

Christian Libertarian Manifesto (Version 3.0)

By: James R. Hughes | updated: 2019-10-13

Objective

To maximize the God-defined individual human and family rights and responsibilities and minimize the role and involvement of the state (governments) in the life of individuals and families.

Presuppositions

- Moral standards are defined by God and are absolute. Moral standards are not relative and do not evolve, and are not defined by the will of the people or an intellectual or educated elite such as supreme court justices (Ps 96.10; Acts 17.24-31; Rom 1.18-32).
- God's Law, as given in the Bible, is not one of many possible standards, it is the only standard:
 - All men know innately what God requires (i.e., there is a Natural Law), but men suppress the truth (Rom 1.18-31). God has also revealed his law in written form (Dt 4.13; 5.6-22).
 - God's Law is not just *a* standard for faith and personal holiness for Christians; it is *the* only definitive standard for morality.
 - God's Law applies to all men through all time and in all nations, and gives practical guidelines for all areas of human relationships (Gen 9.4-7; Lev 24.22; Neh 13.20, 21; Ps 2.1-7, 10-12; 33.8; Jonah 3.1-10; Mt 14.3-5; 24.14 [compare with Mt 28.19-20]; Acts 17.24-31; 2 Tim 3.15-17).
- The government legislates morality. It is spurious to say that 'You cannot legislate morality.' All laws, by their very nature, deal with morality (i.e., they define right and wrong behaviour). The question is not whether the Government legislates morality; the question is whether man's subjective opinions or God's objective standards will form the foundation for legislation and court decisions.
- Every government is to be subject and subservient to God (2 Chron 20.6; Ps 2; Dan 4.25; 5.21; Rom 13.1-7).
- Christianity is the only true religion. All other religions are false, and impostors or imitators of the true religion (Jn 14.6; Acts 4.12; Phil 2.9-11).
- Man does not have a right to proclaim atheism or any false religion, nor to endorse the existence of a plurality of religious views (Ex 20.4-6; Dt 8.19; Ps 53.1; Mt 4.10; Acts 17.22-31).
- Man is a unique creation of God and not part of a continuum with other created entities. Therefore man has rights and responsibilities that are not accorded to animals or plants (Gen 1.26-28).
- God has defined three institutions of human relationship—the family (Gen 2.18, 24; Mal 2.14-16; Mt 19.3-9), church (Mt 16.18), and state (Prov 8.15, 16; Rom 13.1-4)—each of which has its own God-given domain of sovereignty, and is not to encroach on the domain of the other institutions.
 - The responsibilities of the *Family* are the provision of childcare, education, health services, and the primary provision of economic welfare (Eph 4.28; 2 Thes 3.10).
 - The responsibilities of the *Church* are the proclamation of the gospel, corporate worship of God, administration of the sacraments, corrective discipline (with excommunication being the most extreme form) leading to repentance, and the collective provision of secondary welfare for the truly needy (Acts 6.1-7; 1 Cor 16.1-3).
 - The responsibilities of the *State* are policing, military defence, enactment of laws, and the administration of justice through the courts (Dt 16.18; Rom 13.1-7; 1 Pet 2.13, 14).
- Good economic theory asserts, and history proves, that socialistic and paternalistic governments and high taxation rates, oppress the population and rob them of their wealth and well-being and motivation to act responsibly and productively, rather than improving the quality of life and living conditions.

Basic Human Rights and Responsibilities

The following human rights and responsibilities are basic to human liberty and the foundation for valid human laws:

- Human life must be protected from conception until natural death. Every human being is to be free from the threat of abortion and euthanasia (Gen 1.26, 27; 25.21-26; Ex 20.13; 21.22-25; Job 10.8-12; Ps 22.9, 10; 51.5, 139.13-16; Is 46.3; Lk 1.41-44).

