



## Wealth of Nations: All the Terrors of Religion

First published in 1776, *Wealth of Nations* offers one of the world's first collected descriptions of what builds nations' wealth, and is today a fundamental work in classical economics. It is widely credited with laying the bedrock of free market capitalism. But this short primer will not focus on economics. I will translate a short portion into layman's terms, written specifically to Christians absent from politics. Smith exemplifies a "wisdom of Solomon" stroke of the quill, and this primer chronologically iterates through a 460 word paragraph from the following section of his masterpiece:

### **Book V, Chapter 1, ART. III.—Of the Expense of the Institutions for the Instruction of People of all Ages.**

It begins with, "*The institutions for the instruction of people of all ages, are chiefly those for religious instruction. This is a species of instruction, which the object is not so much to render the people good citizens in this world, as to prepare them for another and a better world in the life to come...*"

Smith recognizes that we are citizens of earth before we are citizens of heaven. Our earthly citizenship and experience should be in harmony with our heavenly citizenship. Religious instruction is the chief vehicle for making laws, and forming a society that will reflect heaven. Aka "On earth as it is in heaven". Smith is writing from a solid grasp on history.

*"The clergy of every established church constitute a great incorporation. They can act in concert, and pursue their interest upon one plan, and with one spirit as much as if they were under the direction of one man; and they are frequently, too, under such direction..."*

A unified church can accomplish anything in their country. While Smith might have been referring to high ranking clergy of his day, we know that Christ is the head of His church; and, when this great "incorporation" obeys Him, nothing is impossible. ***This great incorporation is not a legal entity***, but a fully engaged, greater body of Christ—a body of believers from every stream, working with "one spirit". The problem is, the faith communities are divided on all the non-tangible doctrines unique to their circle of influence. Today's clergy are CEO's of exclusive social clubs, while their own children are suffering state policy. Why aren't we acting in concert? 65-75% of our nation identifies as "Christian", and there exist roughly 350,000 congregations. Our ratio of size to influence is not just incriminating, but embarrassing.

*"Their interest as an incorporated body is never the same with that of the sovereign (the state), and is sometimes directly opposite to it..."*

Governing institutions and religious institutions are never perfectly in synch. But directly opposite? Keyword "sometimes". For church values to be polar opposite to state/national law and agendas is not our historical experience; nor is it some cosmic constant, or eternal law of the universe. For those living in America, don't let pastors convince you this is normal or "the way things are". For instance, Catholics oppose abortion, just as Protestants generally do. The Catholics, Protestants and Evangelicals should have amassed a great political army long ago—a great "incorporated body". Because we have let the state have more influence on the Church, than the Church has had on the State, a great cavern now exists between them.

*"Their great interest is to maintain their authority with the people, and this authority depends upon the supposed certainty and importance of the whole doctrine which they inculcate, and upon the supposed necessity of adopting every part of it with the most implicit faith, in order to avoid eternal misery..."*

Indeed, Churches have historically sought to maintain authority in society. They succeeded! (See "Revolution is Revival"). The pulpit was a guiding force which landed the citizenry on true north. It certainly was in Nehemiah's day. The law of God still has authority with people (see Matthew 5).

### ***Nehemiah 8:1-4***

*8 And all the people gathered as one person at the public square...and they asked Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses which the Lord had given to Israel. 2 Then Ezra the priest brought the Law before the*

assembly of men, women, and all who could listen with understanding... 3 And he read from it before the public square which was in front of the Water Gate, from early morning until midday, in the presence of men and women, those who could understand; and all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. 4 Ezra the scribe stood at a wooden podium which they had made for the purpose..."

Israel's first restoration required a clear understanding of God's law, and its place in the public square. The obvious mystery is the same today—those who congregate in American churches, are also citizens of the state. When Smith writes that church leaders desire to keep authority “with the people”, understand this as “We the People”. The citizens. In Haggai 2, it's called “the remnant of the people”. Church people are a dime a dozen, but citizens with a zeal for God's law are rare and precious. Church leaders have historically, and must again, seek to recapture the public square. Regarding Smith's reference to “whole doctrine” and “every part”, this means the full Gospel of Jesus Christ. A full gospel includes preaching hell and the afterlife. “Eternal misery” is indispensable doctrine. Leaders gain authority over society by preaching, unabashedly, the eternal ramifications of sin. Telling the truth brings authority and focus on Jesus Christ. Christ becomes much more attractive, and taking the focus off of sin has decreased our hunger for Christ, the sin offering.

Ezra and Nehemiah were successful in breaking the hearts of the citizenry because God's Word never returns void. Look how effective just the reading of the Law was!

### **Nehemiah 8:6, 9-12**

*“Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, “Amen, Amen!” with the raising of their hands; then they kneeled down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground...” Then Nehemiah, who was the <sup>10</sup>governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people were weeping when they heard the words of the Law. <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, “Go, eat the festival foods, drink the sweet drinks, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your <sup>11</sup>refuge.” <sup>11</sup>So the Levites silenced all the people, saying, “Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved.” <sup>12</sup>Then all the people went away to eat, drink, to send portions, and to <sup>13</sup>celebrate a great feast, because they understood the words which had been made known to them.*

Now, continuing the paragraph from Wealth of Nations...

