

Representatives of The Lord Jesus Christ

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Introduction:

As Believers embrace their identity in the Lord Jesus Christ, they understand that they have received a tremendous position, power, and Responsibilities. Covered with His righteousness, authority to enter into God's presence, adopted as His sons and daughters, incorruptible inheritances, and many other privileges that provide the power for Believers to be transformed into His likeness.

As Believers meet the 7 challenges through discipleship (as discussed in [Challenges to Disciple Children](#)), it is natural to ask, "What does God's purpose for my life?" God has designed specific purposes for each of His Children but it is proposed that He has also commissioned them to be Representatives of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Biblical reasoning of why Believers are commissioned as Representatives and implications will be discussed.

Section 1, The Great Commission:

The last verbal command, directly given by the Lord Jesus Christ was to "disciple" all nations. This command is often quoted with an emphasis on full-time ministry and missionary services. These applications are certainly valid but it is important to look closely into His intent of this command.

The Lord Jesus Christ could have remained and physically reigned on earth after He arose from the grave. But if He had remained, sinners not covered with His righteousness, would have been forced to bow before the all-powerful God. However, God's desire is for individuals to repent from their selfishness and love Him by faith. Those who refuse to embrace His love would bend their knee but would be motivated only by fear, intimidation, and self-preservation in His Holy presence. Therefore, it is proposed that instead of reigning in Person, He appointed Believers to reign as His Representatives during a time of grace and mercy.

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."**

The opening statement, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" rightly proclaimed the Lord Jesus Christ's authority because of His love and obedience, having paid with His blood. In conjunction with His proclamation of having all authority, knowing that He would not be reigning in person, it is proposed that in the context of the command, He commissions Believers to rule as His Representatives. And the phrase, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you" defines the responsibilities of being His Representative. Many applications can be drawn from the commandment but the core of the Great Commission is for His Representatives to work toward bringing all people groups under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Given the context of His authority, and the commandment to disciple all nations, the clause, “baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit” gives Believers the power of attorney, the legal authority to act in His name. Further study is recommended to understand the full implications of this authority but the context implies much more than establishing ritualistic baptism.

At the time of the Lord Jesus Christ’s ascension, Believers had not yet received the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the context of the statement, “I am with you always, even to the end of the age” may be an indication of the Holy Spirit indwelling Believers but the context reinforces the establishment of the authority that Believers are commissioned to be His Representatives until He physically returns in power and glory. The commissioning of being His Representatives is also reinforced when Believers began being sealed when the Holy Spirit from the day of Pentecost.

The authority of His Representatives is further described later in Matthew 18:

Matthew 18:18-20 Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

Section 2, What is a Discipled Nation:

If it is accepted that Believers are Representatives of the Lord Jesus Christ, reigning in His absence until He returns, it is important to understand the responsibilities of the challenges of “discipling all nations”.

Intuitively, discipling individuals is the foundation for discipling nations, but a few disciples in a nation do not make a nation discipled. Therefore, it is proposed that the Lord Jesus Christ holds three significant titles of authority; Prophet, Priest, and King, and that a nation is discipled when each of these three realms are brought under His authority.

-Prophet: God’s purpose of Prophets is to proclaim truth, expose sin, and reveal righteousness and judgment (John 16:8). When Believers properly share the Gospel, they exercise their positions as Prophets. Just as the prophets of old addressed sin, when Believers challenge individuals to repent, confess, and embrace the Lord Jesus Christ, they fulfill the responsibilities of being Representatives of The Prophet. And when individuals in a nation sincerely respond, repent of their sins, bow to Jesus Christ as Lord, and when God’s Spirit renews their fallen spirit, they are transformed by God’s love.

The first phase of a nation being discipled is when a significant percentage of the people respond to Prophets and are born again through the Gospel.

-Priest: God’s purpose of Priests is to guide and lead His people to sincerely worship the Lord Jesus Christ. In support of Believers being appointed as Representatives of The Priest, they are specifically identified as Royal Priests. Just as in times of old, the responsibility of Priests is to lead God’s People to worship the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.

However, as also in times of old, many reduce worship to various outward acts. But God does not accept worship from impure hearts. Therefore, it is important to understand what is acceptable worship. As described in Romans, when Believers *are* living and holy sacrifices, they present fragrant worship to God:

Rom 12:1-2: Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, **to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, **which is your spiritual service of worship**. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

A living and holy sacrifice is described in Galatians:

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Therefore, for a nation to bow to The High Priest, a significant percentage of the people of a nation must be living and holy sacrifices.

As discussed in [All Honor To The King- Discipleship](#), the progression of discipleship is for individuals to be born again, become Believers and then become Disciples who genuinely love God and others with a pure heart, a clear conscience, and sincere faith. When a wide portion of a nation becomes living sacrifices, Believers will be examples of Christ's love. Sinners will be drawn to the Lord Jesus Christ, marriages will reflect God's love, and children will be properly disciplined and discipled. Ultimately every institution of the nation will be impacted and the culture will be transformed, bringing great honor to the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is therefore proposed that when the culture of a nation is permeated with God's love, God's standards will be embraced, and that nation will be *under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, fulfilling the responsibilities of The Prophet*.

-King: The ministry of Prophets prepares the people of nations for the ministry of Priests. And through effective Discipleship Royal Priests promote worship which transforms the culture. Some may be tempted to consider such a nation to be discipled, but there should be no doubt that the forces of darkness will recruit agents to control the Civil Government to suppress the Gospel and all liberties of worship. Therefore, a nation cannot be considered to be discipled until the Civil government has also been brought under the authority of King Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Lord of lords and the King of kings and it is proposed that if the civil government of a nation does not respect Biblical standards, laws, and principles, that nation cannot be considered to be discipled.

