

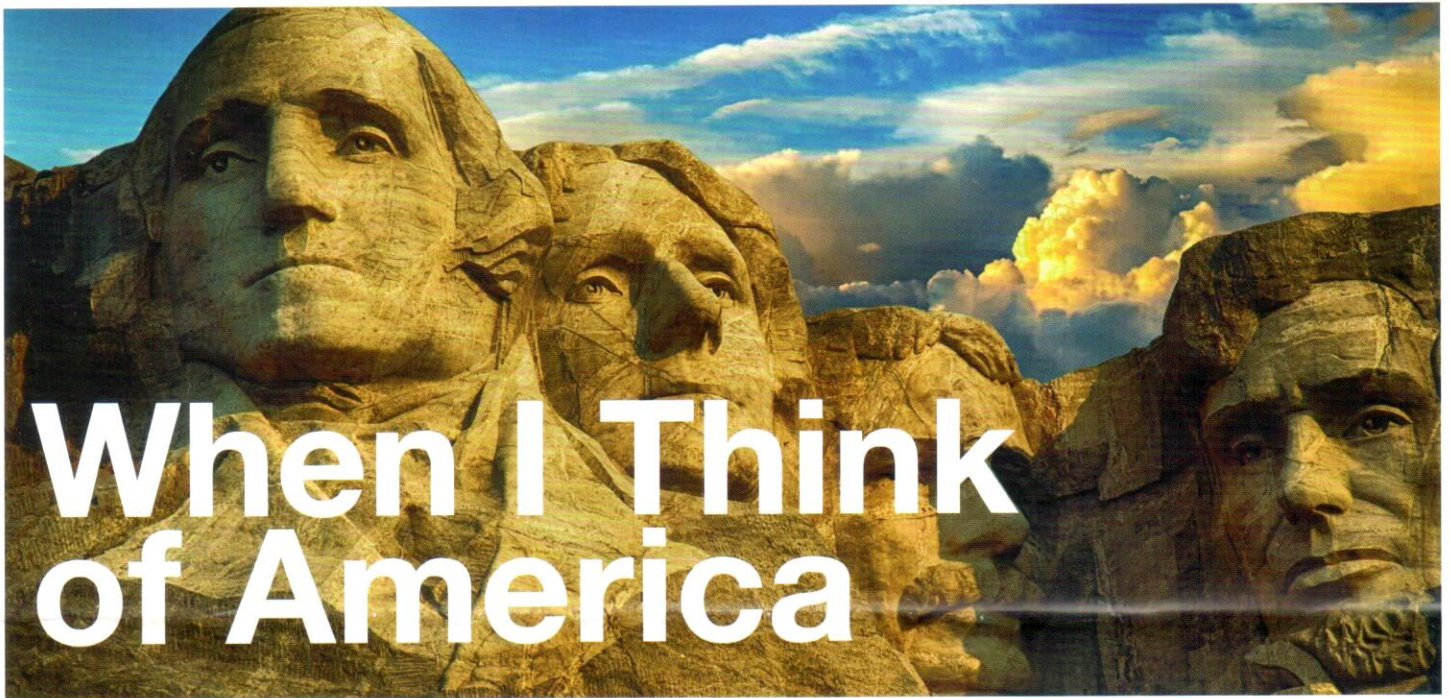
June 2018

A Monthly Publication of the Christian Law Association

THE LEGAL ALERT

A silhouette of a person holding an American flag against a bright sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong lens flare effect. The person is standing on a dark, grassy hillside, and the flag is held high, waving in the wind. The background shows a calm body of water and a distant shoreline with some trees.

**When I think of America
Part I**



When I Think of America

THE STATE OF FAITH IN 2018

One of the primary reasons our founding fathers left England and established this great country was to ensure religious freedom for all. They added the First Amendment into our Constitution to enshrine the importance of faith in our culture as well as prevent the government from ever attempting to enforce the practice of a state religion.

For well over two hundred years now, millions have flocked to America to enjoy its rare religious freedoms. To contrast, dozens of countries across the globe still put people to death for practicing disfavored religions. Indeed, our legal system still offers the greatest protections for those who practice faith of anywhere in the world.

