

Righteousness Exalts a Nation

Our nation faces a host of problems, and politicians are proposing a host of solutions. Most of their solutions are just more of the same policies that led us into the problems in the first place. Unfortunately, no national leaders are proposing the only solution that will work. What is this solution?

Proverbs 14:34 – Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.

It is just that simple. When the people and the government of a nation do right, the nation is lifted up. When the people and the government of a nation practice, sanction, endorse, and celebrate sin, the nation is brought down in disgrace.

The solution of righteousness has been tried and proved over the centuries. In Deuteronomy 10:12-13, ancient Israel was told,

¹²“Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³and to keep the LORD’s commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?”

Indeed, life was very good for Israel while they kept this standard of righteousness. However, when the nation turned to idolatry and corruption, they suffered division, defeat, captivity, and eventually destruction.

All of our social, economic, and political problems are of our nation’s own doing. Consider Psalm 9:15-17:

¹⁵The nations have sunk down in the pit which they have made; in the net which they hid, their own foot has been caught. ¹⁶The LORD has made Himself known; He has executed judgment. In the work of his own hands the wicked is snared. ¹⁷The wicked will return to Sheol, even all the nations who forget God.

However, all of these problems are reversible. Notice God’s words in Jeremiah 18:7-10:

⁷“At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy it; ⁸if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it. ⁹Or at another moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to build up or to plant it; ¹⁰if it does evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, then I will think better of the good with which I had promised to bless it.”

What can you do to promote righteousness in your nation and reverse these problems?

Be righteous yourself.

Matthew 6:33 – “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

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Micah 6:8 – He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Set a righteous example for others to follow.

Matthew 5:13-16 – ¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. ¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; ¹⁵nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Pray for your nation’s government and people.

1Timothy 2:1-4 – ¹First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, ²for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Select leaders who come closest to complying with God’s righteousness.

Proverbs 29:2 – When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when a wicked man rules, people groan.

Of course, true righteousness is available to us only through the gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16-17). Therefore, the very best action any of us can take to help exalt our nation is to practice and preach the gospel of righteousness.