



ILLINOIS Family Institute

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

Newsletter | Fall 2021



See to it that **no one takes you captive** through hollow and deceptive philosophy, **which depends on human tradition** and the elemental spiritual forces of this world

rather than on Christ.

COLOSSIANS 2:8



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



The Bible is filled with promises, commands, exhortations, and encouragement. It is also replete with warnings. In 1 John 2:15-16, we read:

“Do not love the world nor the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.”

Serious Christians understand how our adversary wants to lure our children away from the straight and narrow path (Mat 7:13-14; Luke 13:23-25) with false promises of power, fame, wealth and luxury possessions and, to that end, it tempts them with intoxicating substances, feelings, and experiences.

We know that God, our Father and Creator, is the God of the Universe, but John 12:31 tells us that Satan is “the ruler of this world.” However, this title in no way implies that Satan has ultimate authority on earth. Rather, it references the specific way in which he rules over the unbelievers of this world.

Second Corinthians 4:4 states that Satan has “blinded the minds of the unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ.” The enemy promotes false philosophies that blind unbelievers to the truth of the Gospel, imprisoning them in a fortress of his design. Only Jesus Christ can set these prisoners free.

Lest one think that born again Christians are immune from these machinations of Satan, the Apostle Paul warns:

“See to it that there is no one who takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception in accordance with human tradition, in accordance with the elementary principles of the world, rather than in accordance with Christ.” — Colossians 2:8

Satan’s attempts to discourage, distract, deceive, even destroy human beings – image bearers of the Most High – flourish in our culture, a culture which is in open rebellion against God. Today, wicked ideologies

flood the public square, infiltrating corporate America, Christian schools and universities, the medical establishment, every aspect of media, and government at all levels, including the military.

In light of this culture shift, Dr. **Albert Mohler** and others suggest there is a new religion in America: the religion of Wokeism. While this religion is not truly new, its adherents’ zealotry has ramped up dramatically in recent years. Apostles of Wokeism exude an air of confidence as they boldly assert that they are right and anyone who disagrees is wrong. They believe the salvation of humanity rests in following the tenets of Wokeism and use overtly religious language, much as Joe Biden did in calling the site of the Pulse Nightclub “hallowed ground” on the occasion of the five-year anniversary (6/12/21) of the Islamic terrorist attack on the LGBT bar.

Max Funk, in his article, “*Wokeism – The New Religion of the West*,” has this to say about the religious connection:

Wokeism is a religion. Although it has not been organized into any formal religious structure, it has all the functions of religious doctrine. It has a unique epistemology (theory of knowledge), an evaluation of the human condition, and a redemption narrative.

So, how did we – our nation – arrive at this point? To borrow a principle from physics, we created (or allowed the creation of) a vacuum – a vacuum in human

WE MUST BE
guided
BY TRUTH

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American Worldview Inventory

Written by the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University



The American public flaunts its free will in many ways, not the least of which is by embracing a number of seductive—but decidedly unbiblical beliefs—as part of their worldview.

According to new analysis of data from the American Worldview

Inventory 2021 conducted by the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University, the “Top 10” most prevalent seductive unbiblical ideas embraced by American adults include:

- the spiritually inclusive idea that “having faith matters more than what faith you have”;
- all faiths are of equal value;
- belief in the Eastern religious concept of “karma”;
- the dismissal of absolute truth;
- commitment to personal, subjective morality;
- the idea that people are “basically good”;
- success is determined by happiness, comfort, goodness, or fulfilled potential;
- sexual relations apart from marriage are morally acceptable;
- rejection of the notion that people are inherently sinful;
- the idea that the purpose of accumulated personal wealth is unrelated to God’s purposes.

According to **George Barna**, CRC Director of Research, this dramatic shift in basic beliefs among American adults revolves around issues of control and trust.



“Whether we are taking charge of our destiny, our spirituality, boundaries dictated by truth, moral behaviors, or wealth management strategies, Americans are largely driven by a need to have control of every aspect of their lives,” Barna said.

“Biblical Christianity threatens that self-interest by requiring us to deliver control of our lives to God,” he said.

These powerful cultural ideas have also infiltrated the small remnant (6%) of Americans who still possess a biblical worldview.

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The AWVI 2021 findings show that among those with a biblical worldview:

- 42% also accept the idea that having some type of faith matters more than which one.
- one third (33%) embrace the concept of “Karma,” the idea rooted in Eastern religions that you ‘get what you give’.
- 14% believe there is no absolute moral truth.
- more than half (52%) believe human beings are basically good.

To their credit, only 4% of those with a biblical worldview say that premarital sex between unmarried people who love each other is morally acceptable, but nearly half of all theologically born-again individuals (43%) accept premarital sex as morally acceptable.

The AWVI 2021 also identified a shockingly large percentage of born-again Christians (44%) who do not accept the idea that people are born into sin, and a large majority (69%) embrace the notion that all people are basically good.

As the veteran researcher Barna explained, “It is clear from the research that most individuals—even a large majority of those who consider themselves to be Christian and participate in Christian activities—are unwilling to surrender the reins of their life to a God whom they do not personally know, understand, or trust.”

ILLINOIS Family Institute

FAITH, FAMILY & FREEDOM FALL BANQUET

We Will Not Be SILENCED

with Dr. Erwin Lutzer

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

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Push for Federal Legalization *Written by Kathy Valente*



If they have their way, U.S. Senate Majority Leader **Chuck Schumer**, along with U.S. Senators **Cory Booker** and **Ron Wyden**, want to see more people getting high and plan to decriminalize marijuana at the federal level. The bill is currently a draft, but a final version is expected at the end of the year.

