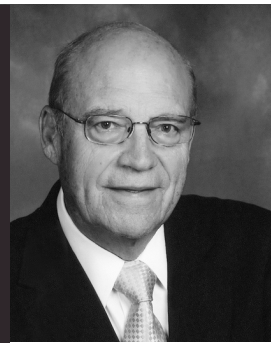




Dr. Fred Schwarz

The Schwarz Report

64 Years Defending Our Christian Faith



Dr. David Noebel

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Transgender Empire

by Christopher Rufo

The following is adapted from a talk delivered on September 12, 2023, at the Allan P. Kirby, Jr. Center for Constitutional Studies and Citizenship on Hillsdale's Washington, D.C., campus, as part of the AWC Family Foundation Lecture Series.

The transgender movement is pressing its agenda everywhere. Most publicly, activist teachers are using classrooms to propagandize on its behalf and activist health professionals are promoting the mutilation of children under the euphemistic banner of “gender-affirming care.” The sudden and pervasive rise of this movement provokes two questions: where did it come from, and how has it proved so successful? The story goes deeper than most Americans know.

In the late 1980s, a group of academics, including Judith Butler, Gayle Rubin, Sandy Stone, and Susan Stryker, established the disciplines of “queer theory” and “transgender studies.” These academics believed gender to be a “social construct” used to oppress racial and sexual minorities, and they denounced the traditional categories of man and woman as a false binary that was conceived to support the system of “heteronormativity”—i.e., the white, male, heterosexual power structure. This system, they argued, had to be ruthlessly deconstructed. And the best way to achieve this, they argued further, was to promote transgenderism. If men can become women, and women men, they believed, the natural structure of Creation could be toppled.

Susan Stryker, a male-to-female transgender professor currently at the University of Arizona, revealed the general thrust and tone of transgender ideology in his Kessler Award Lecture at the City University of New York in 2008, describing his work as “a secular sermon that unabashedly advocates embracing a disruptive and refigurative genderqueer or transgender power as a spiritual resource for social and environmental transformation.” In Stryker’s best-known essay, “My Words to Victor Frankenstein above the Village of Chamounix: Performing Transgender Rage,” he contends that the “transsexual body” is a “technological construction” that represents a war against Western society. “I am a transsexual, and therefore I am a monster,” Stryker writes. And this monster, he continues, is destined to channel its “rage and revenge” against the “naturalized heterosexual order”; against “traditional family values”; and against the “hegemonic oppression” of nature itself.

It is clear from this and from other transgender scholarship that the transgender movement is inherently political. Its reconstruction of personal identity is meant to advance a collective political reconstruction or transformation. Some trans activists even view their movement as the future of Marxism. In a collection of essays titled *Transgender Marxism*, activist writer Rosa Lee argues that trans people can serve as the new vanguard of the proletariat, promising to abolish heteronormativity in the same way that orthodox Marxism promised to abolish capitalism.

“In a different era,” Lee writes,

Marxists spoke of the construction of a “new socialist man” as a crucial task in the broader process of socialist construction. Today, in a time of both rising fascism and an emergent socialist movement, our challenge is transsexualising our Marxism. We should think [of] the project of transition to communism in our time—communisation—as including the transition to new communist selves, new ways of being and relating to one another.

This is the great project of the transgender movement: to abolish the distinctions of man and woman, to transcend the limitations established by God and nature, and to connect the personal struggle of trans individuals to the political struggle to transform society in a radical way.

From the Fringes to the Center

The trans movement was hatched, then, on the fringes of American academia. But how did it move so quickly to the center of American public life? Like many other things, it began with a flood of cash, as some of the wealthiest people in the country began devoting enormous sums of money to promote transgenderism.

One of these people is Jennifer Pritzker, who was born James Pritzker in 1950. After serving several years in the US Army, Pritzker went into business, having inherited a sizable part of the Hyatt hotel fortune. In 2013, he announced a male-to-female gender transition and was celebrated in the press as the “first trans billionaire.” Almost immediately, he began donating untold millions to universities, schools, hospitals, and activist organizations to promote queer theory and trans medical experiments.

