

We the People

of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article I

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch in that State.

Whoever shall be a Representative shall be, when elected, seven Years of Age, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Section 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

The CONSTITUTION Binding Law or Words Empty

Section 4. The Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch in that State, but each State shall have at least one Representative, and until such Enumeration shall be made, the Electors in New Hampshire shall be numbered as three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania seven, Delaware three, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

Section 5. When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

Section 6. The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section 7. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Clauses. The Seats of the Senators of the first Clause shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Clause at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Clause at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; and if Vacancies happen, or otherwise, during the Course of the Session of any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Appointment until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies.

Section 8. No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

Section 9. The President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

Section 10. The Senate shall choose their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

Section 11. The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments: When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Section 12. Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of Honor, Trust or Profit under the United States; but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

200 YEARS AFTER

America at one time was viewed as a "Promised Land" by multitudes of people who were longing to escape the oppression and bondage of tyrannical kings and dictators. They were looking for a nation that would give them the opportunity to live as their conscience dictated, and the Constitution of this nation and of each state gave them that freedom.

But now, 200 years after the Constitution was written, we see these freedoms quickly eroding under our feet and thus destroying the foundation on which this country had its beginning.

Heedless? Reckless? What other words would you use to describe today's modern society? How long can an economic system based on debt and inflation continue to flourish? Who really expects science to erase all the consequences of rampant pollution? The arms race, nuclear waste, corruption in government, war, terrorism, starvation, over population, A.I.D.S. and so on have ceased to be mere crises but now have become hard, cold facts of life that are hurling the human race toward total destruction.

With eyes firmly fixed on his own self-interest, career, insurance, retirement, etc., modern man tries to carve out a niche for himself in a mudslide and hopes he can live out his life before everything crashes in the almost certain nightmare of the future.

And so, is it any wonder that he is apathetic about the moral decay and erosion of freedoms that he sees all around him? After all, what alternative is there? He hardly has time to fight for his rights because he's so busy sweating for his bread.

Sometimes he looks for the words that will set him free from his meaningless and hopeless existence, but all the words — the philosophies and causes and religions — fail to offer him a life. And without a life to back them up, the words aren't worth the paper they're printed on.

After you've read our words, get in touch with us. We would be overjoyed to share our life with you. ■

THE NEW ENGLAND FREEPAPER

This pamphlet is written and printed by the publisher of The New England Freepaper. The purpose of this pamphlet is to bring to your attention an issue that is most relevant to people who are concerned about the eroding value of the Constitution in this country. Especially, the publisher (which consists of all the people in the communities listed on the back of this publication) wants to present this timely issue to you in a way that is not normally discussed in publications.

The articles in this pamphlet are faithful representations of the viewpoints, opinions, and convictions of the publisher. The publisher fully supports what is printed and is totally accountable and totally responsible for the content of this

paper. Because of this accountability, we take very seriously what we say. We only say on these pages what we have seen, what we have heard, and what has been proven through our life together.

Articles from this pamphlet may be copied and reprinted by permission of the publisher. In fact the articles in this pamphlet are excerpts from past New England Freepapers. Subscriptions to the Freepaper are not available, but individual copies are available upon request, at no charge, by writing to: Publisher, Box 443, Island Pond, Vt. 05846. Telephone: (802) 723-9708. Letters from readers are invited and will be considered for publication.

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The CONSTITUTION



& *The* COVENANT

*T*oday most Americans seem to have forgotten the ancient evils which forced their ancestors to flee to this country and to form a government that allowed all men to be free to follow the dictates of his or her conscience. The early settlers that came to this country knew first hand the dangers of tyrannical governments. They had lived for years under governments that suppressed the rights of individuals and demanded absolute allegiance to the king. Matters of religion and conscience were not considered by those in power, and most often they used the common people as pawns in their own power struggles. Even in New England prior to 1787 (when the Constitution was written) people were persecuted for their religious beliefs. Women were convicted and sentenced to death as witches. Quakers lost their lives for their faith, and different sects were persecuted.

Men who had fled this type of persecution in Europe and saw these same tendencies in colonial America were ready to design a civil government that was more radical than any government in history, a government which guaranteed the rights of the individual and claimed that freedom of conscience was a person's most valuable possession and property right.

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These men who formed the Constitution had tasted some freedom to worship as well as freedom to speak and write the convictions of their hearts. So they were ripe for creating a government that was bolder and more radical than any government had ever been. There was something daring and novel flowing in the winds of their minds which inflamed and impassioned them. They had come out from the tyranny and oppression of bad government long enough to discover something ancient, something scarcely realized for almost 6000 years. They discovered that since all men had an inalienable right (one that can not be taken away) to live in obedience to their consciences, then an entire society had the chance to find true freedom and true emancipation from the evil forces which had oppressed men since time began. They realized that the right to obey one's conscience was the purpose of freedom of religion. They somehow knew that those who lived by their consciences were to be the guiding light of the nation. With the formation of the Constitution and Bill of Rights, America promised the whole world the hope of a new society. It was to be fresh, equal, just, open, free and forever respectful of the human conscience.

The Constitution and the Bill of Rights were designed to be written limitations on the government's power, keeping for-

ever the power of the governments confined to the definitions contained within those documents. It was James Madison, the Father of the Constitution, who realized, perhaps more than anyone else in his time, that the people were sovereign and the officials were merely the servants who were elected to protect the individual rights of the people. Madison saw that if these documents were to be anything but sugar-coated promises, they must be absolutely binding and that the courts must enforce these written guarantees by not allowing any government action against an individual that violated his inalienable rights.

The framers of the Constitution gave this document the authority to command. Through the authority given to the Constitution, all citizens of the republic could be governed. Mere declarations and exhortations and wishful thinking would not be sufficient. The situation they found themselves in called for the institution of an absolute standard, written in plain English, that could be understood by common people. They needed a binding law that could not be arbitrarily changed, that would not need interpretation and would command what government could do and what government could not do. It was intended that this document as it was written, would be the highest authority, the ultimate standard in defining boundaries of government in this democracy. So, the Constitution and Bill of Rights were designed to be limitations of the government's power over the people.

Ultimately, the real power of these guarantees would depend upon the moral fabric of the whole nation. As long as the moral fiber of the people of the United States matched the standard of the nation's charter then the rights of all men would be protected. But as soon as the people lose their willingness to live by their consciences and take moral responsibility for their actions, tyranny and oppression arise and take control of the entire society.

In 1787 when the Continental Congress assembled to draft the Constitution, religious freedom was already under attack. Madison himself was a man with deep convictions concerning religious freedom. In 1783 he wrote, "The right of conscience is in itself an inalienable right. What is here a right toward men is a duty to the Creator." He believed that in matters of religion, no man's right is to be cut into by civil government and that religion is wholly exempt from its jurisdiction. These men realized that the greatest freedom was to be found in each man's right to obey God by following his conscience. The first amendment to the constitution is very clear in its intent to protect this right. It is written in simple, plain English so that no legal interpretation is necessary. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." Madison also wrote, "The civil rights of none shall be abridged on account of religious belief or worship, nor shall any national religion be established, nor shall the full and equal rights of conscience be in any manner or on any pretext infringed." He also wrote concerning the nature of the first amendment, "There is not a shadow of right in the general government to intermeddle with religion." and, "This subject is, for the honor of America, perfectly free and unshackled. The government has no jurisdiction over it."

These men were masters at articulating the English language. They knew very well what they meant. That is why the wording is not vague. Their hearts' and minds' intentions were not to be easily betrayed by the interpretation of any legislative body or court. The statement stands for itself and is absolutely binding.

But where are the impassioned defenders of liberty in today's society? We read about men like James Madison in our history classes, but somehow his vision, his zeal and his spirit have disappeared from the lives of the American people. Most people have forgotten what America stood for originally. The land of the free and the home of the brave is just a myth. When the majority in a free society ignore their conscience and oppress those who try to live by their conscience, then the moral fabric of that society has collapsed. The Constitution has reserved the greatest amount of power not for dignitaries, but for housewives, shop owners, workers — the people. It was designed to give the power of the government to the governed — just plain everyday people. But the people have lost touch with the true essence of democracy.

Former Supreme Court Justice from Connecticut, William O. Douglas exposed this dramatically when he said, "We Americans seem to assume that all of us are born with knowledge of the Bill of Rights and with insight into its mysteries. Most school boards, however, could not pass an examination on it. Neither could most parent-teacher associations. Most of our teachers would fail. Yet knowledge of man's rights against government, the restraints on police, the place of the church in society, should be known to all youth counselors if the upcoming generation is to be raised with a knowledge of the Free Society."

"There is not a shadow of right in the general government to intermeddle with religion."

—James Madison—

"We have assumed that everyone will acquire this basic knowledge by an osmosis that comes from living here. Yet, one has only to read the press to realize how remote from basic constitutional issues the editors are. They sound an alarm when a non-conformist is loose on campus; they administer a sedative when a crime is "solved" by the use of the third degree method, or a man is imprisoned for his beliefs... One has only to read the press and listen to public conversations to realize that few community leaders have ever been briefed on the Bill of Rights.

