




Politics and the Pilgrim


Romans 13:1-7




Pew Research




25% of Americans now attend church regularly, down from 47% in 1990





Cultural Research Center @ Arizona Christian University

- 58% of Americans do not believe or look to God or the Bible for morality and truth. They believe it is up to the individual
- Those who claim to be evangelical only 48% believe in absolute moral truth. 46% rejected the idea of moral truth



Cultural Research Center @ Arizona Christian University

- ▶ Of those who claimed to be Born-again, only 43% said there was absolute truth
- ▶ Those who attend church on a regular basis who believe God is the basis for truth:
 - ▶ Evangelical 72%
 - ▶ Pentecostal 70%
- ▶ Only 50% of Americans believe in a Biblical definition of God. Creator, judge, loving Father who sent His Son for our sins. Has a definite plan for His creation



➤ **American Bible Society**

➤ Only 9% of Americans read their Bible daily down from 13.7% the year before

➤ **Pounce Foundation**

➤ 82% of Christians only read their Bibles on Sunday when in church



Barna Research Group

- When asked whether America would be better, the same or worse without the Bible:
- 49% said worse
- 39% said the same
- 12% said better

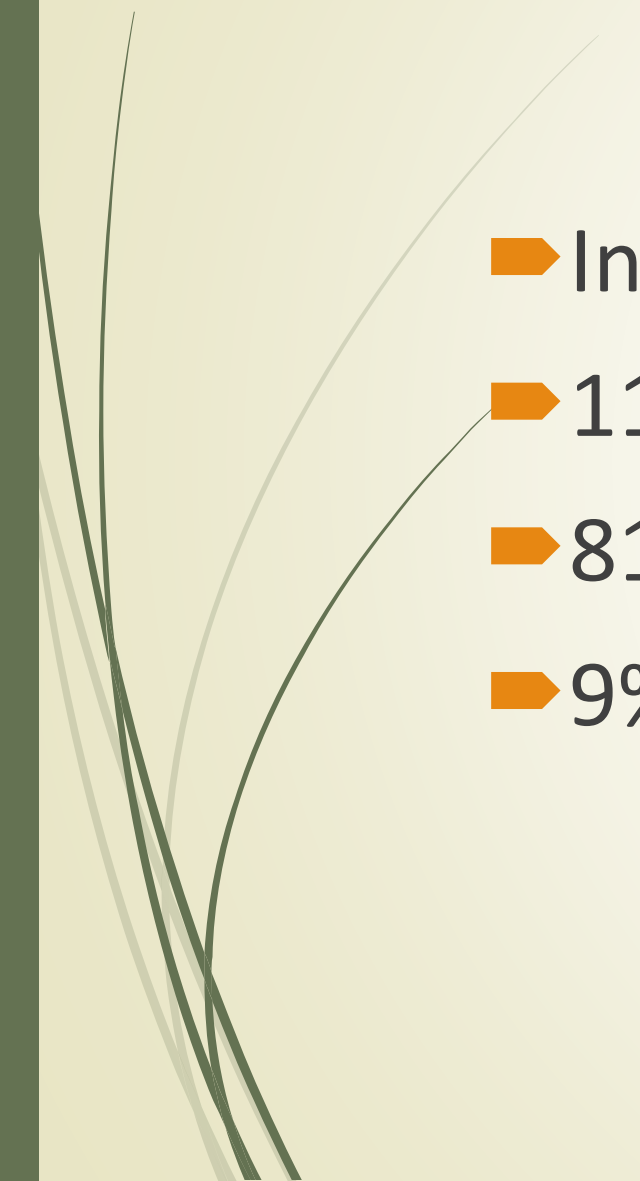


Barna Research Group

- Do you agree with this statement: The Bible contains everything a person needs to know how to live a meaningful life?
- 37% strongly agreed
- 31% somewhat agreed
- 32% disagreed
- Only 24% of Americans believe the Bible is the literal Word of God



Barna Research Group

- In 2003:
 - 11% of Americans identified as atheist or agnostic
 - 81% of Americans identified as Christian
 - 9% of Americans identified as other faiths
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Barna Research Group