This money was allied with political power, as Pritzker’s cousin, Illinois Democrat Governor J.B. Pritzker, signed legislation in 2019, his first year in office, to inject gender theory into the state education curriculum and to direct state Medicaid funds toward transgender surgeries. Speaking before an audience of trans activists, he proclaimed:

[O]ur state government is firmly on your side, on the side of every gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer person in the state of Illinois. . . . Those of you in this room know better than anyone that marriage equality was never the endgame. . . . We’re gonna make sure that all transgender Illinoisans are ensured their basic human rights and that healthcare services are provided to them so that they can thrive.

Here’s an example of how this combination of well-funded activism and political influence works in practice: Pritzker-funded activists at Lurie Children’s Hospital (the largest children’s hospital in Chicago) provide local schools with training, materials, and personnel who promote gender transitions for children, using the hospital’s reputation to give their ideology a scientific veneer. And the more one investigates, the worse it gets. Children are exposed, for instance, not only to trans ideology, but to concepts such as “kink” (unusual tastes in sexual behavior), “BDSM” (bondage, domination, submission, and masochism), binders to flatten breasts, and prosthetic penises.

Lurie Children’s Hospital, through its outreach presentations in Chicago public schools, encourages teachers and school administrators to support “gender diversity” in their districts, automatically “affirm” students

who announce sexual transitions, and “communicate a non-binary understanding of gender” to children in the classroom. The objective, as one version of the presentation suggests, is to disrupt the “entrenched [gender] norms in western society” and facilitate the transition to a more “gender creative” world. School districts are encouraged to designate “Gender Support Coordinators” to help facilitate children’s sexual and gender transitions, which, under the recommended “confidentiality” policy, can be kept secret from parents and families.

In effect, this results in a sophisticated school-to-gender-clinic pipeline. Teachers, counselors, doctors, and activists on social media and elsewhere—many of whom are employed or subsidized by members of the Pritzker family—push children in the direction of what Chicago-area “detransitioner” Helena Kerschner, recalling her own experience, calls “the trans identity rabbit hole.” And despite frequent claims to the contrary, this is not a temporary or reversible process. Of the children who begin puberty blockers, the medical literature suggests that approximately 95 percent move on to cross-sex hormones, and that 50 percent of the females who begin cross-sex hormone treatments move on to “trans-affirming” surgeries.

—*Imprimis*, September 2023

Those Unwanted Arabs

by Andrea Widburg

One of the things the left is desperately downplaying as it demands that Israel allow Hamas and its supporters to go unpunished and, ideally, cede to the Arabs the entire land of Israel is the fact that the surrounding Arab nations are refusing to take Gazans in as refugees. The reason is that nobody wants these “Palestinian” Arabs who have proven to be as destructive to Arab nations as they are to Israel.

When Barack Obama’s policies triggered the disastrous Arab Spring, with massive upheaval in the Muslim lands of Africa and the Middle East, Europe opened its doors to refugees from those wars. Europe did this even though its cultural connection to these refugees was minimal to nonexistent. It was, the Europeans felt, the right thing to do. (It’s also proved to have been a remarkably stupid thing to do, as Enoch Powell predicted, but that’s another story.)

Here in America, we’re told that our border is meaningless because we have a moral obligation to welcome in refugees

from around the world—and not even refugees from war. Just refugees from places these migrants don't like very much.

We are required to accept their poverty and pathology, their sex trafficking and gangs. That these people have no cultural connection to America and do not share the core values that are the only thing binding one American to another is irrelevant. We must do this, we're told, because it's the right thing to do. (And as happened to Europe, we will soon learn that it was a remarkably stupid thing to do, but that's also another story.)

Intriguingly, no one in the Muslim world seems to be burdened with this moral sense that the right thing for them to do is take in their co-religionists from Gaza. After all, Hamas is telling the world that thousands of Gazans have already died and that tens of thousands more will die. Yet no one wants them.

Of course, Hamas doesn't want them to leave, a policy it's enforcing with ever-increasing, murderous brutality.

We can understand why Hamas doesn't want civilians to leave: Its greatest weapon in any war is propaganda, and there is no propaganda more effective than dead bodies purportedly killed at Israeli hands.

But again, why won't the surrounding Arab nations—which have a lot of empty land—take in these downtrodden, huddled masses purportedly yearning to breathe free?