Some hold that for a civil government to bow to the Lord Jesus Christ, such governments must be a theocracy. God loves man and only desires and respects relationships that are firmly founded upon genuine love. He has absolutely no respect for anyone motivated to honor Him out of greed, coercion, or fear of force. Historically, under most theocracies, the wickedness of the heart and the forces of darkness allow individuals who lust for power to seek positions of authority. Ironically, in the name of God, theocracies present significant opportunities for individuals to falsely claim His authority. Left unrestrained, greed and selfishness motivate some to obtain positions of unrestrained authority, even to determine the life and death of others. Because theocracies offer too much individual power to a few individuals, it is proposed that God does not desire or commission civil governments of non-Jewish nations to be theocracies.

Furthermore, in Romans 13, God only commissions Civil Governments to restrain evil (by maintaining justice) and promote good (by establishing and promoting liberty). Given that God does not generally commission civil governments to be theocracies, it is proposed that all that is needed for civil governments to honor the Lord Jesus Christ is to implement laws consistent with Biblical laws and principles, establish liberty, and maintain justice.

Thus, a nation is disciplined when the people responded to the Prophet, the Priest, and when the civil governments bow to King Jesus.

Section 3, God's Design for Civil Governments:

To bring honor to the Lord Jesus Christ as King, it is essential to grasp God's love for justice, mercy, and His purpose for Civil Governments. In the beginning, the wickedness of man was so great and God was so displeased with the violence and injustice that the Holiness of God prompted Him to release the destruction of the great flood. It cannot be overemphasized that the combination of God's Holiness and His Love is expressed in liberty, mercy, and justice. There is no mention of Civil Governments before the flood, but they appeared afterward. God designs civil governments with very specific but limited purposes. As described in Romans 13, the only responsibility of Civil Governments is to restrain evil and promote good (liberty).

When there is no justice, the weak and the lowly are exposed to the greatest cruelties. Therefore, violence must be restrained and justice maintained because God loves justice. Again, because of the lower nature of man, leaders must not be allowed to abuse power so Representatives of King Jesus must strive to influence civil governments to exercise liberty and justice to the extent that there are reasonable opportunities. A further discussion of justice can be found in Appendix A.

The second critical element of civil governments honoring King Jesus is maintaining liberty. Liberty is the right of individuals to fulfill their responsibilities before God, to freely share the Gospel, and to love and serve others without fear, or coercion. Liberty is further discussed in Appendix B. History consistently reveals that when cultures are transformed, the forces of darkness use the power of civil governments to repress the Gospel and destroy the efforts of the Lord Jesus Christ's Representatives. Therefore, Representatives of King Jesus must be salt and light by guiding and influencing civil governments to protect liberty, especially the freedom to worship the Lord Jesus Christ, share the Gospel, and exercise justice.

God foreknew that variety of government types, so His only admonition is to pray for civil leaders. Under the oppressive Roman Government, there was not much opportunity to influence civil authorities. In the dark ages, monarchs usurped God's authority, limiting the opportunities to influence them. However, in modern times under Republics and Democracies, there are abundant opportunities to influence civil governments and officials. The command is to pray but how long should God's people pray when there are opportunities to act?

There is considerable room for debate on the extent that civil governments need to be brought under the authority of King Jesus for a nation to be disciplined. But it is proposed that when a Civil Government upholds a reasonable level of Biblical standards, protects liberty, and maintains justice it effectively bows to King Jesus.

Individuals stand before God in judgment but Civil Governments are temporal. Therefore, God brings success or judgment to nations, in part, according to the extent that civil governments honor King Jesus. Therefore, the first priority of discipling nations is the work of the Prophets. The second priority is the work of the Priests. When these two arenas have been met, the final step in discipling a nation is for the disciples to influence and guide the civil governments to honor King Jesus by being salt and light.

Section 4, The Right to Rule:

An important element of determining God's purpose for civil governments is understanding who has the right to rule. When the Lord Jesus Christ was born, the nations were clearly in the possession of the forces of darkness. But when He rose from the grave, He rightfully purchased the nations. Serving the King of kings, the first Century Christians did not take up the sword to attack Rome in any attempts to force it to submit to King Jesus, and neither should the modern or any other Church.

Thankfully, over two millennia God has orchestrated a constant progression of nations that embrace the importance of liberty and justice. The most successfully disciplined nations were the 13 American Colonies. The Founding Fathers recognized that "absolute power corrupts absolutely" so they crafted a Republican form of Government, with a balance of power. They desired to honor the Lord Jesus Christ, not through erecting a theocracy but by establishing a Republic where elected representatives are responsible to maintain liberty and justice in harmony with Biblical principles.

Early America was certainly not perfect but a significant percentage of the colonialists were Believers, the culture was predominantly Biblical, and there were considerable efforts to implement laws that honored King Jesus. The preamble of most of the States still proclaim and honor God.

Sadly, as the leaders of the Church of the Founding Fathers grew old and passed on, many Christians in the 1800s apparently clung to a Christian "religion" but there is evidence that many did not have personal relationships with the Lord Jesus Christ or solid understandings of Biblical principles. The American culture remained Biblical but only because many were fervently religious. As a result, much of the American Church did not have the wisdom or discernment to correct some of the failures of liberty and injustices. Instead of honoring King Jesus, the American Church allowed the forces of darkness and even provided some support for the northern states to attack the southern states. Regardless of any discussions or justifications, the result of the Civil War replaced honoring King Jesus with an "all-powerful" Democratic Federal Government.