"We are more and more informed by world wide press coverage; yet we have lost some of our spirit of inquiry and challenge. We walk more and more in unison as if some mysterious force was herding us, a free people, in the manner in which the people of Russia and China are herded. The same docile attitude seems to have possessed most colleges and universities, most of the foundations, most of the press."

There is a better society on earth today, a people for whom "In God we trust" is not just a motto; a people whose desire is to be one nation under God, with liberty and justice for all. Such a people could rightly be called God's people. The God of Israel envisioned such a people and sacrificed His own Son to see them formed. He ratified their freedom in His own blood and declared their independence from the tyranny of death and selfish existence when He willingly died on the cross. Through Him an entire people has received a government in their hearts. The laws needed for life are being placed there, deep inside the human heart. This society desires peace and good will for all men and will itself never pass away. Such a people appreciate the high and pure truths expressed in the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence, but they see them only as a shadow of a better constitution — The New Covenant.

Imagine a people who live by the highest law in the universe, the perfect law of God. Such a people is referred to in the Bible as a kingdom of priests — a nation of men and women who are ruled by this perfect law, written not on paper but written in the heart and on the mind.

This law written on the heart is an absolute standard of justice that governs the moral, social, and spiritual life of each individual. It is the Constitution of the people of God, His holy nation. The one quality that sets this holy nation apart from the nations of the world is that those within its protection of peace have the power to *live* by that inward law written upon their heart. If this holy nation lives by its Constitution from the heart then this people will always be a light and guide to every nation on earth. This people will always understand the essence of authority and be able to discern the spirit of every law written by man.

In the same manner, the United States has a written Constitution. This Constitution was intended to be an absolute standard of justice by which all its citizens would be measured. So this nation must also obey its Constitution and thereby follow the light and example of the New Covenant community.

If the lawyers, judges, prosecutors, and people of each state do not uphold and live by their Constitution, then the moral, social, and spiritual fabric of this country will be destroyed. Even though the constitution ensures various liberties and establishes the groundwork for a people to deal with tyranny, it is only as useful as that people wish to make it.

So we see in this 200th year anniversary of the Constitutional Convention that indeed injustice, infringement, and even blatant disregard of individual rights is commonplace. The moral fabric of this country is collapsing because its members *have failed* to live by their Constitution. If the people of this country do not desire to govern and be governed by the spirit of the law with all their heart, then no amount of healing ointments in the form of patriotic movements will bring about genuine change. The great defect in the U.S. Constitution is not in those who conceived it or ratified it but in those who, 200 years later, are unwilling or unable to live by it. If it's not in your heart to live by a good conscience, then certainly it won't be as important to you to ensure that your neighbor can, especially if it involves some discomfort or suffering for you.

But the cause of all of this falls upon those who are *supposed* to be that great light to this nation. It is those who make up what is known as Christianity that have the greatest guilt, for they have ignored their Constitution that they so vehemently defend — the Bible. Therefore, it is easy to see that they offer no real hope for mankind for they have proven to be concerned about the truths of the Bible in name only. But they do not obey the commands written in the Bible and spoken by their Savior. So they are divided and disorganized and full of hypocrisy, offering no light to a nation and a world desperately in need of direction.

The God who gave the promise of the New Covenant is gathering a nation for Himself, a people who will no longer ignore His commands but will love His laws and live by them as their Constitution with all their hearts. This life is the true light of the world. These people must be given the right to exist and the respect of all governments of free societies, for their life and example is this world's only hope. They will not bend to injustice or the enforcement of unjust laws but will call each nation, state, city, and town to live by its Constitution. If each civil government will live by their Constitution, then they will allow this restoration of God's holy nation to come about.

Are you afraid for men to be free? Thomas Jefferson wasn't . . .

Somehow, the framers of the Constitution saw that such men of conscience, determined to obey their Creator, are supremely trustworthy. They saw that governments could not assume the role of defining the values of all the citizens. They understood that to do so would make it impossible for genuine men of conscience to exist. Tyrannical governments have always crushed men of conscience who would not bend under the weight of oppression. So the framers of the Constitution wanted to give such men and communities the right to exist and the dignity they deserve.

But if this government becomes threatened by such men or such groups, as in Island Pond, Vt. in June 1984, then they will ignore the precious and binding truths of their own Constitution and will treat them as mere empty words. May it be that in the future such governments will look to the light and not try to snuff it out.

The law of God is an absolute standard. It does not change. It is perfect and will go on forever. The law of God written upon the heart of man is the constitution of the New Covenant. This is what all men everywhere have always longed to possess. The ultimate and highest expression of God's government is man ruling by the inward law of God written in his heart. This is the government that will fill the entire earth in the age to come. This is the government that has the authority and the quality of life within itself to be a light to convict and to lead all the nations of the earth. The life expressed by this new nation of priests is the absolute hope of all the nations. ■

Justice Douglas spoke those words twenty years ago, but what about today? Do the American people know any more about democracy in the 80's than they did in the 60's? It would seem that fewer care now than before. Lawyers and judges are proving to be some of the most dull to the true spirit of justice. At least in the 60's, there was an intellectual and social outrage against some of the fundamental injustices that saturated every segment of the "American dream" society.

But, where has that voice gone? It has faded and eroded to the point of landsliding helplessly into the ranks of the dulled, leveled people of the 1980's who have lost touch with the voice of their conscience a long time ago. Compromise is the word of the hour. It is sad but true that in the 80's, the majority are those who compromise their consciences every day in very fundamental ways.

*T*his silenced majority is made up of judges who believe that the guaranteed rights of individuals can be suppressed in order to insure the well being of the status quo. They believe that in certain situations, the right to exercise individual freedoms guaranteed by the plain words of the constitution may be disregarded. Also in the ranks of this majority are legislators who commit "legislative acts of violence" against an individual or group. They do so by enacting laws which try to stamp out minority beliefs and lifestyles which are a threat to the established, leveled norm of public opinion and deadened conformity.

Prosecutors, who are influenced by public pressure to get convictions (even if they have to calculatingly misuse and misapply a statute to do so) shuffle right along with this majority. These men have no conscience and are the most lawless of all, using the law for their own gain and reputation. They are not concerned with rights or justice or democracy. To many of them the destiny of the accused is all a part of "their job." They hide their boredom and symptoms of burnout behind the cloak of being a public servant, having not the slightest understanding that public servants are elected by the people to defend, uphold and support the people's rights.

Also in this group of those whose human voice has been silenced is the "silent majority" of middle class America who now want only a little peace and quiet in their retirement before they die, knowing sadly enough that their lives have had absolutely no impact or consequence. Their dreams proved only to be illusions; now they settle for the "piece of the pie" that they labored for forty years to earn and therefore feel they deserve. What a tragedy! What a waste of precious human life!

But perhaps the most tragic segment of the silenced majority are those who had a spark of life in their conscience twenty years ago when they were full of idealistic zeal. These are the flower children and social activists who wanted peace and love, who began to hate injustice and desire something real. They rose up in protest to something profoundly wrong in this society. But soon they discovered that the stand they took was without solid foundation; mere shifting sand, void of absolutes. So they did the logical thing. They used their education to get them jobs in the system as teachers, social

workers, lawyers, tradesmen, architects, farmers and small business owners. The plan was to change the system from within. But what is the result after twenty years? Compromise! Compromise! Compromise! Most of these once cognitive ones have had their human voices slowly muffled and stifled and strangled, their liberties traded away little by little for goals and achievements they once deplored: success, reputation, money, pleasure, independence, etc.

Men on juries are the last defense against governments bent on doing injustice.

*I*f you ever go into a district court to observe a criminal proceeding, you will see individuals from every segment of the "silenced majority" gathered together into what is called a jury panel. They are assembled at the expense of the taxpayers to judge the guilt or innocence of the accused, on the basis of the evidence they hear. But most of the prospective jurors have no idea that, as members of the jury, they become judicial officers with as much power as the judge! Neither do they know that the Constitution is the supreme law of the land. And no one really believes that the judge is going to enlighten them to these truths, do they? For the judge probably doesn't know them either. He has been leveled by traditions geared to keep the present decaying order from crumbling completely. The judge has forgotten that he took an oath in which he swore to uphold the Constitution. He is used to jurors, lawyers and the accused alike bowing to his intimidating threats as if he is not subject to the judgement of the people. He has the jury believing that only he can tell them what the law is. He doesn't even tell them that they have the right to judge the law being used against the accused to see if it is fair or applicable to the accused in his case. Men on juries have a conscience and they are supposed to use it along with common sense, to judge all issues, even the judge's decisions and directives. They are the last defense against governments bent on doing injustice. When legislators, executives, police, judges and justices have all been carried away by the passion of a public controversy; one juror's refusal to go along can still prevent such madness. They have the power to nullify an unjust prosecution and stop the enforcement of a bad law.

