



ILLINOIS
**Family
Institute**

Boldly Bringing a Biblical Perspective to Public Policy in the Land of Lincoln.

Newsletter | September 2022

VOTE
Your **Values**
on **November 8th**



illinoisfamily.org



from the **Executive Director — David E. Smith**

There is a reason that the Bible uses warfare metaphors to exhort us. Terminology such as fight, conquerors, battle, war. It is because we *are* in a spiritual war!

Paul tells us to “watch, stand fast in the faith, be courageous, be strong.” ~ I Corinthians 16:13

For Christians, that means keeping an eye on the world around us, and more importantly, paying attention to our spiritual condition, the snares, and attacks of our adversary.

We **must** recognize that we are in a spiritual battle, and this fact must permeate our thoughts, prayers, and actions every moment of the day.

These imperatives—watch, stand fast in the faith, be courageous, and be strong—are also better understood as military imagery.

At the Battle of Thermopylae, when Sparta’s King Leonidas and his 300 Spartans fought to the death against Persian Emperor Xerxes’ million-man army, the Spartans knew that they would die. But they were compelled to stand against the enemy and possibly save some of their loved ones.

This encapsulates these four imperatives! And I bet that if you think about it for a few minutes, you can see how this applies to us and the spiritual battles against Satan and our selfish nature.

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds (like selfishness), casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ... ~2 Cor 10:3-6

There are some people who are oblivious to the fact that we are in a battle and do their best to keep their heads down, work hard, and deal with trials as they come.

Unfortunately, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of people who no longer associate with a religious affiliation.

Illinois Family Institute

In 2021, the Pew Research Center found self-identified Christians make up 63% of the U.S. population, a drop from 75% just 10-years ago. The majority of this decline is happening among Protestants, dropping 12-points in the last decade.



During the same period, researchers say the number of religious “nones” has almost quadrupled since Pew Research began its Religious Landscape study in 2007. Religious “nones” currently account for about 3-in-10 U.S. adults or 29%!

So, this begs the question: is there a neutral ground when it comes to spiritual warfare? Is it possible to be a non-combative? Can we sit on the fence or in the stands as a spectator as the battle rages?

The Word of God tells us that we have a choice... but it’s either Yay or Nay. There is no middle ground. (Matthew 12:12-30; 1 Kings 18:21, Matthew 6:24; 2 Corinthians 10:3-6)

The Apostle Paul tells us plainly in Ephesians 6:

“...be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

He goes on to tell us how to do this in verses 10-18.

Dr. Del Tackett termed it “*The Cosmic Battle*,” and it has been raging since the beginning of time. This battle has divided the world into two opposing camps:



Courageous
in the **BATTLE!**

continued inside...

Courageous in the BATTLE!

by David E. Smith, Executive Director (continued ...)

one side believes the lies which has taken their hearts and minds captive by the power of deception; and other side has chosen to trust God's Truth claims and stand firm in them.

There is no middle ground. Christians must realize the futility and foolishness of neutrality.

"So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – **I am about to spit you out of My mouth.**" ~Revelation 3:16

Christians throughout history have been engaged in this battle. It is no different in 2022 as our culture becomes like Babylon. We are in a battle and attacks are imminent. Are we prepared? Can we block the slings & arrows coming at us with our shield of faith? Will we be ambushed when our guard is down? Are we aware of Satan's snares?

Or are we able to counter with the sword of the Spirit and make the enemy flee? (James 4:7) So many hearts, souls and minds are at stake in this battle few even know is raging all around us, in our homes, the workplace, in the marketplace, the

courts, in the media and even in the church.

How do we engage this relentless opponent who challenges us at every turn regarding all we know to be true and right? Scripture reminds us: God is our refuge and strength.

"He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress;
My God, in Him I will trust." ~Psalm 91:1-2
(See also Psalm 27; 59:16-17)

My prayer for my family, for my Christian friends and for myself is that we would courageously fight this battle on every battlefield that is before us, with the faith and confidence that King David had.

Almighty God is our strength and refuge in the battles that we face each and every day. We can stand courageously as we stand firm in Him. ★



Education Tops Concerns

A new poll was conducted in May in seven battleground states on behalf of the American Federation of Teachers, the second largest teachers' union in the U.S. They surveyed 1700 people.

