

Renewing the Foundation of the Nation Study Guide

Key Concepts

1. Foundational Priorities of a Nation:

- **God, Marriage, and Family:** The strength of a nation is built on the strength of its families, which is rooted in their relationship with God.
- **Societal Decline Linked to Family and Faith:** The weakness of a nation stems from the weakening of its fundamental building blocks—families and churches, which are weakened by individuals, particularly men, being distant from God.

2. Restoration Through the Foundation:

- Just as a house needs a strong foundation to stand, society needs a solid foundation rooted in God, family, and moral integrity.
- To restore the nation, the rebuilding must start with personal submission to God, leading to stronger families, churches, and communities.

3. True Freedom and Its Divine Source:

- **Steve Forbes' Definition of Freedom:** Freedom allows individuals to resist evil and pursue righteousness, based on a rule of law grounded in moral truths.
- The Founding Fathers believed in a God-given right to freedom, which the state is to protect. They emphasized that human rights and moral order come from God, not from human governments.

4. The Divine Order of the Family:

- The Bible presents a divine model for family and societal order. God designed marriage and family as foundational to society, with the relationship between Christ and the Church serving as a model for marriage.
- God's desire for relationship with humanity is paralleled in His creation of human relationships, especially in the context of marriage and family.

Biblical References

1. Psalm 127:1 (NIV)

- "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain."

Key Insights: This verse underscores the necessity of God's involvement in all human endeavors, particularly in building and sustaining families and communities. Without reliance on God, any societal or governmental efforts are futile.

2. Ephesians 5:23-25 (ESV)

- "For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."

Key Insights: This passage highlights the divine order in marriage, with Christ as the model for sacrificial love. The health of a marriage mirrors the strength of the Church's relationship with Christ, pointing to the importance of godly leadership within the family.

3. Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV)

- "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Key Insights: The strength of a nation begins with the moral and spiritual upbringing of its children. Families, as foundational units of society, are responsible for instilling God's values in the next generation.

4. Matthew 7:24-25 (NIV)

- "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."

Key Insights: Jesus' analogy of the wise builder demonstrates that any institution or life built on the firm foundation of God's truth will stand firm, even in adversity. This applies to both individual lives and the broader societal structures.

5. Joshua 24:15 (NIV)

- "But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Key Insights: Joshua's declaration of his family's devotion to God illustrates the personal responsibility of every family to align their lives with God's will. This forms the bedrock of strong communities and, by extension, strong nations.

Practical Applications

1. Strengthen Personal Faith:

- Begin the renewal process by submitting fully to God. Spend daily time in prayer, seeking God's guidance in your personal and family life. Lead by example, demonstrating reliance on God in your decisions.

2. Build Strong Marriages and Families:

- Focus on establishing and maintaining a marriage rooted in biblical principles of love, sacrifice, and mutual respect. Prioritize raising children with a strong moral foundation, teaching them God's truth from a young age.

3. Engage in Church and Community:

- Support your local church and actively participate in building a community grounded in God's word. Encourage men and women in leadership roles to cultivate stronger relationships with God, knowing that this influences the health of the entire community.

4. Promote Biblical Principles in Society:

- Advocate for policies and practices in your local government and community that reflect biblical values, especially in the areas of family and education. As society grows stronger through the family unit, so will the nation.

5. Pray for National Renewal:

- Commit to praying regularly for the leaders of your nation, that they would govern with wisdom and moral integrity. Seek God's intervention to heal societal divisions and restore the nation to its biblical foundations.

Personal Reflections

1. **Family Leadership:**

- Am I leading my family in a way that reflects God's love and order? In what ways can I improve my role as a spiritual leader or contributor to the health of my family?

2. **Dependence on God:**

- Do I fully trust and depend on God in all areas of my life, especially in my responsibilities within my family and community? How can I grow in my relationship with Him?

3. **Role in the Community:**

- What steps can I take to strengthen my local church and community? How can I encourage others to prioritize their relationship with God and the health of their families?

4. **Impacting Society:**

- How am I contributing to society's moral and spiritual foundations? Are there specific areas in which I can advocate for change or influence others to restore biblical principles in our institutions and government?
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Conclusion

Renewing the foundation of our nation starts with personal accountability and the restoration of families to their God-given roles. As we return to a foundation rooted in faith, marriage, and family, we will see transformation not only in individual lives but also in society at large. Steve Forbes' definition of freedom emphasizes that true liberty is a gift from God, and our nation's success depends on upholding the divine order He established.

Full Steve Forbes Quote:

A Free Society (By Steve Forbes)

Americans have always defined true freedom as an environment in which one may resist evil and do what is right, noble, and good without fear of reprisal. It is the presence of justice tempered with mercy. It is a rule of law based on fundamental moral truths that are easily understood and fairly and effectively administered. It offers individuals and families equal opportunity to better their lives morally, spiritually, intellectually, and economically.

Freedom, in other words, is neither a commodity for dictators to distribute and deny at will nor a moral, spiritual, or political vacuum in which anything goes. Freedom is a priceless treasure that the state is supposed to safeguard. Why? Because human beings have an intrinsic right to be free, a right that comes not from the state but from God. To the Founding Fathers, this was “self-evident” truth. It is the essence of the American experiment in self-government.

The Founders, even those most suspicious of organized religion, believed that man’s place in the universe was no accident--that man himself and the world in which he lived were created and sustained by a just and loving God. “It is impossible to account for the creation of the universe without the agency of a Supreme Being”, wrote George Washington, “and it is impossible to govern the universe without the aid of a Supreme Being”. James Madison put it this way: “The belief in a God All Powerful, wise and good, is so essential to the moral order of the World and to the happiness of man, that arguments which enforce it cannot be drawn from too many.”