Well, it's because they're horrible. Think Rashida Tlaib multiplied by a couple of million. That's the message in a powerful short video from The Liberty Daily, which looks to history to explain why Muslims hate those "Palestinian" Arabs.

By the way, if you're wondering why I've started using scare quotes around "Palestinians," here's the reason: History shows that the name, which implies a tie to the land going back millennia, is a lie. These people have no historical ties to a place Rome conquered in 70 A.D. and then named in honor of the Jews' ancient—and vanished—enemy, the Philistines. That colonial name lingered for another 1,800-plus years.

Significantly, almost all the current Arab residents have roots that go back, at most, a couple of hundred years. They styled themselves as "Palestinians" only in the 1960s while working with the Soviets during the Cold War. To the extent the implications of the name are dishonest...scare quotes. As the left repeatedly shows, words and names matter, so let's get the names right. Confucius would approve.

—*American Thinker*, November 5, 2023

CO2 & Plants

by Jim Hollingsworth

Carbon dioxide has been called a poison, yet it is actually the sustainer of all life on Earth. Plants grow from the carbon in carbon dioxide in the air, and animals grow from the carbon in the plants they eat. So carbon dioxide cannot be a poison.

Turn on the television any day of the week, and there is likely to be some discussion or news about some aspect of energy use.

- * Everyone needs to buy an electric vehicle.
- * End the use of fossil fuels by 2035.
- * Every home with a solar panel (California).
- * Cancel the Keystone XL Pipeline.
- * No more coal.
- * Eliminate the use of natural gas.
- * No gas stoves.
- * No gas furnaces.
- * Battery-powered trucks and buses.

All these programs are based on one important foundation: the belief that as carbon dioxide levels rise, the earth will get warmer, and will continue to warm until, with positive feedbacks, it burns up with us on it.

Few have ever taken the time to see if the foundation upon which they are operating is actually true. Few even dare to ask a working scientist for the truth in the matter.

The truth is that carbon dioxide is needed by every plant on the Earth. Trees, bushes, and plants of all kinds are made mainly of carbon and hydrogen, and the carbon comes from the tiny amount of carbon dioxide that is in the air.

At the present time our atmosphere is made up of about 417.06 parts per million (ppm) of carbon dioxide. That isn't much, but from that tiny portion comes all the plants we can see around us, from vegetables in our gardens to the trees that shade our yards or the ones on the mountains from which we harvest the lumber to build our homes.

There is no question that carbon dioxide is increasing. It has been increasing for about 200 years. The only result has been a greening of the Earth. In fact, with higher levels of carbon dioxide, things grow better. Even the deserts are getting greener.

Most officials have continued to blame man for increased carbon dioxide and rising temperatures. It is far more likely that rising temperatures have been caused by changes in the sun. Those changes have continued to warm the oceans, and as they have warmed, they have given up quantities of carbon dioxide. There is about 50

times more carbon dioxide in the ocean than there is in the atmosphere. The oceans are deep, and they change temperature slowly, so they will continue to give up carbon dioxide for a long time. In fact, there are methane compounds (called clathrates) at the bottom of the ocean that include ice.

They tell us that this year is the warmest the Earth has ever been. Even if that were true (and it is not), it would amount to only a small portion of a degree. When the temperature goes from 100 degrees in summer to minus 30 degrees in winter, a part of a degree would hardly appear to be a problem.

Not only that, but the Earth has been a lot warmer in the past, with a lot more carbon dioxide. Even within recorded history the Earth has been warmer in the past (1936).

Every time there is some kind of a disaster, we are told that it was caused by climate change and that man is the main cause. Even some children have gotten into the act, with one challenging the world with her comments—“how dare you?”

One group of children in Montana sued the state over climate change and actually won the case. This is hard to believe.

The numbers, however, do not support what they have been saying. None of the natural disasters has increased in recent years. There have not been more floods, hurricanes, droughts, or wildfires in recent history. These have all gone down in frequency. Some disasters, like hurricanes, have become more expensive, but that is primarily because many beautiful and expensive homes have been built in the natural paths of these storms. The storms themselves have actually decreased in frequency.

Two thousand five saw one of the worst natural disasters with the Katrina hurricane. The city of New Orleans was mainly flooded. Many people lost their lives. Yet, as far as hurricanes go, this one was only a Category 3, not one of the worst. It seemed so bad that even worse storms were predicted for the next year. But there were actually no more serious hurricanes for the next ten years (Hurricane Harvey, 2017).

