 1963 decreasing the average score by 80 points.

This was the first generation of students who were graduating who academically know less than their parents did.
1962 There were 1,000 Christian Schools in the Nation
By 1984: 32,000 Christian Schools in the U.S.

Approximately 12.4% (8.5 million) of the Nation’s Students attend private Schools.

According to the Board Responsible for the SAT Test
The SAT scores are nearly 80 points higher for private school students.
- Keeping them at the same level of the scores prior to 1962-63.
The Nations Academic Elite. The National Merit Semi-finalists, the top ½% of the nation’s students

12.4% of the Nation’s Private School Students should produce 12.4% of the Nation’s Cream of the Crop.

The 87.6% of Public School Students should produce 87.6% of the Nation’s Cream of the Crop

The privates schools produce 39.2% of the Nation’s Academic Elite. That’s 3 times larger than it’s proportional size.
Private School Performance is not due to additional money:

The Average Private School costs $2,200 while the average public school costs $5,400 per student.

Private Schools, with 2/5 of the funds, are proportionally turning out Academic Scholars 3 times higher than Public Schools.

There is no difference in the Core Curriculum. The difference is that one school uses Religious Principles to teach students, while the other does not.
George Washington

“Let it simply be asked, ‘Where is the security for life, for reputation and for property, if the sense of religious obligation desert?’”
While remaining statistically stable for years, the growth of violent crimes has surpassed the population growth by 794% from 1962-91. The U.S. became the world-leader in violent crime.
Thomas Jefferson

“The precepts of philosophy laid hold of actions only...[but Jesus] pushed his scrutinies into the heart of man, erected his tribunal in the region of his thoughts, and he purified the waters at the fountain head.”
Law & Order

Where the law says, “Don’t kill” (Ex. 20)
Jesus says, “Don’t hate; Don’t get angry without a cause” (Matt. 5)

Where the law says, “Don’t commit adultery”
Jesus says, “Don’t even lust in your heart”
Law & Order

The founders pointed out that only religion could stop crime before it starts, because all crime starts in the heart. If you can’t control the heart, then you can’t control crime.
John Adams

There is no government in the world who could make someone do what was right, or who could control someone who did not wish to govern himself.

“We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion.”

“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and a religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”
America became the world leader in:

- Violent Crime
- Divorce
- Teenage Pregnancies (Western World)
- Voluntary Abortions
- Illegal Drug Use
- Illiteracy (Western World)

In 1989, 700,000 Students graduated from High School who were unable to read their own diplomas.
NEW GOVERNMENT IN THE NEW WORLD

Jeremiah 6:16

“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.”
“Every person appointed to public office shall say ‘I do profess faith in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, and in the Holy Ghost, one God, blessed for evermore; and I do acknowledge the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by divine inspiration.’ ”
An Acknowledgement of Christian belief was a requirement for holding public office during the years of the Founding Fathers.

This requirement is consistent with the First Amendment because it did not contain a requirement to be of any particular denomination.
“And each member [of the legislature], before he takes his seat, shall make and subscribe the following declaration: ‘I do believe in one God, the Creator and Governor of the universe, the rewerder of the good, and the punisher of the wicked.’”
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION - 1787

An Individual Answers to God in the Future.

When a nation dies, it is forever dead and will not be resurrected for judgment later.
“As nations cannot be rewarded or punished in the next world, so they must be in this. By an inevitable chain of causes & effects, Providence punishes national sins by national calamities.”
National Judgment

1 Kings 18: An entire nation is punished with famine and drought because of the wickedness of the leaders.

1 Chronicles 21: David numbered his troops against God’s order and it cost 70,000 people in Jerusalem alone.
“If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We’ve been assured in the sacred writing that, ‘Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.’ ”

Franklin Called for Regular daily prayer to make sure that we keep God in the center of what we do as a nation.
“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 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 and that his justice cannot sleep forever.”

Thomas Jefferson
Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War over heard someone in the White House say that they hoped that God was on the Union Side of the Battle. Lincoln replied,

“Sir, I am not at all concerned about that, for I know the Lord is always on the side of the right. But it is my constant anxiety and prayer that I and this nation should be on the Lord’s side.”
“Let us enter on this important business under the idea that we are Christians on whom the eyes of the world are now turned...Let us in the first place...humbly and penitently implore the aid of the Almighty God whom we profess to serve – let us earnestly call and beseech him for Christ’s sake to preside in our councils.”
“The Church must take right ground in regard to politics...Politics are a part of a religion in such a country as this, and Christians must do their duty to the country as part of their duty to God...[God] will bless or curse this nation, according to the course [Christians] take [in politics].’ ”
God’s principles reside in the hearts and minds of God’s people. Therefore, if God’s people do not get involved in politics, God’s principles to not get involved in politics.

The ungodly will not run the nation in accordance with godly principles, and God will not bless ungodly principles. This is why the Church must take the right ground.
Christians in Politics

Proverbs 18:1 (KJV)
Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom.

A person who isolates himself to seek his own desires rages against all wise judgment.

In early America, Christians were encouraged to seek public office or other occupations of influence in order to do something for God. Since about the 1940s, those who want to do something for God are directed only to be missionaries, or pastors, etc...but don’t get involved in politics.
SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE
Modern View

Is NOT the teaching of the Founders

Is NOT a historical teaching

Is NOT a teaching of law (until recently)

Is NOT Biblical teaching
Christians, you may be the light of the World, but don’t get out of the church.

We recognize that you’re the salt of the earth, but don’t get out of the shaker.

Modern “separation” says that you can be salt and light, but only inside the 4 walls of the church building.

That’s not scriptural.
SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE
Modern View

There WILL be SOMEONE’S religion in schools and in government.
UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT CASE
1969 Torcaso v. Watkins

Ruled that Secular Humanism is a viable First Amendment religion.

(God has no place in their philosophy)
Ruled that atheism is a religion.
Religion – whatever you believe so strongly that it changes your behavior.

Atheism:
Religiously practicing non-religion
People may now give contributions to satanic groups and get the same tax deductions as people who give to Christian churches.

Separation of Church and state is only applied practically to Christianity, and not equally applied to the other court-recognized religions.
“It can not be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians, not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ!”

Patrick Henry
America’s Godly Heritage

CONCLUSION