

“Spiritual Warfare (Part 1)”

Ephesians 6:10-14a

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Teaching Aim: To examine the words of our founding fathers to see if the modern interpretation of “*separation of Church and State*” is consistent with their original intent. To understand the meaning of “*historical revisionism*” and to see how the radical left of this generation is using this process to change history and the direction of our country. To have a better understanding of the original intent of our founding fathers through their own writings on the issue of “*separation of Church and State*” and realize the spiritual warfare we are caught in today.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: Spiritual warfare and historical revisionism (Eph. 6:10-14a)

1. Too often Christians attempt to stand and fight in their own power; should they? Why or why not? According to the Apostle Paul, where can we find strength in our time of need (**vs. 10**)? What does Paul encourage Christians to do if they are going to stand against the wiles (or schemes) of the devil (**vs. 11**)? What are some ways that Christians can put on the armor of God today?

2. Every Christian faces battles in his or her life, some worse than others. According to **verse 12**, what are we fighting against in many of our battles? Often, we don’t see our battles as spiritual and blame other people. How should our understanding of spiritual warfare affect the way we look at others during times of conflict? (See **2 Cor. 4:3-4**)

3. Since our enemy is so wicked and powerful, what does Paul encourage every believer to do (**vs. 13**)? What evil day is Paul talking about when he says to, “*withstand in the evil day?*” Why is it critical for Christians to wear “*the whole armor of God*” when in battle against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places? What does Paul encourage every believer to do at the conclusion of **verse 13**?

4. What is meant by the phrase “*historical revisionism?*” Why do you think some might want to rewrite history? What makes this practice extremely dangerous for the future of our country? Do you see this happening in society today?

5. How do most people understand the “*separation of Church and State*” today? How do they respond as a result? What effect has this understanding had on our country today?

6. Why do you think only two brief quotes from Thomas Jefferson and James Madison have been used to establish the modern doctrine of separation of Church and State? Why do you think the rest of Thomas Jefferson’s sixty volumes of writings and other quotes from James Madison are not being brought up? Why do you think the views of the other one-hundred-forty plus Founding Fathers are ignored on this topic? Why do you think the views of the original Supreme Court Justices are not quoted? Wouldn’t they have had a good understanding of the original intent of our Founding Fathers? What does this teach us about the honesty and integrity of modern courts?

7. Where did the separation clause attributed to Thomas Jefferson come from and what was the context behind his brief statement? (Hint: Google Danbury Baptist Association)

8. What did James Madison mean when he said, “*Congress should not establish a religion, and enforce the legal observation of it by law?*” (Hint: What was going on in England, Scotland, France and Germany?)

Part II: A time to disagree and a time to disobey the civil authorities

1. According to **Romans 13:1-7**, Christians are to submit to the governing authorities. Is there ever a time when Christians are obligated to disobey the government?

2. Discuss the following statement: “*We are to obey the civil authorities UNLESS they command us to do something God forbids or forbid us to do something God commands!*” How does this statement apply to Christians today?

3. How do you see the above statement being played out in **Acts 4:1-20**?

4. Is there ever a time when we should stop sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with other people? Why do you think it is becoming more difficult for American's to evangelize in our country today? Where do you see most of the opposition coming from?

5. Do you think Americans should return to mandatory school prayer today? Would you rather have a moment of silence for each student to talk to God? Why is it dangerous to submit your child's spiritual welfare and prayer life to modern public-school teachers?

Part III: The original intent of the Founding Fathers

1. The First Amendment of the Bill of Rights states, "*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.*" What is meant by each part of this amendment? Does the press have the right to say whatever they want, even if it is false?

2. The prophet Isaiah wrote in **Isaiah 5:20**: "*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter.*" How do you see this Bible verse being played out in our society today?

3. The 1629 charter of Massachusetts read, "*Our said people...be so religiously, peaceably, and civilly governed [that] their good life and orderly conversation may win and incite the natives of... [that] country to the knowledge and obedience of the only true God and Savior of mankind, and the Christian faith, which ... is the principal end of this colony.*" Has the state of Massachusetts remained true to their charter?

4. What can we learn about George Washington and his governing style from his comment, "*It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.*"

5. Patrick Henry is famous for his statement, *"Give me liberty or give me death!"* What truth can we learn about the establishment of our nation from his words: *"It cannot 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. For this very reason peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here?"*

6. How does Thomas Jefferson's comment in his personal letter to the Danbury Baptists, *"Christianity is the best friend of politics because it is the only religion that changes the heart,"* contrast with the modern court understanding of the words *"separation of Church and State?"*

7. What truth can we learn about the American Revolution from John Quincy Adams's writing: *"The highest glory of the American Revolution was this; it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity."*

8. What does the fact that many of our Founding Fathers were Presidents, Vice-Presidents, or members of various Bible societies tell us?

9. What can we learn about the spiritual state of our country from the fact that many Christians are being disqualified from certain jobs today because of their Christian faith? Article VI, Section 3 of the United States Constitution reads: *"No religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States."* How have we seen this article of the Constitution violated in recent days?

10. Today our nation is in a *"Second Civil War,"* a war for the mind. What makes this civil war even more dangerous than the first? How does this war affect the soul of our nation? How is it affecting the souls of our children and grandchildren?

11. How should Christians respond to the current crisis in our nation? What are some ways that we as Christians can get involved and make a positive impact on society?

12. Discuss Daniel Webster's statement: *"If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity."* Why is this statement particularly important to every American today?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Christians need to know their history so that they can spot *"historical revisionism"* when they see it!
- Not everything we are being told on the news and in court decisions is true!
- We are to obey the civil authorities *UNLESS* they command us to do something God forbids or forbid us to do something God commands!
- We are never to stop living out our faith or sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with others!
- When you hear something that doesn't sound quite right, check out the facts in the context!
- We live in an age where good has become evil and evil has become good!
- Daniel Webster said, *"God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard and defend it."*