It is bad enough that many of these programs have been built on a false foundation. In truth, many of them have not been really beneficial.

Large solar farms are built in the desert, but in just a few years, the projects have failed.

Wind turbines wear out, catch fire, and break down totally. They presently cannot be recycled and must be

buried. The only parts that can be recycled are in the generator.

One city bought several electric buses but in just a short time quit using them as impractical.

Electric vehicles may be practical to drive from home to office and back again, but they are not practical on long trips. It is necessary to stop every few hours and charge the batteries, and sometimes it is difficult to find a proper charging station.

Those who have lived near the coast have seen their cars flooded with sea water, then their cars caught fire as their batteries shorted out.

Not only that, but the driving range is radically reduced when driving in summer (air-conditioning) or winter (heater). With an internal combustion engine, the waste heat is removed with the radiator, and that same heat is used to heat the car inside.

Electric vehicles were manufactured about the turn of the twentieth century, but people quit using them after the internal combustion engine was invented.

Modern civilization has been built on the wise use of energy. The first oil that was refined into kerosene maybe saved the whales, since whale oil was no longer needed for kerosene lamps. (First kerosene made from coal, called “coal oil.”)

Our electricity is primarily produced by hydroelectric, coal, nuclear, and natural gas. Our cars run on gasoline, and we drive across the country without giving it much thought.

Our fertilizer, which is so vital for agriculture, is manufactured using natural gas (methane, CH₄). This has allowed our agriculture to soar. If we quit using natural gas in this way, much of the world will simply starve.

They say they want to eliminate fossil fuels. They do not know what they are talking about. Someone has documented over 6,000 things made from fossil fuels. Stand in any aisle in the grocery store and imagine no plastic, no plastic containers, no plastic bags, nothing. Even some of the foods we eat are made from fossil fuels.

Our highways are made from fossil fuels, our roofs covered with tar-based roofing. Our fences are made of vinyl, our plumbing of vinyl. Much of our siding is vinyl, a form of plastic.

Those who want to eliminate carbon dioxide need to find out why carbon dioxide is so important before they try to move ahead.

—*American Thinker*, November 3, 2023

Digital Currency

by Scott S. Powell

America in the twenty-first century has been on an accelerating descent not unlike what befell ancient Rome. For some four centuries Rome's Senate and constitution provided continuity which sustained the Roman Republic through various challenges. But in the end, what befell Rome from barbarian invasion, political corruption, and mobs that were manipulated and used by its Caesars, was a rampage against reason and freedom, leading to the Republic's demise and transition to a centralized imperial authority under emperors.

America's style and state of political decline and cultural degeneration differ in many ways from that of ancient Rome, but the big picture has striking similarities.

The downward spiral of America is punctuated by: 1) massive corruption of elites inside and outside government who go along with manipulating the masses through creating and sustaining narratives that benefit them while keeping citizens largely ignorant about what is really going down, including threats to their health and their very survival; 2) the loss of confidence in the integrity of US elections, which demoralizes the public and undermines the legitimacy of government; 3) the erosion of privacy, property rights, and freedom; 4) the Biden administration's deliberate open-border policy to facilitate the influx of millions of migrants for political purposes; 5) the politization of the judiciary and the attendant two-tiered justice system that has undermined the rule of law and order; and 6) the atomization of American society and the deterioration of family and community resulting from elite narratives that divide people—primarily around race and gender; and 7) uncontrollable government profligacy and accompanying kickback corruption—the continuing trajectory of which is certain to bring insolvency and collapse of the US monetary system, sooner than later.

In the last thirty years, the United Nations, and the New World Order (NWO) organizations, such as the World Economic Forum (WEF) have promoted and legitimized “replacement migration” policies. Adopted by the EU and its member countries—replacement migration primarily drew immigrants from the Islamic Middle East and North Africa. As a result, the population of Muslims in Europe has tripled, while Christianity's influence has been receding. Although migration of Muslims to Europe has slowed in recent years, their

relative numbers continue to grow fast due to birth rates that are 54% higher than that of host country families. Islam is clearly on a path to becoming ascendant over Christianity in Europe in the near future. And the Muslim migrants' open aspiration to impose their religion and its Sharia law on their host countries is already creating havoc in dozens of European cities and will undoubtedly contribute to the destabilization and collapse of national sovereignty.