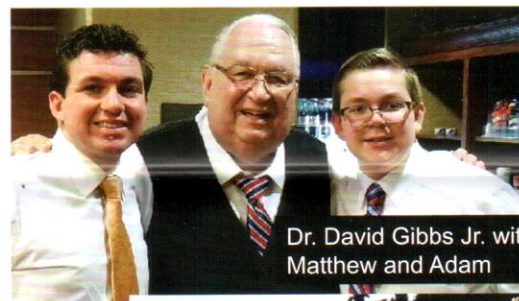
Despite this, the truth is that faith in America appears to be waning. Out of the last four major generations of the past century, the numbers of people who believe in God are dropping.

Key statistics regarding America's faith:

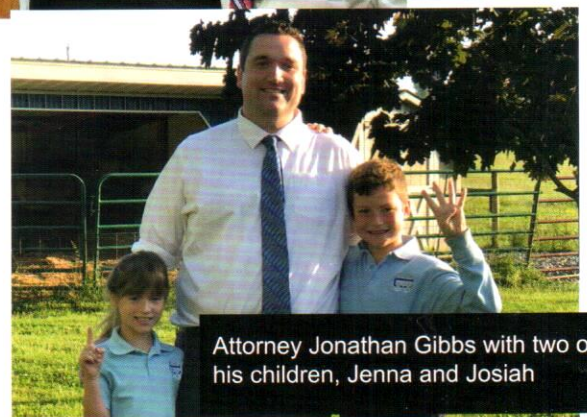
In Americans **over the age of 65** years old, an impressive 70% are absolutely certain that they believe in God. 65% state that their religion is very important to them.

The “Baby Boomer” generation, **those between 50 and 64**, are similarly religious. 69% are absolutely certain God exists. 59% believe that religion is very important.

A downward trend towards unbelief starts with Generation X. Only 62% of these people, **aged 30-49**, are certain God exists. Additionally, the percentage of those who believe religion is very important dips to only 51%. Many now identify as agnostic or atheist.



Dr. David Gibbs Jr. with grandsons, Matthew and Adam

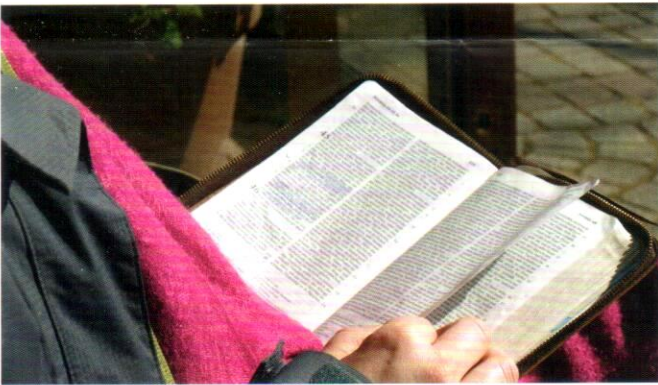


Attorney Jonathan Gibbs with two of his children, Jenna and Josiah

In the Millennials – **ages 18-29** – sadly, certainty of God’s existence has dropped to 51%. Only 40% of those polled believe religion is very important to their lives.

The statistics in how each generation practices their faith is reflective of the overall decline in religious belief. **While 48% of people over 65 attend church at least once a week, only 27% of those 18-29 do.** While 65% of people over 65 pray daily, that number drops a shocking 24% for Millennials.

While these overall statistics of Americans are certainly troubling, we should not forget to examine our own shortcomings as Christians. Among only



those who identify as Christian, the percentage of those who attend church at least once a week has decreased from 56% to 42% over the generations. Even amongst those over 65, only 48% could say they read their Bible daily. For Millennials, that number drops to 39%.

Even more troubling than this are the ideological splits between Christians. No less than 42% of Christians (and 33% of Evangelicals) across every generation believe that abortion should be legal in most cases! Additionally, the number of Christians who believe homosexuality should be accepted has increased from 43% to a shocking 67% (36% amongst Evangelicals).

As the millennials continue to age, Generation Z is coming up quickly behind, and the early statistics regarding their viewpoints and beliefs do not show any improvement. It is vital that Christians strive every day to share our faith more vigorously, and teach our children the importance of our beliefs. The way to change this dynamic is for every one of us to step up and do our part today.



CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION ALERT!

As many of you in California are no doubt already aware, the California legislature is moving forward with a very troubling piece of legislation. AB 2943 would add to the California Consumer Legal Remedies Act by illegalizing any “advertising, offering to engage in, or engaging in sexual orientation change efforts with an individual”, if those activities are intended to result or do result in the sale or lease of goods or services to any consumer. The term “sexual orientation change efforts” is defined as any practices that seek to change an individual’s sexual orientation, including efforts to “eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same sex.”