Should a juror obey the direction of a judge or the conviction of his conscience when the two conflict? Any juror who would go against his conscience to swallow what a judge says, does not understand what the function of the jury is.

Does this sound like anarchy? It isn't. It is the spirit and foundation of pure democracy. Have you lost this spirit? Are you afraid for men to be free? Thomas Jefferson wasn't afraid for men to be free. Neither was James Madison or any of the forty men who signed the Constitution. In fact, democracy as defined in the United States Constitution parallels something more solid and with deeper roots than anything else on earth.

... all men have a natural and unalienable right, to worship Almighty God, according to the dictates of their own consciences and understandings, as in their opinion shall be regulated by the Word of God . . . no authority can, or ought to be vested in, or assumed by, any power whatever, that shall in any case interfere with, or in any manner control the rights of conscience, in the free exercise of religious worship.

**When any power whatever
tries to interfere with
our obeying our conscience,
the law says they have no
authority.**

The men who framed the Vermont Constitution recognized that the Almighty God in His Holy Scriptures (or Word), had established certain standards that, if a man lived by them, he would fulfill all good and reasonable human laws. And so, to protect the rights of men to live by God's laws, this foundational human law, (the Constitution) was enacted. So, when any power whatever tries in any manner to control or in any case interfere with our obeying our conscience, (as regulated by His Word), the law says they have no authority. This is the clear and simple statement of Vermont's most basic law. It really is the law and not just some lofty, philosophical essay. If you go against that law you are undermining the foundation of that human government.

**The government doesn't have to
let people kill babies under
the guise of "constitutional
rights."**

Q: But the constitution only applies to worship. How can you generalize it to apply to your whole life?

A: Even according to the dictionary, worship is far more than just singing songs, giving speeches, or performing ceremonies. It encompasses reverent love, allegiance, ardent devotion, adoration, honor, respect, etc. And the definition of worship according to the Bible, or Word of God, is even more encompassing, (as expressed in Romans 12:1): ". . . to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship." So, worship according to our conscience, and as regulated by the Word of God, involves our giving our entire life to Him in ardent devotion, allegiance, adoration, etc. Therefore our life is legally upheld by the constitution, not just because of this definition of worship, but also because there there is nothing wrong with our life.

Q: But people can take the Bible and make it justify everything! If the government lets you do whatever you think the Bible says, then doesn't it have to do the same for every crazy religion that comes down the pike?

A: On the contrary, you can't make the Bible justify everything. You can lie about what the Bible says, you can ignore parts of it, but you can't make it justify lawlessness. It doesn't condone murder, sexual perversion, theft, lying, adultery, cruelty, hatred, revenge, slander, greed, oppression of the poor, witchcraft, or disrespect towards parents. The government doesn't have to let people do things like slander people or kill unborn babies under the guise of "constitutional rights." Only a depraved government would condemn people who educate their children and support people who murder their children.

**The law of gravity
is older and greater
than man's laws.
It is foolish to think
that man's law is supreme.**

Q: But doesn't recognizing or making special provision for your religion and your Scriptures violate the "separation of Church and State?"

A: Not any more than our stopping at a stop sign violates it. We in the Community recognize a good law when we see one. We honor it. In the same way, the Vermont government and all governments need to recognize and honor the good laws and good government of our God in His Community. This doesn't violate the separation, it promotes it.

Q: Still, what makes you think that the laws of your religion are higher than the laws of this country?

A: Look, if the legislature passed a law saying that there was to be no attraction of objects to the earth and no falling down of people, animals, or things without state approval, they would be pretty silly, wouldn't they? The law of gravity—a divinely established law—is older and greater than man's laws. It would not be right for the police to come and take away your cow, your firewood or your basketball because the government had not granted you a permit to practice gravitation. It is foolish to think that man's law is supreme.

In the same way, men and women have been producing babies, raising them up to be adults, and training them to follow in the ways of their parents, for as long as humanity has existed. It is the natural right of a father to reproduce human beings from his own seed and raise them up in his image—putting into them everything that he is. This natural law is mirrored in the animal kingdom, and our Creator's law in the Scriptures is in total harmony with His natural law. Only men's modern legislation is in discord. Modern man's new idea is that the impersonal state bureaucracy is better qualified to train children than parents, no matter what nature and God's Word have to say about it. So, then, are we the arrogant ones when we say that we need no government interference with the training of our children?

Q: But do you have to be so inflexible? Hasn't Vermont passed the most liberal education laws in the country, just to accomodate people like you? Can't you express a little gratitude and compromise a bit?

CHURCH and STATE

Common Questions about our views on Government

The issue of "Church and State" is a hotly debated topic in this modern era. The constitutional protection of "separation of Church and State" is sometimes interpreted to mean the exclusion of religious influence from governmental matters. Traditionally, however, the constitutional guarantees were intended to protect the rights of conscience from government interference. [What would happen, after all, if the government was protected by law from the interference of the human conscience?] This interview format reveals the common mind of our community and answers some common questions regarding our stand on constitutional issues.

Q: Some people feel that members of the Community have no respect for the laws of the land. They say that you don't recognize the authority of governing officials. Is this true?

A: Those who are in the Community are the most governed people on earth. We are totally submitted to the government of Yahweh, our God. We love government and we love authority. We understand government and authority. Our desire is to give honor to whom honor is due and respect to whom respect is due. For the sake of our God we submit ourselves to civil authority. We want to represent Him accurately. He is for authority. This is why we pray for the United States, for Vermont, and for the leaders of the state and nation. We know that government is established for the purpose of punishing those who practice evil and rewarding those who do good. (This is what the Bible records in 1 Peter 2:14).

And so we understand authority. We do recognize authority, and we also recognize when people do not have authority.

Q: What do you mean by that?

A: Well, for example, when troopers invaded our homes carrying warrants without any names on them, we knew it was illegal. When they photographed our children without a judge's order, (in violation of their own laws), we sensed that something was wrong. When they searched our property without allowing us to watch them, we told them they were not abiding by the law.

Q: You are referring to the raid of June 22nd ?

A: Yes, we knew it was an unlawful action from the beginning.

Q: But how did you know? Are you experts in the law?

A: No, but since when does a person have to be an expert in the law in order to recognize what is right and what is wrong? Has the legal system of the American democracy gotten totally out of the hands of the people? We knew that the purpose for which government exists is to punish evil doers and reward those who do good; so if we are doing good and the state comes against us, we know something is wrong with the state's actions.

**Does a person have to be
an expert in the law
to recognize what is
right and what is wrong?**

Q: Isn't that the same as saying that you are above the law?

A: Of course not! We aren't saying that we personally are "above the law." We are just saying that there is a standard which is greater and higher than any law man can make. All human laws must be judged by that higher standard, the standard of divinely established laws. Anyone who has a working conscience is in harmony with these divine laws.

Q: So are you saying that if you are going by your conscience then the government can't tell you what to do?

A: As long as a person's conscience is good and in harmony with the Word of God, then the government doesn't need to tell him what to do. He will already be doing what is lawful.

Q: But, isn't that just your own opinion based on your religious beliefs?

A: No, it is a fact recognized by the very Constitution of the United States and defined even more clearly by the Vermont Constitution, which states:

The whole human basis for authority is the right of a parent to rule over his own child.

Q: All of what you say sounds very reasonable, but aren't you really contradicting what the Bible says about obeying the government? Don't most Christians feel that the U.S. government is ordained by God and that it is the duty of believers to defend it, support it, and obey it?

A: There is one passage in the Bible that, taken by itself, would seem to support this feeling. Romans 13:1 & 2 says, in one translation, "Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore, he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed it will receive condemnation upon themselves." Based on this scripture, most Evangelical Christians have been preaching that all civil government is ordained by God and must be obeyed. This would be a true teaching if all civil government always punished evil and always rewarded good, as government is supposed to do, according to 1 Peter 2:14 and Romans 13:3 & 4. But what about the good German Christians who obeyed, supported, and defended Hitler's civil government, even killing American soldiers in the process?

If all civil government must be obeyed, then Americans need to repent for the Revolution.

Q: How can you even use that example? The Nazi government was obviously evil; they exterminated the Jews.

A: Yes, their evil is obvious to us, now. But it wasn't so obvious to the German Christians, then. That's how Hitler got elected. He was a socialist with lots of government programs to benefit the German people. And besides, what's the difference between exterminating Jews and aborting unwanted babies? The Germans were passive because of a bad conscience just like Americans today, except that Americans are more passive.

But the point is this: you can only honor those who are honorable. Was the American nation conceived in sin? Did Washington, Jefferson, and other founding fathers contradict the Bible when they declared independence from King George III? If all civil government must be obeyed, as Evangelical Bible teachers claim, then Americans, (especially Christians), need to repent for the Revolution and submit again as a colony to the rule of England.

Q: Surely you're not saying that the American government is just as evil as the Nazi government, are you?