In response to the question, "In general, do you have more confidence in the Democrats or in the Republicans to deal with education issues?" 39% said Republicans compared to 38% who said Democrats.

While that doesn't seem to be a huge difference, understand that Democrats have typically dominated this issue both nationally and locally. To put it in perspective, a public opinion poll called Winning the Issues has been polling Americans about which party they trust more on education for 20 years. Democrats have led in every single poll, by an average of 15 points until around 2019. The fact that this poll is now showing Republicans ahead on education is encouraging.

Additionally, the poll also finds that not only do likely voters trust Republicans more, but respondents care *a lot* about this issue. Sixty eight percent said that education is either one of the most important issues to them in the upcoming election or at least a very important issue.

The poll also revealed what we've known intuitively for decades now: parents would like less focus on social issues and more on reading, math, science. Those three subjects were overwhelmingly voters' top priority.

Not surprising, 60% said they aren't happy with how racial issues are taught in schools and 43% of respondents said schools spend too much time focusing on sexual preference and gender identity.

The AFT poll dovetails with a Harris poll of 5000 parents from June that found that 83% of parents considered education

to be a more important issue than it has been in the past. In fact, for

parents who vote in state, local, and national elections, education was the second most important issue to them behind only taxes.

Amazingly, 82% of parents said they'd be willing to vote outside their party affiliation if they liked a candidate's education platform. That number held steady regardless of party affiliation. To give you even just a little bit more context, a recent Gallup poll found that only 28% of Americans say they have a great deal of confidence in public schools. ★



SCOTUS Term Limits

Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives introduced a bill in July that would impose 18-year term limits on the U.S. Supreme Court, H.R. 8500. New polling does show that a majority of Americans favor term limits and confidence in the court has fallen 16 points since May.

This is not a new trend... back in 2015, shortly after the court ruled on so-called gay marriage, you see almost identical results. At that time, Reuters reported that 66% of Americans favored term limits on SCOTUS. The difference is in 2015, when you broke these numbers down by party affiliation, you found that considerably more Republicans than Democrats then favored term limits, 74% to 66%. Today, that balance is reversed. 82% of Democrats now want to limit Justice's tenure on the bench compared to 57% of Republicans. ★



Amendment 1: Vote **NO** on November 8th *By Benjamin Manifold*

Illinois would become the first state to place a constitutional ban on any non-union efforts if 50 percent plus 1 choose “Yes” on the first question asked on their November 8, 2022 General Election ballot.

“Amendment 1,” as it is known, will hand over to Illinois’ 15 (and shrinking) percent of the state’s unionized work force unprecedented powers over the other 85 percent of the non-unionized work force, essentially giving unions more power than the legislature

And knowing well how union bosses wield much more influence and power than the average rank and file union members do, in reality, those unprecedented powers would be in the hands of an elite group of union leaders — people that are commonly directly involved in the radically-Left Democratic Party.

Illinois’ proposed Amendment 1 would:

1 Use the state constitution to create a “fundamental right” for an employee to unionize — and eliminate alternatives for employees that do not want to unionize.

2 Give labor unions the “fundamental right” to implement negotiating tactics — including labor strikes and walkouts at their discretion — over a limitless array of issues: from wages, working conditions to workplace safety and anything they perceive as affecting the union members’ economic welfare.

3 Increase property taxes by an average of \$2100 per year, according to tax policy experts.

Amendment 1 would push public and private sector unions into new powerful positions at a time when public sector unions — such as the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the National Education Association (NEA) — are under heavy criticism by taxpayers and parents.

According to a 2022 NEA survey, NEA President Randi Weingarten reported nearly nine out of ten of the membership respondents complained that “schools have become too politicized.”

Yet, in spite of the rank and file complaints, the NEA’s 2022 annual conference resolutions focus on promoting and instituting strong Leftist public policies in local schools, such as the LGBTQ/transgender agenda, Critical Race Theory curriculum, and radical ideologies about global warming, gun control and sex education.

Public sector labor union bosses and their collusion with political action committees hold partial responsibility for hoisting Marxist candidates to elected offices, attempting to radically



transform the American culture.

