

Christian Principles

The Moral Architecture of a Self-Governing Covenant People

Author: Bryed Billerbeck

Version: 1.1 | 2025

Abstract

This document establishes that “Christian Principles” are not a narrow list of personal virtues or abstract moral sentiments, but a comprehensive, God-revealed framework governing personal conduct, family life, economic justice, civil authority, judicial process, social order, and national stability. Scripture presents these principles as integrated and inseparable—designed to shape a people capable of self-government under God.

Drawing from the full counsel of Scripture, including the Law, the Prophets, the teachings of Jesus, apostolic instruction, and corroborating wisdom texts, this work demonstrates that Christian principles form a complete civilizational blueprint. They define allegiance, protect human dignity, restrain power, preserve liberty, limit corruption, and ensure justice for the vulnerable. Far from being outdated or merely “religious,” these principles function as the moral operating system required for any enduring Republic.

The document further affirms that Christian principles cannot be rightly understood, taught, or applied apart from a living covenant relationship with God. Knowledge of the Word is not optional; it is foundational. Without knowing God through His Word, the principles themselves become hollow rules rather than living truth.

Purpose & Scope

Purpose.

To identify, categorize, and present the full breadth of Christian principles revealed in Scripture, and to demonstrate their necessity for righteous self-government, societal order, and covenant faithfulness.

Scope.

This document:

- Defines Christian principles as covenantal, not merely ethical.
- Presents principles governing allegiance, worship, truth, and conscience.
- Establishes biblical foundations for human dignity, life, and justice.

- Identifies God’s design for family, sexuality, labor, property, and economy.
- Defines standards for courts, evidence, punishment, and restraint of power.
- Articulates limits on rulers and requirements for godly leadership.
- Integrates Jesus’ Kingdom ethic as fulfillment and intensification of the Law.
- Includes apostolic instruction for civil order and obedience to God over men.
- Demonstrates the necessity of knowing God through continual engagement with His Word.

What this document is not.

It is not a selective proof-text, a denominational creed, or a political platform. It is a comprehensive scriptural framework for covenant life and governance.

Foundational Premise

1. **Christian principles are covenant law, not optional values.**
They are revealed by God as binding truths governing individuals and societies, not cultural preferences or moral suggestions.
2. **Self-government requires moral restraint.**
Scripture teaches that liberty can only be sustained by a people governed internally by God’s law written on the heart.
3. **Civil order flows from spiritual order.**
Justice, peace, and stability in society depend on right relationship with God and obedience to His Word.
4. **Leadership is accountable to God’s standards.**
Rulers, judges, and officials are servants under God, bound by explicit limits, ethics, and judgment.
5. **Knowing God precedes knowing His principles.**
Scripture commands continual study, meditation, and obedience to the Word, because the Word is living and reveals God Himself.

Christian Principles, More Than You Think

In the writings of the founding fathers included in Re-Inhabited Volumes 1 & 2, The Fathers pointed out their faith in God, specifically Jesus Christ, and the necessity of His or “Christian Principles” as the underpinning of a self-governed people. Re-Inhabited leaders are required to express their faith in Jesus and exhibit commensurate fruit in their lives as we strive Re-Inhabit the Republic, upon His shoulders. We think we know these “Christian Principles” but, do we really? Below I’ve collected and categorized them for you but, before you read on, write down what you think they are then, see how well you do. Have fun:

Core Allegiance & Foundations

Exclusive allegiance to the LORD (1st commandment): Ex 20:1–3; Deut 6:4–5; Josh 24:14–15

No idols / no occult (2nd–3rd commands): Ex 20:4–7; Deut 18:9–14; 1 Cor 10:14; Gal 5:19–21 (see note: 1)

Sabbath rhythm for people, land, animals: Ex 20:8–11; Ex 23:10–12; Lev 25:1–7

Honor God’s Name & truthfulness (oaths, vows, speech): Ex 20:7; Lev 19:12; Matt 5:33–37; Jas 5:12