A: No. Many of the freedoms of the U.S. Constitution have not yet eroded away. There are still many provisions in the laws of this country to check the power of corrupt men. And we are very grateful for these freedoms and for these checks and balances. But all these legal safeguards are only as good as the hearts of the people. If the people don't have a passion for justice, if they sit

around passively accepting "the way things are," then the government will express the corruption that is in the people's hearts. America does not express this corruption to the same extent that Nazi Germany did.

The scriptures are very clear on the issue of government. 1 John 5:19 says, "The whole world lies in the power of the evil one." And Luke 4:5-6 records a conversation in which Satan showed Yahshua all the kingdoms of the world and said, "I will give you all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish." So all the governments of the world are in Satan's power. All are full of lawlessness. There are no greater or lesser degrees of corruption. Some governments, like some individuals, may be more refined and have more noble qualities than others, just like some rotten apples may not look as ugly as others. But all human governments, individuals, and rotten apples are corrupt. So the question is, "Are you the kind of person who goes to the store and pays good money for rotten apples? Do you blindly obey corrupt governments?"

The question is, "Are you the kind of person who pays good money for rotten apples?"

Q: It seems like you are double-minded. If human governments are so corrupt, why do you obey them at all?

A: Because the solution to bad government is not anarchy and lawlessness. The solution is good government. The Community, which represents the Almighty God's heavenly government here on earth, is commanded to show those who are trapped under Satan's power what good government is. And so we obey laws that are in harmony with our God's law, even submitting to lengthy and exasperating court procedures against us, in order that all men, even judges and prosecutors, might escape from the dominion of darkness and have their hearts filled with the light of His love. This is not a double-minded purpose but a single-minded one. Our Sovereign God desires for all men to be saved from destruction, because all men will surely face judgement as to whether they have obeyed His laws. But He desires to give us a conscience that works, so we can obey Him. He wants us to live by that good conscience rather than by the dictates of wicked men.

For example, His commandment is, "You shall not murder." So will you go to war because the government tells you to? Will you commit murder because of a general's command? Will the politician, who tried to give you a good conscience to pull the trigger, stand in your place on the day of judgement? Will this murder be excused because you "thought you should do it" to "defend the country" or "protect someone's rights?" Do you completely obey the government and disobey your conscience? It depends on whose government you are under. If you are under Yahweh's government, you will obey Him. If you are not under His government, you are in rebellion against your creator. ■

If you have questions which we failed to answer here, feel free to write us. You'll find our address on the back of this pamphlet. Better still, come and ask us in person.

A: Vermont used to have a truancy law that said, in effect, that all children must attend state schools unless they are receiving an equivalent education. The Community was just being established here at that time, and so some of our children were attending the state school. Then we began to see that our responsibility to our God and to our children was to provide them with a better education than the one they were receiving at the state school by training them ourselves. So we removed them from the state school and began working to remedy some of the problems they had picked up in the government education.

If we were doing something wrong or harmful, we could see the point of being more flexible.

In keeping with the regulations at that time, the children were not absent without cause, (they were absent **with** cause), and were receiving a more than equivalent education. But the state still took us to court, because the local school had reported our children as truant.

The court ruled, very logically, that if the state wanted to charge us with not providing an equivalent education, they needed to establish a standard of what an equivalent education was, first. Of course, if they established a standard, they themselves would have to meet up to it in their own government schools.

For some reason, they chose not to do this, but established instead four arbitrary categories into which all education in Vermont must fall: 1) state school, 2) state-approved private school, 3) approved home study, 4) reporting school. The new legislation didn't establish a standard for education, it just rewrote the law so as to give state officials the power to arbitrarily judge any individual's education without subjecting state schools to the same judgement. For some reason, they failed to create a category that fit what we were already doing.

If we were doing something wrong or harmful, we could see the point of being more flexible. But, since our children have only benefited from being taken out of the state educational system, we see no point in putting them back into it. This is a matter of our conscience as regulated by the Word of God; and the state, by it's most basic law, has no authority to interfere in this case.

People everywhere pick the laws they will obey.

Q: But doesn't the state have a legitimate interest in knowing whether its citizens are being educated or not?

A: Yes, that would be a legitimate interest, and we would have no problem with informing a state representative of the fact that our children are learning to read, write, spell, do math, read maps, understand the natural world, etc.,etc. We would have no problem with such a human being meeting our children and observing the wonderful atmosphere in which their young minds are being trained. But, from the beginning, the state has not shown an

interest in knowing, but rather in controlling. Since the fruit of state-controlled education has proven to be so rotten, even in our own children that were subjected to it in the past, we have no desire for our children's training to be controlled by that same educational system now.

Q: But don't you see that government control is for your protection? What would happen if everybody did what you were doing and picked what laws they would obey?

A: We understand the reason for tight government control. Stricter and more detailed laws are being made all the time because the moral fiber of the nation is steadily eroding. More government control is needed for people who have no self-control. The fact is that people everywhere pick the laws they will obey. Millions of people violate the speed limit, cheat on their taxes, and defy entire volumes of legislation that the courts do not bother to enforce. Nine men on the bench of the U.S. Supreme Court chose for the whole nation to disobey anti-abortion laws and the whole nation followed blindly by getting rid of those laws altogether. Don't you see the desperate condition of mankind? We in the Community are not going to bring in lawlessness by obeying our consciences. Lawlessness is already **in**; it is everywhere, **especially** in the government. Men don't have enough light in their own souls to make just decisions anymore. They think that their own interpretation of existing human law is the standard. They suppress the truth that there is a higher standard upon which human rules must be based. The Community is made up of those who live by that higher standard. Yahshua said that His followers are the light of the world. We are bringing in the solution to lawlessness, not the problem. We can hardly imagine what would happen if everybody lived as we do, but several policemen that we know continually tell us that they **wish** everybody respected the laws as much as we do.

We are bringing in the solution to lawlessness, not the problem.

Q: So you don't think that everybody living by his own conscience would create chaos and anarchy?

A: People who ask that question don't realize that everyone **already** lives by their own conscience, and most people's consciences are bad. That's why there is **already** so much anarchy. A bad conscience causes a person to go along with bad laws like government sanctioned abortions or government controlled child care. The whole human basis for authority and government in the first place is the right of a parent to rule over his own child, to care for that child and direct his affairs. Laws or government programs which go against this fundamental human right are the things that promote anarchy. We are not saying that people should live by a **bad** conscience. We are saying that we have a right to live according to the **good** conscience which our God has given us. We used to be anarchistic, living by our **bad** consciences, but we have been rescued from darkness and chaos and given a conscience that works.



WE DARE CALL IT



TREASON

When I was a child attending the public school in my neighborhood, I was taught that treason occurred when a person betrayed his country and abandoned its cause for the sake of the cause of another country. I was taught that to betray the interests of the United States was the most hideous thing a person could do. Benedict Arnold was less than a human being in my eyes for deserting the cause of the American Revolution. I viewed him as a coward, a gutless, spineless man who betrayed his closest friend, George Washington.

But somehow my teachers neglected to teach me what treason really was, when it originated. They never helped me understand how someone like Benedict Arnold could commit such a horrible act against his good and trusted friend. Treason is defined as "violation of the allegiance owed to one's sovereign or state; betrayal of one's own country; any betraying, treachery, breach of faith, or betrayal of trust."

In today's modern society it is rare to find true loyalty and faithfulness. King Solomon knew about this in his day when he said, "Many a man proclaims his own loyalty, but a faithful man who can find?" Men are unfaithful to their wives and wives are unfaithful to their husbands. It's hard to find individuals who are truly loyal to their employers or their elected officials. It's also hard to find politicians who are truly faithful to serve with loyalty and integrity those who elected them. Greed is a powerful motivator and for the love of money and power many betray their closest friends.

Most of us from age 40 — and down have grown up without much understanding of loyalty and faithfulness. We watched a president assassinated right before our eyes. We rebelled against the authority of parents, the military, school, and everything else. We saw major scandals in the business world, Watergate, and now the Iranian scandal, terrorism, hostages taken and killed, and suspicions everywhere.

All of these everyday happenings in the U.S. today are but the evidence of a whole nation that has lost touch with the value of absolutes. There is no respect for leaders, no respect for teachers, no respect for parents. The people as a whole in the U.S. have lost touch with their roots.

The most absolute, foundational, stable root of this nation is its Constitution. It was intended to be the absolute standard of binding law. It was intended to be a standard that would secure everyone's right to life, liberty, or the pursuit of happiness. It was intended to be a standard of justice that would expose corruption. The founders of this nation knew well the corruption of the human heart and how that corruption filled the leaders of governments of every nation down through history.

So the greatest betrayal of trust — the most deadly betrayal of this country is when someone is disloyal or unfaithful to the Constitution. Whenever this happens, when men ignore their conscience and then do not uphold the spirit of the Constitution both to uphold it and to abide by it, then corruption begins to fill every aspect of life. The prophet Daniel had a vision long ago in which our God warned us that the nature and quality of the governments of all nations would grow more and more evil, more and more corrupt. (Daniel 2: 31-45).

