

How Should We Then Vote?  
Series

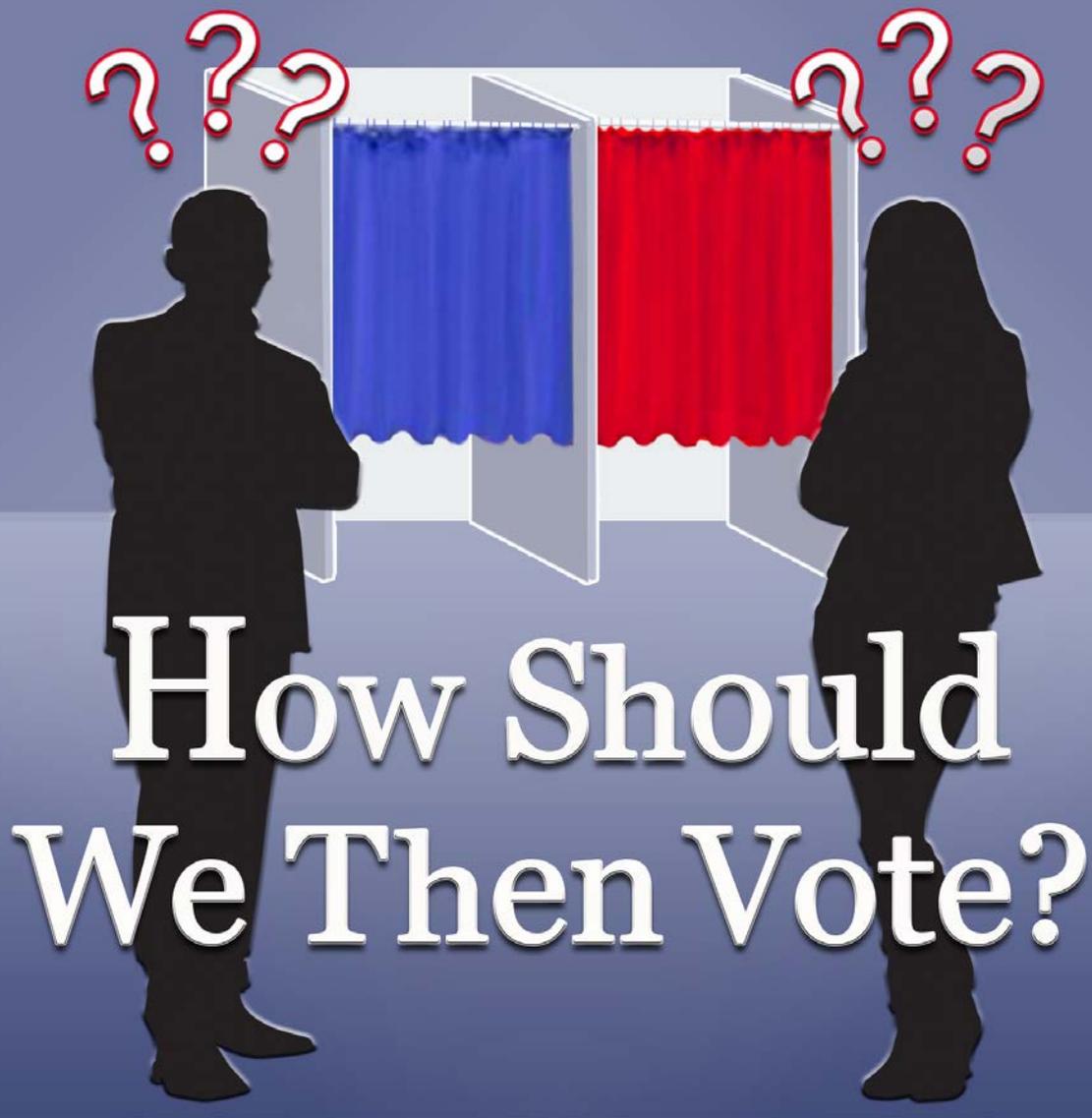
Lesson #07

June 25, 2020

Dean Bible Ministries

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# How Should We Then Vote?

