

# Biblical Standards vs. Woke Ideology

*This is part two of a three-part article. Find part one at [this link](#) and part three at [this one](#).*

In today's cultural landscape, "woke" ideology often promotes concepts that are at complete odds with biblical values. The Bible teaches absolute truths grounded in the character of God, emphasizing the sanctity of life, the importance of family and the moral order established by divine commandments. Here are key areas where biblical standards contrast with modern ideological trends:

**1. Sanctity of life.** The Bible affirms the sanctity of life from conception to natural death (Ps. 139:13-16). This stands against ideologies that promote abortion or euthanasia as acceptable practices.

**2. Family and marriage.** Biblical principles define marriage as a covenant between one man and one woman (Gen. 2:24, Matt. 19:4-6). This contrasts with ideologies that seek to redefine marriage and family structures.

**3. Moral absolutes.** The Bible teaches clear moral absolutes, distinguishing right from wrong based on God's character and commandments (Ex. 20:1-17). In contrast, some modern ideologies promote moral relativism, where truth is subjective and individualistic.

**4. Justice and mercy.** While the Bible calls for justice, it also emphasizes mercy, forgiveness and redemption (Mic. 6:8, Matt. 5:7). This differs from ideologies that may prioritize retribution or cancel culture over forgiveness and reconciliation.

# America's Founding Principles

America's founding principles are deeply rooted in biblical values and righteousness. The Declaration of Independence asserts that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with unalienable rights. The Founding Fathers drew heavily from biblical teachings to establish a nation built on justice, liberty and moral integrity.

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**1. Inalienable rights.** The concept of inalienable rights—life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—echoes biblical principles of human dignity and freedom granted by God (Gal. 5:1).

**2. Rule of law.** America's legal system, based on the rule of law, reflects biblical concepts of justice and accountability (Rom. 13:1-7). Laws were designed to protect the innocent and punish the wicked, ensuring a just society.

**3. Moral responsibility.** The Founding Fathers believed in the importance of moral responsibility and virtuous leadership, principles drawn from biblical teachings (Prov. 14:34).



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## Voting Righteously

Voting is a sacred responsibility and a powerful tool to influence the direction of the nation. Prophetic voices must emphasize the importance of voting righteously, ensuring that our political leaders and policies align with biblical values. This includes:

**1. Supporting pro-life policies.** Advocating for the sanctity of life from conception to natural death and opposing any legislation that promotes abortion or euthanasia.

**2. Upholding traditional family values.** Voting for policies that protect the biblical definition of marriage and family, and opposing any attempts to redefine these sacred institutions.

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**3. Defending religious liberty.** Ensuring that laws protect the right to practice faith freely and oppose any form of censorship or cancel culture that seeks to silence religious expression.

**4. Promoting justice and mercy.** Supporting candidates and legislation that emphasize restorative justice, compassion and mercy in accordance with biblical principles.

## **Calling the Nation Back to Righteousness**

Prophetic voices must boldly call the nation back to its biblical foundations, setting a standard against immoral laws that contradict the Bible. This involves:

**1. Opposing immoral legislation.** Actively resisting laws that promote practices contrary to biblical teachings, such as abortion, same-sex marriage and gender confusion.

**2. Advocating for righteous legislation.** Supporting laws that uphold biblical values, protect the sanctity of life, and promote justice and righteousness.

**3. Educating the public.** Raising awareness about the moral

implications of current and proposed legislation, and mobilizing communities to take action in alignment with biblical principles.

**4. Engaging in public discourse.** Participating in discussions and debates to articulate a biblical worldview, challenging the prevailing ideologies that undermine God's truth.

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*Charlie Shamp is co-founder and president of Destiny Encounters International. He is a sought-after international keynote speaker, having ministered nationally and internationally with radical demonstrations of faith, seeing lives transformed through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

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## **The Surprising Response to My 'Rabbi Jesus' Post**

On Aug. 22, on the spur of the moment, I posted this on X and on Facebook:

To my surprise, while the post received 1,100 likes on Facebook, where I have 587,000 followers, it received 2,800 likes on X, where I have only 61,000 followers. Why so much interest in such a simple, matter-of-fact post?