- No person shall be kidnapped and enslaved (Ex 21.16; Dt 24.7).
- No person is to be subjected to torture or cruel punishment for any reason. Capital (Gen 9.5, 6) and corporal (Dt 25.2, 3) punishment consistent with God's guidelines, are not cruel punishment if justly deserved and if administered by the civil magistrate after just processes and due diligence are applied (Rom 13.4, 5, Heb 2.2). Capital punishment is not inconsistent with the protection of human life, but an endorsement of the value of human life.
- God alone is Lord of the conscience. No man may rule over the conscience of another man. Therefore, from a human perspective, men are free to believe as they wish. No human institution (family, church, or state) may judge a person's heart, but only the improper outward expression of the heart through overt action (Mt 12.33; Lk 6.43-45; Jam 3.12).
- Every person is free to express any thoughts, in written or spoken form, as long as they do not consist of blasphemy against God (Ex 20.7), expressions or endorsements of deviant behaviour (e.g., pornography or idolatry), instructions for suicide, calls to treason or terrorist activities; or would lead someone into danger (e.g., crying 'Fire!' in a crowded concert hall).
- Personal ownership of property (real or chattel) is to be protected by law (Ex 20.15; Acts 5.4). Property must not be taken without the owning party's full, un-coerced agreement; and then not without just and full compensation.
 - Since the government should not own property (except in rare cases, e.g., for military bases, police stations, or courts of justice) there should be little cause for the use of eminent domain or expropriation.
- Every person may prohibit any, and all, others from entering his private property and may defend his property against unauthorized entry (Ex 22.2, 3), whether by physical or electronic means. This includes the prohibition of entry by any government official without a legitimate reason for entry, documented in a warrant issued by an impartial judge who has carefully weighed the reason for the request.
- All persons have a right to carry out any form of transaction (social or economic) with the understanding that information (e.g., personal demographic, financial, medical, legal, etc.) shared during that transaction is a private matter between the parties (Prov 11.13; 20.19; 25.9; 1 Tim 5.13).
 - Information collected for the purposes of the transaction will be used only to enact the transaction and, if agreed, to facilitate further similar transactions (e.g., the retention of credit card information by a vendor to expedite future sales, the retention of medical information by a doctor to ensure that a person's medical history is accurate, finger print or other positive identification information collected by a financial institution for providing access to a person's accounts, etc.).
 - Personal, detailed information collected for the purposes of an agreed transaction shall not be used for other purposes (e.g., a merchant shall not provide information about an individual's buying behaviour to another merchant, a doctor shall not provide information about a person's medical history to an insurance agency, etc.) without the express and informed consent of the individual from whom the information is collected.
 - No organization (government, business, or institution) shall assemble personal detailed information about individuals from private transactions for any purpose (e.g., to consolidate a credit history from multiple financial institutions) other than the following:
 - For planning purposes (e.g., identifying a suitable location for a store), generalized statistical information, that cannot identify an individual, may be amalgamated from various data sources.
 - For the purposes of police surveillance (e.g., to apprehend a criminal or prevent a terrorist act) personal detailed information may be assembled as long as it would be possible to demonstrate before a judge that there are reasonable grounds for collection of the information. [A balance must be struck through legislation and judicial decision between personal privacy and community safety. This does not mean that all collection of information requires a judicial warrant or subpoena, nor does it mean that police and spy agencies may collect information about every person in the community.]

