

Nick, thank you for the kind words. It's been a long time since we last talked. I remember a lot of enjoyable times that Jonathan and you had together. I appreciate having this opportunity to reflect with you on this important subject.

Nevertheless, I currently have a time constraint that limits how much I can say now. I have a previous commitment with a deadline I have to meet to produce a curriculum and teach at church seminars in Asia, including another seminary course I've been asked to teach soon in Asia. So I must now limit what I'd like to say, but I will respond to what you have said in your post. Since my response is necessarily a bit lengthy, due to your message involving profound and complex matters, it cannot all fit on my Facebook page; therefore, to finish reading it, please click on the link to the Current Issues page of my Website. As I've said for many years, while sound bites, bumper stickers, and tweets have their place, they are totally inadequate for profound and complex subjects, especially those involving God's Word. So please stick with me, as I reply to your post. Though much more can be said, in order to avoid duplication, you may want to look again at what I said in my reply to Mike, which addresses some of your questions and comments. The rest of my reply to your comments follows.

I commend you for your concern especially for the poor, disadvantaged, and abused immigrants who want to enter our country. I share sympathy and your desire to allow immigrants to become part of our society. However, due to the revelation in God's Word, the Bible, about human nature, we cannot assume that all who are trying to enter are doing so with valid reasons. Thus, they must be vetted in order to discern who have valid reasons for entering and who are entering with invalid reasons. The following part of my response illustrates the Bible's teaching about human nature.

I want to emphasize at the outset, as I have in all my writing and comments on the subject of immigration, that the issue is not at all a matter of being opposed to immigration or immigrants per se. The issue is how the process is to occur. As I'll explain below, we need to vet those who want to come into our country; we can't be naïve: not everyone who wants to enter the United States is telling the truth, and not everyone is coming in to do what is good. Just for example, as the statistics which follow indicate, many have committed crimes, and a considerable number are Muslims. Some Muslims are escaping persecution from other Muslims, but some are coming to the U. S., and other countries, with the intention of following the mandate of the Qur'an and the Hadith (two of the most authoritative writings in Islam) to control the world. For more on Islam, see the two Websites of Dr. Arthur DeKruyter's, and my, dear friend, Rev. Bassam Madany, a native of Syria, who emigrated to the U. S., and who was hired to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Arabic to the Middle East, which he did over the Back to God Hour radio program for almost 40 years. His Website URLs are as follows: www.unashamedofthegospel.org and <https://bassammichaelmadany.academia.edu/>. See, e.g., Rev. Madany's article, "Islamic Imperialism: A Neglected Topic" and "The West's Urgent Need to Understand the True Nature of Islam."

As you likely know, the liberal "mainstream media" (MSM), e.g., the Associated Press, which I read each day, typically phrase their reports to give the impression that most all of the illegal immigrants come from Central and South America. However, the most careful of the more

conservative media, which I also read daily, such as Judicial Watch (JW), report facts we don't see in the MSM. Consider the following from JW.

“Federal agents along the southern border routinely encounter individuals from terrorist nations and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) considers them one of the top threats to the United States, according to a congressional report made public this month. Titled ‘Stopping Terrorist Travel Through Illicit Pathways to the Homeland,’ the document outlines the findings of a lengthy investigation involving Special Interest Aliens (SIA) by the House Homeland Security Committee.

“SIA’s are individuals from countries outside the western hemisphere—mostly the Middle East, Asia and Africa—that pose a national security risk to the U.S. In Laredo, Texas alone there was an astounding 300% increase in immigrants from Bangladesh, a south Asian Islamic country well known as a recruiting ground for terrorist groups such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda Indian Subcontinent (AQIS).

“Congressional investigators found that the number of SIAs flowing north via Latin America has increased tremendously in the last few years thanks to established Transitional Criminal Organizations (TCO) that facilitate travel along drug and migrant smuggling routes. ‘On a recent Committee staff delegation trip to Latin America, Panamanian officials communicated to Committee staff that tens of thousands of SIAs have entered Panama since 2014,’ the report states. ‘Colombian officials communicated similar numbers to Committee staff, stating that hundreds of SIAs have entered Colombia each year for the past few years. In both countries, nearly all the SIA migrants were headed to the United States and originated from the Middle East, Asia, and Africa—including Syria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Somalia, Bangladesh, India, Eritrea, and many others. Additionally, encounters with these special interest individuals resulted in the seizure of tens of thousands of fraudulent documents—including passports and visas—that facilitated travel from their countries of origin through the Americas.’

“The report includes several disturbing cases of Islamic terrorists who made it to the U.S. via Mexico. Among them are Mohammad Aldairi, a Jordanian arrested last summer in New York for illegally smuggling SIAs from Yemen across the U.S.-Mexico border into Texas.

“Others include Pakistani Sharafat Ali Khan, convicted for smuggling fellow Pakistanis with terrorism ties into the U.S.; Somalian Abdullah Omar Fidse, a member of the al-Shabaab terrorist group; Somalian Ahmed Muhammed Dhakane, a member al-Qaeda linked al-Barakat and Al-Ittihad Al-Islami and Lebanese Mahmoud Yousef Kourani, a fighter, recruiter and fundraiser for Hezbollah.

“Kourani paid a Beirut consular officer \$3,000 for a Mexican visa and an additional \$4,000 to be smuggled across the U.S.- Mexico border, according to information included in the report. Some of the other SIAs also operated smuggling rings through south and central America.

“‘Latin America and the Caribbean are the major initial entry points to the Western Hemisphere for SIAs,’ the House Homeland Security Committee report states. ‘Many countries in the region continue to face economic and governance challenges, as well as consistently high levels of

violent crime. Additionally, many of the countries in the Americas have lenient visa and immigration policies in place, even for individuals from ‘special interest’ countries.

