



ILLINOIS Family Institute

Boldly Bringing a Biblical Perspective to Public Policy in the Land of Lincoln.



illinoisfamily.org



from the **Executive Director** — **David E. Smith**

Racial tensions are at a sustained heightened level in America. In response to the horrific death of George Floyd, we witnessed violent physical attacks and wanton destruction of public and private property. What we did not hear much of from those we have placed in authority were rational discussions to stop it.

Decades of indoctrination, the vilification of American culture, and the embrace of what some falsely consider “rights” have brought us to a critical moment in our nation’s history.

Now, fringe elements dictate policy by means of mob action rather than through the democratic process. Professional sport leagues and corporate America choose left-wing “woke” messages to earn their social justice stripes.

With the weight and volume of negativity that dominate headlines, airwaves, and the Internet, it is especially important to be mindful of the biblical truths and principles that override sinful prejudices, biases, and emotions.

Serious Christians must rise above the chaos, anger, and anxiety. Our public testimony — either by action or appropriate inaction — is a powerful witness to a culture that is becoming increasingly hostile to the things of God.

Just as individual believers need to take a stand, so must the Church. Too often the Church has kept silent, perhaps out of fear of man or an unwillingness to endure hatred and persecution for the proclamation of Jesus.

Yet in such troubled times as these, the Church and the individuals that comprise her body must work intentionally to achieve unity in congregations, regions, our nation and beyond. We must be one as Christ Jesus and the Father are one. (John 17:21)

It is that unity — in Word, Spirit, and purpose — that will enable

us to withstand Satan’s goal to foment distraction, discord and division. Satan would have man think that one race — one skin color — is superior to all others, but God’s Word exposes Satan’s lies.



So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
~ Genesis 1:27

I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.
~ Psalm 139:14

And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings.
~ Acts 17:26

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call on Him. For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” ~ Romans 10:12-14

The Bible teaches we are **all** made in His image. If God’s Word tells us we are **all** fearfully and wonderfully made and created from one blood, we have absolutely no right to assert any other claim! God alone is the Author of Life — He determines how we are to be like Him and how we are perfectly fitted within His grand scheme. We have **ZERO** authority to claim any elevated status, privilege, or standing in His created order.

If God, *who created man in His own image*, shows no partiality, neither should we. James 2:9 warns us “... but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.” And in 1 John 2:11, the apostle cautions that “... he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness.”

continued inside...

Devoted to
God's Word & Prayer

Devoted to *God's Word & Prayer* by David E. Smith, Executive Director (continued ...)

Today, hundreds of thousands of people are walking in the darkness of sin because they regard themselves more highly than others and persistently harbor racism and hatred in their heart.

Scripture unequivocally describes the human condition that affects us **all**: “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9)

A wicked heart — an unregenerate heart — deceives people into believing the vile propaganda of groups such as the KKK, Black Lives Matter, Antifa, and Neo-Nazis. The flawed thinking that purports that one group of humans is intrinsically more valuable than any other group leads to direct or indirect prejudices, discrimination, and hostility — even violence targeted at fellow human beings. These iniquitous feelings, thoughts, and beliefs that are exalted against the knowledge of God, whether conscious or subconscious, must be eradicated. (2 Cor. 10:5) Or our Christian testimony is worthless.

Therefore, for the good purpose of training our deceitful hearts, Scripture instructs us to do **ALL** things without complaining, bitterness or resentment. (Phil. 2:14-16; Heb. 12:15) It exhorts us to do **ALL** things in love and for the glory of God. (1 Cor. 16:14; 1 Cor. 10:31) And God’s Word encourages us to be content in **ALL** things, standing firm in the work of the Lord and seeking first His kingdom. (1 Tim. 6:6; 1 Cor. 15:58; Matt. 6:33)

Clearly, we must be immersed in the Word of God in order for our hearts to align with His perfection. We must think biblically about our condition, seeing ourselves *and others* as our Father see us, and we must pursue true biblical love as defined in 1 Corinthians 13. Consider these verses:

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in truth ...

This is the true love we need to teach our children and grandchildren. Additionally, we must teach them who we are in God’s created order, emphasizing that our neighbors and fellow citizens are also made in the image of God and are of infinite value and worth.

