

# ENABLE S.C.

A Vision For America. A Vision For South Carolina.  
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## Culture Changes Everything

*Josh Kimbrell, Founder of CEO Roundtable of South Carolina*

Many times folks of my political stripe, and our fellow citizens, have argued that there are two types of conservatives: economic and social. They believe that social and economic issues are mutually exclusive, and are not necessarily interrelated. By contrast, I not only feel that this belief in mutual exclusivity is patently false, but that social and economic values are inextricably linked. In order to have a strong economy, you must have a solid culture.

You know you have a case when even liberal elites

agree with your position. Harvard professor emeritus Richard Landis, himself quite the liberal, stated, in examining what makes nations economically successful, that "culture makes all the difference." Economic prosperity cannot be long sustained if a nation doesn't have a culture that espouses honesty, promotes generosity, and embraces freedom. The book of Mark, the tenth chapter, contains some great truth about economic priorities. It addresses the issue of possessions and the heart; if an individual or a culture embraces wealth for the sake of self it will not long retain it.

I've always been taught that the more closely you hold anything, be it a person, possession, or position, the more likely it will be lost. The tighter the grip, the looser the hold. A nationally known pastor, when asked if it was a sin to be rich, replied "no, but I believe it's a sin to die rich." I'd don't go so far as to argue that to die rich is wrong, but we are called to be conduits, not reservoirs. Reservoirs hold water and prevent it from being sent out to the surrounding countryside; however, rivers are conduits taking the life-giving substance to those most in need. The same is true with people: we are not to retain our blessings to use for our own purposes. It's not about being a lake, but a spring of sustenance for those around us.

Therefore, South Carolina's economy is dependent on its culture. The honesty and responsibility of citizens means less regulation, and less regulation means greater economic leverage. Look at the residue of ethical failures in business: more regulations and guidelines as a result of underhanded accounting practices by companies such as WorldCom and Enron. Anyone who attempts to tell me that economic and social conservatives share nothing more than a party has taken leave of reality.

I applaud the efforts of leaders who link the values of Christian Principle to hopes of a stronger economy. In this edition, y'all will find articles by South Carolina Representative, and candidate for Governor, Nikki Haley, and Lt. Colonel Bill Conner, candidate for Lt. Governor. These two leaders, like a growing number across our State, believe that freedom and free markets flourish in an environment where faith in God is embraced, and good faith toward our neighbor is practiced. Our state will be well-served when we decide it's not the government's job to provide for the general welfare of all people but that, indeed, it's ours. This job will be fulfilled when we decide, individually, to spend less, give more, and serve a purpose greater than ourselves.

God Bless.

# Families First

*Nikki Haley, South Carolina State Representative, Republican Candidate for Governor of South Carolina*



Looking throughout history, the foundation of successful societies has always been the family. The family is where individuals looked for support and encouragement during hard times. When the family wasn't available, neighbors would help neighbors. There was always a hot meal and spare bed for anyone in need. People had a common bond in that everyone worked hard for a living remembering that everything they had

was a blessing from God.

Unfortunately, our society in America has transitioned to more of a self-centered culture. We have allowed our foundational principles of personal responsibility to fall by the wayside as we depend less on our faith in God and each other, and depend more on government. Government's efforts to 'help people', no matter how well-meaning, almost never work as intended. Instead, they often create more dependence on the government and the taxpayer, making our citizenry less self-reliant and importantly, less satisfied.

Now more than ever, we should be focused on helping each other during these difficult times. Friends helping each other through the rough patches of life. I believe that to truly restore

the fabric of American society, we need to refocus on families first, then communities, then local government, then state government and lastly, the federal government.

Ironically, government is the only vehicle with the ability to start such a difficult process of taking control away from a bureaucracy and returning the power to individuals. Government has the ability to enable this type of positive transition by encouraging the private sector to get involved in our schools, prisons and local communities. We must ask non-profits, businesses and charities to reengage in society by investing their resources locally. We need community leaders in the classroom talking to students about the importance of family; we need groups like Prison Fellowship Ministries talking to prisoners about being positive influences in society; and we need government to lessen the tax burden on our families, give parents a choice when making education decisions and encourage the private to do what the government shouldn't.

To truly change our focus from dependence on government to more family-centered policy, it has to start with us. We need to elect leaders who understand the proper role of a limited government - a government that encourages private sector charities and non-profits. We seem to have turned the traditional notions of family first, community second, and government last on its head and that must change. Bringing back our focus to families will transform our state and country into a more successful, productive and generous place to live and work.

