



## GLC Weekly

(15 April 2026)

### Remember Your True History America (#8): Why did Americans Believe Not All Sins are Crimes?

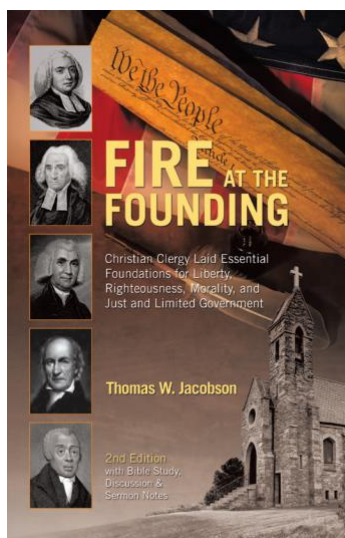
*Thomas W. Jacobson, Founder, Global Life Campaign*

Why did Americans believe that not all sins are crimes, and the distinction is important? Let us consider this question as we prepare for the May 17 Celebration and Rededication as “one nation under God,” and July 4 celebration of our 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The distinction between sins and crimes, and between non-civil and civil matters, is essential to preserve liberty. All crime is sin, but not all sins are crimes. Civil power is only to be exercised in civil and criminal matters. A person may think about stealing an item, and be tempted to do so, but he would only commit a crime if he stole the item. Contemplation of a crime is a sin, but not a crime; that is, unless one threatens to commit a serious crime and there is evidence that he is taking steps to carry out that threat (*Fire At The Founding [FAF]*, chapter 6, p. 57).

This distinction between sins and crimes corresponds to that between thoughts and actions. Many actions are sins, but not crimes. The source of sin is mankind’s inherent fallen, sinful nature, which leads to wrong ways of thinking and acting (Genesis 3; Psalm 14:1-3; 53:1-3; Jeremiah 17:9; Mark 10:18; Luke 18:19). Every person is accountable to God for every sin, but not to civil government. If a crime is committed, then it is a matter for the civil government (*FAF*, p. 57).

In 1794, Rev. John Leland expressed his concern that legislators erred when they failed to distinguish between sins and crimes and made worshipping God a civil duty.



“What leads legislators into this error, is confounding *sins* and *crimes* together—making no difference between *moral evil* and *state rebellion*, not considering that a man may be infected with moral evil, and yet be guilty of no crime, punishable by law. If a man worships one God, three Gods, twenty Gods, or no God—if he pays adoration one day in a week, seven days, or no day—wherein does he injure the life, liberty or property of another. Let any or all these actions be supposed to be religious evils of an enormous size, yet they are not crimes to be punished by the laws of state, which extend no further, in justice, than to punish the man who works ill to his neighbor. . . . (V)olumes . . . have been written, to show the havoc among men the principle of mixing *sins* and *crimes* together has effected, while men in power have taken their own opinions as infallible tests of right and wrong” (*FAF*, p. 59).

In recent decades, different types of this confusion have developed because we forgot GOD and the fixed standard of His Law and Word. We chose ourselves in place of Him, and our opinions in place of His Law and Word. It is a sin to hate someone, but not a crime. Yet so-called “hate crimes” confuse sins and crimes. If one person murders another person, murder is the crime, regardless of motive. Another confusion is viewing non-sins as crimes. In recent years, Christians whose work is to use their artistic talents to make cakes or do photography for weddings, but who for conscience sake refuse to do the same for homosexual “weddings,” have been viciously prosecuted – which is itself motivated by hatred and is criminal according to GOD’s Law. It is not a sin or a crime to refuse to do something that would violate your conscience.

**PRAY** that the Holy Spirit would inspire pastors, Christians, and all Americans to return fully to GOD, with faith and deep reverence, and to read and rediscover the truth about our origins as a nation. Pray also for the restoration of the spiritual, moral and governmental foundations of the United States that were consistent with the Bible and Judeo-Christian faith, and restoration of what is necessary to protect and restore our nation as a sanctuary for religious and civil liberty, with righteousness and justice, and a correct understanding of sins versus crimes.

**BUY THE BOOK: *Fire At The Founding: Christian Clergy Laid Essential Foundations for Liberty, Righteousness, Morality, and Just and Limited Government.*** Available through [GLC Publications](#), [Westbow Press](#), Amazon, Barnes & Noble, etc. The audiobook will be published soon.

For the LORD, the sacred gifts of life and liberty, and remembrance of the babies,

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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 movement to establish principles and practices in nations that align with the Word of God and respect human life.*