In the US, replacement migration operates with the same purpose of transforming and destabilizing the national sovereignty of America. A small portion of the eight-million diverse migrants who have entered the United States during the first three years of the Biden administration are potentially hostile foreign agents. They may well become sleeper cells whose mission, once activated, is to strike infrastructure targets within United States upon directives from their sponsors, be that that China, Iran, or other adversaries. Even if the number of those hostile foreign agents is as small as 1% of that eight-million migrant number, that would mean some 80,000 terrorists could simultaneously conduct military operations within the United States, coinciding with hostile action from their sponsor countries against likely targets, such as Taiwan or Israel.

An important part of the globalist agenda to advance the New World Order is to weaken countries by exacerbating division within and then break down the old system of national sovereignties as a last step prior to more aggressive stages embracing global governance. Division within the United States has been fomented by Critical Race Theory (CRT) training and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) policies; the imposition of ESG mandates on most all public companies from influence and proxy voting from the largest shareholders, such as Blackrock and Vanguard; the destruction and rewriting of history; the rise of a new secular privileged class operating in academia, government agencies, and social media that determine what can be said in public discourse. And most recently, the transgender movement is being used as just one more interest group that brings division and weakens military readiness and the general fabric of society.

Another necessary component of the New World Order agenda is sustaining the secular and surrogate religion of “climate change” as the primary means to transform energy sourcing in the US and Europe. Climate change belief—based more on dogma than science—stresses that moderating climate change requires

reduction of CO2 emissions by substituting reliance on oil and gas hydrocarbons with sustainable energy, primarily wind and solar power, which is at the heart of the Green New Deal. The Green New Deal now goes beyond reducing CO2 emissions and includes reducing methane and nitrogen emissions. This doesn't just mean higher energy costs that accompany intermittent and unreliable wind and solar power. It also means agricultural transformation, significant reduction in cattle farming, beef production and drastic reduction in use of nitrogen-based fertilizers—the latter of which leads to dramatic drops in crop yields, which cause starvation and depopulation.

It is all part of the globalists agenda to achieve their stated goal of a 50% reduction in the world's population—the elimination of some four billion people.

The greatest threat to people's freedom is their loss of privacy that is being accelerated through expanding applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI). In fact, the global elite acknowledge that privacy will no longer be a right in the future because it is incompatible with their plans for creating a total surveillance state utilizing social credit scoring tied to central bank digital currencies (CBDCs). At present eight countries have developed and are implementing CBDCs: China, India, Brazil, Nigeria, Jamaica, Singapore, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, and the Bahamas. The United States is now one of over one hundred other countries in the development stage of CBDCs.

It is one thing to have digital records for security and convenience. The IRS receives and tracks digital records of most all financial transactions that involve American citizens, and that information is shared with the Social Security, Medicare, and other government agencies. The digital age is already quite advanced.

What is unacceptable under the US Constitution is the intrusion of government into citizens private lives. The total surveillance state and social credit scoring tied to CBDCs must be rejected by American citizens. It is the critical firewall needed to stop, unwind, and reverse America's downward spiral and wrest America from the tentacles of the New World Order and globalist control.

—*American Thinker*, December 5, 2023

Adam Smith's Solution to Poverty by Rainer Zitelmann

Adam Smith's last will and testament left his nephew David Douglas feeling disappointed. He received far less than he had hoped, and the will confirmed what Smith's friends had long suspected: The Scottish economist, who always earned an above-average income, had donated almost his entire fortune to the poor, mostly in secret.

Smith, who was baptized on June 16, 1723 (his birth date is unknown), is best known as a champion of capitalism. Yet he wasn't free of the intellectual's resentment of the rich. In his two main works, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* (1759) and *An Inquiry Into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* (1776), it's hard to find a passage where he speaks positively about the rich and powerful. Merchants and landlords are almost exclusively painted as people who want to assert their selfish interests and create monopolies. You will find clearer praise for capitalists in *The Communist Manifesto* than in Smith's works.

Many passages exhibit sympathy for the condition of the "poor," by which he didn't only mean those in poverty, but also the "not-rich"—the majority of the population, who must exchange their labor for wages to earn a living.