# Why "Social And Cultural Issues" Matter

*Lt. Colonel Bill Connor, Republican Candidate for Lt. Governor of South Carolina*



In post-election statements, a Democratic Representative decried "social and cultural issues" take too much prominence in South Carolina elections. I have to assume she was referring to South Carolina's overwhelming support for traditional marriage and commitment to keeping

God in the public square. Her argument is rather pervasive among Liberals and deserves answer. She and many other secular progressives hold social issues to be mere distractions from economics. Further, they claim economic betterment will solve many of the social issues like crime. I agree with one sentiment: By the terms of the Declaration of Independence, "pursuit of happiness" is an "inalienable right" deriving from God ("endowed by their Creator"). Striving for economic betterment is one way to pursue happiness. That said, TRUE

economic progress will never come without the foundation of Biblical principles and commitment to being "one Nation under God". Let me explain.

First, statistics prove the importance of "social issues" and the reason they must be fixed to achieve economic betterment. Progress in all areas will come AFTER families are fixed and children are raised in two parent (father/mother) homes. Without fixing the "social" problem of broken homes, any kind of economic plan is window dressing over decaying wood. While people may "feel" better when the paint goes on, they are only delaying the necessary structural work.

Interestingly, Jesus proclaimed the end of building a house without the foundation of Biblical Truth: "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it." (Matthew 7:27). His Words are relevant for much of what we see in America today.

Now for the cold, hard statistics: Children raised by single mothers, compared to children raised by two-parent families (from 2004 Bureau of Justice report), are:

- 20 times more likely to go to prison,
- 5 times more likely to commit suicide,
- 20 times more likely to have behavioral problems,
- 14 times more likely to become rapists,
- 32 times more likely to run away, 10 times more likely to abuse chemical substances,
- 9 times more likely to drop out of school,
- 33 times more likely to be seriously abused,
- 73 times more likely to be fatally abused and one tenth as likely to get A's in school.

Side note: According to Lee Stillinger, former Director of Child Evangelism Fellowship in this region:

- Nearly 80% of the children in our community do not attend church on a regular basis (less than once per month). This means that of 24,000 children in Orangeburg County, 19,000 do not attend church on a regular basis.
- Over 40% of children in Orangeburg County live in single parent homes.
- 1 out of 5 girls in our area under the age 16 will give birth to a child this year (not counting the rising number of abortions).
- Orangeburg County is faced with the 2nd highest HIV rate in S.C. with the majority infected under the age of 24.

It is not the fault of hard working, single mothers. Boys require the example and disciplining force of a father to become useful members of society. Though many single mothers are able to raise productive, crime-free boys, they are fighting the odds. As the single parenthood rates have risen over 400% in the past 40 years (and divorce over 500%), we have learned by hard experience that crime and other social ills are directly tied to the number of broken families. Many have promised "silver bullet" economic "fixes" (without the hard work of fixing foundational prob-

lems) during this time. President Johnson's "Great Society" welfare program of the 1960's was a prime example. A prime justification for those programs was help African-American families achieve economic parity. However, the reality is that black out-of-wedlock birth rates went from under 25% in 1962 to over 70% today. With that collapse came the inevitable economic repercussions. White families have shown similar percentage changes (though starting at a much lower rate in 1962). The economic welfare plans did nothing to fix the real problems and arguably made matters worse for all.

A return to Biblical Truth would help solve our foundational problems and lead to solid economic betterment. The Bible proclaims out-of-wedlock sex (fornication, adultery and homosexuality) to be a sin, period. That marriage is the most important human institution, which ends only at death. God proclaims he "hates divorce" (Malachi) and Jesus tells us: "For this cause shall a man leave father and mother and shall cleave to his wife and they shall become one flesh. Wherefore, they are no longer two, but one flesh. What God hath joined together, let not man separate." (Matthew 19: 5,6) The Bible clearly delineates the responsibilities of a husband and father to lead his family, love his wife, and raise his children. The Bible makes clear the responsibility of all humans to work hard and live clean lives. To help those in need. To forgive. To love neighbors and become selfless.

A return to Biblical Truth is the true way to betterment in all areas of life, including economics. Our founders intended Biblical Truth to be the foundation of America and warned what would happen if we ever moved away. John Adams put it best: "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the Government of any other...the Bible offers the only system that ever did or ever will preserve the Republic in the world." It is time we listened to true wisdom. Let's keep our focus where it belongs and ensure our house is built on a foundation of rock and not sand.



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