

SALT & LIGHT MINISTRY

Preserving Our Christian Culture
Through Citizenship

for Pastors & Concerned Citizens



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PROVIDING THE RESOURCES TO RECLAIM OUR JUDEO-CHRISTIAN HERITAGE THROUGH RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” -2 Chronicles 7:14

There is an increasing trend in our culture to promote tolerance of just about any sort of belief system or behavior except for beliefs and behaviors that have the Bible as their foundation. Beginning in the 1960’s when the Supreme Court struck down school prayer (without citing a single legal precedent) an imaginary wall of separation between church and state has been gradually constructed. As a result, the Christian influence in politics, education and society in general has been diminished. The church’s relative absence from the public arena has allowed unfortunate consequences, including rejection/disavowal of our history as a Christian nation, scorn for biblical truth, denial of First Amendment freedoms and, increasingly, persecution of Christians. We are clearly in a spiritual battle.

It is essential that God’s people be armed with His truth and equipped to engage in the battle. Sitting on the sidelines is not an option. Jesus said, “He who is not with me is against me.” (Matt. 12:30)

The purpose of a Salt & Light citizenship ministry is to infuse the public domains of government and education with Christian principles and values. This manual will help you understand its nature, necessity, and methods. We recognize that once you become convinced of the appropriateness of having such a ministry at your church, you may need help to begin and then sustain it. That’s where the Salt & Light Council comes in. The Council is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and provides support, guidance, and resources. We are here to serve you.

WHAT IS A SALT & LIGHT MINISTRY?

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.” -Matthew 5:13-14

A Salt & Light citizenship ministry seeks to reclaim and preserve our Judeo-Christian heritage through responsible citizenship. It is designed to be led by church volunteers, with minimal pastoral oversight. The name comes from Matthew 5:13-14 wherein Jesus told his disciples that they were to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. A simple way to remember the primary means to accomplish our purposes is through the acronym PETER.

PRAY - We are a prayer ministry first. We pray for spiritual revival; we pray for our country and those in authority.

EDUcate - We educate our members, enabling them to apply a biblical worldview to all areas of life, with emphasis on the proper roles of government and American citizens.

TAKE ACTION - We take action on topical issues and proposed legislation that have the most potential to influence our society for good or evil.

ELECTIONS - We distribute non-partisan election information so that our members will be equipped to vote in accordance with their biblical values; we register new voters.

RESTORATION - We repent and call upon God to bring healing and restoration to our nation, in accordance with 2 Chronicles 7:14.

WHY IS A SALT & LIGHT CITIZENSHIP MINISTRY NEEDED?

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” -Ephesians 6:12

Salt & Light citizenship ministries are needed at churches across America because the future of our nation is at stake. Dr. Kenyn Cureton of the Family Research Council said, “...*the battle to defend the faith, the value of human life, the biblical definition of marriage, our Judeo-Christian heritage, and a host of other important moral issues, is not just a political battle, it is a spiritual battle—and the prize is the America our children and their children will inherit.*”

Satan is attacking the three-pronged foundation upon which God has established society, specifically the family, the church, and the government.

Satan is attacking the family by:

- perverting the concept of marriage, which God created to be between one man and one woman only
- also perverting the picture of the family as He has ordained it
- usurping parental responsibilities and transferring the role and responsibilities to others, including the government
- undermining parental authority
- promoting abortion, sexual promiscuity and pornography

Satan is attacking the Church by:

- defaming and discrediting it
- marginalizing it
- silencing it
- deceiving it with false doctrine and warped ideologies such as tolerance of sin and acceptance of same-sex “marriage”
- falsely applying the concept of separation of church and state

Satan is attacking the biblical model of government by:

- encouraging us to view government as a god, able to cure our social ills and our economic woes
- detaching our government from the moral foundation intended by our Founding Fathers
- expanding government into areas never intended by God, such as using tax dollars to fund activities that violate our biblical values
- judicial activism, whereby judges violate our Constitution and oppose the moral values upon which it is based

ARE THERE PARTICULAR ISSUES ON WHICH A SALT & LIGHT CITIZENSHIP MINISTRY FOCUSES?