As of this writing, the post has been viewed more than 202,000 times on X (which is a lot for one of my posts there). It has also received more than 880 comments, quite a few of them taking issue with the post or feeling the need to clarify it. What's so controversial about what I wrote?

Jesus, along with John the Immerser (aka John the Baptist), was called “rabbi” in the New Testament, while the concept of “reverend” only came into use many centuries later (perhaps beginning in the 15th century).

As for Jesus being a Jew, not a Christian, again, that is a simple matter of historical fact and common-sense logic. That’s because the New Testament teaches that Jesus was born King of the Jews and died King of the Jews, whereas the word “Christian” was only coined more than a decade after the Lord’s death and Resurrection.

As for His original name, along with that of His mother, again, these are simple, historical facts, as both Jesus and Mary are the product of Hebrew names being transmitted into Greek, then into Latin, then, eventually, into English. This is hardly rocket science.

As for the word Christ, from the Greek *christos*, meaning “anointed,” it is a translation of the Hebrew word *mashiach*, also meaning “anointed,” from which we get “Messiah.” ” But “Christ” was not the Lord’s last name. It was the Greek way of calling Jesus the Messiah.

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Of course, as basic as all this is, it is still jarring for some people to hear, as many think of Jesus in exclusively Christian terms to the exclusion of His Jewish roots.

To do so is not just factually inaccurate. It also presents a misleading spiritual picture, raising the obvious question: If Jesus is now so disconnected from His origins and roots, why is He returning to Jerusalem? Why not return to Rome (or Constantinople, or Moscow or the Bible Belt in the USA)?

To take this one step further, does it jar you to hear the names of the apostles in a way that would be closer to how

their names sounded in Yeshua's day? Let's find out.

Matthew 10:2-4, as rendered in the Jewish New Testament (now part of the Complete Jewish Bible): "These are the names of the 12 emissaries: First, Shim'on, called Kefa, and Andrew his brother, Ya'akov Ben-Zavdai and Yochanan his brother, Philip and Bar-Talmai, T'oma and Mattityahu the tax-collector, Ya'akov Bar-Halfai and Taddai, Shim'on the Zealot, and Y'hudah from K'riot, who betrayed him."

If this makes you uncomfortable at all, you should ask yourself why. It might reveal some hidden and unhealthy spiritual baggage.

Getting back to my post, though, it seems that a lot of people had a problem with the last line, which stated, "He is the Savior of the world because He is Israel's Messiah," with some commenters adding extensive commentary or clarification or correction.

But why did they find it necessary to do so? What's so controversial about these words?

During His earthly ministry, Jesus said He had come only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, sending out His disciples on that same exclusive mission (see Matt. 15:24, 10:5-6). And before His birth, the angel Gabriel explained that He would save His people from their sins (Matt. 1:21).

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After His Resurrection, He pointed His disciples to prophecies about Him written in the Hebrew Scriptures and asked them, "Did not the Messiah [Greek, "Christ"] have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" (Luke 24:26, NIV).

Yet because the mission of Israel's Messiah included being a light to the nations (see Isa. 11:1-10, 42:1-7), Jesus is not only the Jewish Messiah but also the Savior of the world, and the Great Commission is to all the nations (Matt. 28:18-20).

Put another way, if Jesus failed to be the promised Messiah of Israel, He would be the Savior of no one. Hence my statement, "He is the Savior of the world because He is Israel's Messiah." And it is as both the Savior of the world and the Messiah of Israel that Jesus-Yeshua will return one day, setting up His kingdom in Jerusalem.

That's also why, according to the book of Revelation, the eternal city in which we will dwell with God on earth is called "the New Jerusalem" (see Rev. 21:1-4). And that's why the 12 gates of the city will bear the names of the 12 tribes of Israel, while the 12 foundation stones will bear the name of the 12 (all Jewish) apostles (see Rev. 21:9-14).

And in this eternal, glorious city, all those who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus, both Gentile and Jew, will live side by side as equals, without distinction of caste or class. We are all one in Him.

But let's not forget our Savior's history and roots, especially after centuries of Christian leaders portraying Him as a fair-eyed, European Gentile and, today, Muslims portraying Him as a Palestinian liberationist.

