[Treasury of Faith index](#)

It Is Time To Choose

by J. W. Jepson, D.Min.
Copyright (c) 2010 by J. W. Jepson

Every human society rests upon certain assumptions about reality, truth, meaning, and authority. These assumptions form the moral foundation of each social system and establish its ultimate reference points.

The basis of each society is essentially theological. Even communism rests upon a theological premise--atheism. Atheism is not the absence of theology, a theological vacuum. It is a radical assumption about God, therefore atheism is a theology. Communism attempted to build a society predicated on a wrong theology, and it has failed.

Secularism never can be the source, the foundation, the protector and guarantor of human rights and civil liberties. America's founding fathers knew that. In the Declaration Of Independence they affirmed that all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights. In so doing they appealed to a Source of our rights that far transcends any and every level of human authority.

If human rights are merely conferred on us by government or by society, then no rights exist except those that government or society chooses to confer. In that case it would be impossible for a government or society to violate unspecified rights, because unspecified rights would not exist. If government or society creates our rights, then government or society can legitimately abolish them.

Whenever a government or society fails to recognize its ultimate accountability to a moral authority higher than itself, the seeds of injustice and tyranny have been sown.

"Separation of church and state" never was intended by our founding fathers to mean the rejection by the state of its moral obligation and accountability to the Creator. Such a position could not possibly be neutrality. By its very nature it would be hostility.

Because the Judeo-Christian assumptions underlie western civilization--assumptions that look to God as the Source of our human nature, values, rights and obligations--we held the Nazi leaders accountable at the Nuremberg trials. Because of those assumptions, we champion human rights and dignity throughout the world.

Without those assumptions we are merely intruding into the internal affairs of other governments whenever we charge them with violating the human rights of their citizens, no matter how cruel and brutal those violations might be.

We are uniquely created in the moral and intellectual image of God and are responsible to Him for our moral character, our conduct, and the use of our endowments.

Moral relativism cannot stand up under the weight of objective reality. Certain essential values derive from our nature and relationships as human beings, and certain universal moral principles and obligations are based on our nature and relationships as moral beings, precisely because we are uniquely created in the image of God. If God is not who He is, we cannot be who we are. We are who we are only because God is who He is.

If we reject that, we look in vain for an adequate basis for human values and rights. Biological complexity does not create intrinsic value. Molecules and electrochemical processes have no intrinsic value and therefore no inherent rights. If we are only matter, we do not matter. Most people do not want to live in that kind of a dangerous, amoral society.

So then, the basic issue facing us right now is this: Are we created in the image of God, with certain inalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness under God? Or are we merely highly evolved animals to be domesticated and controlled by government? We cannot be both. It is time to choose.

[Treasury of Faith index](#)