The Founding Fathers rejected a theocracy form of government or a Democracy because they understood that both of these types of governments provided opportunities for a few individuals to abuse power to fulfill their personal wants and selfish desires. When power is derived from theocracies or the governed, and not from King Jesus, liberty and justice are corrupted. And as King Jesus has been rejected, there are major social problems in every area of America. Since King Jesus was unwittingly rejected through Democratic processes, God's law and prayer have been removed from public schools. Effectively 51% of the people declared that it was legal to murder innocent babies. Now over 150 years later, many liberties, justice, and Biblical values are being lost. Thus a nation cannot remain "disciplined" if the civil governments do not honor the Lord Jesus Christ.

Much of American history has been rewritten, but research reveals some typically unknown conclusions. After the Civil War, apparently, some of the leaders of the American Church realized their part in King Jesus being removed from His position of authority over America. Sadly, instead of acknowledging their

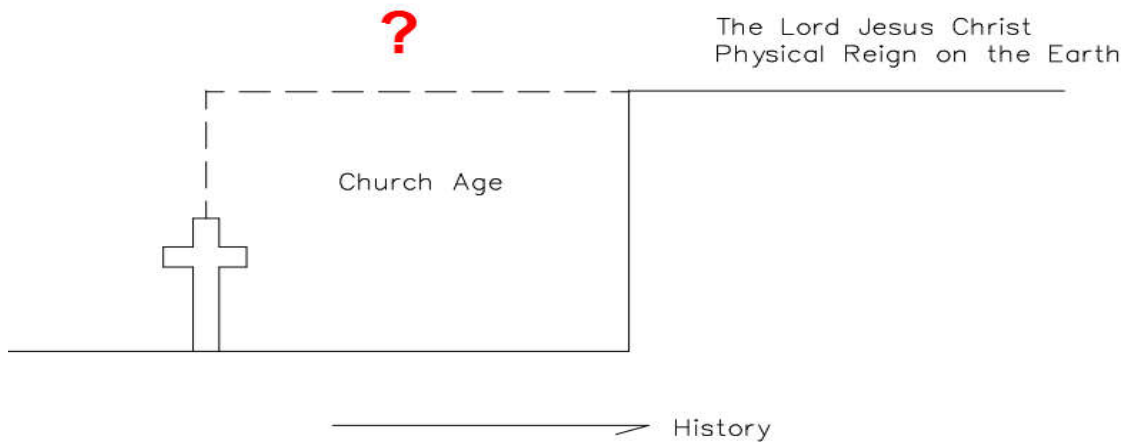
failures, repenting, and seeking God's mercy, doctrines were developed to justify and minimize the appearance of the Church's responsibilities.

Thus, a cornerstone of the doctrine of the "modern" American Church has been that the Lord Jesus Christ only has "limited" authority in this "Church Age". Complex Biblical truths are woven together to support the doctrines but they unwittingly limit The Great Commission, creating tremendous confusion for the modern American Church.

A consequence of the "limited" authority doctrine is that many Christians do not understand their opportunities and responsibilities to be Representatives of King Jesus. Some embrace being Prophets and Priests but a very high percentage of Christians in America reject any responsibilities to be salt and light to guide or influence civil governments. As a result, much of the modern Church has stood by, opening the door to destroy many liberties and justice. One of the more catastrophic failures within the modern American Church is that many Christians hold politically liberal positions, unwittingly supporting individuals who reject all Biblical principles, laws, standards, and values.

Section 5, The doctrine of "limited" Lordship:

The following diagram is often presented in many modern American Churches. In the diagram, history (time) is represented from left to right. Above the Cross, referred to as the beginning of the Church age is a dashed line. The "solid step" to the right represents when the Lord Jesus Christ physically reigns on the earth with power and dominion when He will take full possession of His Kingdom. Given that He obtains "full" authority when He physically reigns, the diagram unwittingly presents the perspective that the Lord Jesus Christ is not fully Lord of the World until He returns at the end of the Church age. Therefore, it is accepted that the forces of darkness should not be resisted.



There is a difference between being the Lord of all and being in full control. Again, faced with the all-powerful God, individuals have no choice, reducing their love to blind obedience. God's desire for genuine love requires grace, mercy, and free will. Therefore, the Lord Jesus Christ has chosen to not reign in person during this age but to rule through His Representatives.

During the 1960s, J Vernon McGee presented an extended Radio program, teaching through the Bible. McGee is not usually considered the absolute authority on Biblical doctrine, but his Bible teaching was so widely accepted that it can be considered to be representative of much of the modern American

Church of the 1900s. On the topic of Christians and politics, McGee taught: "You don't polish brass on a sinking ship". The intent of this statement was that before the Lord Jesus Christ returns, tremendous rebellion and sin are expected. The implication is that since the Lord Jesus Christ only has limited Lordship during this age, as we are in the eleventh hour, turmoil is only evidence of His imminent return. Therefore, any failures to disciple America, especially to influence civil governments, or any other nation are to be expected and failures to be salt and light are justified. Civil governments who do not bow to King Jesus redefine good to be evil and evil to be good. So, it is necessary for His Representative to constantly be vigilant and to strive to overcome evil with good but the modern Church has failed.

The Lord Jesus Christ can return at any time, but so much emphasis has been placed on His eminent return, under the philosophy of "don't polish brass on a sinking ship", and the doctrine of "limited" Lordship, the modern American Church has embraced doctrines that justified not protecting liberty and justice.