"Sympathy"—today we would call it empathy—was the central pillar of Smith's moral philosophy. And Smith's sympathy was, above all, for the working poor.

A famous passage from *The Wealth of Nations*: "No society can surely be flourishing and happy, of which the far greater part of the members are poor and miserable. It is but equity, besides, that they who feed, clothe, and lodge the whole body of the people, should have such a share of the produce of so much of their own labor as to be themselves tolerably well fed, clothed, and lodged."

Today, these words are sometimes misinterpreted to claim that Smith advocated government-led redistribution of wealth. That wasn't his intention, and he certainly wasn't calling for social revolution. Poverty, according to Smith, wasn't preordained, and above all, he didn't trust government. He points out that only economic growth can raise living standards. Continuous economic growth is the only way to raise wages, and a stagnant economy

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leads to falling wages. Elsewhere he writes that famines are the result of government price controls.

While Karl Marx claimed nearly a century later that capitalism would lead to growing impoverishment for workers, Smith predicted that economic growth would lead to an increase in living standards.

When *The Wealth of Nations* was published, capitalism was in its infancy. At the time, 90% of the global population lived in extreme poverty. And poverty meant something different back then: It is estimated that about 20% of the inhabitants of England and France weren't able to work at all due to malnutrition. At most they had enough energy for a few hours of slow walking a day, which condemned most of them to a life of begging.

Smith was right about the effects of economic growth, as the past few decades have confirmed. In recent years, the decline in poverty has accelerated at a pace unmatched in any previous period of human history. In 1981 the absolute poverty rate, which the World Bank currently defines as living on less than \$1.90 a day, was 42.7%. By 2000, it had fallen to 27.8%, and today it is less than 9%.

Smith predicted that only an expansion of markets could lead to increased prosperity. This is precisely what has happened since the fall of socialist planned economies. In China, the introduction of private property and market reforms reduced the share of people living in extreme poverty from 88% in 1981 to less than 1% today. Free-market economist Zhang Weiyong of Peking University says, "China's rapid economic development over the past four decades is a victory of Adam Smith's concept of the market." Contrary to prevailing interpretations in the West, Mr. Zhang says economic growth and declining poverty in China weren't "because of the state, but in spite of the state" caused by the introduction of private property.

Smith's plan to lift people out of poverty didn't involve the abolition of private property or redistribution by the state. Neither did he advocate a libertarian utopia—he believed governments played an important role. Nevertheless, in 1755, two decades before *The Wealth of Nations* appeared, he warned in a lecture: "Man is generally considered by statesmen and projectors as the materials of a sort of political mechanics. Projectors disturb nature in the course of her operations in human affairs; and it requires no more than to let her alone, and give her fair play in the pursuit of her ends, that she may establish her own designs. . . . All governments which thwart this natural course, which force things into another channel, or which endeavor to arrest the progress of society at a particular

point, are unnatural, and to support themselves are obliged to be oppressive and tyrannical." Prophetic words.

Smith showed the world how to overcome poverty. He didn't leave much to his nephew, but his great legacy is showing the world that only economic growth can lift people out of poverty, and that the most important condition for that is economic freedom.

—*The Wall Street Journal*, June 16, 2023



The New House Speaker

by E. Jeffrey Ludwig

In his remarks after being elected House speaker, Mike Johnson said, "I believe that Scripture, the Bible, is very clear: that God is the one who raises up those in authority. He raised up each of you. All of us." He then referenced certain historical realities that re-affirm the intimate relationship between our history and the understanding that our identity as a country has not been and should not be separated from our closeness to Almighty God. He recounted how the motto "In God We Trust" was placed in the House chamber as a rebuke to communism, which is associated with atheism, and highlighted the Declaration of Independence's use of "Creator." He also noted the presence of Moses on the wall of the House chamber. Later, on the Capitol steps he cited Romans 5:3-4 in the Holy Bible, which says, "Suffering produces perseverance, perseverance produces character, and character produces hope." As an interpretive afterthought, he added, "What we need in this country is more hope."

If we take these comments seriously, we see that Speaker Johnson has a vision of governance motivated by four goals that will point the way to more creative governance, toward governance with greater integrity than we have had for a long time, and governance that solves problems rather than multiplies our problems.