Legalization is just another salvo in the war on American families, youth, and communities who suffer the unmeasurable loss of loved ones who have fallen into the addiction trap with the help of leftists who are intent on making dangerous drugs more readily available.

As we have said many times, today's marijuana is nothing like the marijuana of the 60s and 70s. Back then the THC content was 1 to 2 percent. Today's marijuana can contain as much as 25 to 30 percent THC. And concentrates are almost 100 percent THC.

To examine how Colorado has been affected since legalization in 2013, the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area has the best and latest available data from numerous sources, and can be found at rmhidta.org. Here is a snippet from Volume 7.

- Since recreational marijuana was legalized in Colorado in 2013, traffic fatalities where drivers tested positive for marijuana **increased 135%** while all Colorado traffic deaths increased 24%.
- Past month marijuana use (ages 12 and older) **increased 30%** and is **76% higher** than the national average.
- The percent of **suicides** in which toxicology results were positive for marijuana has increased from **14% in 2013 to 23% in 2018**.
- In 2009, the year of commercialization, there were **50 suicides** with marijuana present in the toxicology report. The year of legalization, 2013, there were **105**. In 2018, there were **218**.
- Colorado Opioid overdose deaths have steadily increased since legalization, contrary to the narrative that marijuana legalization will curtail the opioid crisis — approximately 400 deaths in 2013 to **over 600** in 2019.
- Calls to the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center about marijuana **ONLY** exposures have increased: **86 in 2013** (legalization); **223 in 2019**.

- The Colorado Investigative Drug Task Force teams have seized tens of thousands of *illegally* grown plants worth many millions on the street. Despite over 500 recreational marijuana dispensaries in Colorado, the **black market is thriving**.

A 2021 book titled *Cannabis and the Christian*, written by Todd Miles, gives biblical wisdom on recreational and medical cannabis use and a grid to think through other ethical questions that aren't directly addressed in the sufficient Word of God. Another great resource is the short book written by Pastor Doug Wilson, "*Devoured by Cannabis: Weed, Liberty, and Legalization*."

We'll keep you updated on this issue and much more. Make sure you are receiving our email alerts. 📧

What is Critical Race Theory?

Concerned parents across the country, from coast to coast, are coming out in droves to confront their children's school boards about Critical Race Theory (CRT). Racism is an issue that Christians need to address, but CRT is a divisive, non-biblical solution.

So, what exactly is Critical Race Theory (CRT)? CRT is a general philosophy underpinned by the idea that racism is the result of an entrenched power struggle between collective groups and the societal structures surrounding them. Everything, therefore, be it a success, failure, societal positive or societal ill, is viewed through a racial lens and a viewpoint of oppression. Skin color, according to CRT, is directly related to whether you are considered the oppressor or the oppressed.

If you are thinking this sounds familiar, it's because it is: CRT runs parallel to Marxism. Want to learn more? Visit our **YouTube channel** to watch any of our four sessions from the IFI Worldview Conference that was held in Collinsville earlier this year. ([YouTube.com/ILFamilyInstitute](https://www.youtube.com/ILFamilyInstitute)) 📧



(Session 1 and 2 pictured above)

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Mask Mandates Should be the Last Straw

Written by Alex Newman

With the increasingly extreme attack on parental rights and medical freedom represented by Governor **J.B. Pritzker's** new COVID mask and vaccine mandates for schools, there has never been a better time for parents to sever all ties with the government's "education" system.

As if the dumbing down, perverse sexualization and extreme indoctrination were not serious enough already for parents to make serious moves protecting



their children, government officials in Illinois decided last month to double down on the extremism.

Among other deeply controversial policies, Gov. Pritzker decreed that all staff and even some eligible Illinois students must receive the experimental COVID injection. The Democrat governor also ordered all students over age 2, as well as all staff, to wear a face mask throughout the school day.

"This is a pandemic of the unvaccinated," Pritzker claimed, falsely, during a press conference, citing debunked figures while ignoring the overwhelming evidence that fully vaccinated people are being hospitalized and dying in significant numbers. "People can slow the pandemic by masks and vaccinations."

In reality, the latest data appear to show the COVID injections are practically worthless in protecting anyone from the virus — especially after some months have gone by. According to the latest government data out of the United Kingdom, more than two thirds of those who died from the so-called "Delta"

variant were *fully vaccinated*.

On the mask mandate, Pritzker again appears to be ignoring actual science and data. For instance, as Florida Governor **Ron DeSantis** pointed out in his recent executive order banning mask mandates in public schools, a Brown University study found "no correlation" between masks and COVID in Florida schools.

DeSantis also pointed to studies showing an extremely low risk of children contracting a serious case of COVID. And he noted that there is no real evidence showing that counties with mask mandates fared any better than those with them during the previous school year. Even more concerning, the popular Florida governor warned of dangerous health consequences associated with face masks.

In any case, parents have the right to make medical decisions for their children, not bureaucrats and government officials, he said.

"Given the historical data on COVID-19 and the ongoing debate over whether masks are more harmful than beneficial to children and to school environments in general, we should protect the freedoms and statutory rights of students and parents by resting with the parents the decision whether their children should wear masks in school," DeSantis said in his order.

Ironically, just two weeks before imposing his new mandates, Pritzker similarly argued that families should be involved in making decisions and that local policymakers should be making decisions for their jurisdictions.

But when not enough families and school districts bowed to the demands of the COVID totalitarians, Pritzker issued mandates and claimed to be merely following the "recommendations" of the disgraced CDC.

"Far too few school districts have chosen to follow the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention prescription for keeping students and staff safe," Pritzker proclaimed. "Given

the CDC's strong recommendation, I had hoped that a state mask requirement in schools wouldn't be necessary, but it is."