The Lord Jesus Christ's desire is not for His Representatives to bring Civil Governments into subjection through brute force but through wisely use of truth and love. Therefore, inappropriate political methods and motives should never be justified but political involvement to promote liberty and justice (being salt and light) is critically important.

The expectation of the Lord Jesus Christ's return should promote righteousness, but the doctrine of limited Lordship and the need for quick and short-term results shifted priorities away from individual and family discipleship. Sales tactics have often been used in evangelism and one-on-one relationships have been replaced with large-group intellectual Bible teaching. Sacrificing longer-term Discipleship responsibilities with short-term expediencies has promoted many modern American Christians to fail to understand and be gripped by God's love, develop abiding friendships with the Lord Jesus Christ, or walk in the light (I John 1:7). Neglecting to follow the Lord Jesus Christ's example to personally disciple individual Believers, the power of maintaining personal relationships with the Lord Jesus Christ has deprived many to demonstrate genuine love to God and others. Thus, the general level of spiritual maturity of the modern American Church is very low. Under the influence of the doctrines of limited authority, much of the modern American Church also feels justified to reject responsibilities to Represent King Jesus.

The decision of Roe v. Wade was not just a travesty of justice and liberty against innocent unborn babies but an open assault against the authority of King Jesus. Consistent with the "limited" Lordship doctrine, most of the modern American Church divorced itself from the responsibilities of protecting the innocent and opposing evil. Rejecting responsibilities of Representing King Jesus, decades passed before there was much response against abortion.

At the very least, the Sunday after the decision was handed down, every legitimate pulpit in America should have called for repentance. "Oh Lord, what have we done that you would judge our nation by allowing such evil?"

If for no other reason than to follow the example of the Good Samaritan, the modern American Church should have immediately responded to Roe v Wade. Sadly, the lack of response sent clear messages that most of the modern American Church did not hold that Jesus Christ to be fully Lord so the forces of darkness were emboldened to flood America with every form of moral perversion. If the modern American Church had recognized that the decision of Roe v. Wade was clearly an assault against the Lord Jesus Christ's authority and had faithfully responded to that single moral and "political" battle, the

spiritual environment of America would probably not be so polluted with tremendous amounts of death, turmoil, and destruction. The forces of darkness strive to kill and destroy so the Representatives of the Lord Jesus Christ must be vigilant to overcome evil with good.

Tolerating such insults against King Jesus emboldened the forces of darkness, being unopposed, they have been successful to destroy many liberties in America. There is still liberty to openly worship the Lord Jesus Christ and share the Gospel but even these liberties are now in danger. These threats may be signs of the Lord Jesus Christ's imminent return but they are also evidence that the modern American Church has failed to be faithful Representatives of King Jesus.

In the final analysis, "limited" Lordship is an oxymoron. If the Lord Jesus Christ is not Lord of all then He is not Lord. Until the modern American Church embraces Jesus Christ as Lord of all, even as King, how will there not be catastrophic failures in the areas of discipleship, building strong marriages, discipling children, demonstrating genuine love to the Word, defending liberty and justice, and several other areas?

Arguments for "limited" Lordship:

Some embrace the doctrine of "limited" Lordship because Jesus made the statement, "My Kingdom is not of this World". Thus, the conclusion is that He only has limited Lordship on the earth.

Further support can be assumed when Satan took Jesus to a high place and tempted him, "Bow down to me and I will give you all the nations". Since Jesus did not challenge Satan's claim of ownership, it can be concluded that Jesus did not have ownership of the nations. However, when Jesus rose from the grave, He conquered sin and death. When the veil was ripped from top to bottom, the very "nature" of the relationship between God and man was dramatically changed. Therefore, it is reasonable to hold that when the Lord Jesus Christ made the statement, "*All authority has been given to me on heaven and on earth*", He was making a declaration that He had rightfully obtained full legal ownership of the nations.

Therefore, His command to disciple all nations is legitimate. So, when the Lord Jesus Christ made the command to "make disciples of *all* nations", He was not intending or inferring that His Representatives should "sneak around" Satan's kingdom as thieves stealing little pieces of it. Because He had legally gained full ownership, it is proposed that the intent of His commands in Matt 28:18-20 is to appoint Believers as His fully authorized Representatives to bring the people, the culture, the worship, and the civil governments of the nations under His authority. Thus, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you" is a declaration that Jesus Christ is Lord of lords and King of Kings. Not only in the coming age but in this current age!

God appointed Adam and Eve to be responsible for the earth. When they rebelled, the ownership of nations fell into the hands of the forces of darkness. So, when the Lord Jesus Christ redeemed mankind, it follows that He gained ownership of the nations, as described in His proclamation, "*All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth*". It also follows that as Adam and Eve were originally given responsibilities for the earth, that Believers are commissioned to be Representatives of the reclaimed nations.

If the Lord Jesus is not Lord of all, one implication is that when He returns, with tremendous power, without rightful ownership, He will “rip” the nations out of Satan’s possession. With brute force, He will then proclaim Himself to be the ultimate Lord of lords and King of kings. The problem with this perspective is that it is not consistent with God’s Holy character. It is not His practice to “rip” or, steal, or take anything by force that is not rightfully His. Therefore, interpreting His proclamation, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth” is a legitimate claim of ownership. And, if His Representatives take physical possession of some or all of a nation, they are not violating any ownership rights.

The philosophy of "not polishing brass on a sinking ship" directly conflicts with the Lord Jesus Christ’s command, including His Representatives to bring all civil governments under the authority of King Jesus.