There are five platforms that we consider the foundation of a Salt and Light Citizenship ministry.

LIFE - Human life is sacred and precious. Therefore, we will stand in opposition to abortion, euthanasia, and embryonic stem cell research.

MARRIAGE - Marriage is the joining of one man and one woman only. We will support traditional marriage and oppose the adoption of all alternative definitions.

THE FAMILY - The family is the basic building block of society, and demonstrably the best environment for raising the next generation. Therefore, we will support all efforts to strengthen the family and oppose undermining parental authority or the integrity of the family.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION - Freedom of religion is guaranteed in our Constitution. We will oppose any infringement of this right and any artificially imposed obstacles to our responsibility to preach the gospel.

SUPPORT OF ISRAEL - God promises blessings to those who look out for His chosen people, the Jews. “*I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you.*” We will support Israel and oppose radical Islam. Similarly, we will oppose the establishment

or acceptance of Sharia Law in our country, which is a means of enslaving, not liberating, people.

IS THERE A BIBLICAL MANDATE FOR A SALT & LIGHT CITIZENSHIP MINISTRY?

“We take every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ.” -2 Corinthians 10:5

Yes! We are called to live out our faith in ALL areas of life. Consider:

Government Is Ordained By God

“... there is no authority except that which God has established...For he is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong...he is...an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.” -Romans 13:1& 4

“For by Him all things were made, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers...”
-Colossians 1:16

“...He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.” -Daniel 2:21

If God cares about government, then we should too. As possessors of His holy word, we are best able to interpret and implement its purpose of encouraging good and restraining evil.

Scripture Provides The Model For Selection Of Godly Men To Be The Governing Authorities.

[In this passage, Jethro is speaking to Moses.] *“But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.”* In the republic of the United States, we the people delegate to our elected representatives the authority to govern, in similar fashion to Moses’ delegation of his authority.

Scripture Links Prayer For Those In Authority With Peaceful Lives That Are Conducive To The Spread Of The Gospel

“...I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. This...pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” -1 Timothy 2:1-4

Underscoring the importance of prayer, O. Hallesby has said, *“In prayer the Church has received power to rule the world... if it would stay together on its knees, it would dominate world politics—from the prayer room.”*

Good Government Benefits All Of Society.

Proverbs 29:2 says, *“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice but when the wicked rule, the people groan.”*

The Church’s Withdrawal From The Public Sector Is A Sin Of Omission That Exposes All Of Society To Harmful Consequences.

If we withdraw from the public arena, we remove a potent means of influencing society for good. In the absence of a strong influence for good, the sinfulness of man coupled with the deceptions of the evil one will inevitably lead to error and confusion, bringing negative results that impact everyone.

Romans 1:18 says, *“The wrath of God is being revealed (note the present tense verb) from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness.”* The text goes on to say that *“their foolish hearts were darkened”* and so *“God gave them over to the sinful desires of their hearts,”* to their depraved obsessions. In this way He pours out his wrath: He lets them pursue their own self-indulgent ways and then experience the consequences of their choices. Ultimately the bad consequences will spill over into society in general. AIDS is an example. It is a new killer, unknown until our lifetimes, and it entered society through the homosexual community.

The Founding Fathers believed that nations, like individuals, are accountable to God; individuals answer to Him in the future, nations in the present. George Mason, the Father of the Bill of Rights, put it this way:

“As nations cannot be rewarded or punished in the next world, they must be in this. By an inevitable chain of causes and effects, Providence punishes national sins by national calamities.”

“[However, if you do not obey,] the Lord will send on you curses, confusion and rebuke in everything you put your hand to, until you are destroyed and come to sudden ruin because of the evil you have done in forsaking him.” -Deuteronomy 28:20

Our country is now on a path that will inevitably lead to financial ruin because we have ignored God’s principles of fiscal responsibility. Individually and as a nation, we are a people in debt, driven by immediate gratification. The federal government’s debt is now over \$14 trillion, an unfathomable figure, and several states are already teetering on the edge of bankruptcy.