**The Foundation of Law**

**Psa. 11:3, “If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?”**

**צְדָקָה (*ṣ<sup>e</sup>dāqâ*) justice, righteousness.**

**Conformity to an ethical or moral standard**

## Question: What is the value of human life?

Perspective	Church Affiliation								Political Ideology		
	All	Evan	Pent	MLP	Cath	BAC	Other	Skep	Con	Mod	Lib
Human beings are God's creation, made in His image, fallen, needs redemption	56%	85%	81%	58%	66%	86%	29%	13%	77%	51%	36%
Human life is sacred	39	60	46	45	43	60	25	15	57	35	24
The Bible is ambiguous on abortion	37	30	41	40	41	28	46	39	27	38	51

**Abbreviations:**

Evan – attend evangelical church

Pent – attend Pentecostal church

Cath – attend Catholic church

BAC – born again Christian

Other – faith other than Christianity

Skep – Spiritual Skeptic

MLP – attend mainline Protestant church

Con – politically conservative

Mod – politically moderate

Lib – politically liberal

Source: *American Worldview Inventory 2020*; Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University; N=2,000 adults 18 or older.

## Religious Preference Doesn't Matter; Religious Adults Say "People are Basically Good"

Agreed: "People are basically good"

Church Affiliation	
Evangelical church	70%
Pentecostal church	70
Non-Christian church*	71
Jewish	72
Mainline Protestant	75
Catholic Church	77

\*Other than Jewish

Source: *American Worldview Inventory 2020*; Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University. N=2,000 adults 18 or older.

**“A movement to defund police departments might make sense if people are innately good. People with a humanistic worldview argue that crime and violence happen because of poverty, bad parenting, systemic discrimination, and other external forces. Yet crime statistics, political tensions, tendencies toward anger and hatred, and America’s moral deterioration and confusion suggest that we are neither innately good nor that emotional responses to empirical challenges will solve the problems.”**

**~George Barna  
Founder, The Barna Group**

**“The underlying issues are ill-formed character and a broken moral compass. Economic, social and cultural depravity are outgrowths of our moral and character deficiencies, not causes. Poor people with godly character and biblical morals make good choices. Rich people with bad character and inappropriate morals make bad choices, despite their education, fame, wealth, and social class. An objective assessment of history shows that adults, like children, need ethical and reasonable boundaries that are consistently and justly enforced. Remove those boundaries and you get the kind of anarchy that results in disrespect, violence, crime, and hatred.”**