Section 6, Representatives of the King of kings:

Many may not openly admit that they believe that the Lord Jesus Christ only has limited authority but many are concerned that political disagreements will offend others and cause them to reject the Gospel. There are numerous problems with such concerns. One of which is that God has called many to be His Representatives before civil governments.

Joseph was appointed to save much of the earth, through the direct involvement of Egypt’s civil government. Moses made tremendous demands for liberty to Pharos, "let my people go". Ester risked losing her head to save God's people as she appealed to the king. God called King David and King Solomon to be kings. Daniel was called to set an example of liberty (to worship God above man's edicts) and was thrown into the lion’s den. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into the furnace because they refused to worship the idol. God's servant Job was highly respected in the Civil Government of his city. And there are many other examples of Godly men and women of old who stood for liberty and justice. The early American Church was extremely instrumental in influencing the civil governments of our nation to honor King Jesus. Despite all of these Godly examples, some of the modern American Church has developed and promoted philosophies that discourage Believers from effectively being salt and light in political realms.

Much of the modern American Church has refused to address issues of marriage and divorce. Yet John the Baptist approached a very corrupt Roman official for not respecting the sanctity of marriage. Yes, he lost his head, which warns us that political action is not without risks but he was willing to stand for what was right at the peril of his own life. Throughout history, standing for truth, justice and liberty often carried the risk of death. Luther and Calvin paid severe penalties for their Biblical convictions.

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself took no overt political actions but being the King of kings, by His very nature He was a threat to the government of the time. In Roman times, countless Believers were crucified, only because they would not worship Caesar.

Openly sharing the Gospel and worshiping the Lord Jesus Christ are tremendous threats to the forces of darkness and when Believers promote truth, justice, and liberty, they threaten evil and corruption. However, as in the case of Roe v. Wade, when Believers did not stand for liberty and justice, they failed to fulfill their highly honored positions as Representatives of King Jesus.

And because the modern American Church has failed to protect liberties, it is just a matter of time before the liberties of sharing the Gospel and worshiping the Lord Jesus Christ will be attacked. And when they are, will the glib response only be, "We must be close to Jesus' return"?

Many of the Believers in Germany who were afraid to be salt and light, no doubt carried tremendous guilt and shame after the war. Yes, they are covered by grace and now enjoy God's presence, but even decades later, many reject the Lord Jesus Christ because of the lack of political opposition the German Churches presented against their evil civil government. Similarly, the modern American Churches have also failed King Jesus and will they escape the shame of not defending liberty and justice, especially for innocent babies?

God does not desire His Representatives to use brute force but the power of truth, wisdom, and love. These are the weapons that William Wilberforce used through legislative efforts. He could have raised a secret army, resulting in tremendous bloodshed in the name of righteousness. Instead of temporary results, he strove for 20 years through legislative battles, promoting liberty and justice which has reverberated around the world for several decades. His efforts also brought part of England's Civil Government under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is praised for his instrumental efforts to abolish the slave trade in England but somehow, much of the modern American Church refuses to follow his example.

The emphasis to share the Gospel is very important but where is the respect for the Ten Boms and men like Dietrich Bonhoeffer? God calls Believers to be His Representatives as Prophets, and Priests, but how many refuse to Represent King Jesus?

Section 7, Challenges for the Leadership of the Modern American Church:

1. To develop a Biblical doctrine of Church and Civil Governments:

It is understood that not all will agree with some of what has been proposed or presented. Hopefully, most Believers will understand that defending liberty and justice is important. The responsibilities of Representatives of Prophets and Priests are more intuitive, but if the responsibilities of Representatives of King Jesus fail, liberty and justice will be lost, allowing death and destruction to reign.

Therefore, Churches are encouraged to develop Biblical doctrinal statements regarding the Church and Civil Governments. It is recommended that God's purpose for the Church and the responsibility of Believers to be salt and light in all areas of life should be considered. Additional discussions of Civil Governments can be found in Appendix C.

2. To develop a Biblical doctrine of worship:

God defines 'praise' to generally be proclaiming God's greatness:

Psalms 150 Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

Additional references: 2 Cor 1:3-4, James 3:10, Heb 13:15, Isaiah 25:1, Psalms 21:11, Daniel 4:37, Psalms 9:2, Psalms 63:3-4, Psalms 100:4, Psalms 28:7, Psalms 145:1 and 145:3, Psalms 71:8, Psalms 150:6, Psalms 68:5, Psalms 66:17, Psalms 34:1, Psalms 103:1, Psalms 9:11, Psalms 105:1, Psalms 13:5-6, Psalms 108:3, Psalms 71:23, Acts 2:46-47, Psalms 119:7, Psalms 68:19.

However, 'worship' is defined as bowing to God, yielding our wants and desires to Him, resulting in transformed minds, hearts, and lives.

Rom 12:1-2: Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship*. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Followers who worship in spirit and truth are described in Galatians:

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Additional references: Luke 4:8 John 4:23,24 John 4:21-24 Psalms 111;10 1 Tim 2:9-10

Praise is important but it is much easier to proclaim God's goodness than it is to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ and to be living sacrifices. It is easy to live unyielded lives during the week and then sing praises on Sunday. Therefore, it is proposed that referencing "praise time", "praise teams", and "praise songs" as "worship time", "worship teams", and "worship songs" greatly devaluates the necessity of living crucified lives and the critical need for effective discipleship.

Worship must be in Spirit and Truth so as Believers (Royal Priests) develop solid Biblical values, convictions, wisdom, and discernment, their pure hearts demonstrate genuine love and worship of God. As Royal Priests effectively mentor (disciple) Believers, the people of a nation will worship the Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, it is recommended that Churches develop and embrace a Biblical doctrine of worship, and promote worship through discipleship.