Despite the media hysteria and the governor's decrees, the non-profit group, Illinois Policy Institute, pointed out that the number of daily deaths attributed to COVID in Illinois has been below 20 since mid-June, and COVID patients occupied just a small fraction of available ICU beds and ventilators.

Meanwhile, in Sweden, where authorities consistently advised against masks and shunned any sort of mandates at all, daily deaths have fallen to virtually zero.

Still, the threats from the governor and his supporters are already ramping up. The Illinois High School Association warned last week that any schools violating the governor's decrees would have their student athletes banned from playoff games this fall.

Even private schools are being bullied. Christian Liberty Academy in Arlington Heights had its state recognition revoked for failing to comply with the mandates. Adding insult to injury, Pritzker even claimed he would deny students their diplomas if schools did not comply with his edicts.

Republicans in Illinois blasted the governor's antics. State Sen. **Darren Bailey**, who is himself running for governor, blasted Pritzker as a "tyrant" who has overstepped his authority by issuing "unilateral mandates."

"Unless you are part of a powerful special interest group that can help his campaign, he will continue to try and control your life," Bailey added, saying masking should be a personal choice and that parents must "let their voices be heard on this despicable tyranny."

One powerful way for parents to make their voices heard on this issue — and to protect their children from a wide range of other evils — is to exit the public school system entirely.

continued... ➤➤



from the **Executive Director — David E. Smith** *(continued from page 1)*

culture, the human mind, the human soul. If you paid attention in physics class, you will remember that a vacuum does not remain empty.

The Gospel of Luke expresses the spiritual manifestation of this principle:

“When the unclean spirit comes out of a person, it passes through the waterless places seeking rest, and not finding any, it then says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’

And when it comes, it finds it swept and put in order. Then it goes and brings along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they come in and live there; and the last condition of that person becomes worse than the first.” — Luke 11:24-26

Luke’s illustration describes what we are experiencing right now. “Agents of change” are working overtime in our nation to sweep it clean of the Judeo-Christian values and biblical worldview that were foundational in its formation.

They want to get rid of capitalism because it is bad; they want to limit or eliminate our civil liberties because they can be “harmful.” They even want to do away with the First Amendment. Clearly, they do not understand how precious these God-given liberties are! People who live under the limitations and oppression of socialist or communist regimes can only dream of the opportunities and liberties that the Apostles of Wokeism disparage and spurn.

With the house – our nation – swept clean of all they despise, the Apostles of Wokeism will fill it with their pet agendas: Black Lives Matter; Critical Theory; Critical Race Theory; unrestricted, taxpayer-funded abortion on demand; radical sex education in K-12 government schools; unconditional acceptance of transgenderism and all manner of sexual perversions; and more. To paraphrase Luke 11:26, surely the state of the second house will be worse than the first!

Yet one of the most despicable aspects of the religion of Wokeism is the determination and zeal with which it pursues its primary target: **our children**. Brothers and Sisters, let us not deceive ourselves. Satan will go to great lengths to pull our children off the straight and narrow path that God calls us to walk. The religion of Wokeism is a prominent tool to accomplish this evil purpose.

(continued from page 4)

These outrageous abuses of power by Pritzker represent an attack on parental rights, medical freedom, the well-being of Illinois children, and basic common sense. A growing amount of research is also pointing to very serious health risks from wearing face masks, not to mention the catastrophic psychological damage being done.

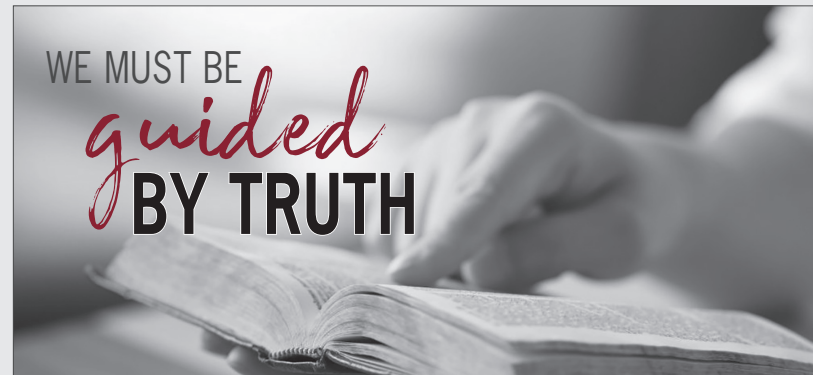
Add to all of that the fact that in recent weeks, Pritzker signed a radical “sex ed”

bill that is among the most extreme in the nation. Under the scheme, government schools will more vigorously promote abortion, promiscuity, gender confusion, homosexuality, and more — *beginning in kindergarten*.

Parents who are troubled by the escalation of godless ideology rampant in government schools and are sick of being bullied and terrorized by out-of-control officials do have options. Homeschooling is one excellent choice that is in line

with the Bible and can protect children and families from this sort of abuse. The number of homeschooling families in the state has more than doubled over the past year already.

At this point, it should be clear that government schools are not safe for children or families — and the risks extend far beyond that. Only a mass exodus can neutralize the threat and protect Illinois' future. 🙏



So, what are parents, grandparents, and concerned citizens to do? How do we respond?

I firmly believe that the rise of the religion of Wokeism in our culture is yet another reason **we ought to humble ourselves and cry out to God on behalf of our children**. We must appeal to God each-and-every day to protect their hearts, minds, and souls from the wicked ways of this world.

Additionally, **we must make sure that our own house is in order** – swept clean of sinful tendencies by God’s gracious response to our daily confession and repentance – so we can model for our children lives lived in obedience, submission, and love for the Lord.