**~George Barna  
Founder, The Barna Group**

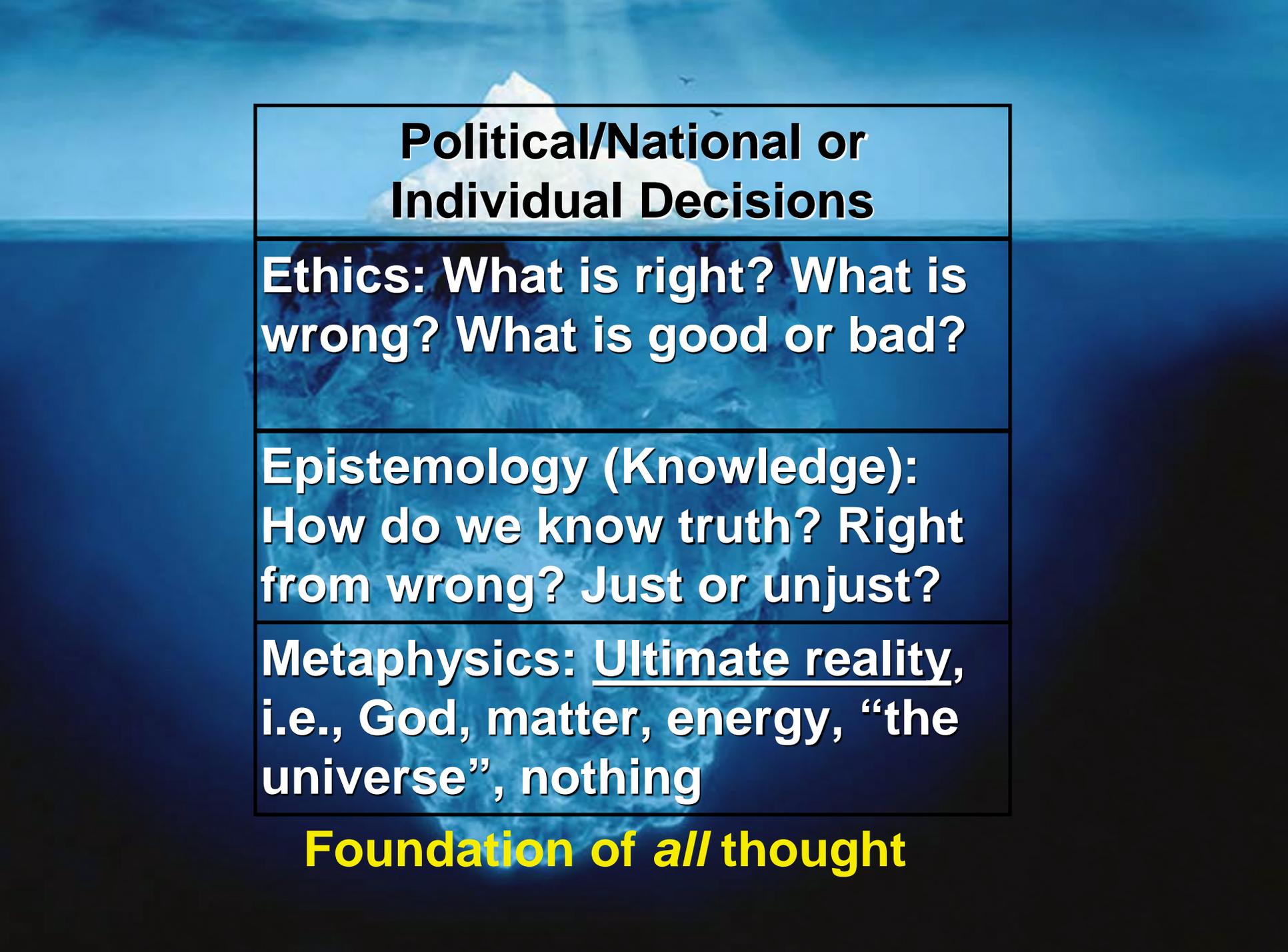
**“You cannot change the hearts of people by outlawing racism. You will not create peace by passing laws and forcing compliance. Efforts to facilitate economic equality through resource redistribution have never successfully resulted in the expected or desired outcomes.**

**“From a biblical perspective, the problem is that we have a sin nature, pure and simple. We can deny it, but it still exists. Every society can benefit from specific systemic changes, present-day America included. But any systemic changes designed to transform the culture will be short-lived and of limited impact unless the hearts and minds of the people who populate that system are transformed first.”**

**~George Barna  
Founder, The Barna Group**

**“Logically, given that a person’s worldview is largely in place by the age of 13 and then is refined and expanded during a person’s teens and twenties, focusing on the moral development of young people and college students will be an effective, lasting strategy. Raising our future leaders to experience and understand love, compassion, mercy, truth, and goodness will make a massive difference.”**

**~George Barna  
Founder, The Barna Group**

An iceberg floating in the ocean, with only the tip visible above the water. The background is a deep blue sea under a clear sky.

## Political/National or Individual Decisions

**Ethics:** What is right? What is wrong? What is good or bad?

**Epistemology (Knowledge):** How do we know truth? Right from wrong? Just or unjust?

**Metaphysics:** Ultimate reality, i.e., God, matter, energy, “the universe”, nothing

**Foundation of *all* thought**

## **A Judeo-Christian Worldview**

- 4. Sin has corrupted the human race and God's creation.**
- 5. God has given principles and laws for the right conduct of the human race in this corrupted universe, because, as their Creator only He can do this.**
- 6. God continues to oversee and direct His creation toward His perfect end.**