3. The importance to build Biblical World Views within congregations:

The Lord Jesus Christ is judging America. He is allowing tremendous perversions and delusion over our nation, even among many Christians. In today's political environment, many who claim to be Christians find it acceptable to support candidates, political parties, and issues that directly oppose God's moral standards and the authority of King Jesus. How can God, who holds Church leaders to higher standards, not judge those who allow Christians to support agendas of the forces of darkness? Therefore, it is recommended that Church leaders take up the challenge to help every member of their congregation to develop Biblical convictions and a Biblical World view.

4. The importance of family discipleship and discipleship in general:

Family discipleship is extremely important for many reasons. Children are under the authority of

their parents for well over a decade, providing significant time to help children be transformed into the image of the Lord Jesus Christ. The natural tendency for parents is to sacrificially love their children and to do whatever is necessary to help make them, physically, emotionally, intellectually, and socially successful, but greater emphasis on spiritual maturity is important.

Foolishness is bound up in the heart of the child but the rod of reproof will drive it out. God designed the family to apply appropriate discipline to help them learn to resist temptation and sin. If families fail to instill internal discipline, sins will later need to be restrained externally by civil governments.

It is no minor task to disciple individuals and an even bigger challenge to disciple nations. God specifically designed the family to be the perfect discipleship environment. Family discipleship is also very important because multiple generations are needed to transform nations. If the Church in any age attempts to disciple a nation without building on the efforts of previous and future generations, that nation will probably never be adequately disciplined and may even become hostile towards God.

As described in the parable of the seed (Matthew 13:3-23), the false teaching that students have received over the last 100 years in progressive education has produced high percentages of children from Christian homes who reject their faith and the Lord Jesus Christ. As children from Christian homes grow older, yielding to temptation, they accumulate tremendous amounts of guilt. They could repent and bow to Jesus Christ as Lord, but if they continue down the path to fulfilling their selfish wants and desires, their guilt often destroys their faith. Refusing to humble themselves, their only alternative is to reject God and His standards. There are varying degrees of rejection but some become outspoken enemies of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sadly, so many have been lost for several generations, instead of discipling America, there is now an army of outspoken, bitter, angry enemies of God who hate all Biblical principles and God's moral standards. Many of them pursue positions in Civil Government to promote lawlessness. Therefore, family discipleship must be a high priority for the modern American Church to help disciple America instead of supplying dedicated soldiers for the forces of darkness.

[Challenges to Disciple Children](#) is available for parents and mentors to understand the challenges that are important for effective discipleship. [All Honor to the King-Discipleship](#) discusses goals and objectives for discipleship and explains the philosophy of the [Discipleship Meditation System \(DMS\)- A Handbook for Mentors](#).

5. Believers must be equipped to effectively represent King Jesus:

There is considerable evidence that most Believers are not equipped to adequately Represent King Jesus. Without going into details, many Church leaders and Believers make statements regarding politics that they would not make if they had a minimum of appropriate political experience. Wisdom is critical to understanding the big picture and to discern the goals of the forces of darkness. However, Believers must be trained to discern good from evil.

[Hebrews 5:14](#) But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

Many apparently assume that because Believers have the Spirit of Truth, they can “miraculously” discern good and evil. However, God instructs that Christians must be trained to develop discernment.

A significant challenge of political issues is that they are often not black and white, and with the current level of deception, it is no surprise to find Christians on both sides of all issues and candidates. Disagreements are expected for “fuzzy” issues, but there should be harmony among Believers when positions or candidates clearly oppose the Lord Jesus Christ or His standards. Because so many Christians are on both sides of important issues, it is a high priority for leaders to not dictate decisions but to guide their congregations to develop Biblical discernment.

Sadly, the current level of discernment is so low that many Christians don’t understand the difference between freedom and liberty, the differences between Democracies and Republics, and many other critical areas of understanding.

Second, Believers must understand the tremendous love that God has for justice (see Appendix A).

Third, Believers must begin to understand and value liberty. Many Believers appear to not be too concerned over the loss of so many critical liberties in America. However, if the Church continues to fail to be salt and light, it is just a matter of time before the liberty to freely share the Gospel will be lost. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. It would be much better for the modern American Church to begin defending liberty and justice, and to support those who defend Biblical standards before they are lost.

6. The Church must begin to understand the Spiritual nature of Political Battles:

[Ephesians 6:12](#) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

The forces of darkness interfere in the lives of individuals to encourage them to resist the Gospel. They masterfully use temptations to encourage all to yield to their selfish wants and desires. They strive to pervert genuine worship. And they certainly use the force of Civil Governments to kill and destroy, promoting evil and the destruction of liberty and justice. Therefore, Believers need to grasp that political issues are varying degrees of battles against the forces of darkness. Thus Ephesians 6:13-20 describes the importance of the armor of God.

God has given Believers tremendous rights and privileges to approach Him in prayer (See Appendix D for a further discussion). Given the nature of wrestling against principalities and powers, prayer must be a pillar of all political activities.

However, how can effective warfare be conducted if there is little or no understanding of the battles in the States and the Federal Capital? Therefore, it is recommended that the Churches organize Representatives to minister to, to be salt and light, and to report the critical spiritual battles back to the Churches so that appropriate prayers can be presented to God.

7. The need to recognize God's call to repentance:

The Roe v Wade decision was a tremendous judgment against our nation. The following Sunday of that and other evil decisions, there should have been a call for repentance from every legitimate pulpit in America. The modern American Church should have cried out to God, "What have we done that You would allow the evil of the cold-blooded murder of innocent babies into our nation?" Sadly, there was considerable silence.

