

Biblical Counseling Center introduces eCounselor's Weekly guide, to encourage counselors and all believers in discipleship and daily growth.

State of the Union Address

By Ron and Sherry Allchin

We just heard our national State of the Union Address and many will talk for days or weeks about what was said or not said. But as I listened, my heart kept going to what the State of the Union Address would be for our churches, for our families, or for our personal union with our Lord. (2Tim 3:1-3)



We are told in 1Cor 11 to regularly examine ourselves so we don't continue a wrong path, requiring discipline. This was addressed in a church context, where as a church body or as individuals within that body, we need to look to the Lord and to one another for guidance, encouragement, and accountability. God's Word provides clear instructions for churches and individuals, though often we choose to remain blind to Truth, just as the Corinthians were doing. Leaders aren't perfect, nor are members. That's why we need each other, as Paul goes on to describe in 1Cor 12. There are many body parts that must act in unity in order to be effective for Christ's work. *So what is the State of the Union of your local church? Is it functioning in unity and purity?*

› What is the State of the Union of your marriage?

Does it picture Christ as the loving leader (Head) and His bride as the loving helper doing His work, honoring and obeying His every command? Does it reflect Eph 5 as Christ and His church? The goal of every couple should be to grow into the unity that comes only through living out biblical roles in the marriage. This goes grossly against our culture!

› How about the State of the Union in your parenting?

Are parents united in how to discipline the children? Some couples put more value on how they were raised than on what Proverbs or Deuteronomy 6 or Ephesians 6 say about parenting. But God the Father gave us a model of how to parent our children just as He loves us (Jn 3:16), disciplines us (Heb 12:5-10), provides for us (Mt 6:25-34) and protects us (Ps 27). When we parent our children from a vertical model reflecting how the Lord deals with us, motivated by love rather than anger (Jas 1:19,20), and with the goal of pointing our children to our Lord, a joyous unity grows as our family grows in reflecting God's family.

› But most important is to examine the State of the Union with Christ:

(2Cor 13:5,6). If our lives do not reflect unity with Him, then we should ask ourselves if we are really in a union with Christ (Eph 1,2,3). This is an eternal union, the only one that will really matter at His return. The other unions we have looked at only reflect for a time that one which is eternal (Eph 4:1-3). Yes, they are important, and success in those unions may reflect that the most important union is real.

° Examine your State of the Union with Christ, and then strengthen your State of the Union with others! If you find either the vertical or the horizontal unions needing change, then consider one of the resources in our online bookstore to encourage biblical change.

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