- Any individual may ask for and receive expeditiously and at no cost, an accurate and complete record of all information about himself and his transactions, retained by any organization.
- No citizen of a jurisdiction shall be prohibited from travelling, residing, or working within a jurisdiction or to leave and enter the jurisdiction of his citizenship (Ex 4.22; Mt 2.14; Rom 15.24).
- All able persons shall be responsible for providing for their own livelihood through work (2 Thes 3.10) and shall not be supported by welfare or a 'dole', or support themselves by begging.
 - Begging is a curse (1 Sa 2.36; Ps 109.10), and is not to be a tolerated way life.
 - Poverty must be dealt with as God instructs. The responsibility for providing for the truly needy (widows, orphans, and aliens: Dt 10.18; Acts 6.1; 1 Tim 5.3-9) who cannot help themselves due to age or infirmity (Acts 3.2-10), belongs to generous individuals (Prov 14.21; Is 1.17; 58.6, 7; Mt 25.35, 36; 1 Jn 3.17-19), families (Lev 25.25; 1 Tim 5.8; 16), and the Church (1 Tim 5.9, 10; 16). Such provisions shall take the form of:
 - Work-based provisions (Lev 19.9, 10; 23.22; Dt 24.19-22; Ruth 2.2), or working as a servant until debts are repaid (Lev 25.39-43).
 - Interest-free loans (Lev 25.35-37; Dt 15.7-11; Mt 5.42) that are to be repaid (Ps 37.21).
 - Paying a fair wage (Lev 19.13; Dt 24.14, 15; Jer 22.13; Mal 3.5; Col 4.1; Jam 5.4).
 - Giving handouts (food, clothing, money) to the truly needy and deserving poor, as a last resort.
- All persons shall be permitted to associate freely in whatever manner they wish. Specifically, individuals in association may:
 - Form their associations (e.g., churches, clubs, sports teams, schools, professional, business cooperatives, etc.) based on any parameters they establish.
 - Apparent, or real, instances of racism, sexism, etc. will *not* be corrected by laws or police action as it is practically impossible to untangle motives and to avoid the creation of double standards. Rather corrective action will be attempted through moral suasion.
 - Require their members to adhere to a particular set of beliefs, standards, and code of conduct.
 - No association shall be coerced to accept into membership any person that does not meet its beliefs, standards, or code of conduct.
 - No individual shall be coerced to join an association against his free agreement (e.g., a person does not have to be a member of a political party to vote, or of a union to be employed by a particular company).
 - Assemble, meet, and carry out their activities wherever and whenever they choose, as long as they do not cause physical harm to others or deprive others of the right to use their own private property.
- Men and women may freely, under no compulsion, marry whom they choose (Gen 2.18, 24; 1 Cor 7.2, 38-39), as long as the marriage between one man and one woman only (Ge 2.24; Mt 19.5, 6) and not within the degrees of consanguinity of affinity forbidden in the Bible (Lev 18, 1 Cor 5.1). Christians may marry only other Christians (Dt 7.3; Ezra 9-10; Neh 13.23-27; 1 Cor 7.39; 2 Cor 6.14).
- In the event of an accusation of a crime, a person shall be presented with a clear statement of the charge and evidence against him (Num 35.30; Dt 17.6; 19.15; Prov 12.17; Mt 18.16; 1 Tim 5.19; Heb 10.28), and shall not be held in a prison (unless there is a reasonable expectation that the person will flee the jurisdiction or immediately commit another serious crime).
 - Where possible, bail, appropriate to the type and nature of the crime, should be used instead of holding a person in a prison.
- All persons are to be treated as equal before the law. Judicial decisions are not to favour one class of people over another, whether they are natives or foreigners (Dt 27.19) or rich or poor (Ex 23.3; Lev 19.15; Dt 1.17).
- All persons may appeal to the highest court or judicial official within the jurisdiction (Acts 25.11-12).