Human Dignity & Life

Imago Dei → sanctity of life: Gen 1:26–28; Gen 9:5–6; Ps 139:13–16

Prohibit murder & bloodguilt; due process: Ex 20:13; Num 35:9–34; Deut 19:15–21

Protect the vulnerable (widow, orphan, poor, sojourner): Ex 22:21–24; Deut 10:17–19; Jas 1:27

No partiality in justice: Ex 23:1–3, 6–8; Lev 19:15; Deut 16:18–20; Jas 2:1–9

Family, Sexual Ethics & Generational Order

Honor father & mother (social stability): Ex 20:12; Eph 6:1–3

Chastity / marriage fidelity (adultery forbidden): Ex 20:14; Matt 5:27–32; Heb 13:4

Protect children from harm: Lev 18; Matt 18:5–6; Mark 9:42

Truth, Property & Economic Integrity

No stealing / coveting; restitution: Ex 20:15, 17; Ex 22:1–15; Eph 4:28

Honest weights & measures; business ethics: Lev 19:35–36; Deut 25:13–16; Prov 11:1

Timely wages; no oppression: Lev 19:13; Deut 24:14–15; Jas 5:1–6

Debt mercy: sabbatical release & Jubilee: Deut 15:1–11; Lev 25:8–17, 35–43

Care for the poor: gleaning, almsgiving: Lev 19:9–10; Deut 14:28–29; Prov 19:17; Matt 6:1–4

Courts, Policing & Punishment

Qualified, God-fearing judges: Ex 18:21–22; Deut 16:18–20; 2 Chr 19:5–7

Two or three witnesses; false-witness penalties: Deut 19:15–21; Matt 18:16; 2 Cor 13:1

Proportional justice; bans on bribery: Ex 21–23; Deut 16:19; Prov 17:23

Cities of refuge (limit vengeance, protect due process): Num 35; Deut 19

Note 1: The **2nd commandment** (no idols, Ex 20:4–6) and the **3rd commandment** (do not misuse the LORD’s name, Ex 20:7) extend beyond bowing to carved images. They also forbid **turning to false spiritual powers**—whether idols, occult practices, or invoking God’s name wrongly (magic, divination, sorcery). That’s why passages like Deut 18:9–14 and Gal 5:19–21 group idolatry and occult together.

So, that’s less than half of our Christian Principles. How are you doing so far? Surprised? Read on.

Governance & Leadership Limits

Constitutional kingship constraints (copy the Law; no multiplying horses, wives, silver): Deut 17:14–20

Servant leadership, not tyranny: Deut 17:20; Matt 20:25–28; John 13:12–17; 1 Pet 5:2–3

Prophetic accountability to covenant: Deut 13; 18:15–22; 2 Sam 12; Jer 23; Matt 23

Truth in public office; no corrupt gain: Ex 23:8; Prov 29:4; Luke 3:12–14; Titus 1:7

Social Peace, Neighbor-Love & Community Order

Love your neighbor / Golden Rule: Lev 19:18; Matt 7:12; 22:37–40; Rom 13:8–10

Truthful speech; no slander: Ex 20:16; Prov 12:17–22; Eph 4:25–32

Peacemaking & reconciliation: Matt 5:9,23–26; Rom 12:17–21

Hospitality to foreigners; one law for native & sojourner: Lev 24:22; Num 15:15–16; Deut 10:18–19

Labor, Work & Stewardship

Dignity of work; avoid idleness: Gen 2:15; Prov 6:6–11; 2 Thess 3:6–12

Land/animal care; do not destroy wantonly (bal tashchit): Deut 20:19–20; Prov 12:10

Sabbath rest for workers & beasts: Ex 23:12; Deut 5:14

War, Defense & Public Safety (Boundaries)

Just-war restraints & exemptions; offer peace: Deut 20; Deut 24:5

Don't shed innocent blood; protect noncombatants (e.g., fruit trees): Deut 20:19–20; Prov 6:16–17