Sadly this is not California’s first attempt to limit “change efforts.” California already has laws in place making it illegal for any licensed therapists or counselors to engage directly in “change efforts” with clients. However, this new bill is even more concerning because of the vague language and potential breadth. AB 2943 would allegedly illegalize any sale of goods or services that supposedly had any relation to “change efforts”. This could and likely would criminalize the sale of any Christian counseling books addressing dealing with homosexual persons in a Biblical way. The Assembly Judiciary Committee even acknowledged the law could encompass church retreats that charged money to attend. While unlikely, someone could even attempt to argue this law could ban the sale of Bibles.

Now is the time for the Christians of California to speak up and let their voices be heard regarding this legislation. What can you do?

3 ways you can help:

CALL YOUR CONGRESSMAN.

Express your concern about this bill and request they, at a minimum, add language excluding religious activities or that they oppose the bill entirely. Legislators pay attention when their phones start to ring off the hook from people who control whether or not they get re-elected.

RAISE AWARENESS.

Ensure that every person you know, particularly other believers, are aware that this piece of legislation is happening and request they take the few minutes required to reach out to their Congressman as well. In these types of situations, numbers can make a difference.

PRAY.

Often, the most important solution is the one most overlooked. Sometimes we forget the power that prayer holds. The heart of every man is in the hands of God – lift up your Congressman by name. Lift up your Governor. Consider a period of fasting and prayer for your legislators.

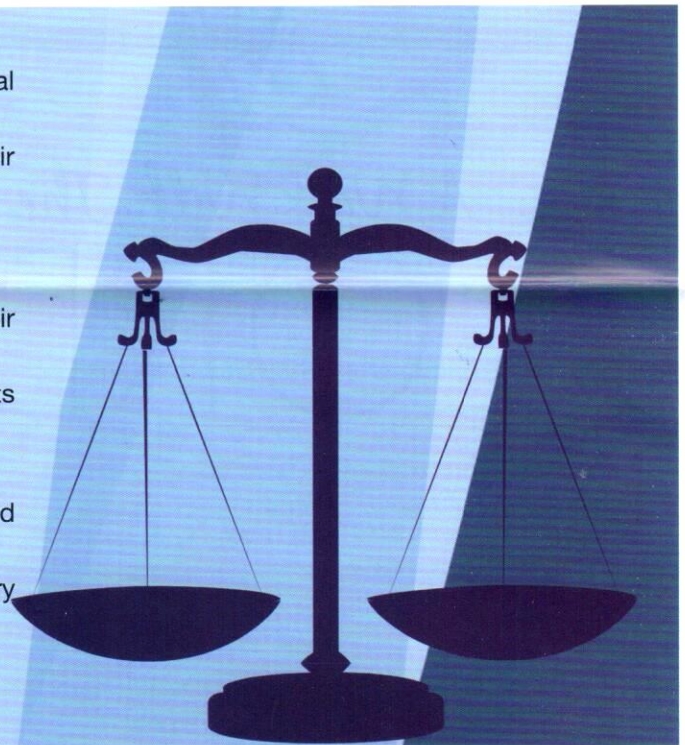
It is important to note that pastors should certainly be involved in these types of issues as well, but pastors must be cautious – using the influence of your ministry can potentially break federal law regarding non-profits and lobbying. It is vital that pastors remember they can only oppose legislation when doing so in an individual capacity and on their own time and of their own initiative. If you would like to make your voice heard as a pastor, please call our attorneys today and let our legal team help you through the safest way to do just that.

ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION

The Christian Law Association is a ministry of legal helps.

CLA serves through the following ways:

- Free legal defense of those facing difficulties for the Biblical faith
- Free legal counsel to churches and Christians for their ministries
- Legal seminars for ministries to help prevent lawsuits
- Preaching in churches across the country
- Legal books and other resources to inform Christians of their rights
- *The Legal Alert* radio program broadcast on over 1,300 outlets around the world
- Publication of a monthly newsletter, *The Legal Alert*
- Free legal consulting to local, state, and federal officials and legislators to provide maximum religious liberty
- Intercessory prayer ministry for requests sent to the ministry offices
- Free legal help to homeschooling families
- Prayer for our national leadership and government



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CHRIST BRINGS HOPE

Through the many distinct situations that occur in America today, especially the swirling issues that develop when wrongdoers hurt God's church and His children, God brings hope, peace, and strength when it is most needed. For many years, our ministry has stood to legally help those who are the least of these in American society, and we are honored to stand alongside God's people in firmly protecting those who are victims of doing God's work. Ministries and victims should be protected from harm in any way possible. By placing protections in place, such as our Safe Haven guide and many others, churches can protect the members from incidents and can protect themselves from the liability when offenders violate the law.

