



WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

Church Connection

July 2019

Strengthening, Preserving & Promoting Marriage, Family, Life & Religious Liberty

...and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof...

From Leviticus 25:10, this portion of the verse is inscribed on The Liberty Bell, one of our national symbols. Ultimately, true liberty—freedom—is found only in Christ: *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

John 8:36

Elias Boudinot, a Founding Father and president of the Continental Congress (1782-1783), stated: “Good government generally begins in the family, and if the moral character of a people once degenerate[s], their political character must soon follow.”

(The Founders’ Bible, p. 1796)

Are you praying?

We are exhorted to pray “for kings, and for all that are in authority...” (I Tim. 2:1-4). Whether they realize it or not our leaders need us to pray for them. Are you?

“A Moral and Religious People”

In 1798, John Adams, President and Founding Father of the United States, wrote to the First Brigade of the Third Division of the Militia of Massachusetts. In his letter Adams wrote, “... *We have no government, armed with power, capable of contending with human passions, unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge and licentiousness would break the strongest cords of our Constitution, as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.*”

John Adams knew a republic that emphasizes limited government requires people who self-govern. When the people don’t self-govern, limited government is virtually impossible, because nature abhors a vacuum. Adams basically acknowledged that self-governing people are largely religious people—and therefore what he would call “moral” people.

When Adams—and most of our Founding Fathers—spoke of religion, they were referring to Christianity by and large. By any measure it was the dominant religion in the nation. Christianity is particularly good at helping people self-govern because it is a faith that is about others and about self-control. It is about obedience and submission to Christ, Who exemplified how to treat, how to care for and how to relate to others.



John Adams, 2nd President of the United States, 1797-1801.

Christian churches in our country used to play a central role in the life of communities. They were centers of activity and places of community gatherings. More importantly they gave moral direction, sourced in Scripture, for everyday life and the issues of the day. Biblical teaching helped entire communities to have limited government because the people limited—governed—themselves.

Today, in too many Wisconsin cities, churches still dominate the geographic landscape, but for the most part are no longer the dominant voice in the culture for morality.

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Did You Know?

The Choose Life Wisconsin license plate has been available since October 2017. You can purchase one of these life-promoting plates for your vehicle at any time—no need to wait until your registration renewal date!

Over 1200 of these plates have been purchased so far, enabling 25 pro-life pregnancy resource centers (PRCs) in Wisconsin to receive a total of over \$46,000! This is funding they would not have received otherwise. *But 1200 is too small a number.* There should be at least 10,000 of these plates out on our roads promoting the message of life.

If you don't have yours yet, will you prayerfully consider participating? This is a wonderful way to help support the work of life-saving, woman-helping PRCs in our state. It is also one more way to promote a positive message to the culture and be part of the momentum in our country for choosing life!



Visit ChooseLifeWisconsin.com for details and ordering information.

A June 2013 Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey found that while 34% of American adults believe it is possible to have a healthy community with absolutely no churches or religious presence, 57% disagreed indicating it is not possible to have a healthy community without churches.

Even those who don't believe churches are indispensable to a healthy community believed churches should be able to provide certain services, like food banks, disaster relief and private schools, even while holding to their unique beliefs.

Historically, everywhere Christianity has gone the poor and the sick have been cared for, the status of women has been elevated, and children have been educated. More importantly, however, is the dynamic Gospel-preaching, truth-proclaiming witness of a church and its members, providing the majority of the salt and light in a community.

When a church stands for and educates its members and community about the sanctity of human life; when it is a strong voice against sexually oriented businesses; when it boldly exposes the evils of pornography and human trafficking; when it opposes gambling because it violates biblical principles and hurts families; when it promotes God's plan for human sexuality to teens in the community's public and private schools by being a voice for abstinence until marriage; and, of course, when it brings the good news of salvation by grace through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ; in short, when a church *is* the church by preaching and teaching the whole counsel of God's Word, it plays an important, central and God-given role in teaching people to self-govern.

Healthy, spiritually vibrant churches contribute to the health and well-being of our communities, our state and our nation because these entities will then be filled with people who know and practice self-governing. Only in this way can we have truly limited government. If churches don't take the lead in proclaiming God's good truth, who will?

Most Americans believe churches are important to communities, providing moral direction and acting as the moral gatekeeper. If John Adams was right (and we believe he was), strong Christian churches are the very best hope we have of maintaining this grand experiment we call the United States of America.

About Wisconsin Family Council

Wisconsin Family Council is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so that they can be involved in strengthening, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and religious liberty in our state.

"Church Connection" is published monthly by WFC and is available to churches in Wisconsin.

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