

The Louisville Statement

We affirm...

That all creation is designed by God to operate in accordance with his natural law, the truth, goodness, and beauty of which he has made knowable to all; that obedience to this natural law honors God and is the sole sufficient means for societal flourishing, whereas disobedience to it dishonors God and is destructive to society;

That humanity is created in the image of God and thereby vested with such dignity as makes any unjust assault on a person unacceptable; that humanity is created male and female, and that this ontological reality remains unchanged by one's own beliefs or actions; that human sexuality finds its only proper expression within the context of marriage, the covenantal union of one man and one woman;

That biological sex and ethnicity are sacred gifts from God and that such factors establish neither guilt nor innocence in a person; that sex, ethnicity, economic status, etc., are no cause for discrimination or partiality; that a person must be judged by their words and deeds alone;

That every person, from conception on, is endowed with the God-given rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of that justice which leads invariably to human flourishing; that these consist of the right to private property, that each individual is owed that which he or she has earned or inherited; that these further consist of the right to religious freedom, that each individual may practice and express his or her religion in public and in private, insofar as that practice does violence to none other;

That every aspect of life in this world is marred by Adam's original sin, the effects of which include the fallenness of all humanity, by whose subsequent sin those negative effects are compounded; that there is, therefore, neither individual nor society without flaw in this world, nor will there ever be due to any effort of man;

That it is, nevertheless, the duty of every person to pursue human and societal flourishing, to steward that which he or she has received, so as to faithfully deliver it to the next generation in better condition; that progress in this pursuit is defined by conformity to the natural law;

That it is by God's grace that anyone enjoys what is true, good, and beautiful in this life, obliging each person to give thanks to God for what is enjoyed rather than outrage to him for what is not;

That God has instituted as the most fundamental element of society the family, to whom is given the rod; That it is the duty and prerogative of parents to love, protect, and teach their children wisdom and virtue;

That God has instituted the holy, catholic, apostolic church, to whom are given the keys; That it is the role of the church to protect and promulgate the gospel of Jesus Christ;

That God has instituted the state, to whom is given the coercive power of the sword, whose just authority is derived from God and whose role is to protect the natural rights of the people by punishing that which is evil and promoting that which is good;

That for any of these institutions to extend beyond their respective duties is an unjust overreach and an abuse of power; that God rules over all things large and small and that members of these institutions are accountable to him for the decisions they make;

That adherence to these principles and others leads to human liberty and flourishing.

Therefore, because of the vast distance between the current state of our society and a right conformity to these principles, it is incumbent upon all conservatives to work together in community to strengthen these institutions by pursuing a deeper understanding of conservative philosophy and by raising up leaders who hold it.

et veritas vos liberabit — John 8:32

S.D.G.