Let us recover the biblical, Jewish roots of the faith. This will only deepen and enhance our relationship with our heavenly Father, also known as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

I hope this doesn't trouble you.

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*Dr. Michael Brown () is the host of the nationally syndicated The Line of Fire radio show. He is the author of over 40 books, including "Can You be Gay and Christian?"; "Our Hands are Stained with Blood"; and "Seizing the Moment: How to Fuel the Fires of Revival." You can connect with him on Facebook, X or YouTube.*

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# **Biblical Reflections on Labor Day**

Labor Day is a holiday when we can reflect on the dignity and importance of work.

Work is one of what we call "the five commandments of prosperity" found in the Bible. The other "commandments"—giving, learning, saving and management—are all fruits of working, so work is the most important of God's financial commandments.

The requirement that we work to meet our needs goes back to our first parents, Adam and Eve. God had given Adam a job tending the Garden of Eden before the fall of mankind. The work would have been pleasant in the productive garden, and Adam had plenty of time to walk with God (Gen. 2:15). It is also worth noting that God gave man a job before he gave him a wife. After the fall, however, Adam was required to work "by the sweat of [his] brow" (Gen. 3:19a, NIV) to provide for his family. Adam lost the place of prosperity God gave him, and his sin made his work harder.

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Sin can also make our work harder if we have left the place of prosperity God has established for us. For example, we've seen people whom God called to be tentmakers, providing for their personal ministry through labor like the apostle Paul (Acts 18:3); people who lost their prosperity by trying to be a church-supported minister, and vice versa. Of course, refusal to work is also a pathway to poverty (Prov. 6:10-11). We are commanded to help the poor (Deut. 10:11), but God also says that a person who refuses to work should not eat (2 Thess. 3:10-12).

In reality work is an act of worship, to be done with sincerity and reverence for the Lord. We should work as if we work for the Lord, knowing that the Lord will reward us (Col. 4:22-24). God wants us to realize the prosperity that comes from work. Work brings respect and frees us from dependence on others (1 Thess. 4:11-12). Through hard work, our desires are satisfied (). Hard work also brings promotion and rulership (Prov. 12:24).

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It is the secret to accumulating wealth (Prov. 10:4).

So this week spend a little time with the Lord reflecting on your labor. We believe that the Lord has "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jer. 29:11b). If your labor is not producing hope and a future for you, seek the Lord about your work. It may be that He has a better place of prosperity for you, but it could also be that you may need an attitude adjustment where you are before you can realize your destiny.

Begin to work as unto the Lord, and the Lord will begin to work for you.

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**Ron Allen** is a Christian businessman who is active in ministries spreading a message of reconciliation to God, to men and between believers. He is the founder of American Wake Up Call.

For more information on this topic, take a free download of our new book, "Real Faith and Real Money," at

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## **Pride in Politics: The Great Deception**

In my most recent article about our political division, I wrote, "Political views bring out the best and the worst in us. I know I'm a work in progress myself. Christians must repent of their pride and anger, and the church must unite in submission to God before our country faces devastating damages from which it may never recover."

Most of us have heard this saying: "The pride in others I can easily see, but praise God there's none in me."

We smile at this statement because we recognize its truth. **Pride is said to be the only disease that others can spot except the one who is contaminated by it.**

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## **Pride Has Slain Its Ten Thousands**

Pride is an elevated view of self, abilities, possessions or

political party. It leads us to become cynical, arrogant and indifferent to the needs of others. We brag and boast about what we have or what we do.

In short, we think more highly of ourselves than we ought. In fact, pride has slain more prophets than persecution ever did.

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Pride is not only deceptive, but dangerous. Proverbs 16:18 warns us that “pride goes before destruction,” which means it causes ruin, pain and conflict.

Pride destroys marriages, damages parenting, fractures relationships and silences the voice of God. James 4:6 reminds us that God resists us when we are proud, and Obadiah 1:3 declares that pride deceives us. Not good.

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## How One Man's Plea for Happiness Transformed a Family

Everyone else had gone into town, leaving me home alone in the ranch house. "Now is my chance," I thought. "This time I'm going to push the limit and really get high."