This corruption is exposed in the U.S. whenever government officials plot to undermine the moral fiber of the Constitution. Whenever this happens, those officials are guilty of treason. The moral state of a man who steals every once in a while is this: he is a thief. What is the moral fiber of state officials who violate citizen's rights *once in a while*. Would anyone dare call such action treason? The government raid on the community in Island Pond is a graphic example of such treasonous action on the part of the highest state officials. Fortunately, we find occasionally a true servant of God in this society who will uphold the pure aspects of democracy which gives communities the right to exist. True servants of God in government are worthy of our honor and respect. We are to submit to such men.

The whole idea of government originated with the God who created the heavens and the earth. In Him lies absolute authority. God's original purpose was to fill the whole universe with His absolutely righteous, just and compassionate rulership. He desired for the universe to be filled with the

beauty that we can see in nature here on this planet. He created many spirit beings called angels to assist in this task. Perhaps the most beautiful and most powerful of the angels was Lucifer. He was a very trusted creature in the universe.

But Lucifer betrayed this trust. He rebelled against God's absolute authority (Isaiah 14:12-14). He was not satisfied with the position he had been given and thus the thought entered into his mind and heart to set up his rule above the rule of God. This betrayal was the first act of treason in the universe. So Lucifer, who is now called Satan, was guilty of treason in his rebellion against God.

The whole idea of government originated with the God who created the heavens and the earth.

From this first crime of treason, this first betrayal of trust, has come all the evil in the world today. God created man in His exact likeness, to rule the earth for Him, to be loyal to Him, and to thereby expose, judge, and expel rebellion from the universe forever. God wanted man to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth with nations that would be loyal and faithful to His Word and purpose. But the first man was deceived by Satan and also betrayed the trust given to him by his Creator.

So now we see the nations on earth filled with this same corruption. And this corrupt seed continues to be passed on from one generation to another. The only hope for mankind and for planet earth is that our God would somehow be able to establish on earth a nation of men and women who would be faithful and loyal to Him; a people who would obey His Word and diligently fulfill His purpose; a people who would be fit to rule and able to be a light and an example to all the nations of the earth.

God sent His Son, Yahshua, to be that example and light for us to follow. Yahshua established a new order on earth of those who would be like Him. He was a faithful and loyal Son who lived His entire life in obedience to His Father's commands. He kept His Father's laws with all His heart. When He rose from the dead, He proved to be the long expected Liberator of all mankind, the One hoped for, who would gather and rule over this new nation.

Since that time, there has been a remnant of Yahshua's followers, His disciples, who have given no allegiance to the treasonous governments of the nations, because these people give all their allegiance to Yahshua. They are obedient to His commands and are citizens of His chosen people, a holy nation made up of those who are His very own possession. (1 Peter 2:9-10) *This* is His community. They have been washed from the defilement they received while they were giving their allegiance to earthly kings. Their eyes have been opened to *see* the glorious rule of Yahshua, and they want no part in any other kingdom. They repented from their treasonous acts and selfish motives. They don't want to give their energies, talents, and resources into maintaining a corrupt society of men and institutions who blatantly break God's laws without any sorrow or repentance for their wrong doing.

They have no desire for a society which promotes godless education and raises up godless children with no respect for authority nor restraint from the evils of corruption, greed, fornication, homosexuality, alcohol, and drugs which are so prevalent in today's schools. They do not want to participate in a competitive society where men's motives for their actions are selfish ambition and greed. They do not want to live by the standards of men or institutions who do not believe in training and disciplining their children according to the absolute standard of the written Word of God, the Bible.

This group of people is emerging as the hope of the world and a light to every nation where these communities are allowed to exist. But the corrupt governments under Satan's tyranny are always opposing the existence of these communities. When prosecutors, legislators, judges, or governors work to undermine the pure aspects of freedom to exercise one's religious beliefs, freedom to speak publicly on any issue, the right to due process, or in any way violate the guaranteed freedoms of the Bill of Rights, then those men are guilty of treason and should be dealt with as criminals. They are forever trying to force God's people to compromise, to bend under their oppression, to let just a tiny bit of their persuasion, their standards, and their perversions creep into their lives. This is a true spiritual fornication.

There is a large group of people among the ranks of Christians who are the main promoters of such treasonous action, such unfaithfulness and disloyalty to the King, Yahshua. They are the ones who hold to the belief that allegiance to God and allegiance to country go hand in hand. Many religious leaders have been telling their congregations that the United States government is ordained of God. Therefore, all Christians should defend it, uphold it, and obey it. This belief comes from a wrong understanding of Romans 13:1-7. They quote these verses and say that *all* government is ordained by God and, therefore, we should always obey the government we're living under, even when it disregards God's Word and His laws, thus becoming both criminal and wicked.

Many religious leaders have been telling their congregations that the United States government is ordained of God.

But these same people seem to have forgotten their history lessons. According to such doctrines, most Bible preachers and teachers would say that at the time of the Revolutionary War, the government of King George III in England must have been ordained of God. Therefore, the founding fathers of the United States must have violated God's Word in Romans 13 when they rebelled against the tyranny of King George. By their teaching, it seems that the heroes of the Revolution such as George Washington, Patrick Henry, James Madison, and Thomas Jefferson should have remained loyal to England and continued to obey the dictates of King George III.

. . . Christianity is a part of the nations and will suffer the same fate as the nations.

In light of such a shocking revelation, perhaps all the Christians who wave their flags and defend absolute obedience to the so-called "God ordained" government of the U.S. should also repent for the rebellious acts of the American Revolution. By their own teaching, they should suggest to their congressmen that we submit ourselves again to the rule of England.

So we see that in order to adhere to this interpretation of Romans 13:1-7, one must admit that this country was conceived in rebellion and, therefore, could not possibly be "God ordained."

But Christianity finds itself compromising in many, many ways with the standards set by this society. Christians, more than any people on the face of the earth, know that the God of the Bible is Sovereign Ruler of the universe, and allegiance to Him is absolutely required from His followers. Therefore, any person or group who call themselves followers of Jesus Christ but in their daily lives give vows to the standards set by society which violate the Word of God, is guilty of the highest form of treason.

There is an intense war going on between the ruler of darkness, Satan, and the King of kings, Yahshua. Satan wants to continue to control the hearts and minds of men in order that corruption, chaos, war, starvation, AIDS, etc. will continue until total destruction of human life from the planet results. He wants the earth to return to a state of ruin, a wasteland. Yahshua wants to raise up a people that will restore the earth to be a garden fit to be inhabited; a people He can put His very life into so that they can accomplish this wonderful and precious purpose.

Some people who call themselves believers don't even know there is a war going on. They think the war will begin after they are raptured off the earth. Others who acknowledge the war doctrinally are guilty of trying to give their allegiance to both sides. They think that they are somehow obliged to send their children to public school or in some way conform to state standards of education because it's "the law." They forget that those children belong to God and not the state, that their allegiance requires them to raise their children to be fit to rule with Yahshua in the age to come and *not* merely to be a productive member of society. Some feel that they *must* register for the draft and go to war because someone told them they were obligated by law to fight for "their" country in order to protect their "freedom." They forgot that they were supposed to be members of God's army, fighting a fight of faith to accomplish God's mission on earth, to rule the earth for Him.

Such "believers" always talk about how we need to clean up "our T.V. shows," "our public schools," "our government leaders." They even promote going into every phase of this godless society to become "Christian" senators, presidents, lawyers, doctors, and teachers in order to make the U.S. a godly nation. But Yahshua said that this present world was headed for destruction. You can't make a bad tree bear good fruit. You must come out of and cut yourself off from this wicked, perverse, and very abnormal society that crucified Him, and give your allegiance to a new order under His Sovereign rulership. Any "believer" who doesn't do just that is guilty of treason.

Such unsound doctrine and practice, is the accepted way of life in Christianity. It is also the way of life of the corrupt nations. That is why Christianity is a part of the nations and will suffer the same fate as the nations. This way of life was condemned by Yahshua and the apostle Paul, "This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you live no longer as the nations also live in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart." (Ephesians 4:17,18). The teaching that says you can fit into the mainstream of society and yet still be a light and example at the same time has caused multitudes of believers to be guilty of treason against the King they claim to love so much. This teaching promotes dis-loyalty and unfaithfulness to Yahshua and reveals the unfaithful nature of the religious system that promotes such treasonous acts. The cry of the prophet is to come out of that unfaithful harlot and be formed together as a faithful bride, fit and able to rule with Him.

It will cost everything you have . . .

It will cost everything you have to quit compromising with this godless society and start being faithful to the One who is calling you. This is what it will take for a new nation to be born. When the ex-governor of Vermont who ordered the Island Pond raid stands before God, his judgement for undermining the basic rights guaranteed in the Constitution will not be nearly as serious as the believer who continues to betray Yahshua's purpose of forming this new nation with his self centered, materialistic life. Unbelievers don't know better, but believers are supposed to know.