In response to the increasing cultural chaos, we must pray about the declining influence of the Body of Christ in America. We have reached this crucial point because many churches have co-opted and twisted the Word of God to suit their own agenda, leading our society to largely forget or turn away from the one true God and His Holy Scriptures.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, individually and corporately, we must devote ourselves to the pure Word of God and to prayer! ★

DOJ Sides With Idaho in Banning Males From Women’s Sports

The U.S. Department of Justice filed a statement of interest on behalf of the state of Idaho, defending the state’s right to prohibit biological males from competing as females on women’s athletic teams. Idaho’s law, which prohibits transgender females from competing against biological females, was challenged in federal court by the ACLU. In announcing the statement, Attorney General **William Barr** said “**Allowing biological males to compete in all-female sports is fundamentally unfair to female athletes...Under the Constitution, the Equal Protection Clause allows Idaho to recognize the physiological differences between the biological sexes in athletics.**” ★



SCOTUS Strikes Louisiana Law Regulating Abortion

By a vote of 5-4, the U.S. Supreme Court declared a Louisiana law regulating abortion to be unconstitutional. Chief Justice **John Roberts** joined the four liberal justices in striking down the law. Louisiana’s law required abortion doctors to have admitting privileges in a nearby hospital and required abortion clinics that provided surgical abortions to meet the same requirements as ambulatory surgical centers. The Court struck down a nearly identical Texas law in 2016. In that case, Chief Justice Roberts voted to uphold the Texas law, but in the Louisiana case, Justice Roberts switched sides by reasoning that since the Court already made a decision once, it shouldn’t reverse direction on an identical law. Even if the Court makes a bad decision, according to Roberts, it shouldn’t reverse itself.

IFI submitted an amicus brief in the Louisiana case. ★



SCOTUS: Casinos Open, Churches Restricted



In what many thought would be an open and shut case in favor of churches, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) shocked observers when it refused to intervene in a Nevada dispute between churches and that state’s governor, **Steve Sisolak**. Governor Sisolak opened casinos to thousands of patrons but limited churches to 50 members. Calvary Chapel sued the state, saying the governor’s action was

clearly a violation of the First Amendment and discriminated against churches. Five justices, including Chief Justice **Roberts**, refused to hear the case, leaving the state’s action standing. In a scathing dissent, Justice **Neil Gorsuch** wrote:

“The world we inhabit today, with a pandemic upon us, poses unusual challenges. But there is no world in which the Constitution permits Nevada to favor Caesars Palace over Calvary Chapel.” ★



A Better Education Option for Your Children

Christian parents, grandparents and church leaders must seriously consider other options for their students and make the move away from government schools. The prevalence of perversion, subversion and indoctrination are becoming more prevalent, so to protect the hearts and minds of our children, it is wise to consider other education options.

The good news is, making the jump to home education is not difficult. Once you get started, chances are that you will not only love spending quality time with your children, but you will relish providing your children with meaningful Christian instruction.

IFI recently held two webinars to help better inform, equip and encourage parents



to remove their children from government schools. These webinars can be found on the **IFI YouTube channel** under the **“Home Education”** playlist tab.

These videos are posted for anyone curious about homeschooling. In our first webinar we featured three experienced homeschool mothers who address frequently asked questions about Illinois law and how to begin.

The second video features Dr. **Brian Ray**, a leading researcher of homeschool education. He is the president of the National Home Education Research Institute.



These videos provide a wealth of information for those who are new to homeschooling or just curious about the subject. Illinois Christian Home Educators (ICHE.org) also provides great resources and help. Anyone seeking information about statistics, law, philosophy, trends or fundamentals about homeschooling is encouraged to check them out. ★



SCOTUS Expands School Choice Opportunities

The High Court opened new avenues of funding for religious schools when it declared in June that a Montana school tax credit program unfairly discriminated against religious schools. Montana and over twenty other states prohibited directly or indirectly funding religious education. In Montana’s case, the state created a tax credit that allowed donors to pay money to the state and receive a tax credit. That money was then distributed to low-income families to allow them to send their children to any non-public school as long as it was not a religious non-public school.

In a 5-4 decision, the Court ruled that the school tax credit program was in violation of the Free Exercise Clause. According to the **National Review**, this decision **“will allow states throughout the U.S. to provide assistance to families for private school through the creation of school-choice programs, including vouchers, tax scholarship programs, and education-savings accounts (ESAs).”** ★

We’re grateful for your support!

Christian parents and grandparents throughout the state and nation are right to be concerned about the future of America — especially for their children and grandchildren. Having a Christ-centered home where they will see and hear the Gospel is more important than ever as we adjust to living in a largely pagan culture.

The eternal perspective and hope that our children will continually seek Christ and do His will does not diminish our motivation to fight for their future here in America by advocating for truth in the public square. We thank God for the privilege to lead a ministry like IFI that simultaneously fights for our God-given rights while promoting the eternal and temporal consequences and benefits of God’s timeless truths.