- A person accused of a crime shall be considered innocent until proven guilty in a court and will be permitted to continue acting as a private citizen (Ex 23.7; Num 5.14-31; Dt 17.6; Josh 20.3-5).
- A person accused of a crime shall be provided with access to a fair (Dt 16.18-20) and speedy (Eccl 8.11; e.g., within a month of being charged) public trial based on evidence from witnesses (Dt 19.15) before a randomly selected jury of citizens (if so desired) of the jurisdiction (Dt 21.3, 6) where the crime was committed. If the accused person cannot afford a lawyer, a court-appointed lawyer will act in his defence.
- A person accused of a crime may be compelled under oath to act as a witness for or against himself (Mt 26.63, 64).
 - Fingerprint and DNA samples (and similar information for positive identification) may be taken from an accused person for the purposes of establishing guilt or innocence.
- No person shall be punished by, or suffer, the removal of his rights or possessions except as the result of a just judgment in a court of law.
- No person found guilty of a crime and who has been punished for his crime by a properly authorized civil magistrate shall be deprived of any rights (e.g., to vote) as a citizen.
 - A record of previous criminal activity that is maintained by the police or the courts may be used for investigative purposes.
 - The police may maintain registries of DNA and fingerprints (etc.) of those previously charged with a crime for the purposes of apprehending criminals.
 - A record of previous criminal activity may be used by the courts for the purposes of demonstrating a recurrent pattern of behaviour when determining probable cause and just punishment
 - A record of previous criminal activity committed by a person may be provided to a prospective employer only if the:
 - Information provided, directly relates to the requirements of the particular job for which the person is applying (e.g., a record of a drunk driving charge could be provided if the person was applying to be a truck driver, or a record of child molestation could be provided for a person applying to work in a school for young children).
 - Prospective employer has demonstrated that particular charges are relevant for consideration when determining if a person may be unable to execute safely a particular job.
 - A statute of limitations will govern the provision of information about criminal records.
- No person found innocent of an offence by a judge or jury, or justly punished for the offence, shall be subject to a charge or trial for the same offence.
- Every person has a right to request a civil trial for any matter, large or small.
 - Civil trials shall not include juries.
 - Trials for complex matters (e.g., prior use, ownership of intellectual property) requiring scientific or engineering knowledge, or suits for significant financial amounts will be conducted by a panel (e.g., three) of impartial judges.
 - The cost of a civil trial including court administration costs and *reasonable* legal fees of all parties will be paid by the party found to be at fault.
 - Limits to the cost of assignable legal fees will be established so that large corporations and rich defendants cannot load on the costs of expensive legal representation to intimidate claimants.
 - Only consideration of direct fault (e.g., due to negligence, wilful destruction of property, dishonest practices, or clearly preventable error) will be permitted in civil trials. Second and third degrees (etc.) of fault will not be addressed.
 - Civil trials will not be permitted for matters where individuals have abandoned common sense or personal responsibility or have misused objects or products (e.g., a person cannot sue the manufacturer of a toaster because he heated his gloves in it and caused a fire).
 - Total damages (punitive and compensatory) resulting from civil trials will be limited to a maximum of a five-fold restitution for the loss (Ex 22.1) which will be payable in its entirety to the offended party.

- Compensation for a loss of life or health will not exceed five times the estimated probable remaining life-time earnings based on a projection of current earned income.
 - No additional penalties will be imposed for ‘distress’ or ‘suffering’.
 - The total amount of the damages (punitive and compensatory) will be awarded to the successful party in the case, with no deductions for legal fees or taxes.
 - Class action suites will be permitted as long as the guidelines above apply.
 - No contract can be made between two (or more) parties that prohibits the use of civil court procedures for rectifying wrongs or obtaining justice.
- A system of graded courts with an appellate process will be instituted (Ex 18.13-26).
- All constitutional or statute laws existing in a jurisdiction, consistent with the principles laid out herein, shall be understood in their plain meaning.
 - Judges are to apply the plain meaning as the legislative authors of the law intended it.
 - Judges must not subject any law to an interpretation that is inconsistent with the original intent of the authors.

Responsibilities of the State

The specific responsibilities of the State are to:

- Acknowledge the God of the Bible as the only true God and historic Christianity as the only true religion (Mt 4.10; Acts 17.22-31).
- Enact legislation that is derived from, consistent with, and subordinate to the Ten Commandments. Human law must be:
 - *Derivative*: It must be possible to demonstrate that the specific human law is a *direct* application of one, or more, of the Ten Commandments and follows the example of the case laws in Leviticus and Deuteronomy (e.g., speed limits on highways are a direct application of the 6th commandment; laws requiring fences around swimming pools or construction sites are an application of the case law requiring parapets on flat roofs [Dt 22.8]).
 - *Consistent*: No human law may be contrary or contradictory to God’s Law (e.g., permitting Sunday shopping or the ‘marriage’ of homosexuals).
 - *Subordinate*: No human law can be of greater importance than God’s law (e.g., a mother’s ‘right’ to abortion cannot ‘trump’ the father’s right over a child or a child’s right to life).
- Operate courts and punish those who perform actions that are contrary to God’s Law as expressed in the Ten Commandments and in their application through the case law examples provided in the Bible (Rom 13.4). Punishment must:
 - Be equitable to the crime committed (Ex 21.23-25; Lev 24.17-22; Dt 19.21).
 - Include the use of capital (Gen 9.5, 6; Nu 35.31, 32) and corporal (Dt 25.2, 3; Pr 10.13; 13.24; 22.15; 23.13, 14; 29.15, 17) punishment when deserved (Dt 25.2; Pr 17.26), and not to shun either in the false belief that man can be more just or holy than God who ordains their use (Dt 19.13).
 - Provide financial restitution to the injured party where property or goods have been stolen or damaged. Such restitution generally will be two-fold (Ex 22.4, 7, 9) which provides for restoration to normalcy and punishment, but may be up to five-fold (Ex 22.1; 2 Sam 12.6; Lk 19.8), depending on the circumstances and degree of aggravation of the injury.
 - Be dispensed with a fearful regard for justice without any passion for personal revenge or any hatred.
 - Be consistent with God’s justice. To be more severe than God requires, is to play God. To attempt to be more ‘merciful’ than God—who is good, merciful, kind, and loving—is blasphemous.
 - Be understood as having a three-fold purpose: for justice (Rom 13.4; Heb 2.2; 1 Pet 2.14), deterrence (Dt 13.11; 17.13; 19.20; Prov 21.11; 1 Tim 5.20), and correction of the individual (Prov 22.15; 29.15; Heb 12.11).

- Defend the lives and property of citizens within its jurisdiction from criminals, the seditious, and aggressors and maintain public peace. Specifically, the government shall:
 - Provide police and military forces for the protection and defence of the citizenry.
 - Permit only biological males (Num 1.2-3), who have not been married within the past year (Dt 24.5) and are twenty years of age or older (Num 1.3), to be assigned dangerous duties such as patrol in a war zone or participate in direct combat.
 - Operate spy agencies (Dt 1.22, 23; Josh 2.1) directly associated with police and military services.
 - Administer the issuance of birth, marriage, and death certificates; and passports or citizenship identification papers; in order to identify citizens and protect their rights.
 - Control border entry-points in order to ensure that criminals and terrorists are not permitted to enter the jurisdiction and endanger the lives of its citizens.
 - Wage a just war (Rom 13.4; Mt 8.9, 10; Lk 3.14; Acts 10.1, 2; Rev 17.14) when necessary. Such war shall be:
 - Declared by a competent authority (e.g., a parliament, president, congress, etc.).
 - For a just cause (e.g., defence against an aggressor or to support allies who have been attacked).
 - Proportional, in that the means and costs of the proposed war shall be relative to the probability of success (i.e., the government must not throw away the lives of its citizens and the cost of resolving injustice must be less than the cost of allowing it to persist).
 - A final resort, where all peaceful means of resolution have been exhausted.
 - Executed for the right intent (e.g., not out of vengeance).
 - Limited in its use of force to legitimate military necessity.
 - Discriminatory, with no direct, intentional attacks on non-combatants.
- Collect taxes (Mt 22.17-21; Rom 13.6) in an administratively simple and transparent manner such as a flat tax (Lev 27.30-32); which should be *one* of a property tax, consumption tax, income tax (Dt 14.22-29), or poll tax (Ex 30.11-16; Mt 17.24).
- Create a simple, non-governmentally administered, process for individuals and corporations to declare ownership of intellectual property such as written compositions or inventions (e.g., posting a notification of ownership on the Internet), and define guidelines for their use by other parties and the payment of royalties.
 - The process shall also spell out how to seek recompense through the courts for misuse, by other parties, of owned intellectual property.
 - Ownership rights of intellectual property shall not be unlimited. They shall not last beyond the equivalent of a human lifetime, for those who created the intellectual property. At such time they will become a common good of society.
- Define legal mechanisms (e.g., treaties and legislation) for the creation of, cross-nation, non-governmentally administered, bodies that define standards for weights and measures, and similar concepts (e.g., frequency allocation, Internet protocols, electricity voltage, etc.) which are demonstrably *essential* for the operation of industrial and economic activities and coordination of communication.
- Define legal mechanisms for the creation of, non-governmentally administered and non-monopolistic, bodies that establish self-regulated professional standards that protect life and property.
 - These self-regulated bodies will objectively examine candidates, and certify those qualified, to perform services consistent with their standards
 - These self-regulated bodies may provide liability and disability insurance for their practitioners.
 - Such self-regulated bodies may exist for: doctors, lawyers, accountants, banks, insurance providers, financial consultants, engineers, teachers, food producers, food process inspectors, product manufacturers, automobile and truck drivers, ship captains, airline pilots, building inspectors, transportation providers (e.g., taxi cabs, buses, etc.), etc.