Finally, **we must be guided by Truth**. Dr. **Everett Piper** is fond of saying, “In these times of universal deceit, Truth is the only rebellion left.” The only thing that will save us from the lies of the religion of Wokeism and the lies of the world is Truth with a capital T, the Truth that is found in the One who proclaimed, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but by Me.”

We must ask ourselves if we are equipping our children to know, live, and love the Truth? Are we impressing upon them a love for His Word? Do we cry out desperately on behalf of our children, asking God to protect them from the deceptions, snares, slings and arrows of the father of lies?

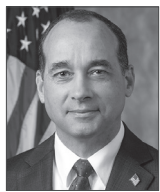
Empowered by our gracious and merciful God, may we understand, now more than ever, how our answer must be a resounding “YES!” 🙏



Telemedicine Good; Teleabortion Evil

The COVID lockdown gave rise to the growing use of Internet appointments and conferences. Health care is no different. “Telemedicine” allows patients to visit with their doctors from the comfort and safety of their own homes, giving us easier access to medical professionals. The enemies of human life are likewise taking advantage of this technology. Planned Parenthood and their allies are using it to expand their abortion practices through the use of telemedicine.

In response, U.S. Representative **Bob Good** (R-VA) recently introduced the Teleabortion Prevention Act of 2021 to hold medical professionals accountable that provide remote healthcare. This bill will make a chemical abortion by a healthcare providers a federal offense, if they do not first conduct a physical examination, be present during the chemical abortion, and schedule a follow-up visit for the patient.



“Abortion is morally wrong under any circumstance, and it is disturbing that the remote healthcare movement has allowed abortion to take place without an initial physical examination of the patient,” said Rep. Bob Good. “The Teleabortion Prevention Act protects pregnant women by holding doctors accountable to make sure they are not circumventing patient care. I am deeply saddened by how far the radical left has gone in their efforts to permit the killing of the unborn. I will always fight to protect innocent life.”

“While chemical abortions destroy the life of an unborn baby, they are also dangerous to the life of the mother. The abortion industry's efforts to use the pandemic to expand this abortion procedure without regard to a woman's health and outside the care of her doctor, is appalling,” said Jessica Anderson, Executive Director of Heritage Action for America. “Rep. Good's legislation would protect women.”

“As we've known for years, Chemical Abortion pills are deadly to preborn babies and dangerous for mothers, leading to the



deaths of over 20 women that we know of,” said Kristan Hawkins, President of Students for Life Action. “The Biden Administration's recent attempts to provide Chemical Abortion pills without basic health and safety standards does American women a disservice, allowing mothers to act as their own amateur abortionist, DIY-ing their abortion without medical oversight. Unsupervised Chemical Abortions can lead to loss of fertility, infection, serious injury, and even death. The Teleabortion Prevention Act reinstates vital safeguards that ensure intervention is available should a woman experience a medical emergency. “Death by mail” is both convenient and cost effective for the predatory abortion industry, leaving countless women and preborn babies to pay the ultimate price. Anyone supporting no-test abortions clearly doesn't care about women.”

“We are thankful to Rep. Bob Good for his boldness in introducing this crucial legislation,” said SBA List VP of Government Affairs Marilyn Musgrave. “The Biden administration is actively working to strip away federal restrictions on dangerous mail-order abortion drugs and have already removed the federal requirement that a physician be present when abortion pills are administered. Together with Democrats in Congress, they want to turn every post office and pharmacy into an abortion clinic and would leave women alone to suffer the consequences. Scientific data shows that chemical abortions have four times the rate of complications compared to surgical abortions.”

“The abortion industry continues to exploit vulnerable women through the use of chemical abortions for profit, and they are dishonest about the impact of chemical

abortion on women's health. For years they have worked to remove key health and safety protocols that require an abortionist to physically examine the mother before administering these dangerous drugs, in order to avoid misdiagnosing the pregnancy or missing a condition (such as ectopic pregnancy) that can put the mother's life at much higher risk,” said Connor Semelsberger, Director of Federal Affairs for Life and Human Dignity, Family Research Council. “Thank you to Representative Good for standing up to protect both vulnerable women and their unborn children.”

“The push for Teleabortion ignores the dangers to children and women,” said Tom McClusky, March for Life Action. “The fact that women could take dangerous drugs through the mail, drugs that kill unborn children in the womb and harm women both physically and emotionally, without ever actually seeing a physician is dreadful. March for Life Action applauds Rep. Good for his bill to halt this dangerous practice.”

“We thank Rep. Bob Good for his work on this important pro-life legislation. Teleabortions are dangerous because the woman does not receive a physical examination from the abortion doctor, despite the well-documented risk and complications of chemical abortion drugs which include life-threatening hemorrhages, infections, or ruptured ectopic pregnancies,” said Jennifer Popik, Legislative Counsel of National Rights to Life Coalition. “This legislation is a strong step forward in protecting mothers and their unborn children from the reckless abortion industry.”

There are currently 45 co-sponsors of this important legislation, including southern Illinois U.S.

Representative **Mary Miller.** 🍷





September 22 — October 30

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION.

The Fall campaign for 40 Days for Life begins on September 22nd this year and runs through October 30th. This internationally coordinated prayer campaign aims to bring spiritual focus to abortuaries in nine locations throughout the state of Illinois.

Peaceful prayer, fasting, and church outreach outside these death clinics are powerful in helping to save lives and—we hope and pray—in ending abortion.

Since 2007 when 40 Days for Life began, 19,198 babies have been saved, 221 abortion clinic workers have quit, and 112 abortion centers have closed! Former abortion workers have publicly stated that there is up to a 75% no-show rate for appointments when there are people peacefully praying outside of an abortion clinic. Prayer moves the Hand of God!