Many believers will stand before Yahshua on the day of judgement and call Him Lord, but won't be allowed to rule with Him in the age to come. The reason is that they did not come under His government in the community in this age in order to be prepared, to prove faithful and loyal to Him, to become worthy to rule with Him. Therefore, He will say to them, "Depart from me, you denied Me and now I will deny you the right to rule with Me. Your deeds were lawless." Such people continue to hear His words in their heart but never really put them into practice. So on the day of testing, at the judgement, their "religious" house will crumble down proving to be built on a foundation of sand.■

One Flew Over the Judge's Bench



Just how haywire does a "system of justice" have to get in order to sentence a man to jail for doing an act of kindness? Sure, a courtroom is orderly, even boring, but beneath that calm exterior...

Did you ever see a movie called **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest**? It was basically about a man in a mental institution who had a sense of justice and zeal for life. When he arrived there, he found a system in which the head nurse of his ward played absolute dictator over the lives of the apathetic inmates, putting the freeze on any activity which would arouse them to awareness of their true humanity or give them joy. As the movie progresses Oh! how you hated the head nurse for her rigid and absolute control over these pitiful people, but what was so disturbing about her standard of righteousness was that she really believed she was doing the proper thing, overseeing the entire social atmosphere of her ward. She was convinced that her many years of formal education and psychiatric training had fully prepared her to administer the correct program of health to her disturbed patients. As the movie progresses it becomes very evident, however, that her standard of life is just as abnormal as those over whom she has responsibility. She is just as needy for the same life as they. She is perhaps less aware than anyone of the evil system's death-grip on everyone in that ward, upon both those who were there doing their jobs and those who were there to be worked on. You hated her, but you were stirred in your admiration for the man who had enough passion to speak his heart and buck the evil system. None of the other patients recognized their value as human beings with dignity, so therefore they had no internal strength to take a stand against the patronizing

pleas or intimidating threats of the head nurse, who alternated her strategies as the need arose. One moment she seduced them with motherly affection, the next moment she was kicking them in the rear. They were herded along as sheep without a shepherd, plaintively bleating; except of course, for the new arrival. He did all that he could, suffering much, to bring these deficient ones to the awareness that they were human beings with rights. But because he had this fire in him for justice, to see their enslaved hearts set free, he was found to be rocking the whole boat, a threat to the established order; so he was declared a reprobate and the men in the white suits surgically removed the part of his brain that enabled him to express concern for anything. This operation is known as a prefrontal lobotomy, and has been used many times to quiet the "criminally insane."

As they wheeled this man back into the ward after the operation, the hearts of his mates and also your heart sank as they and you, the viewer, saw this once clever, passionate and articulate being gaze up from his wheelchair in a senseless, moronic smile. A long scar ran across his slightly bulging forehead (as if his skull wasn't pieced back together just right) but the truly agonizing thing that stirred up outrage in you was that back behind his eyeballs **he wasn't there anymore**. Where once a cognitive being had dwelt, there remained a drooling vegetable, finally happy with the way things are. And now

the head nurse is happy too. She finally has the perfect patient and the long established order of her ward can continue without embarrassment. Peace has come at last.

The lights go up in the theatre and you notice the faces of your fellow avid movie-goers as they rise from their seats to file out. They look a little sad or even indignant that the man who had brought so much life to those passive wretches had been so brutally treated, that the only answer the system had for a man with a different view of life was to mentally castrate him. But you realize along with your fellow movie-goers, that you sometimes take a chance with your emotions, sticking your neck out a little, when you go to see one of those flicks about justice. It's understood by everyone in the audience that you just can't take such movies too seriously, but no one ever really says why. When you see a movie where things don't turn out right, it makes you want to see another one that ends up making you feel better. So, let's leave this particular movie house and go to another theatre to see a more satisfying drama where life is portrayed as more fair and worthwhile.

Where is this theatre? Why, just across the street. There, that building right there. You see the sign don't you? It says "County Court House." Odd name for a theatre, you ponder, but yes, that's the one. Let's go in and see what it has to offer. Let's go see how injustice is exposed in **this** theatre. You situate yourself amongst the familiar audience, which is just as hushed in this theatre as the other one. This theatre is a little different, though, offering a live play rather than film. Good. You like variety. There is a wooden banister separating the real world where you are sitting from the fantasy that you are about to view just a few feet away. It's a good layout, a little unique from the last stage play you saw, but effective. Just enough separation from the audience to let you know that what you are watching isn't **that** real. Nobody on the other side of the banister will genuinely experience suffering. It's after all only the effect. But SSSHHH! the lights are dimming, sit down in front!...the play is about to begin.

As the lights go up you recognize the setting. Oh good, this play is going to be about a courtroom battle! You've kept up with all the TV shows like **Perry Mason**, and he was always able to outwit the State's Attorney through his superior intellect, backing the false witness into a corner, exposing their impure motives. It was always so exciting to watch as Perry cut off every avenue of escape until the antagonistic witness broke down and admitted the error of their ways, sometimes with great hostility. Good, good drama. And justice **always** prevailed in spite of the clumsiness of the judicial system. You settle back in your seat for a satisfying experience.

In the obviously small town courtroom, enter three men, two of them very businesslike, carrying briefcases. The third man looks decidedly less business oriented. You recognize the men in the three-piece suits as lawyers, as they stroll to their respective corners and seat themselves. The third man, in a red-flannel shirt and jeans seats himself by the lawyer whom you now know is the defense attorney. The prosecutor turns to the defense attorney to speak, and you get a long look at his countenance. The sallow complexion and somewhat dark bags under his eyes betrays the occasional strain of his occupation as accuser, but he certainly doesn't have the nasty countenance of ol' Hamilton Berger, the prosecuting attorney that Perry

Mason made a fool out of every week. You reflect that it must be an unrewarding job sometimes, taking its toll on you like everything else. A lot of mental pressure, you suppose. The defense lawyer is a little less under pressure, a little younger, a little less... well, maybe **established** is the right word. Yeah, that's it, just a little less established in the occupational groove. True, he is wearing a three-piece suit like the prosecutor, but you notice that his is made of corduroy, and also his tie is like a social statement all by itself. It's knotted a little funny and doesn't sit quite straight on his neck. But you consider that his appearance might be more because of his youth and inexperience at the legal grindstone than anything else. Who knows, though, maybe he's going to come forth as a champion for justice. Perry did every week.

But now you get a good look at the third man, the one in the red-flannel shirt, and a slight uneasiness rises in you. He's a little different, maybe even suspicious. It's not his countenance so much, because his expression is even gentle, it's just that, that **beard**, and even his hair is longer

*...the only answer the system
had for a man with a different
view of life was to mentally
castrate him...*

than what you might consider proper. But he's not like a vagrant bum, he's not unwashed, he's...what's the word? He's not **clean-cut**. Maybe he's a formerly rebellious hippie that straightened up a little bit. You reserve judgement to see what the dialogue discloses.

Because of the entrance of the three, not much attention was upon the jury, but as you gaze upon them, you find nothing particularly noteworthy. Obviously in this play they are not the focus of much regard. Typical folks from a small town ballot list, from Anywhere, U.S.A. Even one fellow has a well trimmed beard, so as not to over-stereotype them and call attention to their commonplaceness.

Ah, some action! "All rise," a voice booms from a stern-looking, near fifties lady with graying hair in a neat, tight bun, her graceless form housed in a grotesquely tight-fitting, blue double knit pants suit uniform bedecked with various official patches and badges. Not wanting to be unkind, you check your first reaction about her, reflecting that it's not her over-exposed portliness that affects you as much as the sad comedy of seeing such official sovereignty from someone who is almost your grandmother. As usual, you compare all these factors with the standard that you've come to admire and respect, but you just can't remember Perry ever having to contend with such a thing. However, the door behind the judge's bench is swinging open as everyone in the courtroom stands up to honor His Honor. In comes the imposing guardian of justice and human rights to oversee the administration of truth in our fair land. At your first glance of the black robe with satin arm stripes you sense the respect welling up inside you for the whole system that insures righteous treatment of both innocent and guilty,

the time-honored flag placed conspicuously behind the bench reinforcing your loyalty and confidence.

Okay now everyone sits down after the judge sits, and the big guns start up. The defendant, you find is charged with practicing medicine without a license, and a multitude of horrible situations flash before your eyes. All the expense, all the human energy, even the maintenance of the dignity of the country is at stake here, so it must be a serious, hideous crime. Perhaps this man who is not so very dangerous looking is in actuality a menace even to your own children; perhaps he has administered dangerous drugs to unsuspecting victims or performed delicate surgery with rusty knives, causing death through gangrene. Maybe, your undisciplined mind races, maybe he's really not that young; maybe he's really a Nazi doctor who performed countless bizarre experiments in an infamous concentration camp but he got caught in Venezuela and was extradited here to Anywhere, U.S.A. to receive his just deserts, or maybe...