God has brought calamity after calamity over America for decades, but where has been the recognition that God is trying to get America's attention? Instead, many have the attitude that these are only signs of the Lord Jesus Christ's return.

Teaching evolution as a fact, asserting that there is no God, removing prayer from schools, removing the 10 Commandments, teaching and encouraging every form of sexual perversion, and many other anti-Biblical standards have been taught in America's schools for decades, and yet, where are the calls to repent?

8. Consider this prayer of repentance:

Lord Jesus, please forgive us for not loving and honoring you with our whole hearts. We acknowledge that You have all authority in heaven and on earth.

We do not have pure hearts and we commit ourselves to develop a closer personal relationship with you, to bring every thought and attitude captive under your authority and into your presence.

Forgive us for not respecting your moral standards and laws.

As fathers and parents, with your help and guidance, we will strive to be excellent examples of moral purity.

As You guide us, through love we will encourage all those whom You bring into our lives to live Godly lives, honor You, and disciple them as You lead, especially our children.

Forgive us for not promoting and defending justice. We commit ourselves to bring every area of life under your Lordship.

Help us to be shining examples of your love. Please forgive our selfish attempts to be great before your eyes through our efforts and ministries.

Forgive our selfishness and for not building your community. We will strive to demonstrate true hospitality.

Thank You for the tremendous unconditional love that You have for us.

Thank You for the tremendous gifts of making us Your sons and daughters, and for commissioning us to be Your official Representatives.

We make these requests as Your commissioned Representatives and through Your Holy and powerful name, "The Lord Jesus Christ".

Section 7, Summary:

It is proposed that The Lord Jesus Christ, commissioned Believers to work towards transforming the people, the culture, the worship, and the civil governments of all nations.

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."**

As Representatives of His office of The Prophet, Believers are responsible to share God's love, especially the Gospel. They must embrace God's love and their identities by faith in their own lives and help others through discipleship to help them do the same.

As Representatives of The Priest, Believers must be encouraged to die to themselves, be living sacrifices, abide with the Lord Jesus Christ, and walk in fellowship with Him and in community. It is also vital to disciple others and encourage fathers to disciple their children.

As nations are not judged after life, successful discipleship of nations is when the Civil Governments bow to King Jesus by implementing Biblical principles, standards, liberty, and justice. Liberties to worship the Lord Jesus Christ and share the Gospel are especially important.

God calls some to "focus" on being Representatives of the Prophets. He calls some to "focus" on being Royal Priests. And He calls some to be His Representatives within the Civil Government. Each of these three areas are important but they should never be confused with each other. For example, it is not God's design to fulfill the responsibilities of Royal Priests by promoting the worship of unbelievers. Or for Civil Governments to legislate salvation, discipleship, or worship. The office of King Jesus must be built on the foundations laid down by Priests, which must stand on the foundations of Prophets. But Civil governments must be kept within the guidelines of God's purpose, to restrain evil (Romans 13:1-7).

The American Founding Fathers were willing and sacrificed their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to bow to King Jesus. Sadly, the American Church (during the 1800s) participated in replacing the Lord Jesus Christ with a Democratic Federal Government. After the Civil War, the modern American Church embraced doctrines that justified not being salt and light. The result has been the loss of countless liberties, justice, and the deaths of millions of weak and innocent victims.

If the modern American Church is ever to re-disciple our nation, Believers must take up their responsibilities of The Prophet, The Priest, and The King.

If one takes the position that Believers have not been commissioned to be Representatives. Or, to accept the responsibilities of The Prophet and The Priest, but not King Jesus. Such positions do not nullify the responsibilities of Believers to strive to be salt and light, to emulate the Good Samaritan, and to overcome evil with good. God is holy and He hates violence and injustice, especially against the weak and the oppressed. Therefore, every Believer must be careful to discern how God intends them to represent the Lord Jesus Christ.

Appendix A, God Loves Justice:

Sin brings death but justice restrains sin. Therefore, because God loves the world, He loves justice. It is no surprise that justice is woven through God's Word. The design of God's law is to promote justice and restrain lawlessness.

God held Job in high regard because Job was responsible for justice being exercised, making the widow's heart sing. In many cultures, when widows lose their protectors, they become easy prey for the wicked. It is possible that Job had his own army and restrained the wicked by the threat of force, but it is also possible that Job earned such great respect at the gate (the Civil Government of that time) that he was instrumental in the Civil Government to maintain justice and liberty.

Regardless of how Job brought justice, justice requires men to be unselfish and to demonstrate love. Even non-believers demonstrate love and unknowingly honor the Lord Jesus Christ when they exercise justice. Conversely, when men strive to obtain power for themselves, especially political power, they subvert justice and dishonor the Lord Jesus Christ.

Appendix B, The Importance of Liberty:

Liberty is when God's people are able to safely fulfill their responsibilities and live lives that worship the Lord Jesus Christ. "Freedom" is the right of individuals to do whatever they desire, usually motivated by selfishness and sin. Liberty and freedom should never be confused. Civil Governments that promote "freedom" and individual rights, ultimately subvert liberty. The selfish and self-centered nature of man will not honor the Lord Jesus Christ so emphasizing individual freedoms ultimately brings death and dishonor.

A critical liberty that needs protection is the Gospel so that individuals can receive the Lord Jesus Christ without threat or injury.