- Create laws related to the use of natural resources (including land, forests, water bodies and mineral deposits) that govern externalities (pollution and despoiling of water, air, and land) that *clearly* endanger the life or health of other people or reduce the value of another person's property.
- Prohibit monopolistic economic behaviour and price collusion, which are theft and contrary to the 8th commandment.
- Require all commercial activities to be suspended on Sunday—the Lord's Day, the Christian Sabbath (Gen 2.2, 3; Ex 20.8-11; Neh 13.17, 18; Mk 2.23-28).
- Suppress blasphemies (Ex 20.7; Lev 24.16) and the overt practice of false religions (Ex 20.3-6; Dt 13.6-10; Ezra 7.26; 2 Ki 18.4; 2 Chron 34.33). This does not permit the inquisitorial examination of beliefs of the heart nor the use of torture.
- Permit any foreign person, regardless of national origin, ethnic or linguistic background, economic status or skills, to enter the jurisdiction and live in it as a temporary and (after a determined probationary period) a full citizen (Lev 19.33, 34; Dt 10.18; 24.14, 17, 19-21; 27.19) as long as the person:
 - Covenants to renounce the overt practice of any false religion (Lev 20.2). This does *not* include a requirement to espouse Christianity or profess the teachings of the Bible [*forced* professions to a creed have proven to be ineffective].
 - Covenants to abide by the laws and customs of the jurisdiction he is entering (Ex 20.10; Lev 24.16-22) and not to attempt to introduce laws or customs which are contrary to God's Law, as given in the Bible.
 - Demonstrates a willingness to integrate into the jurisdiction by learning and consistently communicating in an official language of the jurisdiction.
 - Does not have an outstanding warrant for an arrest, outstanding un-punished crime, or association with a terrorist organization.
 - Pays a fee to cover (but not to exceed) the full administrative cost of processing the issuance of resident and, eventually, citizenship identification papers.

Prohibitions on the State

The State shall not:

- Enact laws that establish a particular denominational form of Christianity or laws that hinder the free exercise of Christian religious worship.
- Enact laws that prohibit or hinder the expression of Christianity (e.g., public prayer in the name of Christ) by government, institutional, or military officials.
- Enact laws that deal with matters of the heart (e.g., 'hate' crimes). No man can know the heart of another person or have control over the intentions of another person. Laws enacted by the government to prohibit crimes shall deal only with overt behaviour such as blasphemy, theft, violence, adultery, murder, conducting commercial activities on Sunday, etc.
- Create non-judicial bodies or tribunals to settle disputes or administer justice, such as Human Rights Commissions, Labour Relations Boards, Landlord and Tenant Boards, Immigration Appeals Tribunals, Trademark and Patent Appeals Tribunals, Worker Safety Commissions, etc.
 - All judicial bodies or tribunals will be administered within the State's system of graded-courts staffed by adequately trained and duly appointed lawyers and judges.
- Differentiate among persons (Ex 23.3; Lev 19.15; Dt 1.17; 16.19). No laws shall be made that provide exceptions or special provisions that are based on age, health, phenotypical characteristics, ethnicity, aboriginal status, physical disability, dementia, gender, sexual preference, income, status, rank, etc. Specifically, the State shall *not*:
 - Impose equity quotas on, or require reporting from, any government department, institution, organization, business etc. based on creed; ethnic, cultural, or phenotypical characteristics; gender; age; physical ability or disability; etc.
 - Permit children or youth to be treated differently from those deemed to be adults when they commit crimes.
 - Create boundaries for voting districts that are defined by criteria other than simple geographic parameters such as natural borders (e.g., rivers), compactness and contiguity of territory, and equal population counts (e.g., with less than 5% variability from a mean).