*“...Should the sovereign (state) have the imprudence to appear either to deride, or doubt himself of the most trifling part of their doctrine, or from humanity, attempt to protect those who did either the one or the other, the **punctilious honour of a clergy**, who have **no sort of dependency upon him**, is immediately provoked to proscribe him as a profane person, and to employ **all the terrors of religion**, in order to oblige the people to transfer their allegiance to some more orthodox and obedient prince...”*

Simply put—if elected officials degrade, remove or mock the law of God, the “punctilious honor” of the American pastor (and the full body of Christ) is the duty to expose their “profanity”, and rally the sheep to elect new leaders—those more “orthodox” in keeping with biblical truth. They do this by having “no sort of dependency” on the Godless in office. I’m pretty sure that Jehu was not collecting a pension from the offices of Jezebel.

When a citizen (good or bad) takes the oath of office, they have sworn to uphold the constitution which was framed upon biblical law (See “*Keys to good Government*” by David Barton). They have publically agreed to become bible followers on a certain level; and, if they divert, “all the terrors of religion” must descend upon them. This includes, but is not limited to: getting their phones and emails flooded with rebukes, getting voted out of office, impeachment, prosecution, being confronted in person, being exposed for bribes and corruption, hearing the full gospel of Jesus Christ, and the “eternal misery” of rejecting it. These terrors cannot be felt by a church in cahoots with Caesar. It is crucial that believers avoid strong “dependency” on the state (until it is purified)—such as a paycheck, a bribe or a workplace affiliation that will divide their conscience. A good example of “dependency” might be a teachers union, workers union, marriage or employment relationship—it is hard to overthrow the wicked when you eat out of their hands, or sleep in their bed. Teachers, turning a blind eye to union curriculum for job security. Healthcare workers who work for pro-choice institutions. Know this—the 2020

Cares Act money was blood money for the 501c3. Hush money for a legal entity which requires God's people to stay virtually silent on politics. A flat out, deal with the Devil.

## Nothing wrong with Fear

What is the “fear” of the Lord? The beginning of wisdom—fear and trembling can be a good thing. “For it is dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Is Israel’s history, you might recall that repetitive statement, where a hero or leader is asking God to “deliver them into our hands”. Why do we think it will suffice to merely “pray for the wicked in office”? Rather, you should pray, “Lord, deliver the *seats of the wicked into our hands*”. Friend, we can vote them out of office, while praying for their souls. We can love the losers in elections, and the remnant of wicked regimes the same way David loved Mephibosheth—the living vestige of his arch enemy.

*2 Samuel 9:3*

*The king asked, “Is there no one still alive from the house of Saul to whom I can show God’s kindness?” Ziba answered the king, “There is still a son of Jonathan; he is lame in both feet.”*

When somebody loses their seat in office, we call it “lame duck”. A lame duck has no chance for re-election. God calls His people to remember and bless the unbelieving losers of the coming elections. Saul and his house was “lame ducked” by King David and his administration, but that did not prevent the victor from showing “God’s kindness”. David poured out the love of God, from a place of authority. Jonathan was “lame in both feet”. What a profound revelation!

It is weak, lukewarm Christianity that prefers to keep the “terrors of religion” out of play—sin, death, eternal judgement and even a supreme court that stands on the Word of God! When God’s people run elections, it is a holy terror.

*“Should he oppose any of their pretensions or usurpations, the danger is equally great. The princes who have dared in this manner to rebel against the church, over and above this crime of rebellion, have generally been charged, too, with the additional crime of heresy, notwithstanding their solemn protestations of their faith, and humble submission to every tenet which she thought proper to prescribe to them.”*

When a genuine body of Christ is active in politics, “princes” (elected officials) who rebel against the Church (of whom Christ is the head) must pay with their reputations and their seat of power. Scripture teaches us that the brethren is held to this standard. Within the congregation, those guilty of moral failures, are rightly demoted and instructed to publically repent. What is good for the goose, is good for the gander! Ironically, most “rebel princes” are self-proclaimed adherents to some sort of moral compass. Many political miscreants claim to be “Christian”—from school boards to the Whitehouse. Catholics should have been outraged when Tim Kaine accepted the nomination for VP in 2016 with Hillary Clinton; Kaine, a lifelong Catholic, flipped his view on abortion in hopes of becoming Vice President. More recently, Southern Baptists should be on the warpath, knowing that Raphael Warnock, a pro-choice “Christian” leader has obtained a foothold in the US Senate.