- In 2018:
 - 21% of Americans identified as atheist or agnostic
 - 72% of Americans identified as Christian
 - 8% of Americans identified as other faiths
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- 40% were identified as nominal Christians (Christians in name, not in practice)

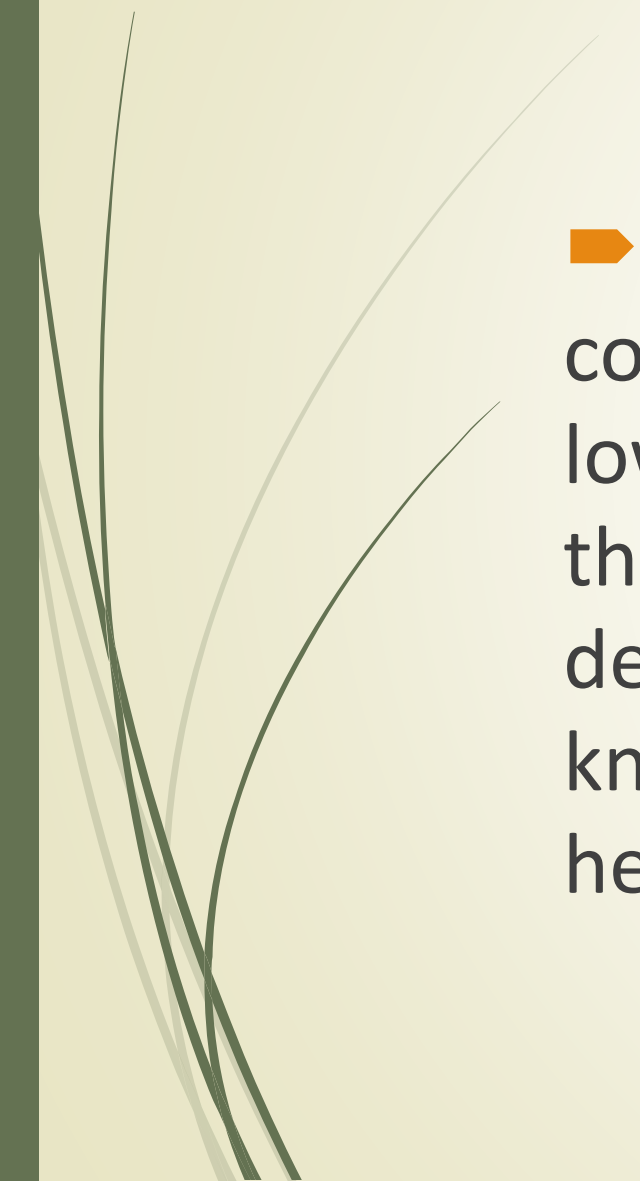



Barna Research Group

- ▶ Generation Z are much less likely to assert a religious identity
- ▶ 47% of Millennials believe evangelism is wrong (Christians)
- ▶ Only 24% of all Christians are said to be either Bible-engaged or Bible-centered. (This means only 24% of all Christians are engaged in the Bible to the extent they say the Bible is transforming their life)




➤ “Religion today is not transforming people; rather it is being transformed by the people. It is not raising the moral level of society; it is descending to society’s own level and congratulating itself that it has scored a victory because society is smilingly accepting its surrender.” – AW Tozer



➤ “The Church has surrendered her once lofty concept of God and has substituted for it one so low, so ignoble, as to be utterly unworthy of thinking, worshiping men. This she has not done deliberately, but little by little and without her knowledge; and her very unawareness only makes her situation all the more tragic. – AW Tozer



Ephesians 4:11-16

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- ¹¹ Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.



Ephesians 4:11-16

- ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. ¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.



What Do We as Christians Do?



Speak out (In love)



Vote



Engage



Romans 13:1-7

- Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. ² So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished.



Romans 13:1-7

- ³ For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. ⁴ The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong.