About this time the details of the charge are brought forth, the witnesses are brought forth and you puzzle. You shift in your seat, a little embarrassed about the solemnity of the proceedings, the malice of the witnesses. The defendant, it seems, cut a wart off a person's finger and it healed perfectly. You continue to weigh the situation. Finally you come to a conclusion. Well, what of it, this isn't the first time you've seen a comedy show start off with such a serious bang but really you weren't expecting Looney Tunes before the main feature. Now, of course, you remember that this is a live play but maybe it's a very dry comedy like those offbeat British movies on the Late Show. Maybe he cut warts off in a concentration camp. Perhaps the humor of the situation will raise its head a little more and you will laugh. Glancing nervously around the audience, not the faintest crack of a smile can be seen in the dim light.

*At your first glance of the
black robe with satin arm
stripes, you sense the respect
welling up inside you . . .*

As the lawyers have been speaking it hasn't yet become so obvious to you, but it becomes more and more noticeable that they don't just talk. They **drone**, not as if they're uninterested in the proceedings but almost like, ummm, like they really don't have anything to lose no matter how the case goes. Sure Perry came on a little low-key most of the time but these guys are acting like sparring partners in a college debate, ever mindful of the professor's watchful gaze, with really nothing at stake but their own record of performance. After all, how much can they do to you for cutting a wart off, you know? Well, be fair, you muse, they do exhibit a little flame now and then, even if it does seem like they learned how to do it in class. It must not be professional to exhibit too much concern.

By this time your fresh interest is flagging and you're going under because of the big long Latin words like **ad nauseum** and technical mumbo jumbo. "Yuk" you mutter, "I'd never write a play with all this maze of claptrap in it, get to the point!" but it doesn't help speed things along.

Then it hits you. You hadn't noticed it before. Where have you been? You see it, don't you? It's him. Yes, up on the bench. Him. Or should I say, "her?" It's the judge. He's...she's...well;...it's the Head Nurse!! How did she get in here dressed up in the judge's robes? But then you remember that it was on film before but now this is a live play; maybe she's with a traveling drama troupe. Even though she's got a butch hair cut you know it's her. But how come you didn't notice it before? Then you eye the jury once again and your jaw drops open. Hey! they weren't like this before, were they? As you observe one in particular, the one with the big ears and slack jaw, where have you seen him before? He was in the **other** show, too, what's he doing here? And the fellow with the glasses that keeps swatting at an imaginary fly, sometimes hitting the drooling lady sitting in front of him, but she never notices. The lawyers drone and drone, while the Head Nurse heads the defense attorney off at the pass. He's saying stuff like "religious freedom" and "constitutional liberty" which stops the jury's foolishness and they start to listen a little bit, but the Head Nurse jumps on her chair and starts ranting about how "the Law is the Law! The only thing to be judged here is the transgression of the Law. Did he or didn't he do it?" And then the prosecuting attorney loses his cool just enough to hop on his feet yelling, "Yeah Judge! Burn him! Burn him!"

The defense attorney shifts nervously on his feet, glancing at the defendant. This doesn't look good. This might be a blot on his performance record. He clears his throat and begins mumbling about "rights, conscience, and selective persecution because of media pressure," but the Head Nurse gets all red-faced when she sees one of the jury members coming back from Never-Never Land, leaning over the front rail, intensely listening to the muted phrases from the defense attorney. She leaps over the big long desk, huge, flying, a mass of black sail-cloth with satin stripes on the sleeves, landing squarely in front of the shocked jury panel. They begin to bleat, like lost sheep about to be chastised with the shepherd's rod, but, as her feet hit the worn carpet, her countenance changes as from her billowing robes she flashes a hot apple pie and a box of little American flags like you see in cemeteries on Memorial Day, and begins passing out steaming triangles of pie, each with a little flag stuck in it. All the while, with this display of amazing co-ordination and agility, she strokes their cheeks and coos to her distressed sheep with phrases like "The American Way! The American Way. Remember, he wasn't **licensed** to cut off that wart. What if everyone went around cutting off warts without a license? That is what the Law is **for!**"

The sheep grow peaceful, relaxed by Mom's hot apple pie, as she swirls like the wicked witch of the west back up behind her imposing bench. She beckons the defense attorney up to the bench, and commands him to hold out his hand. Snatching the big desk gavel from off her desk-top, the one she used to delightedly bang and yell, "Order in the court! Order in the Court!" she raps his knuckles and begins to scald his young little reputation with seething words about how he should leave the Constitution up to the Big Boys Upstairs. Properly rebuked, Junior walks back to his corner, cheeks blazing hot, longing for the day when **he** gets to be judge. Of course, by

this time, the prosecuting attorney has relaxed a bit, leaning back in his chair, puffing on a big stinky cigar, contentedly blowing smoke rings from his smiling lips. The danger is past.

The Head Nurse, wiping the sweat off her forehead after a sterling performance, straightens up and gets real solemn. She asks for the verdict, glaring intently at her little flock lest one go astray. The one with glasses, now back to swatting the same imaginary fly, stopped just long enough to wipe a piece of pie off of his chin, look down at the floor and mumble, "Guilty," then back to the fly. Everyone else on the panel was, by this time, doing something equally distracting, too intimidated to say anything else lest the Head Nurse repeat her former performance and scare them silly.

With smug satisfaction, the Head Nurse slowly turns her piercing gaze to the amazed defendant. Drawing a deep, satisfied breath, she bellows an ear-splitting "Okay, boys, take him away!" And with a crash behind you, like Nazi storm-troopers, in rush the men in the white suits, the ones so strangely familiar. Where did they come from? Oh no! Oh no! Not that! Surely not that! Just for cutting a wart off? The front part of his brain removed just because of a wart that healed completely? They can't do that, this is America with a capital A! Land of the free and, uh, however else it used to go. The guilty man with a beard disappears beyond the swinging doors. "And don't forget to cut off his beard!" the Head Nurse screams to the men in the white suits.

But the stage lights begin to dim as the Head Nurse laughs with maniacal fury, throwing countless quadruplicate forms in the air as she heads out the back door. The prosecuting attorney jumps to his feet producing another big cigar and crams it into the defense attorney's mouth as they shake hands, because, after all, he did play the game fair and square. Over all the mayhem there rises the monotone voice of the heavy set lady in the blue pants suit uniform with the badges and official patches—"All rise, All rise, All rise . . ." as the play draws to its conclusion.

As the stage lights go completely out, the lights in the viewing area come back on. You are rattled, unsettled, disturbed, yes, even mad. What a lousy play! What injustice! You turn to your fellow viewer and begin to express your outrage, and he smiles at you with apparent unconcern. You turn to another as the crowd slowly begins to file out. He listens and smiles, drooling a little bit at the corner of his mouth. Then you see it. There on his scalp. The little tell-tale scar. And the lady walking by you, the one with the slightly bulging forehead, she's smiling, too, after this horror story, smiling just like the other movie you just saw. You want to simply scream out at everyone, "What are you doing? Can't you see?" because you know not everyone has had a prefrontal lobotomy, have they? But you just can't get it out, somehow you don't have the energy anymore. What's the use. These morons won't listen anyway. No passion. What a lousy play!

You file out with a heavy heart, out into the cool night air away from the oxygen-starved theatre. You continue to meditate over what you just witnessed, even how unmoved everyone was and the pointlessness of trying to speak even your own heart to those avid theatre-goers. Walking away, you barely notice your fingers gingerly rubbing the fresh, slight scar over your protruding forehead. "Oh well," you reflect, "Oh well, he did do it without a license."



"One Flew Over the Judge's Bench" is a true story. Only the details have been changed to provoke the insensitive. In January of 1984, Richard Cantrell was sentenced to 30 days in jail and a fine of 100 dollars for the "crime" of removing a wart. The woman for whom he performed this act of kindness had no complaint. The wart healed perfectly and did not return, and she did not testify against him in court. Evidence showed that the defendant neither charged money for helping this woman, nor pretended to be a physician, surgeon, or nurse, nor did he offer this service or any other to the public. Testimony also revealed that his motive in removing the wart was compassion, based on the teachings of the Bible.

But motives and intentions were not to be considered in this case. The law was the law . . . or was it?

One of the jurors remarked to an attorney after the trial was over, "None of us on the jury really felt like he was guilty; but when the judge read us the law, we didn't see how we had any choice but to find him guilty."

A possible reason for this verdict was that Judge O'Dea in a private session, out of the hearing of the jurors, decided to modify the law that the defendant was charged with by omitting part of the legal definition of what practicing medicine actually is. Here is that definition; the part left out by the judge is in brackets:

Physician and surgeon. A person who [advertises or holds himself out to the public as a physician or surgeon, or who assumes the title or uses the words or letters "Dr.," "Doctor," "Professor," "M.D.," or "M.B." in connection with his name, or any other title implying or designating that he is a practitioner of medicine or surgery in any of its branches, or shall advertise or hold himself out to the public as one skilled in the art of curing or alleviating disease, bodily injuries or physical or nervous ailments, or] shall prescribe, direct, recommend, or advise, give or sell for the use of any person, any drug, medicine or other agency or application for the treatment, cure or relief of any bodily injury, infirmity, or disease, or who follows the occupation of treating diseases by any system or method, shall be deemed a physician, or practitioner of medicine or surgery, for the purpose of this chapter.