# **The Problem with the Human Race**

**Adam and Eve were created morally, ethically, physically, spiritually perfect.**

**Sin separated them from God and brought a judgment on all of God's creation.**

**Thus, laws became necessary.**

**Jer. 17:9, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?”**

**Psa. 14:1, “The fool has said in his heart,  
‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, they  
have done abominable works, there is none  
who does good.”**

**Psa. 14:3, “They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one.”**

**Psa. 53:3, “Every one of them has turned  
aside; They have together become corrupt;  
There is none who does good, No, not one.”**

**Rom. 3:23, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”**

**Judg. 21:25, “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”**

**Judg. 17:6, “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”**

**Ex. 20:1, “And God spoke all these words, saying:**

**Ex. 20:2, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.**

**Ex. 20:3, “You shall have no other gods before Me.**

**Ex. 20:4, “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;”**

**Ex. 20:5, “you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,**

**Ex. 20:6, “but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”**

**Prov. 14:34,**

**“Righteousness exalts a nation,  
but sin is a reproach to any people.”**

**Prov. 11:10, “When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices; And when the wicked perish, there is jubilation.**

**Prov. 11:11, “By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.**

**Prov. 11:12, “He who is devoid of wisdom despises his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his peace.”**

**Mic. 6:8, “He has shown you, O man,  
what is good; And what does the LORD  
require of you but to do justly [*mishpat*],  
to love mercy, and to walk humbly with  
your God?”**

**מִשְׁפָּט. *mishpat* Justice,  
ordinance, custom,  
manner.**

**To govern or rule in a  
way consistent with the  
ordinances of God’s  
law.**

**Lev. 18:4, “You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the LORD your God.**

**Lev. 18:5, “You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the LORD.”**

**Lev. 19:15, “You shall do no injustice in judgment [*mishpat*].**

**You shall not be partial to the poor,  
nor honor the person of the mighty.**

**In righteousness [*tzedek*] you shall judge [*shaphat*] your neighbor.”**

**Ex. 20:15, “You shall not steal.”**

**Establishes the right to private ownership of property.**

**After the conquest, land was given to the tribes, clans, and families for ownership of the land (God was the ultimate Owner).**

**Wealth was never condemned in the Bible, but its misuse was.**

**Prov. 22:22, “Do not rob the poor because he is poor, nor oppress the afflicted at the gate;**

**Prov. 22:23, “For the LORD will plead their cause, and plunder the soul of those who plunder them.”**

**Prov. 31:9, “Open your mouth, judge  
righteously, and plead the cause of the poor  
and needy.”**

**Isa. 1:17, “Learn to do good; Seek justice,  
rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless,  
plead for the widow.”**

**Isa. 10:1, “Woe to those who decree unrighteous decrees, who write misfortune, which they have prescribed**

**Isa. 10:2, “To rob the needy of justice, and to take what is right from the poor of My people, that widows may be their prey, and that they may rob the fatherless.**

**Isa. 10:3, “What will you do in the day of punishment, and in the desolation which will come from afar? To whom will you flee for help? And where will you leave your glory?”**

**Deut. 24:17, “You shall not pervert justice  
due the stranger or the fatherless, nor take a  
widow’s garment as a pledge.”**

**Matt. 26:11, “For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always.”**

# **Why is There Poverty?**

**Sin, divine discipline, living with others' sin  
and divine discipline, bad decisions ...**

**2 Thess. 3:10, “For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.**

**2 Thess. 3:11, “For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.**

**2 Thess. 3:12, “Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.”**

**“The founding vision for unity presupposed a flawed human nature: People were capable of sin individually but capable of the greatest sin when backed with the power of federal force. The founding vision for unity also presupposed an agreement on the nature of rights and liberty: No man had a right to demand anything from his neighbor. Furthermore, the founding vision for unity presupposed that our strongest bonds would exist outside of government—in our families, our communities, our churches.”**

**~Ben Shapiro**

**“The founding vision has now been abandoned in pursuit of something more ‘fulfilling’: a *communitarian vision* of reality in which the will of the mob is perceived as virtuous; in which every man has the right to protect himself from the vicissitudes of life and the cruelties of history by demanding redress from his neighbors; in which our strongest bonds are forged at the most centralized level.”**