In July and August, IFI was busy working to promote voter registration drives in churches and compiling candidate responses for our voter guide. In September and October, we will switch to our Get Out The Vote (GOTV) project. Please pray that church leaders will be receptive to our calls to encourage Christian turnout for the November 3rd General Election.



IFI operates solely on the generosity and faithfulness of individual donors. We know many of our supporters are experiencing financial challenges at this time. We have seen a steep drop off in giving as well. Yet, we know without a shadow of doubt that our good God is in control and He will supply our needs.

Hebrews 2:1 exhorts us: “...we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away.” That is true for us as well as for our offspring. “Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil” Proverbs 4:27 teaches us. Jesus calls it the narrow way in Matthew 7:12-14.

Please give as you are able and help us to continue to advocate for Truth. ★



Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him. — James 1:12

Prayer Requests . . .

A few months ago, Iranian Ayatollah Lotfollah Dezhkam, declared: “The shout of the Iranian nation [is] being heard from the mouths of the Americans themselves: Death to America!”

The satanic spirit that has gripped so many citizens in this nation is deeply distressing.

The selfish, unthankful and demanding attitudes that permeate the minds of shallow thinkers must grieve our Holy God, from Whom every good and perfect gift comes. They don't understand that we have every reason to thank and praise Almighty God for the historical time period, the geographic location we've been placed and the amazing liberties we enjoy.

Our hope and confidence is not found in government or in political leaders, but in Jesus Christ.

We must pray often every day, for our family members, for our communities, for our churches and for our elected officials. We must also regularly pray together and for each other — specifically that God would give us hearts of steadfastness. We must appeal to our loving and merciful Heavenly Father during these times of cultural turmoil. We must ask Him for the courage and strength to stand strong and to know He walks through the fire with us and the joy to believe that this is enough. In the end we will know that these priorities were worth it. That He is worth it. ★

Please Pray... ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Elections: We know that our hope does not reside in Washington or in Springfield, but what happens in government does affect us and our neighbors. Pray for God's hand of mercy on our state and nation. Pray that a large majority of pro-life Christians would come out to vote and vote their values.

Corruption: Pray that the federal government's investigation into political corruption at various levels of government in Illinois would root out self-serving wicked incumbents and government employees.

Lawlessness and Chaos: Behind the rioting and looting we know that there is a deeper need. As you watch the news and read the headlines, let us pray for each and every lost soul who desperately needs to experience the healing power of Jesus Christ. True healing is ultimately in Him.

The Church: Pray that as we seek God's face on a daily basis, that we be intentional about His call to be salt and light to a lost world, sharing and preaching the Truth of Jesus Christ. As the early Church “turned the world upside down,” let's get back to the mission. Please pray that God will draw more and more people to Himself during this time of fear and uncertainty.

Fathers and Mentors: For Christian fathers to become spiritual leaders in their homes and to teach their children about God and His Word every day. Pray that godly men would step up to help mentor fatherless young men in the urban areas of our state. God, not gangs, are the answer to the problem of violence in our culture.

Law Enforcement: For protection of the men and women who serve in our local and state police departments. ★

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GENERAL ELECTION: NOVEMBER 3, 2020

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SEPT 2020	24	EARLY VOTING-OFFICE OF THE ELECTION AUTHORITY: First day for early voting at the office of the election authority and temporary locations designated by the election authority for the General Election. First Day of mailing Vote By Mail ballots that have been requested by application.
	6	CLOSE OF REGULAR REGISTRATION: Last day for registration or transfer of registration within the offices of the election authority.
OCTOBER 2020	7	GRACE PERIOD REGISTRATION AND VOTING: First day for grace period registration and grace period voting in the office of the election authority or at a location designated for this purpose by the election authority.
	18	CLOSE OF ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION: Last day for voters to register to vote through the State Board of Elections website. NOVEMBER 2020
	29	Last day for Election Authority to receive Vote By Mail application.
NOVEMBER 2020	2	EARLY VOTING-OFFICE OF THE ELECTION AUTHORITY: Last day for early voting at the office of the election authority or at a location designated by the election authority for this purpose for the Primary Election.
	3	GRACE PERIOD REGISTRATION AND VOTING: Last day for grace period registration and grace period voting in the office of the election authority or at a location designated for this purpose by the election authority.

Illinois Family Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit 501c3 organization. Gifts to IFI are tax-deductible. IFI has a working relationship with the American Family Association, Alliance Defending Freedom, Family Research Council, Mauck & Baker, Liberty Counsel, and the Thomas More Society.

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