Abortions in Illinois have increased since

COVID-19 invaded the U.S. Planned Parenthood has taken advantage of the fear surrounding hospitals and healthcare institutions by encouraging the use of the abortion pill. There is now an abortion app which makes it easier to dispense the abortion pills for girls' and women's chemical abortions. This puts at great risk the health of aborting mothers.

Please prayerfully consider joining this year's Fall 2021 vigil which runs from September 22 - October 30.

We stand as the body of Christ representing Him through a peaceful witness of the sanctity of life in our communities.

For additional information or to sign up your church for one of the nine Illinois 40 Days for Life locations, please visit 40daysforlife.com. 🙏

Babies Lives Matter.

WIN

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a 9-0 ruling in favor of Catholic Social Services over the city of Philadelphia. In that case, Philadelphia terminated all foster care and adoption contracts with Catholic Social Services after the agency said they could not place children with unmarried couples or married same-sex couples. Philadelphia said the faith-based agency was discriminating against those couples. **Catholic Social Services said they should not be forced to act contrary to their religious tenets** and that their participation in foster care and adoption only increased homes available to children. This unanimous decision gives us hope! 🙏

Update on the Free Inquiry Rule



The U.S. Department of Education recently stated it is reviewing and potentially rescinding parts of the "Free Inquiry Rule" — a

federal rule passed by the Trump administration that prohibits public universities and colleges from removing funding from religious student organizations. The rule serves to protect organizations and their leadership policies that might conflict with campus anti-discrimination rules, such as requiring that their student leaders are Christians or follow a code of biblical sexual ethics. By reviewing this rule, the current administration has once again put into question the authority religious organizations have to define their own mission and principles — potentially jeopardizing their religious freedom and right to be recognized as legitimate organizations on campus.

Please pray that the Free Inquiry Rule would be kept in its entirety in order to protect Christian student groups and organizations at universities. Pray that our leaders would recognize the importance of protecting religious freedom and choose not to discriminate against certain groups whose beliefs they might disagree with. 🙏

Harvesting the Healthy

Bioethicists have started to push for the allowance of "organ donation euthanasia," also known as "kill via organ harvest." In the past, this applied only to patients on the verge of death or permanently unconscious. But according to an article in the *National Review*, author **Wesley J. Smith** claims that the idea that "healthy people be allowed to die by removal of vital organs" has now been introduced in an article published by Bioethics, which Mr. Smith points out is "a wholly mainstream publication. The idea of killing for organs is considered respectable in the field. And it gives these advocates no pause that their plans would also transform organ-transplant doctors — known for focusing exclusively on saving lives — into outright killers."

Steven W. Mosher, an internationally recognized authority on China and population issues points out that "in China they kill prisoners for their organs. Consent is not required. But if this proposal goes forward, we will over time wind up doing the same thing. 'Consent' will become just a fig leaf. Clever counselors will convince depressed or handicapped people to commit suicide by organ donation by suggesting that they can 'give their life meaning' by 'giving life to others.' And what my friend Wesley Smith is saying is that we are closer to that horror than we know." 🙏





Election **2022** IL Primary Election June 28, 2022

During a special session in August, Illinois state lawmakers approved newly drawn legislative boundaries for the Illinois House and Illinois Senate. Passed along party lines, the new redistricting maps are based on the recent census results, and will solidify Democratic supermajorities. Democrat leaders in Springfield claim that the new map is consistent with “the diversity and values of our great state” — but Republican leaders declare that it is nothing but a “travesty” and a “sham.”

Republicans and groups like the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund have sued to have this version thrown out. If it stands, the map will be in effect for the next 10 years.

But there are other groups that are not happy with the newly drawn legislative districts. The Latino Policy Forum is urging Governor Pritzker to veto the Illinois legislative maps saying that they do not equitably reflect the state’s Latino community.

Despite recent 2020 census data indicating that Illinois added 309,832 Latinos (the largest population increase among racial/ethnic groups statewide), no Latino-majority districts were added in the maps passed by the general assembly. In fact, preliminary analysis and reports show that some Latino-majority districts are diluted even more, further hindering the community’s ability to elect the representatives of their choice.

Furthermore, as with the maps from the spring, the Illinois legislature did not provide advocates with a reasonable timeline that would enable community input.

Stay tuned to hear how the federal court rules in this case.

In the meantime, state lawmakers have moved our state’s **2022 primary election date from March 15th to June 28th**. All Illinois Senate seats (59) and all Illinois House seats (118) are up for election in 2022. 🍷

Marriage — an advantage?

A recent article written by **Jillian Schneider** (thefederalist.com) highlights the social and economic advantages of marriage despite



increasing support for cohabitating couples. Since 1995, the rate of cohabitation has doubled to 12 percent of adults under 30 with 65 percent of Americans currently believing these couples should receive the same economic and tax benefits as married couples. Studies, however, show that God’s definition and design for marriage is better, with higher rates of marriage strongly correlated to more economic growth, economic mobility, less child poverty, less violent crime, lower risk of children exposed to domestic violence, and higher median family incomes. In other words, natural marriage fosters productive members of society. We are foolish not to protect it. 🍷

Fatherlessness

On September 6th, *The Wall Street Journal* published an article that started with this alarming sentence: “Nearly a quarter of highly educated women in their mid-30s had their first babies outside marriage, according to new research published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.” According to the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau, 4 out of about 11 million single parent families with children under the age of 18 were headed by single mothers. Today 1 in 6 children under the age of 18 — a total of about 12.5 million — are being raised without a father.

The continual rise in unwed mothers is another metric of how far our culture has drifted away from God.

