

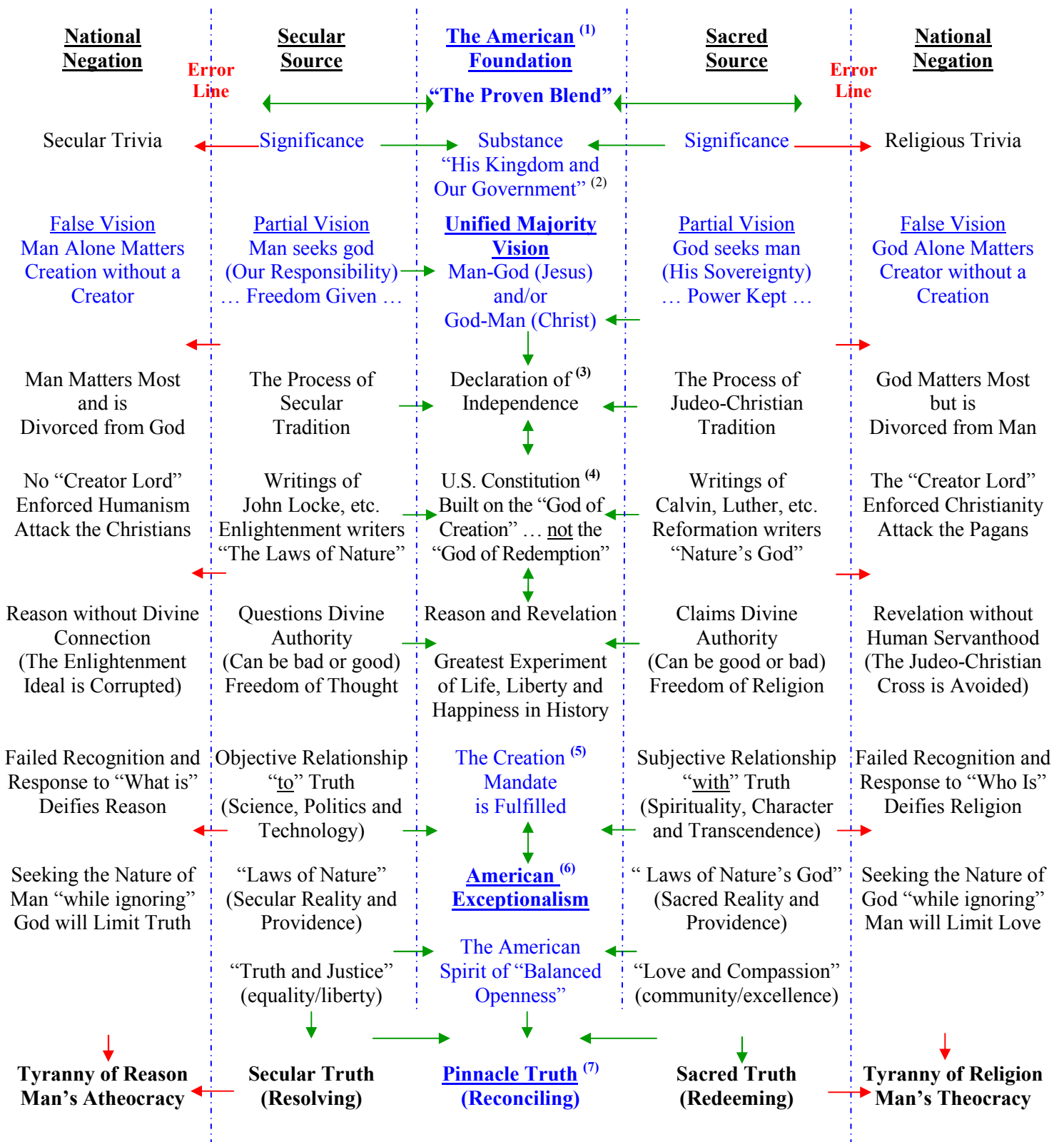
The Founder's Biblical American Vision

II Corinthians 5:11-21

A VFC Victory Visual: #58
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See VFC Message #3: The Biblical Patriot
(Revelation 12:11)

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The American Vision and Transcendent Significance