**~Ben Shapiro, *The Daily Signal*, 6/18/2020**

**“Our civil rulers will remember, that as piety and virtue support the honor and happiness of every community, they are peculiarly requisite in a free government. Virtue is the spirit of a Republic, for where all power is derived from the people, all depends on their good disposition.”**

**~Rev. Samuel Cooper,  
Sermon to the leaders of Mass.**

**“Revelation assures us that ‘righteousness exalteth a Nation’—communities are dealt with in this World by the wise and just Ruler of the Universe. He rewards or punishes them according to their general Character.”**

**~Samuel Adams**

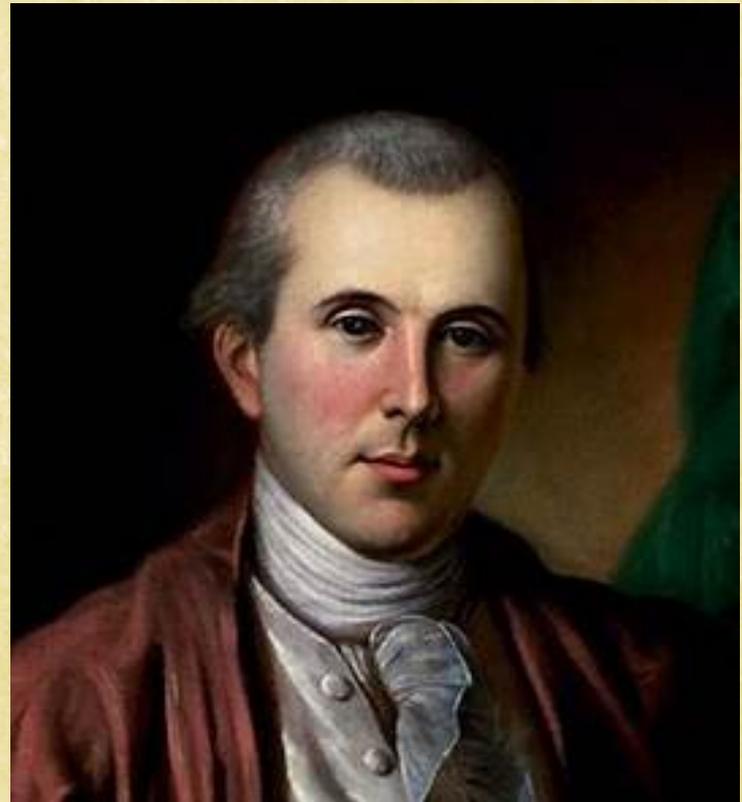


**“The strength of a republic is consolidated by its virtues, and the righteousness will exalt a nation ... Does not the true policy, the honor and safety of our country, greatly depend upon a national character consisting among other particulars, in simplicity and candor in all her public transactions, showing herself in reality friendly to those to whom she professes to be a friend.”**

**~Samuel Adams, 1784,  
Letter to Richard Henry Lee**

**“Remember that national crimes require national punishments, and without declaring what punishment awaits this evil, you may venture to assure them, that it cannot pass with impunity, unless God shall cease to be just or merciful”**

**~Benjamin Rush,  
Speaking of the  
evil of slavery**



**“... the most pernicious effect on manners. Every master of slaves is born a petty tyrant. Slavery will bring the judgment of heaven on a Country. As nations can not 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.”**

**~George Mason  
Virginia**



**“... Christianity and religion are identified. It would be strange, indeed, if with such a people our institutions did not presuppose Christianity ...”**

**~Chief Justice John Marshall**

**“to the kindly influence of Christianity we owe that degree of civil freedom, and political and social happiness which mankind now enjoys ... All efforts to destroy the Foundation of our holy religion, ultimately tend to the subversion also of our political freedom and happiness. Whenever the pillars of Christianity shall be overthrown, our present republican form of government, and all the blessings which flow from them, must fall with them.”**