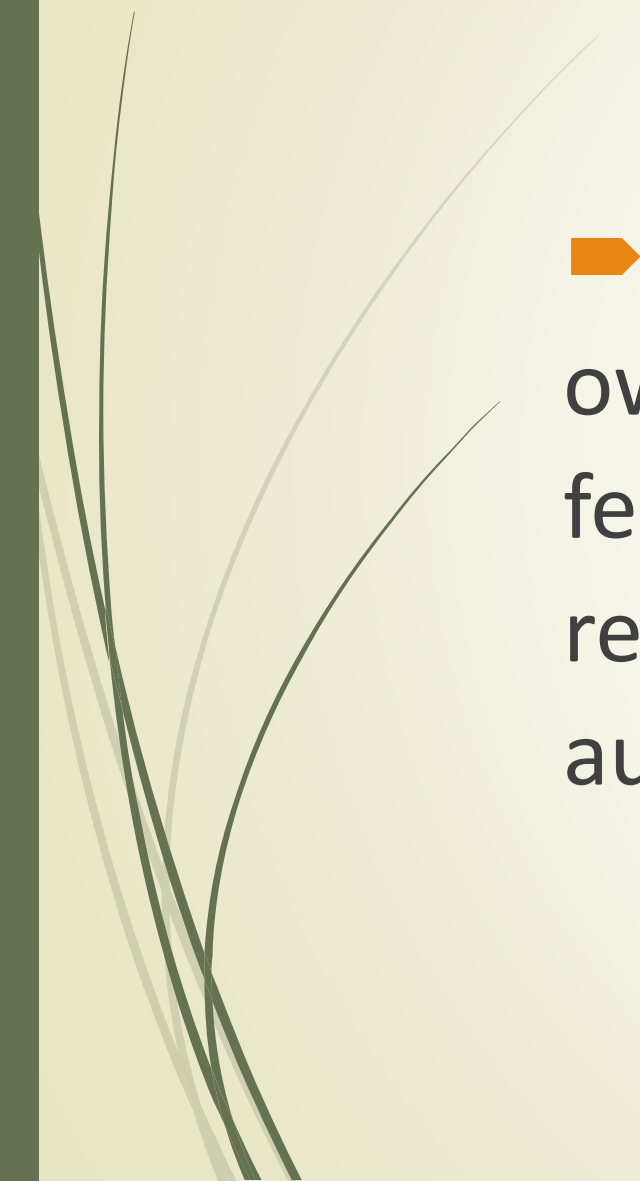


Romans 13:1-7

- ⁵ So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience. ⁶ Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they do. ⁷ Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority



