



GLC Weekly

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Government May Call For Day of Prayer, But Not Dictate or Control

Thomas W. Jacobson, Global Life Campaign

A friend working in government was pleased to show last week's GLC Weekly to the cabinet member she serves, which documented USA President John Adams' call for a day of prayer. They agreed their government should do something similar. We talked by phone and I clarified that a civil government may call for a day of prayer, but it must be voluntary and the government must not dictate or control the event, prayers, clergy, leaders or participants.

The LORD God rejected King Saul from being king because he violated the God-given role, authority and responsibility of the priest and prophet. When Samuel delayed in coming:

"Saul said, 'Bring to me the burnt offering and the peace offerings.' And he offered the burnt offering. As soon as he finished offering the burnt offering, Samuel came . . . said, 'What have you done? . . . You have acted foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God . . . now your kingdom will not endure. The LORD has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you'" (1 Samuel 13:8-14).

God chose David to replace Saul because Saul violated the limited jurisdiction of civil government and did what GOD had given authority only for priests and prophets to do.

In President Adams 1798 Proclamation, he said, "I do hereby recommend." He recommended, but did not mandate that the people observe the day solemnly, abstain from work, offer prayers agreeable to their own form of prayer, and gather in their congregations, humbling themselves and beseeching GOD. This was all entirely voluntary, including the choice of words, prayers, and worship of the clergy and people.

The 1776 Virginia Declaration of Rights affirmed that religion and conscience are matters of "reason and conviction," and therefore outside the realm of force—of civil government.

"Religion, or the Duty which we owe to our Creator, and the Manner of discharging it, can be directed only by Reason and Conviction, not by Force or Violence, and therefore, all Men are equally entitled to the free exercise of Religion, according to the Dictates of Conscience; and that it is the mutual duty of all to practice Christian Forbearance, Love, and Charity towards each other."

Pray that church leaders, pastors, priests, and government leaders who know GOD will be inspired to set aside days of prayer, fasting, and humiliation, each doing their part in our communities and nations. Keep praying the Holy Spirit will “convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment” (John 16:8). Let us believe GOD has good plans for our future.

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For the sacred gift of every human life and remembrance of children unborn,

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*The purpose of the Global Life Campaign is to **call and equip trustworthy disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit**, to be a catalyst of a movement to establish principles and practices in every nation that align with the Word of God and respect for human life.*