Jesus' Kingdom Ethic (Fulfillment & Intensification)

Greatest Commandments (God-love; neighbor-love): Matt 22:37–40; Mark 12:29–31

Beatitudes (social posture God blesses): Matt 5:3–12; Luke 6:20–26

Anger, lust, oaths, retaliation → heart-level righteousness: Matt 5:21–48

Mercy, alms, prayer, fasting → in secret, not performative: Matt 6:1–18

Seek first God's Kingdom & righteousness: Matt 6:33

Golden Rule as law/prophets summary: Matt 7:12

Servant leadership & anti-elitism: Matt 20:25–28; Luke 22:24–27

Render to Caesar / to God (jurisdiction & image): Matt 22:15–22

Love enemies; radical peacemaking: Matt 5:38–48; Luke 6:27–36

Justice, mercy, faithfulness > ritual: Matt 23:23–24

Integrity in speech (“yes/yes”): Matt 5:37

Apostolic Guidance on Civil Order

Pray for rulers; pursue peace & godliness: 1 Tim 2:1–2; Jer 29:7

Civil authority as God's minister for good (limits implied by “good”): Rom 13:1–7; 1 Pet 2:13–17

Obey God rather than men (when commands conflict): Acts 5:29; Dan 3; 6

Church discipline / due process in community: Matt 18:15–20; 1 Cor 5

No lawsuits among believers (prefer arbitration): 1 Cor 6:1–8

Equity & generosity; no favoritism to rich: Jas 2:1–9; 5:1–6; 2 Cor 8–9

Economic Justice & Social Care (Prophets)

Condemn oppression, bribes, predatory wealth: Isa 1:17,23; 5:8; Amos 2:6–7; 5:11–15; Mic 6:8

Rulers answer to God’s justice: Ps 72; Prov 31:8–9; Jer 22:3–5

Micah’s summary: do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with God: Mic 6:8

Well, I hope you enjoyed that little exercise. Re-Inhabitation requires not just God principles to work however. It requires right, covenant relationship with Him as well. I encourage you to read the related verses and read on, the most important principle of all. God never ceases to amaze me. His list is so thorough and complete.

The Principle of Knowing God Intimately, via His Word, Continual Prayer and Meditation on It

All men and women, created in the image of God, are commanded not only to read the Scriptures but to know them, hide them in their hearts, meditate on them continually, and walk in obedience to them; for the Word of God is living, eternal, and is Himself. We cannot truly know and understand His principles without first knowing Him.

Scriptural Foundation:

- *“These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” — Deuteronomy 6:6–7*
- *“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it.” — Joshua 1:8*
- *“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” — Psalm 119:11*
- *“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” — John 8:31–32*
- *“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly...” — Colossians 3:16*
- *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker... who correctly handles the word of truth.” — 2 Timothy 2:15*

Application for Society and Government:

1. A society grounded in God’s covenant must educate its people in His Word, not merely as literature but as living truth.
2. Leaders and judges must demonstrate knowledge of Scripture, for correct governance flows from rightly dividing the Word of Truth.
3. Families are obligated to teach children God’s Word diligently, ensuring generational continuity of covenant faithfulness.

4. Civil statutes and assemblies are to be tested against God's Word, which is the highest law and final authority.

Knowing God's Word is knowing God Him personally. Reading scripture is the beginning of knowing Him, but knowledge through meditation, memorization, faithfulness and obedience establishes individuals, families, and **nations in covenant** relationship with God.