- Act as the paternalistic ‘father’ over the lives of the citizens within its jurisdiction. Specifically, the State shall *not*:
 - Provide welfare payments, food stamps or any other means of distributing income.
 - Provide, fund, or administer any form of unemployment insurance or workers’ disability compensation program.
 - Provide, fund, or administer any form of retirement or pension plan.
 - Require individuals to designate a portion of their income to health insurance, liability insurance, or to retirement savings plans.
 - Legislate educational requirements or standards, operate educational institutions, or provide funds for education (e.g., tuition assistance or direct subsidies to schools), except for training military personnel or police officers in skills directly related to their jobs.
 - [Instead, the government through the definition of law, and the courts through the application of law, will hold individuals and families responsible and accountable for managing their own welfare.]
- Permit a guilty party to avoid deserved punishment through protracted procedural delays (e.g., a lengthy appeal process), plea-bargaining, or a procedural error (e.g., a judge put the wrong date on a warrant) where the mistake has no material bearing on the determination of innocence or guilt.
 - Procedural errors however, are not to be excused. Independent disciplinary action (e.g., a fine) will be taken against those who commit procedural errors through negligence.
- Imprison those determined to be guilty of a crime.
 - Prisons must not be used for the purpose of punishment.
 - Prisons are to be used only to restrain extremely violent offenders who cannot be controlled by corporal, financial (e.g., fines), or other forms of punishment.
- Collect taxes unjustly. Specifically, the State shall *not*:
 - Collect taxes that exceed God’s requirement of a portion of human income. The total government tax burden must not exceed 10% (the tithe God requires) of a person’s (or the economy’s) annual income.
 - Institute or increase taxes without the express permission of an absolute majority of the voting-age population (e.g., through plebiscite).
 - Provide tax exemptions of any kind for any reason (e.g., to attract a new manufacturing plant, support a sports team or particular industry, subsidize a profession or industry, support a charitable organization, support married couples or families with children, provide exemptions for handicaps, etc.).
 - Tax inherited estates (Prov 13.22; 2 Cor 12.14).
 - Collect intermediate or ‘hidden’ taxes. All taxes shall be direct, obvious, and visible.
 - Collect import or export taxes or duty; these hinder the free trade of goods and services and are therefore a form of theft.
- Operate at a deficit, except in the rare situation that the country is under attack by a hostile enemy against which an on-going defensive initiative is required.
 - The government shall operate normal services only out of current accounts.
 - The government shall not finance regular services by issuing bonds or borrowing money.
- Permit gambling or lotteries, which are breaches of the 8th and 10th commandments, or use funds raised from gambling or lotteries for the purposes of operating government.
- Enact laws or establish administrative procedures regulating marriage or authorizing officials to perform marriages.
 - Marriage is a family ordinance (Gen 24.67; Ex 22.17; Dt 22.16; Jn 2.1, 2; 1 Cor 7.38) and is to be administered by families.
 - Marriage is not a sacrament and therefore not within the direct realm of responsibility of the Church. Two Christians marrying may have their marriage solemnized by the Church through prayer and exhortation, but they are not required to perform their covenant vows in the presence of a Church official who has been licenced by the State.
 - Man-made laws or judicial decisions that touch on marriage (e.g., estate inheritance) must reinforce the Biblical standard that marriage is to be between one man and one woman only (Ge 2.24; Mt 19.5, 6) and should prohibit marriage within the degrees of consanguinity of affinity forbidden in the Bible (Lev 18, 1 Cor 5.1).