**~Jedidiah Morse  
Congregational Pastor**

**“Religion and morality  
alone ... can establish  
the principles upon  
which freedom can  
securely stand.”**

**~John Adams**



**“religion and virtue  
are the only  
Foundations, not only  
of republicanism and  
of all free  
government, but of  
social felicity under  
all governments and  
in all combinations of  
human society.”**

**~John Adams, 1811**



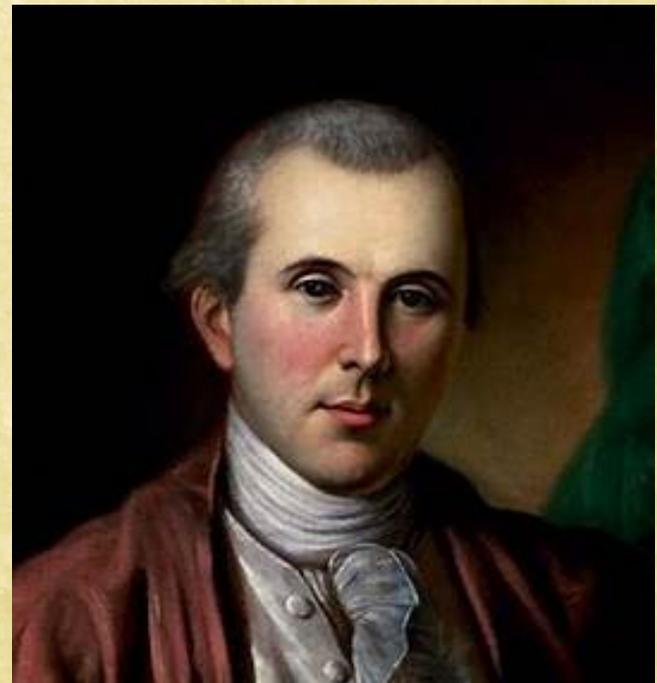
**“The Ten  
Commandments and  
the Sermon on the  
Mount contain my  
Religion.”**

**~John Adams**



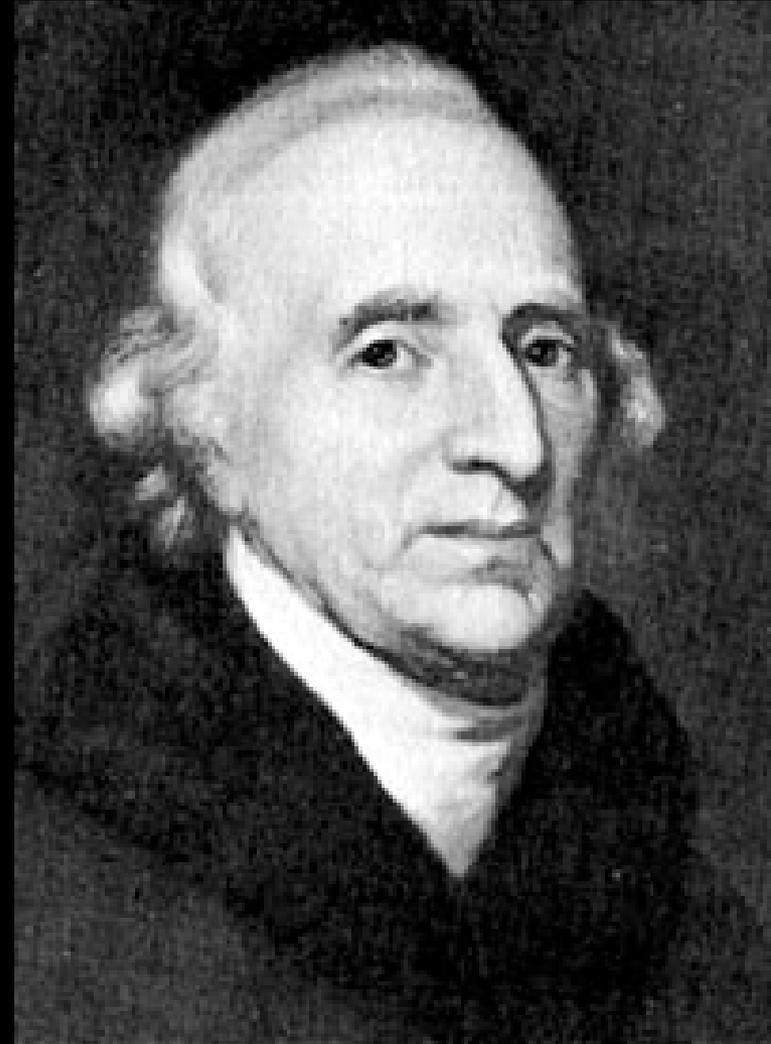
**“The only foundation for a useful education in a republic is to be laid in religion. Without this there can be no virtue, and without virtue there can be no liberty, and liberty is the object and life of all republican governments ... By religion I mean to recommend in this place that of the New Testament.”**