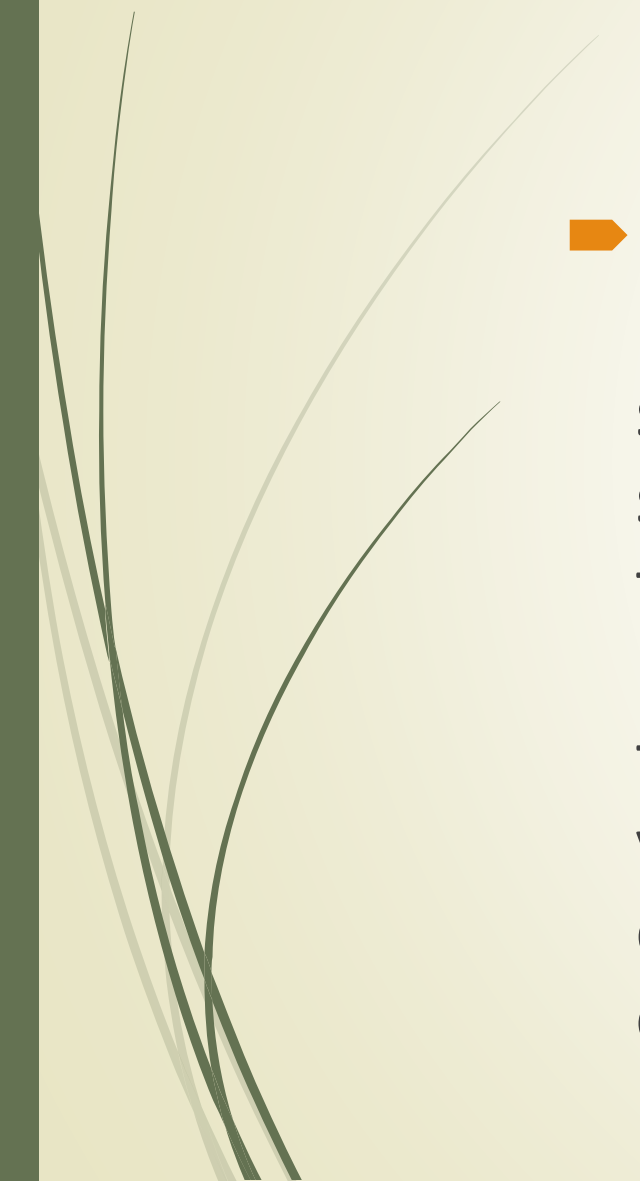
1. Honor & Respect Those in Authority



➤ Romans 13:7 - ⁷ Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority



1. Honor & Respect Those in Authority

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- 1 Peter 2:13-17 - ¹³ For the Lord's sake, submit to all human authority—whether the king as head of state, ¹⁴ or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right. ¹⁵ It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. ¹⁶ For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. ¹⁷ Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king.




1. Honor & Respect Those in Authority

- ▶ Part of honor and respect is submitting. This is not conditional on the person
- ▶ Submission can only be broken if submitting to a man would break God's law (either by action or inaction)
- ▶ Exodus 22:28 - ²⁸ "You must not dishonor God or curse any of your rulers.
- ▶ You cannot dishonor or curse your leaders



2. Pray for Them



➤ 1 Timothy 2:1-4 - I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. ² Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. ³ This is good and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth




2. Pray for Them

- ▶ Pray that God would reach them
- ▶ Understand God's goal (verses 3-4). God wants to see everyone saved and to understand the truth of the Gospel



3. Live Godly Lives and Do Good

- ▶ Love in word and deed
 - ▶ Share and live out the Gospel
 - ▶ Romans 12:21 - ²¹ Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.
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3. Live Godly Lives and Do Good

- ▶ 2 Corinthians 2:14 - ¹⁴ But thank God! He has made us his captives and continues to lead us along in Christ's triumphal procession. Now he uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume
- ▶ Good news from Barna: 67.8% of Americans said they are Bible-curious. Meaning they would like to know more about Scripture. That is 172 million adults