Reinforcement from Apocrypha & Pseudepigrapha (the set you've been using)

Rulers must judge righteously, for power is entrusted by God: Wisdom of Solomon 6:1–6; 1:13–15; 2:12–20

Practical social wisdom (truth, alms, work, speech, family order): Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) 4:1–10; 10:1–5; 34:21–27; 35:12–20; 42–44

Almsgiving, honesty, honoring parents; righteous civil life: Tobit 1–4; 12:8–9

Courage against tyranny; conscience, law, and martyr-witness: 1–2 Maccabees (e.g., 1 Macc 2; 2 Macc 6–7)

Two Ways ethic (way of life vs way of death): Didache 1–6

Covenant discipline & communal justice: Community Rule (1QS) 1–3 (Qumran)

Justice themes & condemnation of lawless rulers: 1 Enoch 1; 91–105

Household & ethical “testaments” for civic virtue: Testament of the Twelve Patriarchs (esp. Dan, Levi, Issachar)

Warning against double-mindedness & false prophecy (stability/truth in community): Shepherd of Hermas, Mandates 2–12

The Ten Commandments (as a civic backbone)

1. No other gods (Ex 20:1–3; Deut 5:6–7)
2. No idols (Ex 20:4–6; Deut 5:8–10)
3. Do not misuse God's name (Ex 20:7; Deut 5:11)
4. Keep the Sabbath (Ex 20:8–11; Deut 5:12–15)
5. Honor father & mother (Ex 20:12; Deut 5:16)
6. Do not murder (Ex 20:13; Deut 5:17)
7. Do not commit adultery (Ex 20:14; Deut 5:18)
8. Do not steal (Ex 20:15; Deut 5:19)
9. Do not give false testimony (Ex 20:16; Deut 5:20)

10. Do not covet (Ex 20:17; Deut 5:21)

How this maps to government design (quick index)

- **Preamble / Allegiance:** Deut 6:4–5; Ex 20:1–7
 - **Bill of Rights rooted in Imago Dei:** Gen 1:26–28; Ex 20; Lev 19
 - **Courts & Evidence:** Deut 16:18–20; 19:15–21; Ex 23:1–9
 - **Executive Limits & Ethics:** Deut 17:14–20; Prov 28–29
 - **Economic Order & Mercy:** Lev 19:9–18; 25; Deut 15; Prov 11
 - **Defense / War Constraints:** Deut 20; 24:5
 - **Religious Liberty / Conscience:** Dan 3; 6; Acts 5:29; Rom 14
 - **Social Care Mandates:** Deut 10:18–19; 14:28–29; Jas 1:27
 - **Public Integrity & Anti-corruption:** Ex 23:8; Prov 17:23; Mic 6:8
 - **Civic Education (law-in-heart):** Deut 6:6–9; Ps 1; Matt 28:18–20
-

Warnings Jesus gave that keep societies from collapse

- **Hypocrisy & legal loopholes vs justice/mercy:** Matt 23; Mark 7:8–13
- **Greed & mammon-enslavement:** Luke 12:13–21; Matt 6:19–24
- **Scandalizing little ones / abuse:** Matt 18:6–10
- **Religious showmanship replacing obedience:** Matt 6:1–18
- **Violence & vengeance cycles:** Matt 5:38–48

Summary & Conclusion

This document demonstrates that Christian principles constitute a complete and coherent system for righteous living and governance. They address every major dimension of human and national life—allegiance, justice, family, economy, leadership, war, mercy, and worship—leaving no vacuum for tyranny, chaos, or moral relativism. When faithfully applied, these principles produce a people capable of self-government under God.

The analysis exposes a common misconception: that Christian principles are limited to personal morality or private belief. Scripture rejects this fragmentation. God’s law governs both heart and

society, individual and institution. Where these principles are ignored, nations drift toward corruption, injustice, and collapse; where they are honored, righteousness exalts the people.

Central to all Christian principles is the command to know God through His Word. Without continual engagement, meditation, and obedience, the principles lose their power and become lifeless forms. Covenant faithfulness requires living relationship, not mere acknowledgment.

The conclusion is clear and uncompromising:

Christian principles are not optional foundations for a Republic—they are the only foundations capable of sustaining liberty, justice, and covenant order. A people who know God and walk in His Word are the prerequisite for any enduring self-governing nation.