



Christian Citizenship

“You are the salt of the earth . . . You are the light of the world” (Mt. 5:13-16). One way to be salty and let our light shine is by being good citizens on earth. Our vocation as citizens of both the secular kingdom and God’s kingdom gives us the responsibility to proclaim God’s Word and care for our neighbors. We are called to engage the “public square” with our message of Christ’s mercy for all. Please pray for God’s will to be done... in Jesus’ name.

Totalitarians and Our Children

“We’re social creatures,” writes Karol Markowicz, “and we want to fit in with our friends and neighbors. And now, social media has opened the door to a forced conformity that we largely haven’t experienced in [America] before. We know each other’s opinions and ideas in a way we couldn’t have twenty years before. We know who stands out as different. We click ‘like’ to send the message that we’re on the same side. And we see who dares to dissent. Children are no different. They want to please, and they will repeat the lessons being pushed on them from every direction. Parents have to identify and stop the onslaught, and they have to do it now.”

Wokeness “might be new, [but] forced conformity and targeting children to push obedience to that conformity are not new concepts at all. It was the Italian dictator Benito Mussolini who coined the term totalitarian, or ‘totalitario’ in Italian. ‘Everything within the state, nothing outside the state, nothing against the state,’ he said. No dissent could be allowed.”

Totalitarian regimes, explains Markowicz, “always had to begin with children. Children were the great hope of the realized utopian future. They belonged to all of society—not just the family to which they were born. If they could lead the children to righteous thought, they could become the idealized society. If children could be convinced into the ideas the totalitarians wanted, their parents would follow. And if not, the disobedient parent could easily be removed from the equation.”

In a free country, writes Markowicz, parents don’t have to “pretend to believe the lies that kids are taught at school, lest they make themselves or their children a target. . . . You can and should explain to children that . . . America’s history is complicated, just like any other country’s history. You can and should reassert

the morals that matter in your family. You can and should teach your child to be himself or herself and not be coerced into other people’s opinions.” (Excerpted from *Stolen Youth: How Radicals Are Erasing Innocence and Indoctrinating a Generation* by Bethany Mandel and Karol Markowicz, 2023; 28-29, 46.)

What can we do? Resist the lie that children belong to all of us, to teachers and society at large. Believe that God entrusts children to the authority of fathers and mothers who are ultimately responsible for their earthly instruction and care of body and soul. Parents should encourage their children to question ideas and consider the consequences; be prepared to mentor in the way of the Lord; and do battle for their children’s sake, for example, against sex education or in-school transgendering practices. “Parents have to treat wokeism being forced on their children similarly to how they might treat a religion being dictated to them. The options are to remove their child from the place where wokeness is being prescribed . . . or to make their home life a deprogramming effort.”

Please pray for fathers and mothers, sons and daughters ... in Jesus’ name.

Restoration in Thought, Word, & Deed

Francis Maier is a senior fellow in Catholic Studies at the Ethics and Public Policy Center. He takes his faith seriously. He and his wife of 52 years have four children, one with Down syndrome, another who is adopted, and 11 grandchildren, three with serious disabilities. He writes, “These experiences obviously shape my views about the nature of marriage and the family, sex, abortion, transgenderism, and related issues. As for economic, foreign policy, judicial, and other matters: They’re clearly important. . . . But they’ve never been my main focus. . . . I believe that religion is the soul of every civilization. Protecting religious belief and practice is therefore my priority.”

Maier continues, “In the last eight decades we’ve seen the splitting of the atom; the sexual revolution; the marginalization of religion in public life; the rise of the administrative state; massive developments in science and technology, including the human genome project,

powerful AI [artificial intelligence], and invasive surveillance tools; a sharp decline in popular religious practice; and the transition of the United States from a continental republic to a *de facto* commercial and cultural empire with global influence.”

Accelerated technological change, explains Maier, “has disruptive effects on the stability of the culture and the psychological health of individuals. . . . We are living through a sea change unlike anything in the last 500 years.” In the face of this, says Maier, we should not “abandon serious scholarship and engagement of policy issues. We can’t just move to another solar system.” Many Americans, observes Maier, probably “believe that we live in a familiar country with a familiar history, familiar rules, familiar division of power, and a familiar personal role in governance through the ballot box. That country is exiting stage left, if it is not already gone. . . . We behaved ourselves into our current circumstances, and the only solution is the hard work of behaving ourselves out again.”

The family, believes Maier, is “the key to renewing a nation’s life.” We must protect the home because in a heartless world, it is our haven. Just saying this isn’t enough. “We also need to be practical and prescriptive. We need to propose real ways that people can actually experience the beauty and security of a healthy family.” Maier’s friend and colleague, Dr. Aaron Kheriaty, proposes that we create “networks of friendships that enable believers and their families to support each other.” He says “we need to be thinking in 50-year increments. This means planting mustard seeds that may not fully germinate in our lifetimes.” We need to be like “David facing the Goliath of a massively powerful totalitarian state.” Much like the Christians in Rome, we need to help people overcome their fear and find their courage. (Excerpted from “Revival in Thought, Word, and Deed by Fran Maier,” aaronkheriaty.substack, July 3, 2023; and “Rebellion, Not Retreat” by Aaron Kheriaty, Brownstone.org, July 3, 2023.)

What can we do? We can remember that Martin Luther and other reformers sought to reclaim Christian faith from cultural corruption. In the face of totalitarianism, Luther would have us remember our vocation as citizens who apply biblical truth to all of life and wield the Sword of the Spirit in daily living. We can hold accountable the “lesser magistrates” (mayor, sheriff, police, city council, and county supervisors) as we encourage them to uphold the rule of law and preserve human life against the destructive forces of chaos and anarchy. We can believe that faithfulness in

our vocations of father, mother, homemaker, pastor or physician, teacher or student, business owner or worker can help restore and rebuild families, communities, and society.

Please pray to be a David... in Jesus’ name.

Door to Freedom

Door to Freedom is a new organization formed to help people make sense of a rapidly changing and often confusing world. Door to Freedom informs us about the efforts of the World Health Organization (WHO) to take over management of public health emergencies.

The WHO is proposing to govern how pandemics and other public health emergencies are handled in the future. It would prescribe uniform medical treatments and restrictions for all—worldwide. The way this would be achieved is through two new legal documents that are now being negotiated: a *Pandemic Treaty*, and Amendments to its existing *International Health Regulations*. Door to Freedom provides tools needed to understand what the WHO is doing. Links are provided to drafts of the *Pandemic Treaty* and *International Health Regulations Amendment*. Also provided are “2 Minute Reads” on the Treaty and Amendments. Door to Freedom is building an extensive library of articles and videos with detailed information. Topics addressed include AI, CBDC, Censorship, Covid, Environmentalism, ESG, Ethics, Gain of Function, Global Biosecurity Agenda, Great Reset, Human Rights, International Health, Propaganda, Social Credit Score, Transhumanism, United Nations, Vaccine Passports, World Economic Forum, and World Health Organization (W.H.O). The creator of Door to Freedom is Meryl Nass, M.D., who is board certified in Internal Medicine.

What can we do? Visit Door to Freedom (www.doortofreedom.org). Sign up for weekly updates. Check out their extensive library of articles and videos with detailed information and opinions about the Pandemic Treaty and International Health Regulations now being negotiated by the W.H.O. Be alert to the ways basic human rights, which are legal rights that everyone has by virtue of being a human being, have been trampled during the past three years. Share copies of the 2 Minute Reads on the Treaty and Amendments.

Please pray for discernment and courage in the face of rapidly shifting dynamics in our nation and world... in Jesus’ name.