First, there must be a kind of spiritual renaissance, whereby the country acknowledges again its closeness as a socio-political economic entity to Almighty God himself. Second, we must acknowledge that even though the Soviet Union collapsed, our opposition to atheistic communism must continue unabated. Communist ideals as announced by Karl Marx and appearing in various updated disguises must continue to be shunned and

fought. Third, we must understand that morality did not begin and end with our laws, but follows from the reality that the world we live in, and the very idea of there being different countries, comes from God. If we look at the story of the Tower of Babel in the Bible, we see that the globalist ideals of the tower-builders were pure folly, and that the world was purposely divided into different language groups, people groups, tribes, and nations.

Further, our legal system, as was recognized by William Blackstone, the father of modern law, originated not with our Constitution, but in natural law, which was revealed by biblical values going back to ancient biblical covenants, including the Ten Commandments and many of the 613 commandments given to the world by God through His servant Moses.

Fourth, with great and godly sensitivity, Speaker Johnson quoted Romans to remind the press and the population that government does not exist to project burdens and fear. It does not exist to oppress and depress the population with taxes and invasive rules that crush the spirit and add to the many stresses of everyday life. Rather, integrity; satisfaction in independent living by the sweat of one's brow; and the favored effects of loving relatedness with our families, neighbors (far and near), and fellow citizens take perseverance, but that relentless commitment is well worth it. The fruit of that commitment is hope. Government should be a cooperative partner with the citizenry in inducing that hope, and not the creator of an obstacle course to hope. Ever-increasing governmental rules over our day-to-day activities lead to a collectivity that diminishes hope.

Too often, our laws are passed with the false imprimatur that those laws or the administrative rulings of government are opening doors of opportunity or opening paths to a safer environment or safer day-by-day living in our institutions. Inherent hypocrisies are swept under the rug. Laws are assumed to have been influenced by lobbyists and other “favors owed.”

Self-interest of those in power will always affect governmental decisions, but it is a question of degree. A government and society that is *intrinsically God-oriented* receives His love as a reward and His punishments for wrongdoing. Thus, announcing his love for God, as Johnson does, means that he is committed to seeking righteous policies and laws and that he will resist pandering to special interests and to ideologies that heap contempt on the moral foundations of the USA. God

rejects wasteful spending of other people's money (remember how the Pharaohs spent egregious sums to build those pyramids!), and this restraint thus also gives hope. Hope is allied to wisdom, and wisdom comes from the ethical and spiritual principles of the Bible.

But instead of seeing Johnson's Christian faith as calling the populace to moral renewal, the critics are quick to label his Christian identity as “Christian nationalism.” With that so-called nationalism, there is an attempt to connote a dimension of force, of a power play that threatens the liberty and even peacefulness of our country. A recent article negatively depicted Johnson's views by stating, “The political ideology that seeks to merge American and Christian identities is deeply embedded in American society. . . . The most violent expressions, such as what we saw at the January 6 insurrection, get most of the attention. But the more subtle ones—like state legislative efforts to promote the teaching of the Bible in public schools or to require the posting of ‘In God We Trust’ in public schools and other public places—are also dangerous in that they perpetuate the false narrative that to be a true American one must be Christian — and often a certain type of Christian.” We can see how the writers juxtapose the false idea of Jan. 6 as a violent Christian expression with the idea of exclusivity and the suppression of freedom of religion in our country by Christians. Thus, Johnson is depicted as dangerous to the peace and tranquility of the republic rather than as a voice of integrity and hope, which he is.

We see, then, that Johnson's words are non-threatening and non-militaristic and bespeak a determination to focus upon increased integrity in the halls of government. Our laws should reflect the cause of righteousness, which resists the siren songs of the lobbyists and the troublemakers who wish to saturate our culture with radical ideologies, wasteful and excessive spending, and extensions of governmental power over a freedom-loving people. These wholesome and eternal values are the ones he seeks to move forward by being “a Christian.” He is not a spokesman of an arbitrary and unconstitutional power-grab by faithful Christians. He wants our land to become a more righteous place and the government to demonstrate greater integrity and consistency with our founding values. As a Christian, he would resist and overpower power-grabs by the left.

—*American Thinker*, November 8, 2023