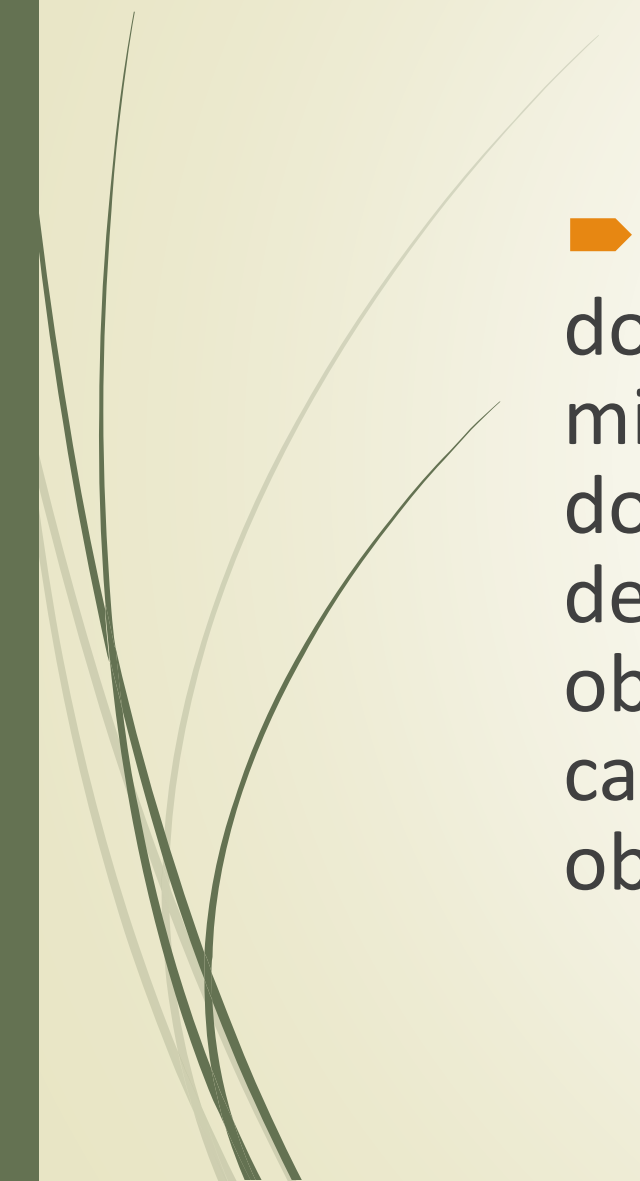


3. Live Godly Lives and Do Good

- Galatians 6:9 - ⁹ So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up
- If you want to change the political landscape of America, we must first change the spiritual landscape of America



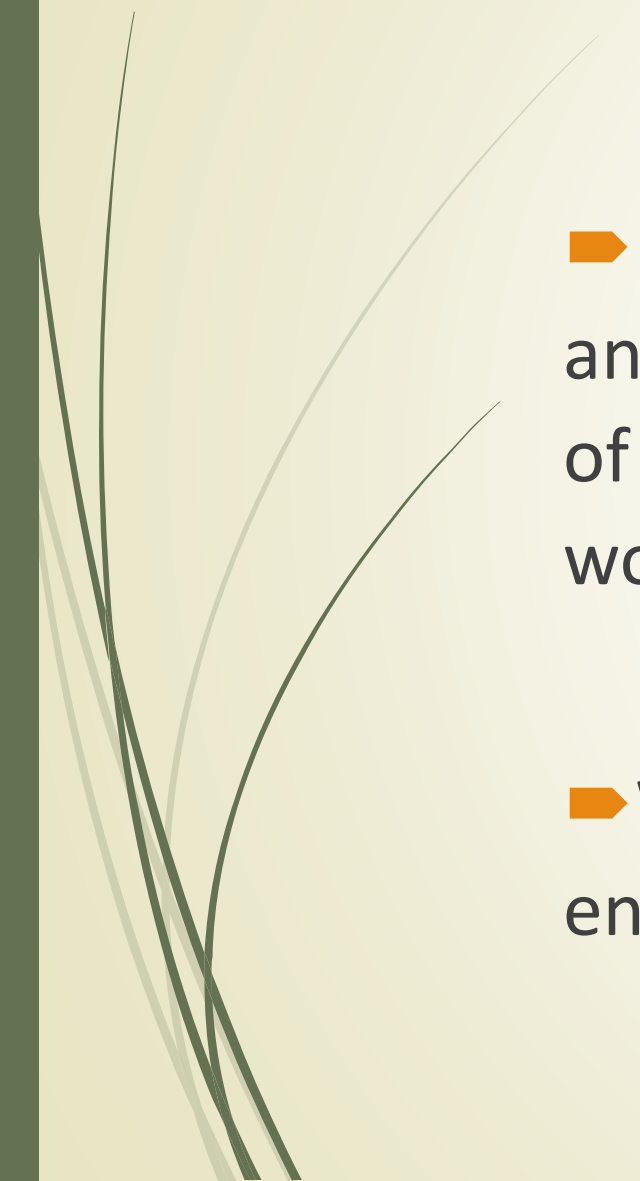
4. Realize No Man is Our Enemy



➡ 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 - ³ We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. ⁴ We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. ⁵ We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ



4. Realize No Man is Our Enemy

- ▶ Ephesians 6:12 - ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.
 - ▶ We need to be more active in fighting our spiritual enemies instead of fighting our political “enemies”
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Proverbs 11:11

- ¹¹ By the blessing [of the influence] of the upright the city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is torn down.