



The Canberra Declaration Bible Study

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
MARRIAGE & FAMILY
LIFE

The Canberra Declaration, launched 23 July 2010, is a call to Christian conscience. This study has been prepared to help Christians gain a deeper understanding of the role of faith and conviction in society. Faith, and the right to protect our own and our children's faith have never faced the challenges they face today. We ignore Scripture and our Judeo-Christian traditions at our own peril!

For those wishing to take further the connection between Scriptural teachings and the core principles enunciated in the Declaration

Christian Social and Political Involvement

Is God concerned about the whole of life, including the social and political spheres?

Genesis 1:31

Psalms 24:1

Matthew 6:9-10

Luke 10:25-37

Colossians 3:17

How important were the following people of God as they lived and worked in secular governments:

Joseph (Genesis 37-50)

Esther (the book of Esther, esp. 4:12-14)

Daniel (Daniel 1-6)

How do these words of Jesus relate to Christian social and political involvement?

Matthew 5:13-16

What features of government are laid out in these passages?

Matthew 22:15-22

Romans 13:1-7

1 Peter 2:13-17

Religious Freedom

What should believers do when forced to compromise their religious beliefs and convictions?

Daniel 3

Daniel 6

Acts 4:18-20

Acts 5:27-29

Do similar examples of religious persecution occur today?

Acts 5:17-41

Acts 5:8-8:1 (Stephen)

Acts 12

Acts 16:16-40 (Paul and Silas)

What does this passage teach about religious coercion?

Revelation 13

On a more general note, what do these passages tell us about freedom:

John 8:36

1 Peter 2:16

Marriage and Family

Is the institution of marriage and family ordained by God?

Genesis 2:18-24

Does Jesus affirm this understanding?

Matthew 19:1-6 (Mark 10:1-9)

What did Paul write about these divine institutions?

Ephesians 5:21-33

1 Timothy 3:3-4, 12

Why and how does God use covenant marriage as a symbol of God's covenant relationship with his people?

Ezekiel 16:8-14

Malachi 2:13-16

Ephesians 5:21-33

Revelation 19:6-8

Human Life

What do these texts say about the personhood of the unborn?

2 Samuel 11:5

Psalms 51:5

Psalms 58:3

Psalms 139:13-16

Luke 1:15

Luke 1:44

How do these passages speak of God's relationship to the unborn?

Job 10:8-12

Matthew 1:18-20

Psalms 139:13-16

What about the "hard cases" of abortion?

Genesis 19:36-38 (incest)

Genesis 38 (rape)

John 9:1-3 (birth defects)

Psalms 94:9

Psalms 139:13-16

What do these passages about God's concern for the vulnerable and defenceless?

Psalms 82:2-4

Proverbs 24:11

Proverbs 31:8-9

Proverbs 31:8 (KJV)

Is suicide ever viewed in a positive light in Scripture?

Judges 9:50-56 (Abimelech)

1 Samuel 31:2 (Saul)

2 Samuel 17:23 (Ahithophel)

1 Kings 16:18-19 (Zimri)

Matthew 27:3-10; Acts 1:18,19 (Judas Iscariot)

Discuss how these passages speak to the importance and sanctity of life:

Genesis 9:6

Exodus 20:13

Proverbs 8:36

John 10:10