- Governments should not license a marriage (granting a privilege) but rather certify (recognizing a right) that one was performed; like a person receives a birth certificate indicating he has been born, not a licence to be born.
- Judicial decisions that deal with divorce (e.g., settling the disposition of assets or custody of children in a divorce case) must reinforce the Biblical standard that divorce is only to be permitted in the case of adultery or fornication (Mt 5.31, 32) and wilful desertion (1 Cor 7.15).
- Own land or buildings except for direct use by the military, police, courts, or governmental legislative bodies; and not own, operate, or regulate parks or wilderness preserves.
- Regulate the operation of the economy, except to the extent laid out in the section entitled: *Responsibilities of the State*. Specifically, the State shall *not*:
 - Issue fiat money, run national banks, or set interest rates (other than prohibiting rates that are usurious), all of which create imbalanced behaviour in free-markets and inflation, and as such are a form of theft and contrary to the 8th commandment.
 - Impose import or export quotas.
 - In the event of a clear case of ‘dumping’ (i.e., a foreign government subsidizing prices that are lower than the true cost of their local labour to drive competitors out of business) the government may use sanctions to enforce honest and free trade.
 - Regulate businesses by requiring permits either to initiate or operate a business (e.g., corporations such as those that extract resources or manufacture goods, establishments that rent or sell goods or provide services, or individuals who provide services, etc.).
 - Define or legislate ‘essential services,’ interfere in labour disputes (unless the parties involved seek resolution through the courts), or prohibit employers from utilizing alternate labourers if employees withhold their services (e.g., in a strike).
 - Establish minimum or maximum wages or prices (e.g., rent controls).
 - Provide any form of insurance or loan guarantee, or act as the source of financial disaster relief funding.
 - Provide any form of (direct or indirect) incentive to encourage businesses to operate, or locate, in their jurisdiction.
 - Define restrictive zoned municipal areas that create artificial monopolies and allocate rights arbitrarily (e.g., defining green spaces that diminish the value of a person’s property, or do not permit an owner of property to maximize its potential value). If ‘zoning’ laws exist at all, they shall be limited to controlling externalities that reduce the value of a neighbour’s property (e.g., not permitting the placement of a slaughterhouse beside an apartment building).
 - Fund or operate tourism bureaus or economic development councils.
- Regulate, or operate, media content and distribution services such as movies, television, radio, newspapers, or the Internet. [These shall be operated by private firms in a non-monopolistic, user-pay, free market.]
- Provide funds for industrial or academic research or operate laboratories or research institutions (other than what may be directly required to provide for a properly equipped military).
- Provide funds to support the arts, operate institutions such as art galleries or museums, fund sports activities or teams (directly via grants or indirectly via tax concessions) or fund or operate sports venues or facilities. [These shall be operated by private firms in a non-monopolistic, user-pay, free market.]
- Operate or fund hospitals, or provide health care or medical insurance, except for direct use by the military during a time of war. [These shall be operated by private firms in a non-monopolistic, user-pay, free market.]
- Own, operate, or regulate ambulance, fire, or similar emergency services. [These shall be operated by private firms in a non-monopolistic, user-pay, free market. For example, those who subscribe to such services could receive lower insurance rates; or insurance companies could cooperate to provide such services directly or through third parties.]
- Operate a patent office.

- Cases dealing with the theft of intellectual property will be dealt with solely through civil court procedures based on defined statute laws and common law cases.
- Own, operate, or regulate shipping services such as post offices or courier services. [These shall be operated by private firms in a non-monopolistic, user-pay, free market.]
- Own, operate, or regulate transportation services, such as trains, buses, taxis, etc. [These shall be operated by private firms in a non-monopolistic, user-pay, free market.]
- Finance, build, maintain, operate, own, or regulate (except for clear and simple guidelines for physical safety, such as requiring fences around dangerous sites) physical infrastructure such as:
 - Roads or highways;
 - Housing;
 - Ports, waterways locks, airports, air traffic control systems, or any other form of transportation facility;
 - Electric generation or distribution facilities;
 - Garbage collection, recycling services, or dumps (note: dealing with unpleasant externalities is covered elsewhere in this document);
 - Water or sewage treatment plants;
 - Telecommunication networks for telephone, television, radio, the Internet, etc.
 - etc.
 - [These shall be operated by private firms in a non-monopolistic, user-pay, free market.]
- Declare statutory holidays that require any business to cease operations.