Appendix C, God's Purpose for Civil Governments:

An exhaustive study on God's purpose for civil government reveals His desire to restrain evil and promote good. Because of the evil intents of the heart, God has ordained civil governments to use the sword. If the laws of a nation are not built upon the principles of God's laws, a few men with wicked and evil motives will subvert justice and destroy liberty through the power of civil governments. Their pride-of-life will drive them to be great enemies of the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Anyone who believes that a nation can be disciplined without securing liberty is very naïve because the lust for power and the forces of darkness are at war with the Lord Jesus Christ and His Believers. From the beginning, countless numbers of Believers of the First Century Church were unjustly crucified.

The "weapons" that God has provided for His Representatives to "conquer" the nations are love, truth, and wisdom. God has no respect for salvation motivated by any form of threats or by the sword. So, while God loves justice, and while justice is an important element of the discipleship of a nation, it should never be expected that Civil Governments are responsible for individual salvation or transformation through discipleship.

When the Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed that all authority had been given to Him, He appointed some Believers to represent Him as King. His goal was not to set up theocracies but that Civil Governments would bow to His authority by applying Biblical principles, promoting liberty for sincere worship and justice to restrain sin. Therefore, it is proposed that Civil Governments honor King Jesus when they administer true justice that protects liberties, especially liberties to share the Gospel. Regardless if a nation is considered to be "Christian" or not, injustice in a nation represents bowing to man and rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ's authority. If a nation is to be disciplined, it is necessary for Representatives of the King to successfully integrate the principles of God's laws into the laws of the nation.

Appendix D, the privilege Believers have to enter God's presence:

One of the greatest privileges of Believers is their right to enter into God's presence in prayer. The holiness of God does not allow sinful man to safely enter into His presence. Before the Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven, allowing the Holy Spirit to enter into Believers, access to God was through the Tabernacle and later the Temple in Jerusalem. In the center of both was the Holy of Holies Chamber. The Priest who received special honor was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies once a year to offer special sacrifices. If the Priest was found to not be cleansed from sin, when he passed through the great veil, entering God's presence, he would die. Some claim that a rope was tied to the Priest so that he could be retrieved in the event of his death. This may be a myth but it clearly demonstrates that the priests understood that unatoned sinners cannot enter into God's presence.

When Jesus died on the cross, there was darkness, earthquakes, some rose from the grave and ascended into heaven, and other phenomena. The great veil symbolized the separation between God's Holiness and man's sinfulness, so the symbolism of God tearing the great veil from top to bottom is very significant. The veil was 45 to 60 feet tall and reported to be 4" thick so being torn was a supernatural act of God. When God tore the veil, He acknowledged that the Lord Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross was an acceptable and permanent payment for sin. Thereafter, as Believers are covered with the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ, they can rightfully and freely enter into God's presence. Therefore, with direct access to God, prayer is a vital weapon of Representatives of Prophets, Priests, and for the King.

Appendix E, Callings:

As representatives of the King, many have identified and embraced the calling that God has given to them. And being faithful to their callings, many believers are very focused and dedicated to what God has called them to do. All such faithfulness is admirable, but only if the motivation is genuine love toward God.

Some believers are called into leadership, evangelism, and many other ministries. Many are called into "secular" careers, and some are called into the ministries within Civil Governments. What is important to remember is that while Believers may have specific callings, God may still direct Believers to temporarily serve outside of their primary ministry.

As an example, if we have a calling to be a bricklayer, God may arrange a divine encounter to share the Gospel. If we have a calling to be a Pastor, God may call us to lay bricks. It is important to discern the correct balance between our calling and other challenges that God may bring into our lives.

To achieve the correct balance between our primary calling and special challenges it is necessary to approach life from the perspective of loving God and others. If God places us into someone's life and they need bricks, then we should lay bricks. If God places us into someone's life and they need the Gospel then we should share the Gospel.

The problem for some is that they are so focused on their callings that opportunities to demonstrate love are often not recognized or even neglected. An analogy of this is a soldier who has been assigned to cook. His job is to cook, not to fight. However, if the enemy breaks through the defensive line, even cooks need to stop cooking and take up their weapons. How this applies to the modern American Church is that when the forces of darkness overrun our nation, even the "cooks" should enter into the battle. Sadly, there have been times when evil came in like a flood, such as when Roe v. Wade was handed down. God does not call very many believers to be actively working within the sphere of Civil Government but when these attacks occurred, most of the modern Church continued with their "callings" ignoring the enemy. Essentially, the "cooks" continued cooking and when the enemy crashed through the camp, instead of entering into the battle, the "cooks" only asked the enemy if they would like bacon with their eggs.

The modern American Church is in a cosmic war against good and evil. As loyal Representatives of The King, Believers need to be very aware of the spiritual battles around them and respond accordingly. Believers absolutely must focus on draining the swamp (their calling) but when alligators are biting, it is prudent to deal with them before they chew off the leg of the Believer. Sadly, in the case of Roe v. Wade, the leg has long been lost and the alligators keep moving upwards.

Appendix F, the Wisdom of Praying for Political Leaders:

1 Tim 2:2 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, **for kings and all who are in authority**, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

Some may assume that these instructions to pray for kings and all who are in authority are all that God expects of His people concerning involvement with Civil Governments.

God foreknew the wide variety of Nations and Rulers and despots that would exist. If God had given more specific instructions for political involvement, such as during the time of the Roman Empire, it would have been suicide for any Christian to attempt to influence the Roman Government. John the Baptist is an example. During such times the most appropriate actions would **only** be to pray for kings and all who are in authority.

However, the admonition to pray does not limit the direct involvement of being salt and light. God knew that at some times in history, Representatives of King Jesus would have opportunities to directly influence Civil Governments to establish liberty and justice, and at other times the only reasonable action was to pray.