**~Benjamin Rush  
1789**



“Without morals a republic cannot subsist any length of time; they therefore who are decrying the Christian religion, whose morality is so sublime and pure ... are undermining the solid foundation of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments.”

~Charles Carroll, Signer of the Declaration of Independence;  
[Letter to James McHenry on November 4, 1800]

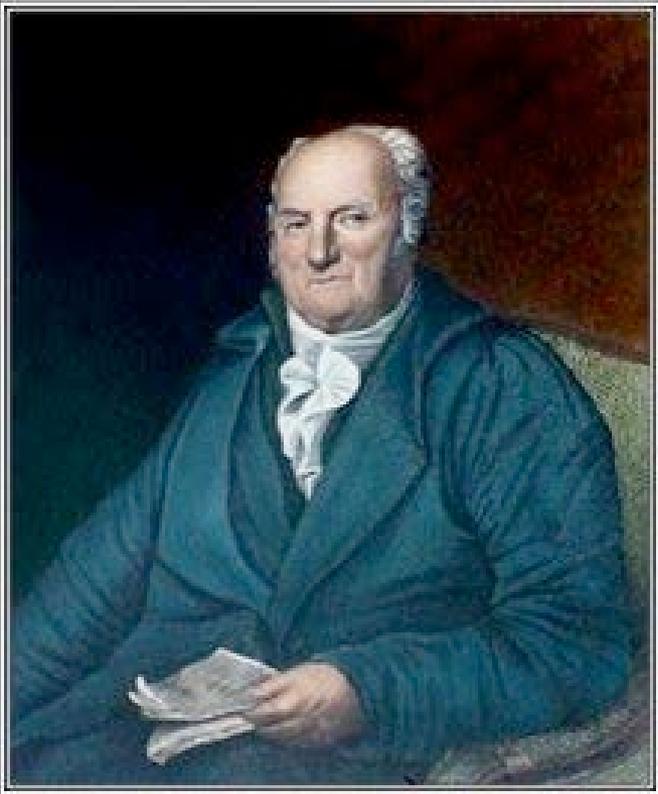


“Feeble would be the best form of government without a sense of religion and the terrors of the world to come. Banish a sense of religion and the terrors of the world to come from society, and you leave every man to do that which is right in his own eyes. The man who is not actuated by the fear and awe of God, has in many cases no bond or restraint upon his conduct, and therefore is not fit to be trusted with the nation’s welfare. Think not that men who acknowledge not God or his laws will be corrupt in office.”

~Rev. Matthias Burnett, 1803, to  
the CT legislature

“It is to the neglect of this rule of conduct in our citizens [that is, not selecting Godly men for office] that we must ascribe the multiplied frauds, the breaches of trust, peculations and embezzlements of public property, which astonish even ourselves; which tarnish the character of our country; which disgrace a republican government.”