The Never Ending Quest for Divine-Human Balance

If I seem like I'm a little out of my mind it is only my zeal to bring significance and glory to our Creator God (sacred). *If I am acting with calmness and sobriety it is to connect with you in your created world* (secular). *For we are compelled by Christ's love to balance the extremes* (secular/sacred) of living ... (II Cor. 5:13-14, HDM) The Lord God created mankind in His Image (sacred) and then connected them to earth affairs, issues and duties (secular) in order to conform them to Himself. It is in the most perfect blending of our sacred and secular mandates that we grow in Truth/truth and become most significant for the eternal purposes of the Godhead. "The Plan" was for the three of them ... Adam, Eve and the Lord ... to walk together in the Garden in the cool of the day. (Gen. 2:8-9) Evidently the Lord God made man and woman as an extension of His glory. In His image they were to increase His glorious intentions by working in and perfecting His Garden (created/secular) and afterward walk with Him in a fellowship of glory and growth (Creator/sacred). This twofold privilege created the splendor of the third ... oneness, completeness, perfection. Adam and Eve lost it, and all humanity has struggled to restore it ... knowingly or unknowingly ... since the Garden closed to them. (Gen. 3) All men and women innately hunger for transcendence ... oneness with the Person and purposes of their Creator. This oneness was the main theme of the Savior's Gethsemane prayer on the eve of His crucifixion. "I have given them the glory that You gave Me, that they may be one as We are one. I in them and You in Me. May they be brought to complete unity ..." (John 17, especially verses 22-23)

The Hebrew word for glory means heaviness, weight, huge, significance. God is the heavyweight, and we are the lightweights. Hence, my translation of Colossians 1:27, "... God as chosen to make known ... The glorious riches of the mystery which is Christ in you, the hope of glory!" with these telling words, "... God has willed that we experientially know ... the splendid and dazzling wealth and abundance of His hidden mystery, which is Christ in you, your confidence of significance!"

Everyone hungers to be a "significant" human being! You ardently desire to be so for your family, friends, co-workers, other people, yourself and to the Creator Lord's highest purpose. This will progressively happen when your sacred visions and secular attainments combine to create your own significant incarnation/ crucifixion/ resurrection that will increasingly please the Mind and Heart of our Savior Leader, the Lord Jesus. The Genesis Garden struggle is both personal and cultural. The IMAX version as a people is seen when we seek to complete our government in the image of His kingdom.

And so it is with America. As a nation we have been given more life options, on the whole, than any other nation in history! We have tasted more liberty from our government than any other (thus far?!) With proper humility our people at large have acknowledged more of the Creator's truth and connected closer to His human purposes than any other nation. (70% of our population identify themselves as Christians.) We remember ... consciously or unconsciously ... that reality for our humanity began in a created Garden where we could meet with our Creator. We still seek that "completed life" where our secular responsibilities still blend with His sacred Presence. When judged by our servant leadership globally, our worldwide benevolence and generosity, our own prosperity and ideals and the respect given us by freedom hungry people, what other nation can compare? Our many sad flaws are obvious, but I challenge you to find any other nation that is or has been flawed less!

I have a dear friend in India, Paul Pillai, who is a prominent national leader in Christian ministry. We were discussing and comparing America, India and other national governments. His comment to me was profound. "My brother, whatever is bad in America is worse in India! Whatever is good in my country is always better in America!" I challenge every American, especially those critics who ignorantly and naively degrade our system, to use Paul's measuring rod about America among all the nations of the world. We are not arrogant toward other countries, but simply intensely grateful for our own. We still carry in our hearts the vision of our Founder's ... that America will be a light and hope to

all the peoples of the world. “It yet remains a problem to be solved in human affairs, whether any free government can be permanent, where the public worship of God, and the support of religion, constitute no part of the policy or duty of the state in any assignable shape. The future experience of Christendom, and chiefly of the American states, must settle this problem, as yet new in the history of the world, abundant, as it has been, in experiments in the theory of government.” Joseph Story (*Commentaries on the Constitution*, 1833) “The American war is over; but this is far from being the case with the American revolution. On the contrary, nothing but the first act of the drama is closed. It remains yet to establish and perfect our new forms of government, and to prepare the principles, morals, and manners of our citizens for these forms of government after they are established and brought to perfection.” Dr. Benjamin Rush (letter to Price, May 25, 1786)

Some Key Insights Surrounding the Founder’s Biblical American Vision

Key 1: Approximate Historical Timelines (The Intellectual, Cultural and Governmental Shifts):
 The Classical Ancients (Prior 500 AD) — The Middle Ages (500-1350) — The Renaissance (1350-1650) — The Protestant Reformation (1500-1800) — The Counter Catholic Reformation (1545-1648) — The Enlightenment (1650-1800) — American Revolution and Independence (1775-1789) — Modern Age (1800-1960) — Post-Modern Age (1960-present) — Judeo-Christian Age (2,000 BC-present)

Key 2: Four Broad Summaries of the Historical Mindsets):

- I—Pre-Modern Age (time limited) ... “We know something ... but not all!” Spiritual Infancy!
- II—Modern Age (time limited) ... “We can know everything ... all can be ours!” Spiritual Arrogance!
- III—Post-Modern Age (time limited) ... “We really know nothing ... all is relative!” Spiritual Bankruptcy!
- IV—The Judeo-Christian Age (timeless) ... “We Know Him ... all is resolved!” Spiritual Reality!