The Church’s Participation In The Public Sector Is A Significant Way To Love Others, As We Seek The Peace And Prosperity Of Our Cities And Work Toward A Society That Embraces Biblical Morality.

In contrast to the negative consequences referenced above, adherence to God’s truth inevitably brings blessings, which have a corporate as well as an individual application. America has been the beneficiary of countless blessings because of the biblical truth upon which this nation was founded; we have experienced unprecedented freedom and prosperity. In turn, we have been able to bless others. We have sent more missionaries around the world than any other nation. We have sent more aid in times of crisis. We have welcomed into our own country the poor and oppressed from other nations and endeavored to provide for their needs.

“Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you prosper.” -Jeremiah 29:7

We Are Called To Stand Up For His Truth, Whenever And Wherever It Is Being Challenged.

It should be obvious that this mandate includes standing up in the public arena. God's truth is particularly being challenged in the public schools, where impressionable youth are rewarded (by the grading system) for learning politically correct—but biblically hostile—concepts. Education is being replaced with agenda-driven indoctrination.

Ephesians 6:13-18 tells us to “put on the full armor of God” so that we will be able to stand firm against Satan's schemes. The armor of a typical Roman soldier is used metaphorically. It is interesting to note that the sword is the only offensive weapon mentioned, and the sword is the word of God. If the Church retreats from the social controversies of our day, we are failing to fully utilize the power that God has given us.

ARE THERE LESSONS FROM HISTORY TO INDICATE THAT CHRISTIANS WHO BOLDLY ENGAGE THE CULTURE CAN HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT?

Yes! The abolition of slavery and the civil rights movement of the 1960's were largely the result of Christians engaging the culture. Indeed, our own American Revolution was strongly influenced by the preceding Great Awakening. The colonists were ready to stand up against the tyranny of the British crown because they knew the biblical basis for their fight. The history of the world was dramatically shaped for good by the colonists' bold stand. That's why the initial attack by British troops against the colonists is known as “the shot heard 'round the world” rather than the shot heard 'round the colonies.

Despite our numerous flaws and foibles, our own country's history is a strong testimony to the corporate blessings that result when a nation is dedicated to biblical principles. The vast majority of our Founding Fathers were strong Christians who took their civic duties seriously. Their efforts laid the foundation for the most free and prosperous nation ever. We have the longest-running constitu-

tional republic ever. Immigrants from all over the world want to come here, the land of liberty and opportunity. These blessings have come as a consequence of the biblical basis of our government. The engraving on the Liberty Bell is from Leviticus 25:10—“*Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.*” Liberty came first from God. Our Constitution enshrines that truth and provides for its practical application—the first such application in the world.

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” -Galatians 5:1

WHAT ABOUT THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE?

The original intention of our Founding Fathers was that there would be no approval by the government of a particular denomination of Christianity. But they clearly expected that Christianity would prevail. John Jay, our nation’s first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and a prominent framer of the Constitution, stated, “*Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty—as well as the privilege and interest—of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.*” John Quincy Adams declared, the Declaration of Independence “*laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity.*” The separation of church and state was the fabrication of the liberal Warren Court of the 1960’s.

The material above has given you the biblical and practical basis for having a Salt & Light citizenship ministry at your church. If there is to be revival in this country, it must begin with believers.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR PASTORS

All laws (and applications of those laws) reflect morality. The real question is whose morality is reflected? Consider these true-life—and increasingly common—types of situations:

A military chaplain is restricted from citing portions of the Bible.

A small business owner is prosecuted by the Human Rights

Commission for politely declining to photograph a homosexual marriage ceremony.

A veterans' war memorial is deemed unconstitutional because it is in the shape of a cross.

A student is threatened by an armed guard and suspended from school for refusing to condone homosexuality.

Planned Parenthood, the largest provider of abortions, receives millions of dollars of taxpayers' money each year and now provides sexual "education" to teenagers in public schools.

