



WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

Church Connection July 2020

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

*Let all the earth fear
the LORD: let all the
inhabitants of the world
stand in awe of him...The
LORD bringeth the counsel
of the heathen to nought:
he maketh the devices of
the people of none effect.
The counsel of the LORD
standeth for ever; the
thoughts of his heart to all
generations. Blessed is the
nation whose God is the
LORD...*

Psalm 33:8, 10-12a

Mark Your Calendar!

Join us for "2020 Vision:
Contending for the Faith,
Challenging the Culture"!

Thursday, July 9
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Trail Ridge Camp
Hillsboro

Thursday, July 23
6:00-8:00 p.m.
DeKoven Center
Racine

Thursday, July 30
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Pizza Ranch, Oostberg

"Ideas have consequences.
Bad ideas have victims."

"Righteousness Exalts A Nation"

Every July 4th we have the incredible privilege of commemorating Independence Day. It is appropriate that we do so, complete with, as John Adams said in a letter to his wife Abigail, *"solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty....[and] solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward forever more."*

Adams went on to say, *"You will think me transported with Enthusiasm but I am not. I am well aware of the Toil and Blood and Treasure, that it will cost Us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States. Yet through all the Gloom I can see the Rays of ravishing Light and Glory. I can see that the End is more than worth all the Means. And that Posterity will tr[i]umph in that Days Transaction, even altho We should rue it, which I trust in God We shall not."*



Adams was both optimistic and realistic, quite typical of our Founders. Some twenty years later, our independence secured, Adams remarked about the republican form of government our Founding Fathers adopted: "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." Adams knew morality and religion are inseparably linked and are required for America to flourish or even continue.

Today, our culture largely views morality as a relativistic concept. In Adams' day words such as *law* and *morality* were clearly understood in the same way by the majority of people. Our Founding Fathers weren't confused about morality. While they assuredly struggled with and debated such items as the form of our government, states' rights, and the reach of the Constitution, they were clear

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Family Matters

Why is family in our name—Wisconsin FAMILY Council? Because family is fundamentally important. When we get family right, we experience great blessing and joy. But getting it wrong brings all kinds of harm.

Consider these realities:

- Divorce and unmarried childbearing increase poverty for both children and mothers.
- Parental divorce (or failure to marry) appears to increase children's risk of school failure.
- Children who live with their own two married (male and female) parents enjoy better physical health, on average, than do children in other family forms.
- Marriage is associated with reduced rates of alcohol & substance abuse for adults and teens.
- Family breakdown appears to increase significantly the risk of suicide for children.
- Boys raised in non-intact families are more likely to engage in delinquent and criminal behavior.*

Children and adults tend to thrive when God's plan is honored. Deviating from God's plan is a seedbed for all kinds of harms to children and a source of many societal ills.

In addition, family done God's way is a good testimony. "Let your light so shine."

*Bulleted points from *Why Marriage Matters*, 3rd Edition, pp. 12-13.

on the definition of morality and what they wanted to use as a basis for law in this "great American experiment": Morality would be the basis for the law, and morality took form and substance based on the religion of Christianity and the principles found in the Bible.

Faith in God and acceptance of a set of universally understood moral principles guided the members of the Continental-Confederation Congress. From the very beginning, prayer opened the national congress. Even Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson, two of the more liberal thinkers of this time, embraced a belief in God and the merit of Christian principles. Franklin stated, "*Whoever shall introduce into public affairs the principles of primitive Christianity will change the face of the world.*"

James Madison, the chief architect of the Constitution, similarly recognized the importance of religious principles to government. Reflecting on the formation of this new government, he said, "*We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all of our political institutions...upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.*"

Recent events in our country have certainly underscored the truth that every person is a sinner (Rom. 3:23) and that multitudes need to obey God's gracious command to repent (Acts 17:30-31). We also know that because of God's common grace, when a nation honors moral laws—the "laws of nature and of nature's God"—that nation will experience blessing and wholeness. A biblical world-view brings clarity to the issues of the day, from racism and human sexuality to abortion, euthanasia, freedom of religion and more. In fact, such a world-view brings clarity to everything!

America desperately needs to return to moral standards that only comes from turning to God. As we pray for our country, we ought also to acknowledge our religious heritage and recall a time when moral standards were accepted, rather than ridiculed. "Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34).

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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