

THE FABRIC OF SOCIETY

America has experienced more freedom and prosperity than any nation in history. Liberty seekers from nations dominated by tyrants landed on these shores with dreams of true fulfillment and happiness. By 1776 they were able to unify thirteen diverse colonies into one nation.

What was the secret to the founders' success? They virtually all agreed that there were two foundational pillars that unified and strengthened them. Those pillars of liberty were what President George Washington called "true religion" and morality, which made possible the living out of biblical principles in every sphere of life. Washington said, "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 of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens."

President John Adams echoed Washington's words: "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." Adams also gave us a grave warning: "We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice [greed], ambition, revenge, or gallantry [superficial courage] would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net."



Samuel Adams added these thoughts: "While the people are virtuous they cannot be subdued; but when they lose their virtue they will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader." Surely "internal invaders"—

led by the prince of darkness himself—have worked for generations to destroy the virtue of the American people with the goal of their enslavement.

Throughout the 20th century anti-Christian progressives worked relentlessly to do exactly what Washington warned against. They claimed to be patriots, but instead they were

committed to "subvert the great pillars of human happiness." To accomplish this diabolical goal, they slowly infiltrated and then captured America's institutions, all of which began upon a biblical basis. These included education, the media, business, government and all expressions of Christianity. In 1930 one subversive leader called their plan "the long march through the institutions"—referring to the sacrifice it would take to change each one. Several decades later in the riots and revolutions of the 1960's and 1970's, many Americans, including my wife and I, saw firsthand the radical fruit of their plan to destroy the "morality and religion" of the baby boom generation. As campus directors of a student ministry at USC, we spiritually and intellectually challenged the fallacy of the socialist campus leaders. We were able to see thousands of confused students come to Christ and reject their atheist worldview.

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For centuries, Americans built their national freedom and unity upon the foundation of virtuous personal decisions. Millions of these self-governing decisions functioned as a Kevlar-like fabric protecting our freedom and bringing voluntary cultural unity.

As we pray and work to restore our nation let's consider the following illustration. The era of knights, protected by full body armor, came to an end in the 16th century. With the development of the rifle, bul-

lets began to penetrate the metal armor and made mince-meat of soldiers as the projectile bounced around inside the covering thought to be invincible. And so, for the next 400 years, soldiers served without the protection of body armor. In World War I and II, millions of men were mangled and maimed as they faced the ever-increasing firepower of automatic rifles and bombs.

It was not until 1965, with the invention of Kevlar brand fiber, that soldiers began to benefit from effective body armor. Kevlar is a complex web of thousands of twisted fibers, each strand five to ten times stronger than steel. These fibers are interwoven in multiple layers and made into bulletproof vests. Upon impact, the interlocking fibers work together to absorb the power of projectiles, preventing the penetration of human bodies. Since this invention, innumerable soldiers and others have been saved from injury or death.

The fibers of Kevlar are much like the multi-layered "fabric of society." This fabric is an intricate web of countless decisions made by individuals every day. Every choice by hundreds of millions of Americans in every part of life involves decisions between Good and Evil or Right and Wrong. And each of these decisions either strengthens or weakens the fabric of society.

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cultural unity. Since the time of our first settlers, a multi-layered plethora of oral and written agreements were developed in families, churches, towns, counties, colonies and states from the grassroots up. Included were over eighty colonial civil constitutions written prior to the U.S. Constitution. Each family and each town were little self-governing republics. This bottom-up, multi-faceted fabric of society was the driving force behind the development of our constitutional republic.

Distinguished author and attorney, Brent Winters, says, "[It is the] duty of God's people to build God's Word into the fabric of their nation's consciousness, one person at a time. [This process] does not rest upon superior learning, education, genius of the human mind or even goodness...the testimony of Scripture and history reveals that truth will transform a country only as it works through the conviction of the individual." This is the power of one person!

Even though our national fabric has been weakened we can rebuild it—and, strand by strand, we can strengthen the whole fabric of society. If only a tiny percentage of the largest minority in America, believing Christians, will live out their faith intelligently in loving sacrifice and authentic obedience to God, our nation can be turned around and restored. John Knox, who freed Scotland from tyranny and converted his nation to Christianity in one decade said, "One plus God is a majority."

— Marshall Foster

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