The sad reality is, Christian families are failing to disciple their children. We are not bringing them up in the



admonition of the Lord, but are allowing sinful worldly influences to dominate our homes, churches and culture. We simply do not know His Word and fail to follow His commandments. According to a recent **George Barna** poll published by the Family Research Council, only 6 percent of Americans have a Biblical worldview.

As a result, we are missing out on the blessings that can be found in doing His will. We know that children born to a married mother and father do better across all metrics than those raised by single moms or couples who are merely living together. 🍷



Fathers Matter

“...father engagement was correlated with enhanced cognitive development, **reduced behavioral problems in male adolescents**, decreased psychological problems in female adolescents, and decreased delinquency and economic disadvantage in families of low socioeconomic status. **Early father involvement with daughters** has been associated with a decreased risk of early puberty, **decreased early sexual experiences**, and **decreased teen pregnancy.**”

— *American Academy of Pediatrics*

Forced Masking of Children and Churches

Written by Pastor Calvin Lindstrom

God's Word in Romans 13 establishes that civil magistrates have God-ordained powers. Christians should be ideal citizens giving appropriate honor and respect as we serve the Lord. According to some Christians, if a government official mandates something, we should follow it.

Gregg DeMey, pastor of Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church, wrote a blog post explaining why he and his congregation are following **Governor Pritzker's** mandate.

He writes:

"Some area churches have decided that the Governor's recent mandate does not apply to them. If that is so, I'm unclear on what other inconvenient parts of the law might not also apply to the Church. While frustrated by what feels like a step backward, I don't believe the mask mandate is an attack on my personal faith or on Christianity writ large. We are still free to follow Jesus. We are still free to worship wholeheartedly. We are still free to sing praises, to pray, and to open the Word together. Let's not let our own resistance and resentment get in the way of that!"¹

Is the issue this simple? I do not believe it is.

My own church, the Church of Christian Liberty, and our school, Christian Liberty Academy in Arlington Heights, have made a different choice.

First, Gov. Pritzker is overstepping the powers given to him according to the Illinois Constitution. Gov. Pritzker cannot make laws. He has now issued twenty consecutive orders mandating all sorts of matters. In a just world, these actions would be challenged. Unfortunately in Illinois they have not been.

One person I have corresponded with has responded to this argument by saying, no legal challenges to the governor's actions have been successful nor have most of the state's legislators objected.

This is not a satisfactory argument. Getting away with something does not justify the action. Further, our legislators sadly get away with supporting and tolerating all sorts of iniquity. Indeed, I

believe most of our legislators are scared of challenging the governor on this issue. He has all the money necessary to support a political challenger to any candidates who oppose his agenda.

Second, God has given to families and to local churches legitimate authority. When another government oversteps its authority, there is a place for other lawful authorities to intervene.

This is a vital principle that must be recovered. Power does not equal justice or righteousness.

At our school, we recognize parental choice. If parents want their child to not wear a mask, then we respect that choice. If they choose to have their child wear a mask, we also support that choice. Parents have authority in this matter. The Governor cannot legitimately take this power from parents.

One person argued that governments have imposed truancy laws and we have the DCFS to protect children.

In response to this argument I would say, I oppose the idea of truancy laws. Why should governments have this power over children? Concerning the DCFS, that is a totally separate matter. The government should prosecute parents who abuse their children. I have no argument with that. However, government should not have the power to force school aged children to wear masks six to eight hours a day.

The masking of children can be harmful to the health and overall well-being of a child. Just think of forcing a child of 3 years or even 10 years of age to wear a mask 7 or 8 hours each day. *This is what is going to stop the spread of COVID-19?*

A recent article from the USC School of Pharmacy argues against the masking of children.² It is an excellent article written by two very accomplished scientists and academics.

There is very little scientific evidence showing the general effectiveness of masks in a classroom setting. The only mask that, if properly worn and fitted, might be of help is an N95 mask. Children cannot be expected to wear a properly fitted N95



mask all day.

Further, there is great hypocrisy in this matter. Gov. Pritzker is simply demanding that schools acquiesce. In schools that mandate masks, are they constantly on the lookout to make sure the mask is being properly worn? What about when children eat and drink? Does COVID not spread when children are eating? Some schools have taken a very extreme approach with their students. Just recently a teacher at Glenbard North High School screamed at a student and used foul language because the student dared to breath in an empty hallway without a mask. I don't believe this is the typical approach followed by most teachers and schools.

For these and other reasons we politely but forcibly decline to submit to an unconstitutional and unjust mandate by Governor J. B. Pritzker. We make this choice recognizing that while some may not understand it, there is a larger principle that must be recovered in terms of the authority God has given to churches and families.

Addendum: If you have not read Laurie Higgin's excellent article on this very subject, you must do so. It is titled "Science-Y Fiction on Masking" and it can be found at illinoisfamily.org.

¹ https://elmhurstcrc.org/media/blog/between-me-and-god?fbclid=IwAR2MeGBbcgBA-MrRPW6QMZvz8rNWfb23WwauLTmm7egDp7Dcc3_CULGbw

² https://healthpolicy.usc.edu/article/mandatory-masking-of-school-children-is-a-bad-idea/?utm_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm_campaign=healthcare_workers_fight_back&utm_medium=email



Words for Those Lost in Sexual Darkness

Written by Laurie Higgins

I write often about homosexuality and “trans”-cultism because there are no more serious threats to fundamental speech rights and religious liberty than the efforts to use public education, the law, Big Business, Big Tech, the mainstream news media, and the arts to normalize homosexuality and gender confusion.