~Noah Webster



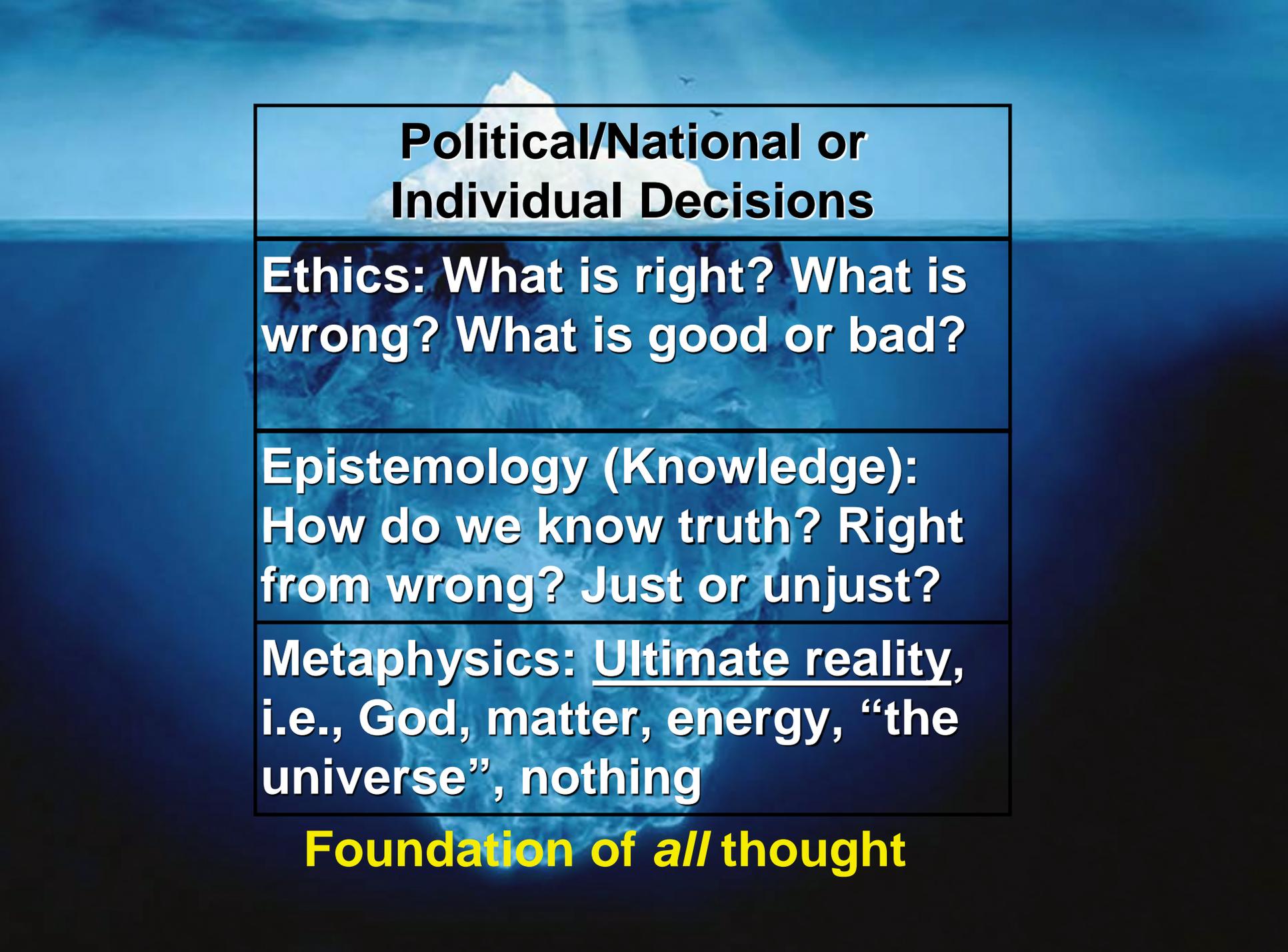
**“If the moral character of a people once degenerates, their political character must follow ... These considerations should lead to an attentive solicitude to be religiously careful in our choice of all public officers ... and judge of the tree by its fruits.”**

**~Elias Boudinot, a President of the Continental Congress**

**“The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity. Now I will avow that I then believed, and now believe, that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God.”**



**~John Adams**

An iceberg floating in the ocean, with only the tip visible above the water. The background is a blue sky and sea. The text is overlaid on the image, with the top part above the water and the bottom part below the water.

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