Powers granted to union leaders if Amendment #1 is added to the state constitution will include “fundamental rights” to:

1 require — with no countering arguments — Illinois’ small, midsize and large businesses to consider unionizing their non-union employees, if only one introduces the idea;

2 overrule any state law and state lawmakers’ public proposals that may encourage non-union policies and, place upon the state’s taxpayer ranks an unlimited demand on their limited incomes.

On the other hand, if Amendment 1 does not pass with the support of 50 percent plus 1 of those voting, workers will still have broad protections and lawmakers will be allowed to change laws in the best interest of workers and taxpayers.

The question Illinois voters will need to ask themselves when they go to the polls in November and see the Amendment 1 question at the top is “**Do I want union bosses of 15 percent of Illinois’ workforce to be the ones to determine the state’s economic and labor policy?**” ★

REGISTER TODAY!



ILLINOIS
Family
Institute

Faith, Family & Freedom Fall Banquet

TRUE FAITH ...not in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2:5

Kevin & Sam
SORBO

Actors, Authors &
Education Freedom
Advocates



Friday, October 28, 2022

The Carlisle / 435 E. Butterfield Rd., Lombard, IL

To Register / illinoisfamily.org

Boldly Bringing a Biblical Perspective to Public Policy in the Land of Lincoln.

Prayer Requests . . .

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works. ~Hebrews 10:23-24

Again, we praise God for the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling striking down the so-called "right" to abortion! At the same time, we know that Illinois will fast become the abortion dumping ground of the Midwest. Over the past few years, three additional abortion mills have opened up, and three more are in the works. God have mercy!

In 2 Kings 24, God sent evil nations to destroy Judah under Manasseh's reign because of their sins, "including the shedding of innocent blood. For he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the Lord was not willing to forgive."

Christians must stand up to this heinous atrocity. Parents,

grandparents and church leaders must confront the celebration of sexual

immorality and perversity that is being taught to children. Even university professors are suffering from foolish and delusional thinking that men can get pregnant. So many in our culture have bought the lies of the devil. We have become a state that calls good evil, and evil good. ★



Please Pray...



...for the Church

- Pray fervently to God, asking Him to heal our state and nation (2 Chron 7:14).
- Pray for a revival in Illinois. May we be used by God to point people to the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6).
- Pray that Christians would awaken and become more engaged in exposing the lies of the culture (John 8:44; Eph 5:11).
- Pray that pastors would preach/teach about the moral issues of the day and encourage their members to take a stand for what matters to God.
- Pray that the witness of Christ in the public square would be untarnished.

...for Elected Officials

- Pray that God would work in the hearts and minds of Pres. Biden and Gov. Pritzker. Pray that they would be surrounded by Godly counselors.
- Pray that members of Congress would seek God's direction to make the tough decisions necessary to put our country back on the right moral track.
- Pray that God-fearing candidates would be successful running their campaigns in the General Election on November 8, 2022.

...for our Nation

- Thank God for how He has preserved and blessed our nation over our 245 years of history.

...for Families

- Pray that parents and grandparents would seriously take to heart their God-given responsibility to train children in the way of the Lord.
- Pray that more Christian families leave government schools and learn about homeschooling, discipleship, and other Christian education choices.
- Pray that God would expose the plans of the enemy and the lies that seek to divide us by race and ethnicity and fuel a spirit of hate. Pray against the push for identity politics.

...for Illinois Family Institute

- Pray that we would remain strong and not grow weary in doing good.
- Pray that God would provide every resource we need to engage the enemy in the public square. Pray that our efforts be multiplied and amplified. ★



Stay up-to-speed on news impacting the family



Become a fan on Facebook!



Follow us on Instagram @illinoisfamilyinstitute



Follow us on Twitter @ProFamilyIFI



youtube.com/ILFamilyInstitute



Visit our website: illinoisfamily.org

Illinois Family Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit 501c3 organization. Gifts to IFI are tax-deductible. IFI has a working relationship with the American Family Association, Alliance Defending Freedom, Family Research Council, Mauck & Baker, Liberty Counsel, and the Thomas More Society.

Illinois Family Institute | P.O. Box 876 | Tinley Park, Illinois 60477

phone: 708-781-9328 | fax: 708-781-9376 | web: illinoisfamily.org | e-mail: ContactUs@illinoisfamily.org

Boldly Bringing a Biblical Perspective to Public Policy in the Land of Lincoln.