My friends and partners in the drug smuggling business had been worried about me. Sure, we were all users, but I had taken it to a whole new level, and my body and mind were showing the effects. Thin and drawn, scars from needles dotted my tattooed arms. Hair down to the middle of my back, and an earring highlighted the dark circles around my glazed eyes sunken into my callous face. No one would have guessed that I had once been a robust college football player.

I was slowly killing myself and didn't know it. Or maybe I did. I'd already been snorting coke, smoking weed and drinking all day long. That was pretty much my existence. I lived to get high. But all the snorting, smoking and drinking that day hadn't given me enough, and I needed more. Now I would shoot the cocaine straight into my veins, what we called mainlining.

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To ensure I would get extra high, I doubled my normal portion. When I shot it up, however, the needle missed my vein, and I didn't realize it. "Wow," I thought. "I didn't feel a thing." So, I doubled that amount and missed the vein again and didn't know it. Still feeling nothing and growing frustrated, I did something only a foolish addict would do. I doubled the portion a third time. This time I hit the vein, sending a lethal amount of pure cocaine directly into my bloodstream.

Almost instantly, my heart exploded into a rush of rapid, violent palpitations constricting my chest, causing labored breathing, trembling and profuse sweating. As my body collapsed to the floor, I cried, "I'm dying. I'm dying."

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Then, something strange happened.

Something surreal.

In those split seconds hovering between life and death, it was as if time stood still. I was acutely aware. My mind was clear, clear enough to speak to my Creator, whoever it was. "God," I pleaded, "don't let me die until I find out what happiness is."

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## **Walking in Obedience to Your Divine Destiny**

God's love for us is at the nth degree of perfection—pure, faultless, without blemish and never-ending! It's "impeccable." It's all but impossible for our minds to comprehend without divine inspiration!

Listen to what God tells us in 1 John 4:16-21 when personalized: God is love, and when you abide in love, you abide in God, and God abides in you ... and when this love is perfected in you, you will have confidence for the Day of Judgment ... there is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear ... whoever fears has not been perfected in love ... you love because He first loved you ... when you love God you must also love your brother.

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### **God's Love Is 'Impeccable'**

God loves you with impeccable love, and He wants you to live your life loving Him, and everyone around you, with this same impeccable love. God has no higher aspirations for your life! It's your natural inclination to talk about what you're most excited about. If you're not talking about God, you're not

excited about God, and that's more than a small problem.

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The degree to which you're telling others about Jesus reveals the degree to which God is your God.

You see, sharing your faith is not optional for Christians. When Jesus said, "Go ye," there were no qualifiers. He didn't limit His call to those who were gifted, or trained or paid. He also didn't say, "Go ye into the world and pray, or read your Bible or be a good person."

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## **Will You Leave a Spiritual Legacy?**

My youngest grandson moved into his university dorm room this past week. It seems almost impossible. I was in the hospital when he was born and held him in my arms a short time afterward. However, as time goes on, watching children and grandchildren grow may be one of its best measures.

I don't know where you are on your spiritual journey, but if you are a child of God, you will have an innate spiritual desire to bring your children and grandchildren along that same pathway. A Christ-honoring upbringing and a spiritual

family atmosphere make worthy advantages.

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## **Remind Them of Their Spiritual Heritage**

The apostle Paul told his follower Timothy: "I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you" (2 Tim. 1:5; NLT).

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I still remember a plaque in my grandmother's home. It read, "Only one life 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last." This truth spoke of both the spiritual heritage I inherited and the ongoing spiritual legacy imparted to me each time I visited.

Even if your spiritual walk began in the recent past, you can effectively witness of your spiritual transformation, challenges and changes. The book of James assures us that the consistent prayers of those made right in God's sight are powerful and effective elements of our spiritual heritage (James 5:16). Our godly prayers can convey our spiritual desires and dreams for each member of our family, whether children or adults.

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# Prophets in Politics?