The law as modified by the judge would condemn a parent for the "crime" of giving his child an aspirin or bandaging a scraped knee. Why does such injustice occur in America?

YAHSHUA

From time to time, radical men and their radical thoughts have swept across the stage of history. When these men appear, they disturb the comfortable and self-satisfied among us. But there is one man who deserves our special recognition. His career was like the path of a comet — in both its briefness and intensity. Who was this man? He was everything His name describes. He still is. His name is Healer.

Though His years were short, His extraordinary life established a new race among the afflicted, broken-hearted, and strife torn peoples of the earth. There has never been a light like the light that shone forth from this man. His words broke into the unexplored areas of the human heart, bringing men's motives out of their dark burrows and into plain view. Even those who followed Him found the ancient foundations of their lives quaking in devastation.

The words that He spoke had an amazing effect on people. When He spoke, some people totally abandoned their homes, families, jobs, and properties to follow Him from town to town, doing whatever He told them to do. Others heard His words and turned their back on Him, or called Him a devil, or plotted to kill Him.

What did this man talk about that caused such a stir? What was it that polarized all of humanity, causing some to adore Him and others to grind their teeth at Him?

It was something so wonderful that if you heard it, you could hardly believe it.

The good news He proclaimed was this:

"Deny yourself. Turn away from your self-centered life. Let your old impulses and desires die inside of you. Follow Me in the way I am going and you will find yourself caring for others and having all your needs met. You don't have to live this way any longer. I have come to rule the earth in righteousness and true justice. I am here to establish a new order, a new life that will fill the whole earth. This present world system is headed for certain destruction but you don't have to be destroyed. I am going to shed My innocent blood for you so that you can be free from the bondage of sin and rule with Me forever."

Is it any wonder that the society of His day cried out against Him? Whatever else the deafness and blindness of His hearers might have missed, it's clear that they saw this; He was the seed of a whole new order of things. The greatest enemy to this man's message was the fossilized human heart.

Yet, what this man accomplished was enduring. That's why His name is important. His name shines in all that He has accomplished. His name is Deliverer.

The same world that He came into has made Him the victim of a great campaign, a campaign to distort His true image. His shocking message and what it brings us all to, has been intellectualized by a million hollow words. We've lost sight of Him in the dust of a stampede to enshrine Him and institutionalize Him. Although He poured out His life in the dusty, sun-bit villages of Judea, artists have insisted on presenting Him clean, combed and sleek, in spotless clothing, and with an expression that the average child would think strange and repelling.

These, among a million other impressions, have made Him unreal to so many of us. This distortion of His image has also distorted His name. If we view Him in an unreal way, we truly cannot know Him or be connected to Him. His name is Restorer.

The traditional groups that have a supposed devotion to His memory largely ignore the matter that was closest to His heart — the message of His kingdom, the call of deliverance from the decaying society in which we live. He was the most passionate and determined man who ever lived. The blazing quality of His life was so pure that even death has bowed down before Him. His endurance and single-mindedness have established a beachhead in this hostile world. He accomplished the mission He was given to do. He is God's Anointed Son, sent by His Father to set all creation free.

To the complex reasoning of the resisting heart, He is a tyrant, demanding total obedience. But to the yielding heart, He is the King who offers total care. To take Him seriously is to enter upon a challenging and radical new path. Of those who find themselves stirred by His word, He said, "These are My sheep. They will hear My voice." He is the perfect Shepherd.

The life He established is unending, and one day it is going to fill the whole earth — and then the whole universe. Despite what we may have been told, we now know that His name is Salvation. This is the name He is known by among the people He is gathering. His name is true because it says what He is. His name is Yahshua. Does His name stir your heart?

WHO WE ARE

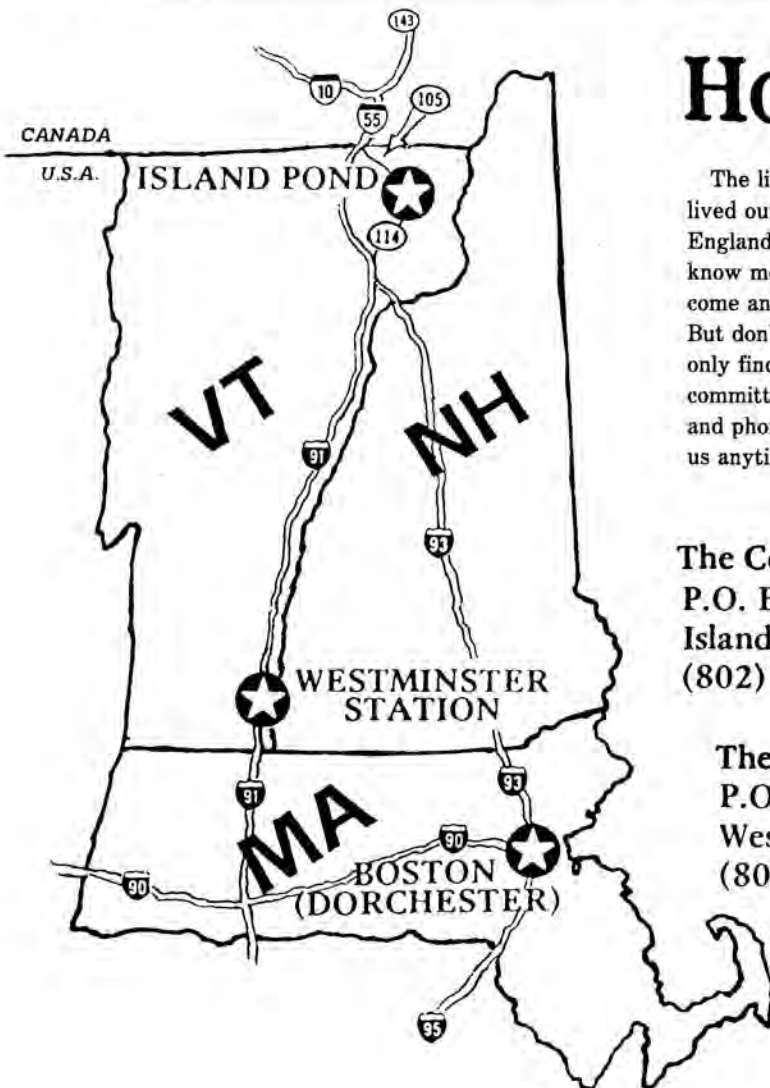
We used to be desperately lonely, even though most of us had a lot of friends. Some of us were successful in what we did, and some of us were failures beyond hope. We came from everywhere and we have done everything trying to make sense out of our lives. But no matter what we did, we were left feeling dirty inside. We were scarred deeply from the effects of mistrust and hurtful relationships. We strove for acceptance, money, and whatever else could give us comfort. Some of us had dreams of a better life, but most of us had given up the struggle, settling instead for compromise and consent to "the way things are." We were lost, scattered, without direction, doing our own thing.

Then we heard a voice that spoke to us right where we were, exposing the emptiness of our lives. This voice matched up fully to the longing of our hearts. Somehow a lifetime of being unable to trust was shattered by this voice of hope. It came from a people who had their dirty con-

science washed clean. They had a clean slate and an absolutely new life. This new life they eagerly offered to all who wanted it.

So now we have a life together. We no longer have to be separated by race, education, appearance, position, status, or where we came from. Instead our days are filled with seeking not only our own welfare, but also the welfare of others. This new life has given us the power to care.

We hate the war, strife, hatred, starvation, murder, injustice, greed, and selfishness that is leading the whole world to destruction. We want to see all of this come to an end. But we are convinced that the demonstration of our new life together is what will bring about the end of this age. We want many, many more people to hear the voice of hope we've heard, to come and see the life. This life we speak of in this pamphlet is what you were born for. Your whole life you have been trying to find it. We are thrilled to be able to invite you to come and see that it's real.



HOW TO REACH US

The life that you have read about in this pamphlet is being lived out on a daily basis in several communities throughout New England. We want to invite anyone who earnestly desires to know more about our life and the good news we speak about to come and visit. Our homes are open to you for a day or to stay. But don't expect to find anything flashy or glamorous, for you will only find sincere people living together in unity who, in love, are committed to one another from a thankful heart. Our addresses and phone numbers are listed below. Feel free to call or come see us anytime, day or night.

The Community in ISLAND POND

P.O. Box 443
Island Pond, Vermont 05846
(802) 723-9708

The Community in WESTMINSTER STATION

P.O. Box 30
Westminister Station, Vermont 05159
(802) 722-3169

The Community in DORCHESTER

92 Melville Avenue
Dorchester, Massachusetts 02124
(617) 282-8402