In addition, individuals and families are being harmed by the corrosive lies of “LGB” and “T” activism. Parents’ rights to oversee their children’s moral education and medical care are being undermined and even stripped by “LGB” and “T” activists and their collaborators. And the temporal and eternal lives of individuals who experience same sex attraction and/or gender dysphoria are being destroyed.

All decent people should feel righteous anger when teachers tell children that homosexuality and cross-sex impersonation are deserving of respect and affirmation. We do not embody the love of Christ when we remain silent while body- and soul-destroying lies are affirmed to and in children and teens.

The lies of activists must be exposed, but in so doing, we must not lose sight of the suffering of those who experience disordered sexual attraction to persons of the same sex or who feel unrelenting discomfort with their biological sex. They do not choose their feelings, and they often suffer in shame, fear, and silence as most of us do when we experience disordered, sinful impulses.

With most other sins, our culture affirms the truth that is written on our hearts. Our mothers, fathers, teachers, pastors, priests, political leaders, and storytellers affirm moral truths. But something very different happens today with regard to sexual sin.

With sexual sin, our depraved culture offers the bleakly deterministic lie that homoerotic desire and cross-sex identification are inborn traits akin to skin color. They tell children and teens that acting on those desires is not only morally good but also essential to fulfillment. They tell children and teens that refusal to act

on such impulses is an act of futility that will result in unfulfilled lives or suicide. They tell young, confused people that anyone who dissents from those claims hates them.

And those claims are touted as the “loving” response.

Well, there are other claims—claims that offer hope for a life defined by real love and real peace. It is a peace that passes all understanding and derives from knowing that sacrificing our desires to God’s will pleases a good, holy, just, and merciful God.

God offered up his perfect son for our sins. Jesus died a horrific death on the cross to pay the penalty for the sins of all who trust in him. Those who experience homosexual attraction or gender dysphoria are no different from those who experience all manner of other sinful impulses. While God may not remove every last vestige of sinful impulses, he will give believers the power to refuse to act on them.

Our friends and loved ones should be told that joy and peace come from choosing to live a life that pleases the creator of the universe.

What an amazing idea!

A personal relationship with God does not free us from all sinful impulses, but it does free us from bondage to sin. Full and absolute freedom from the experience of sinful impulses will not come until the end of history. The persistence and seeming intractability of sinful impulses do not mean that the impulses are gifts from God. It means that sin grips the heart of fallen man.

Our friends and loved ones should be told that joy and peace come from choosing to live a life that pleases the creator of the universe. What an amazing idea! We humans have the capacity to please the omniscient, omnipotent, eternally existing creator of all creation. Never hearing that truth is tragic.

And our dear friends and loved ones who may never experience heterosexual attraction deserve to be told that a celibate life lived in submission to God need not be a lonely, unfulfilled life. They too can have rich, intimate, deeply loving relationships within the body of Christ. They can have deep, loving, chaste same-sex friendships that can help restore the brokenness in their pasts. They can serve as surrogate aunts, uncles, grandmas, and grandpas for children who too are experiencing brokenness and loss. They deserve to be told that they are loved—not because of their sin—but, like the rest of us, despite it.

Our depraved world swims along the surface of a world so deep and wondrous, it is beyond imagining. And our fallen, depraved world that has no eyes to see or ears to hear beyond this all-too-consuming temporal life, chatters cacophonously, filling the hearts and minds of people with beguiling lies that lead to eternal separation from a good and holy God. If we truly love our friends and family members lost in sexual darkness, we must tell them the truth, no matter what the personal cost to us, always remembering that our salvation came at the greatest cost of all. 🙏

Abortion Back At The High Court



The Department of Justice, under the direction of President **Joe Biden**, has filed a lawsuit in federal court in Austin, asking a federal judge to declare that the Texas Heartbeat Abortion Ban is invalid, "to enjoin its enforcement, and to protect the rights that Texas has violated."

"The act is clearly unconstitutional under long-standing Supreme Court

continued... ➤➤



Pastor Courtney Lewis *Written by Rev. Ceasar LeFlore*

It should be obvious to almost everyone by now that the public-school systems in Illinois, as well as those around the nation have become nothing less than cesspools of leftist, anti-biblical indoctrination, and are no place for Christian children to be educated.

As God is calling faithful people to arise and provide ways for our children to be set free from the lies and sexual perversion in government schools through home and church school options, there are some amazing examples of God's people within the inner city of Chicago stepping out in faith and doing exactly that.

Pastor **Courtney Lewis** and the people of Cornerstone Baptist Church, located on Chicago's south side, heard the Voice of God concerning opening a Christian school at their church and they answered that call by opening Cornerstone Baptist Academy to, as they say; *"serve as a tool to assist parents in their primary responsibility to educate their children."*

On May 10, 2021, Pastor Lewis said that *"the Lord confirmed upon our hearts the need for a strong Christian School in Chicago"* and just 20 days later, on May 30th, the congregation of only 150 members voted to act in faith and open The Cornerstone Baptist Academy.

For a long time, Pastor Lewis and his wife had been transporting their children and others all the way to Chesterton, Indiana so they could obtain a quality, Christian education in an environment that was safe, loving, and affirming, and most importantly, doctrinally sound. They soon realized that driving back and forth to Indiana was not sustainable, so lacking any other option, they chose to be

precedent," Attorney General **Merrick Garland** said at a news conference announcing the suit.

In response to this action, Students for Life Action's **Kristan Hawkins** points out that "abortion is not written into the Constitution, but elections are, and it's time for new leadership in Congress and the Biden White House, which has prioritized abortion over all other issues. The on-going misuse of public power to force states to support abortion will have consequences at the ballot box."