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In the grand narrative of human history, the story of the exodus stands as a profound testament to the transformative power of faith. It is a biblical narrative, not merely of physical liberation from bondage but of the intentional and radical formation of a new social order that embodies the vision of divine freedom. This narrative holds essential lessons for those called to prophetic ministry today, urging them to engage deeply with political issues, social justice and national affairs that impact righteousness and justice.

## A New Social Order

The participants in the exodus found themselves unexpectedly thrust into the creation of a new community, one that would break away from the oppressive structures of Egypt. This new order was not a mere continuation of their past but an entirely new reality, defined by principles of justice, compassion and divine freedom. And for years, this community flourished, starkly contrasting the rigid, exploitative systems they had left behind.

## The Radical Break From Imperial Reality

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The radical break of Moses and Israel from the imperial

reality of Egypt marked a two-dimensional departure from both the religion of static triumphalism and the politics of oppression and exploitation. Moses dismantled the religion of static triumphalism by exposing the gods of Egypt, revealing their impotence and falseness. This act stripped Pharaoh's regime of its mythical legitimacy, demonstrating that the divine sanctions it claimed were nonexistent.



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In place of the gods of Egypt—mere constructs of imperial consciousness—Moses introduced Yahweh, the sovereign God who acts in divine freedom. Yahweh is not extrapolated from any social reality nor captive to human perception but acts independently towards divine purposes. This revelation of a free and sovereign God fundamentally undermined the religious and political foundations of Egyptian imperialism.

## **Dismantling Politics of Oppression**

Simultaneously, Moses countered the politics of oppression and exploitation with a politics of justice and compassion. The reality that emerged from the exodus was not merely a new religious idea but the birth of a new social community in history. This community was built on principles of justice, compassion and divine freedom, offering a stark contrast to the oppressive systems of Egypt.

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## **The Necessity of Divine Freedom**

Drawing on the insights of biblical scholars like Walter

Brueggemann, we learn that a politics of justice and compassion is unsustainable without a corresponding religion of divine freedom. Our social and political realities are ultimately reflections of the gods we worship. If our understanding of the divine is static, oppressive, demonic and wicked, so too will be our societies. Conversely, a dynamic and liberating faith can give rise to communities characterized by justice, compassion and true freedom.

The Exodus narrative is a powerful reminder that faith has the potential to transform societies. By breaking away from oppressive structures and embracing a vision of divine freedom, we can create communities that reflect the highest ideals of justice and compassion.

This is the enduring legacy of prophetic faith and the challenge it poses to each generation. Prophetic individuals are called to be the catalysts of this transformation, actively engaging in political, social and national affairs to bring about a world that mirrors the justice and righteousness of God.

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***Charlie Shamp is co-founder and president of Destiny Encounters International. He is a sought-after international keynote speaker, having ministered nationally and internationally with radical demonstrations of faith, seeing lives transformed through the power of the Holy Spirit.***

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# Are You Hearing a Spiritual Wake-Up Call?

I'm not sure about you, but in every season of my Christian walk, I have needed a reminder of my priorities. It usually happens gradually with just a slight shift here or there, but over time it's easy to get busy and start spending less time in prayer and Bible study. We can all but stop doing the things we should be doing. I have certainly been guilty of losing focus and running around thinking about myself.

Just as an alarm clock's purpose is to wake us up, sometimes God sends spiritual alarms to awaken us to His presence and purpose. These alarms, often in the form of divine message or challenges, call us to reevaluate our priorities and realign them with God's will.

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We make lots of excuses as to why we don't have time to do things for God, but we can always find time to do things for ourselves. We don't have a time problem but a priority problem. We are more than willing to make time for the things we care about most.

## Are You on Your Road? Or God's Road?

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The prophet said, "Consider your ways" (Hag. 1:5b, NKJV). This phrase is a Hebrew figure of speech that literally means, "Put your heart on your roads." Haggai asked God's people to

consider the direction their lives were heading and whether they wanted to continue on that path. I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on the same question. The Israelites needed to shift their focus from their own pleasure to obeying God's Word and rebuilding His house.

In your life, what priorities need repositioning? Are there areas of your life where God is asking for more attention or more dedication? Don't forget: It's not about moving God to our priority list—it's about moving ourselves to align with His eternal plan.

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