Key 3: Judeo-Christian Citizens and their Warrior Servant Declaration: “Let the High Praise (from deliverance and liberation) of God (His wisdom and government) be in my mouth (His kingdom vision and rule proclaimed), and the double edged sword (both the sacred and secular sharp blades of influence and energy) be in my hands (your life impact and significance on others and society).” (Ps. 149:6—II Cor. 6:7, 10:4; Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12) The American experiment is without doubt the closest the world has ever come to positively merging Christ’s Kingdom of Revelation with Man’s Government of Reason and creating a culture of divine/human righteousness. This is why we call our idea of government “American Exceptionalism.” This revolutionary political concept will be saved or lost depending on the number of “pinnacle citizens” who will comprehend and sacrifice “their sacred honor” to the same high level as demonstrated by our Founders. A new “remnant” must commit to being “warrior servants” of our tested, refined and proven “Founding Vision” regardless of the personal cost! “We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately.” (Benjamin Franklin at the signing of the Declaration of Independence.)

As they then, so we now, “... with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.” (Emphasis added.) These are the last twenty-four words of our Declaration of Independence! These words can just as easily be viewed as a “Declaration of Dependence” on the Creator God of freedom, righteousness, justice and truth. “We hold these truths to be self evident” How can the hungry heart and mind intent of our Founder’s be any clearer? The secular sword should empower the vision of mankind’s self-responsibility. The sacred sword should empower the vision of mankind’s God dependence. Both “sword forces” should be operating in simultaneous balance. The resultant of these two swords is to

create and empower a third ... the Spirit Sword ... the significant vision that birthed the United States of America. The Spirit Sword of our Founders envisioned secular/sacred citizens who would usher in “a new order of the ages protected by Divine Providence!” Hear the words of one of the most eloquent of our Founders, Patrick Henry, as he summarizes the American dream, “We have it within our power to begin the world over again.”

The first thing the Lord Christ did after His forty days and nights of fasting and His temptation by the Devil was to return to His home area of Galilee and teach in the available synagogues. (Matt. 4:1-12) When He came to His home town of Nazareth, He went to their synagogue and selected the Words of Isaiah to read before them. (Isa. 9:1-2; Matt. 4:15-16) When He sat down to teach, He made a stunning declaration, “Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing!” Jesus told them He was the One of Whom Isaiah wrote! (Luke 4:14-12) I see our three swords in His amazing words:

The Spirit Sword—The Spirit has anointed Me to wield both the secular and sacred sword blades of truth. The Creator comes to heal His creation.

The Secular Sword—Good news to those in poverty, freedom to those in prison, vision to those who are blind, release for those oppressed in spirit and soul. The creation’s secular garden is restored.

The Sacred Sword—Today—NOW—everyone can know and experience the Lord’s favor by receiving the grace and truth of His eternal salvation. The Creator’s redeemed join Him in His sacred Garden.

The committed, growing and sacrificing Biblical Citizen sees the wisdom and wonder of the Lord’s unfolding purposes and plans in all things. We truly have a peace that passes understanding. (Phil. 4:7) Let us simply walk with our Creator-Redeemer in the American Garden where He has placed us and contentedly contemplate His Presence and complete His purpose. This “walk” is our highest calling and contentment. In seeking this alone we shall “reign in life” while we await the full realization of the Government that is on His shoulders and that is everlasting! Only then will lasting peace, justice and righteousness be ours to experience in all of its splendid abundance. Then we shall see and dwell with the true King of the Universe under His government that shall never end! (Isa. 9:1-7; Rom. 5:17)

The Seven Essential Concepts as Footnoted:

1. **The American Foundation**
2. **Kingdom and Government**
3. **The U.S. Declaration—“The why of our Constitution”**
4. **The U.S. Constitution—“The how of our Declaration”**
5. **Our Creation Commission**
6. **American Exceptionalism**
7. **Pinnacle Truth and Divine Reconciliation**

Note: The Seven Essential Concepts that are Footnote references found in the Graphic on page 1 can be found on our Ventures for Christ website at www.venturesforchrist.com/concepts. Check this webpage for a fuller exposition of these seven foundational and critical concepts.