We will pray that at least five justices will once again uphold the Texas law (under the 10th Amendment). Moreover, we pray that as the SCOTUS considers *Dobbs v. Jackson*, another abortion case from Mississippi, the science of life, the major flaws of abortion precedents, and the vast negative societal impact of 48 years of legalized abortion will result in overturning *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* rulings that have been a curse on our nation since they were handed down by the Court.

IFI has filed an amicus brief in the *Dobbs* case. 🙏

obedient to what they had long considered was a vision from God, and through prayer, overcame their doubts and fears, and launched out into the deep on their way to opening their school.

On Monday, August 30, 2021, with only three months to plan, hire staff, and prepare their building, The Cornerstone Baptist Academy opened with 16 eager students ranging from K-12. By Wednesday, they had added two additional students to their ranks.

Pastor Lewis tells of how he felt like Moses when he walked to the local public school to assist a parent in withdrawing her twin daughters from a system that he says is *"turning out thugs and druggies who are steeped in transgenderism, liberalism, atheism, and socialism"* and then leading them back over the streets of Woodlawn to Cornerstone Baptist Academy, where he knew that they would not only be educated with excellence, but that they would also be disciplined in the righteousness principles of the Christian faith.

As wonderful as that moment was for he and the parent, this Moses like experience was not by any means the first that Pastor Lewis and the members of Cornerstone Baptist Church would have to overcome on their faith journey to becoming Christian educators. Opposition for them would reach beyond financial concerns, building renovations, or even misinformation about home and church schools spread by teachers' unions and other proponents of the government school system. Their opposition would come from as high as the little wicked pharaoh in Chicago's City Hall.

On Sunday, May 24, 2020, during the height of the Covid shut down that paralyzed our nation, Chicago Mayor **Lori Lightfoot** sent armed police officers to their church to violently disrupt their services and shut them down to enforce Covid restrictions. Thank God they were turned away, but the attack against them was far from over. Mayor Lightfoot even went as far as threatening to use legal means to take the building away from the congregation and bulldoze it down. That might have been her intention, but thankfully, God had other plans.

Appearing on the Todd Starnes Show, Pastor Lewis stated that *"all we are seeking is the same consideration and trust that is being tendered toward liquor stores, abortion clinics, and Walmart."* How wonderful is it that a leader with this type of faith and holy boldness is now helping parents to raise up new citizens for the Kingdom of God?

Illinois Family Institute had the chance to visit Cornerstone Baptist Academy to see firsthand the wonderful work that has already begun in their new school, as well as the great need for remodeling that yet remains in order to get their 100-year-old church building in optimum condition to accommodate their vision for growth.

Pastor Lewis is also working with Illinois Family as we help two other pastors in depressed communities who are answering the call to open schools in their churches: the first being Pastor **Darryl Burton** and the Faith Deliverance Church in Harvey, Illinois.

If you'd like to contact Pastor Lewis to support their work or designate a gift, you can contact them at cornerstonebaptistchicago.com. 🙏



We'll Get Through This

Lord, our troubles are so great,
We don't know what to do;
The price for our iniquity
Is finally coming due.

The world is crumbling all about;
No safe place can be found.
Right is wrong, Wrong is right;
The change is quite profound.

Lord, we need Your guiding light
To lead us out of here;
We'll focus on Your Word,
and prayer, to take away our fear.

Temptations of this dying world
We'll rule out and let go;
Give our burdens all to you,
Shed all worldly woe.

That's how we'll get through this,
Lord, fixed on heaven above,
Assured of your protection, help,
And everlasting love.

*Written by
Joanna Fuchs*

Please Pray . . .

PUBLIC SCHOOL EXIT:

- Please continue to pray for our Rescuing Our Children initiative to encourage an exodus from government indoctrination centers. Various reports suggest that the number of homeschool students have spiked and we are also hearing anecdotally that Christian schools throughout the city and suburbs have seen a large increase in enrollment as well. Pastor Ceaser LeFlore, our field director for this project, is meeting with pastors throughout the City of Chicago to become involved and has been getting favorable responses.

ABORTION:

- Thank God that the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) upheld the Texas law that bans abortionists from dismembering living babies inside the womb when a heartbeat is detected! Pray that the Biden Administration's challenge will fail. Pray that the Heartbeat Law would be a strong precedent for other states, and that it would be used to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, *Doe v. Bolton*, and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*.

SCOUTING:

- Pray for Trail Life USA and American Heritage Girls, two unapologetically Christian alternatives to the Boy and Girl Scouts programs whose goal is to train up godly leaders that will serve Christ. Please pray that God would continue to bless these organizations and use them to train up Christ-followers who will make an impact in their homes, schools, and future careers.

MARRIAGE:

- Since 1995, the rate of cohabitation has doubled to 12% of adults under 30 with 65% of Americans currently believing these couples should receive the same economic and tax benefits as married couples. However, it is clear that God's design for marriage is beneficial at the individual and societal level and should be protected at all costs.
- Please pray that our nation would return to a biblical view of marriage. Pray that Christian couples would not put off marriage but instead recognize the importance of displaying the Gospel through marriage and raising godly families.

CHURCHES AND PASTORS:

- Pray for God's forgiveness for the failure of pastors and church leaders to boldly speak the entire Truth of God in the public square. (Jeremiah 23:9-40)
- Pray that Christian leaders would teach, preach, and advocate for God's people to turn back to Him and to seek Him with all their hearts. (Deuteronomy 4:29)
- Pray that pastors and church leaders would do whatever is within their power to rescue the children in their churches from the wicked indoctrination taking place in government schools and help to provide them with solid Christ-centered education. (Matthew 18:6; Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 9:10) 🙏

*Lord, we need
Your guiding light ...*

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