God has given to the Church the responsibility of being a nation's moral voice. As a pastor, you have a responsibility, not only to lead unbelievers to salvation but also to shape the believers in your pews in the process of sanctification, so that they will more perfectly reflect God's attributes. Surely God is angered by what He sees taking place in this country. Surely He does not want the Church to idly watch. Who will stand up for God's truth, as biblical principles are being mocked and fellow Christians are being attacked for their beliefs? Since we are all united as the body of Christ, such attacks should be perceived as personal attacks, causing us to stand even more boldly.

All "Seven Mountains" of our society are the mission field of a Christian. Bill Bright and Loren Cunningham were the first to identify the Seven Mountains, which are:

- family
- education
- media
- the church
- government
- business and labor
- the arts and entertainment

Wherever believers are found, the church is present, and should be infusing God's truth into that domain. As citizens of the United States, we are all called into some level of involvement in government and education.

According to a 2006 study by Pursuant, 35% of people believe that voting for an American Idol contestant is a better use of their time than voting in a presidential election. These results reflect an appall-

ing disconnect. As a pastor, how will you help bring biblical principles back into the public arena? With the help of the Salt & Light Council, your task is easier than ever before.

THE MISSION OF THE SALT & LIGHT COUNCIL

The Salt & Light Council is distinct from the individual Salt & Light church ministries. It is the mission of the Salt & Light Council to inform, inspire, and equip Salt & Light citizenship ministries at the various churches, in the following ways.

We supply free, downloadable information to help you start and maintain a Salt & Light ministry at your church. We have synthesized the model, using input from churches with their own successful ministries, so you won't have to reinvent the wheel or duplicate efforts... or make needless mistakes.

We conduct training workshops for new Salt & Light ministry lay-leaders.

We send out monthly newsletters via email, summarizing proposed legislation and corresponding action items, highlighting relevant news reports, and promoting topical prayer. Partisan politics are strictly avoided. All newsletters are reviewed by legal counsel to ensure that there is nothing that would jeopardize your church's non-profit status.

We connect you with knowledgeable speakers who can address many topical issues from a biblical perspective.

We give you the supplies and information you need to register new voters at your church. More importantly, we will help your congregation to be well informed so they can confidently and knowledgeably vote their values.

We give you the supplies and information you need to conduct petition drives and letter writing campaigns.

We offer guidance for maximizing exposure of the ministry by using social media.

We offer a comprehensive curriculum of educational materials designed to shape a biblical worldview. We tell you how and where to purchase these materials or they can be borrowed from our library at very reasonable prices.

We share information about upcoming events that may be of interest to your congregation.

We offer opportunities for corporate prayer for our city, state, and nation.

We connect all member churches in the Salt & Light Council to facilitate mutual support, networking, corporate prayer, and the unity of the Church.

We offer assistance for teen Salt & Light ministries to grow the next generation of value voters.

We help unite the Church, enabling rapid mobilization and effective use of time and energy so we can be salt of the world.

Serving Pastors and Community Leaders With The Tools To Change The World One Church At A Time.

PRAY • EDUCATE • TAKE ACTION

A Salt & Light Ministry equips Christians to reclaim and preserve our Judeo-Christian heritage through responsible, biblically based citizenship.

Our country and culture are experiencing moral decay. But, history proves that the Church can and should, be a powerful voice for good. *"All that is necessary for the forces of evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."* - Edmund Burke

A Salt & Light ministry mobilizes groups of like-minded, concerned citizens to pray, become educated and take action on the issues. Let by church volunteers, the Salt & Light ministry creates maximum impact while requiring minimal time and effort from senior pastors and leadership.

Join us as we galvanize the church body and reclaim our culture for the Kingdom of Christ.



Start A Salt & Light Ministry: www.StartSaltandLight.org

991 So. Lomas Santa Fe Drive C-119 Solana Beach, CA 92075

(888) SALT n LIGHT / 888 725-8654

www.SaltandLightCouncil.org