When viewing America's churches today, the Spirit of God is working all over our great nation! Souls are being saved, and lives are being transformed in every one of these United States. These next few months, churches will be sharing the Gospel with children and parents through numerous Vacation Bible School meetings, revival meetings, and other outreach endeavors. Support your pastor and get involved! These earthly measures have heavenly rewards.

Our ministry exists to help all believers continue the traditions and Biblical commands of the Word of God in the middle of a society that despises everything about the Lord. Despite these attacks on our values, we have hope in Christ Jesus, Who gives us the victory.

As we see believers standing for God, we know that faith is strong in America today. Hope is alive and well!

The law in America is to protect individuals from having their rights violated, NOT to prevent Christians from practicing their faith. Our founding fathers would not ratify the Constitution for their states without the collective Bill of Rights attached, protecting first their specific rights to religious freedom. We count it our esteemed privilege to be called of God to defend it in America today.



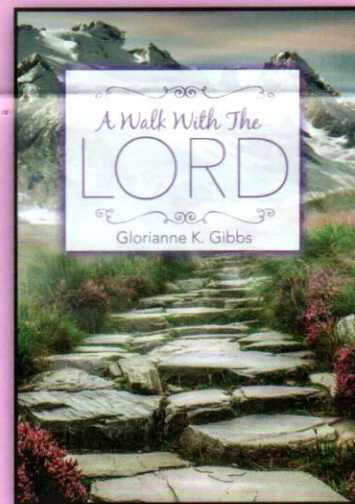
Joy Gibbs, youngest daughter of CLA Attorney Jonathan Gibbs

A Walk With The LORD

Glorianne K. Gibbs

This newest book by Mrs. Glorianne Gibbs challenges you to reach new heights in your personal walk with God.

NEW LADIES' DEVOTIONAL



INTRODUCTORY OFFER:
\$15 with free shipping

Checklist PRAYER CHECKLIST

- ✓ Please pray for a Christian in **VERMONT** who called our ministry to speak with attorneys about starting a Bible club in his local public school.
- ✓ Pray for a church in **CALIFORNIA** that called our attorneys because it is facing pressure to allow a transgendered person to attend a church function against their Biblical beliefs.
- ✓ Pray for a Pastor in **NORTH CAROLINA** who requested legal counsel while handling a delicate matter between students and families in the Christian school.
- ✓ Pray for a Christian in **WASHINGTON D.C.** who called our ministry because his employer is requiring a letter in order to grant his request to have Sundays off to attend church services.
- ✓ Pray for a Christian in **SOUTH CAROLINA** who is building a wedding venue and called because he needed legal counsel on how to honor the Lord with his work.
- ✓ Pray for CLA attorneys as they counsel the leadership of a Christian school in **FLORIDA** dealing with a situation where students were caught texting inappropriate material to each other.
- ✓ Pray as we help a church in **ARIZONA** that recently discovered the church treasurer has been stealing church funds for personal use.
- ✓ Pray for several churches across the **UNITED STATES** that contacted our ministry as they search for new pastors.
- ✓ Pray as our legal team helps the interim pastor of a **COLORADO** church who is assisting the church update their constitution and bylaws as well as other organizing documents.
- ✓ Praise the Lord a church in **VIRGINIA** was able to update benevolence policies after getting legal advice from CLA attorneys.
- ✓ Pray for a Christian school in **FLORIDA** that called our attorneys for guidance while ministering to special needs children in their community.
- ✓ Pray for a pastor in **IDAHO** who called CLA attorneys with a desire to have a Christian school but is facing difficulty with the local zoning board and health department.
- ✓ Pray for a Christian in **FLORIDA** who called our office after she was informed that employees are no longer able to wear visible jewelry with religious symbols.
- ✓ Pray for a Christian in **MINNESOTA** who contacted our legal team for help removing an offensive rainbow emoji from official school and teacher emails.