*“But the authority of religion is superior to every other authority. The fears which it suggests conquer all other fears. When the authorized teachers of religion propagate through the great body of the people, doctrines subversive of the authority of the sovereign, it is by violence only, or by the force of a standing army, that he can maintain his authority. Even a standing army cannot in this case give him any lasting security; because if the soldiers are not foreigners, which can seldom be the case, but drawn from the great body of the people, which must almost always be the case, they are likely to be soon corrupted by those very doctrines...”*

Christ has dominion over all state authorities, and He commanded His body to exercise it (see Church Primer “Covid Passover”). The fears that our bible suggests, indeed “conquers all other fears”. Consider this—if breaking civil laws can land you in jail for a few years, how much more would society fear God if they knew that hell was forever? Who are the “authorized teachers of religion”? Well, the Word declares that all elders and overseers should be “able to teach” (1 & 2 Timothy). And when the truth is “propagated” through the “great body of people” (congregations and public square), the evil doers will have no option but to surrender their power, or resort to violence. Meaning, if pulpits and local churches were on track, the average citizen would have a measure of Godly fear—they would vote better; and, if they were ever called on to persecute the brethren, they would likely side with the Church. Historically, tyrants used violence and mercenary forces to crush any opposition. If Churches were spreading truth and Christ like love in their communities, the moral stance of the citizenry would be greatly improved; meaning, it would be almost impossible for an individual or party to muster forces “from

the great body of the people", willing to arrest, detain or punish Christian opposition. The average policeman would fear God. The average Judge would fear God. The average Sheriff, teacher, fireman, even pastor, would...fear God. We don't seek to conquer our enemies with fear, we simply repent for letting them take our jobs.

*"The revolutions which the turbulence of the Greek clergy was continually occasioning at Constantinople, as long as the eastern empire subsisted; the convulsions which, during the course of several centuries, the turbulence of the Roman clergy was continually occasioning in every part of Europe, sufficiently demonstrate how precarious and insecure must always be the situation of the sovereign, who has no proper means of influencing the clergy of the established and governing religion of his country..."*

History records that religion has incredible power over populations. Elected officials who resist or reinterpret moral absolutes, which God has written on all of our hearts, will enter into "precarious and insecure" waters when believers rise to power. Queen Esther is a prime example—her role in politics prevented the genocide of Jews. God foiled the Devil's plans, and Haman, the leader of the political coup, was executed in his own noose.

As this excerpt concludes, if the state cannot "influence the clergy", the church will be at liberty to prosper and secure the state, unencumbered. When pastors "propagate through the great body of the people, doctrines subversive of the authority of the sovereign" (truth, basically), we win. When they know there is hell to pay on earth, by our activism, and hell to suffer in the afterlife if they continue their agendas—we all win. *When the people of God are not influenced, coerced, indebted to, or under any obligations with humanistic state authorities, the world is a better place. This brings us to the 501c3.* The 501c (3) is the ultimate form of church influence and dependency—all preaching, platforms, tithes and offerings are scrubbed clean of any political action against evil doers. Meaning, the 501c3 is a contract between the church and the IRS, shielding elected officials who are doing evil, by the repercussions of the saints. Therefore, it is prudent to understand the 501c3 as a "deal with the devil". Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, as so we should be ruefully contemplate our position now—is thirty cents on the dollar a Judas Iscariot price? Without question, religion, politics and economies are all intertwined, like it or not. For 53 years, via a 501c3, we have willfully surrendered our values, our money and our influence (religion, economics and politics). Repent!

# Requirements to Maintain 501(c)(3) Status

The government intends for nonprofit entities to remain nonprofit entities, so they set up some rules that tax-exempt organizations must obey in order to keep their tax-exempt status. Not knowing the rules isn't an excuse for disobeying them. Those who try to blur or cross the line could end up with fines or face other legal consequences.

Here are six things to watch out for:

1. **Private benefit.** Organizations that apply for tax-exempt status cannot serve the private interests, or private benefit, of any individual or organization besides itself past an insubstantial degree. Therefore, a nonprofit may not permit any of its income or assets to benefit insiders, such as board members, officers, directors and important employees.
2. **Nonprofits are not allowed to urge their members to support or oppose legislation.** They may participate in a small amount of lobbying, but lobbying activities may not exceed a certain amount of the organization's total expenses.
3. **Political campaign activity.** A nonprofit organization may not financially support or endorse any political candidates verbally or in writing. They may not oppose candidates either. This rule applies to candidates at every level — local, state and federal.
4. **Unrelated business income.** Nonprofit organizations aren't allowed to generate too much income from a purpose that is unrelated to the nonprofit. An organization that regularly operates a trade or business that is unrelated to the nonprofit and makes significant contributions to the organization would need to pay taxes.
5. **Annual reporting obligation.** Nonprofit corporations still have reporting responsibilities, like the Form 990. They may also be responsible for things like tax on unrelated income, employment tax, excise taxes, and certain state or local taxes. Churches and other church-related organizations don't need to report income.
6. **Operate in accord with stated nonprofit purposes.** An organization that makes a big shift from being unprofitable to making money needs to re-file as a for-profit entity and to pay the applicable taxes.