“‘Lastly, the frequency of international flights from ‘special interest’ regions around the world into Latin America and the Caribbean continues to increase. These regional issues create an attractive environment for illicit travel of SIAs and other nefarious actors into the Western Hemisphere with the end goal of reaching the United States.’

“Adding to the problem is that Hezbollah is ‘growing at an alarming rate in Latin America,’ according to Committee investigators. ‘Designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) by the State Department, Hezbollah has been operating in Latin America since the early 1990s when it worked with Iran to carry out the 1994 bombing of a Jewish Community Center in Argentina,’ according to the report.

“The House investigation found that, as of September 2018, a record 630 Bangladeshi nationals have been arrested trying to enter the U.S. illegally in Laredo, Texas alone. That marks a 300% increase from the previous year. ‘The routes facilitating the illicit travel of these Bangladeshis are mostly controlled by TCOs and drug cartels, which charge tens of thousands of dollars to smuggle SIAs and other migrants across the U.S.,’ the committee writes.” (JW Corruption Chronicles media@pr.judicialwatch.org [Accessed 7/15/19])

The following article, “ISIS Enters U.S. From Mexico,” illustrates how this organization in Islam is attempting to implement the teachings of the Qur’an and the Hadith, the two most authoritative writings in Islam. They do not consider themselves as extremist; they believe they are the ones who are being most faithful to the official dictums of Islam.

“The United States government and anyone else paying attention have known for decades that Muslim leaders have been preaching the overthrow of western nations. Problems arising since Germany’s Merkel and other European Union (EU) leaders invited the mass migration of Muslims into their countries to bolster an aging workforce – notably soaring crime rates, civil disobedience, and destruction of public and private property – make European headlines on a daily basis.

“Where is this new violence coming from? What is behind the “rape culture” Muslims have brought with them to their new host countries? How can we reconcile atrocious acts of Islamic terrorism happening right now in the EU with liberal assurances that all is well and anyone who questions that opinion is “Islamophobic” – unreasonably fearful of a religious group?

“It is important that every non-Muslim understands that the fundamentalist, militant group called the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has a long-term plan to re-establish an international caliphate that would rule everyone and subjugate all infidels – non-believers of Islam.

“The definition of caliphate is ‘government under a caliph.’ A *caliph* is a spiritual leader of Islam who claims succession from Muhammad. The word stems from the Arabic *khalifa* meaning

‘successor,‑‑’ informs [Dictionary.com](#). [See also Rev. Bassam Madany’s articles on his two Websites cited above.]

“Few Americans alive today know that there was a powerful Islamic caliphate within the last 100 years. The Ottoman Caliphate endured from 1517 to 1924, under the Ottoman dynasty of the Ottoman Empire. It was the last Sunni Islamic caliphate of the late medieval and the early modern era.

“Devout Muslims want that power back. In particular, ISIS leader [Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi](#) has appealed to his brethren for a worldwide caliphate. This man, representing his fellow followers of a major world religion, leads a global terrorist network seeking to establish a radical Islamic empire in Iraq and the Levant. He is pro-beheadings and the U.S. currently has a \$25 million bounty for information that would lead to his capture – and he was #73 on the Forbes 2018 list of Powerful People.

“The April 8, 2006 *Daily Times* of Pakistan reported that, at a rally held in Islamabad, the militant group [Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan](#) ‘called for the formation of a worldwide caliphate, which was to begin in Pakistan. In 2014, Baghdadi claimed the successful creation of a worldwide caliphate.’

“On December 19, 2018, U.S. President Trump declared victory against ISIS and announced that our troops would come home. On February 28, 2019, [Trump](#) announced: ‘we just took over 100% caliphate.’

“But U.S. national security advisor [John Bolton](#) contradicted his boss on television in early March 2019 when he stated, ‘The ISIS threat will remain.’ [This we must always remember and be prepared to address, especially in prayer that the Holy Spirit continues to empower and facilitate the vital work of the missionaries of Jesus Christ throughout the world.]

“Despite silence from the liberal media, militant Islamic extremists are going forward with their stated, overt plan to infiltrate and take over control of western governments, including the United States.

“Months before the horrific 9/11 attacks on U.S. soil in 2001, in May, [Adolfo Aguilar Zinser](#), former national security adviser of Mexico, reported that ‘Islamic terrorist groups are using Mexico as a refuge.’

“There is even an acronym for non-Hispanic people in Mexico who cross the southern U.S. border without waiting in the long line of asylum seekers: OTM stands for illegal aliens who are ‘Other Than Mexican,’ while SIA means ‘Special Interest Aliens’ from any of 34 nations, such as Iraq, Iran, Libya, Syria, Afghanistan, Sudan, Somalia, Pakistan, and Yemen – all countries who harbor Islamic terrorists.

“The [Center for Security Policy](#) reported that, during the two-year period 2008 to 2010, an estimated 180,000 OTMs ‘were believed to have crossed the border illegally.’ In that same period, 1,918 SIAs were stopped at the border.

“Border patrol officials admit that for every illegal alien caught entering the United States, an unknown number of others make it through. U.S. property owners near the Mexican border have reported finding Islamic prayer rugs left behind as groups of illegals head further north.

“‘Law enforcement sources in Arizona have told me that it has become increasingly common for Muslims in Mexico to change their Islamic surnames to Hispanic sounding names to facilitate moving across the border. Apologists claim this is simply to avoid discrimination,’ wrote Christopher Holton for the Center for Security Policy.

“In late November 2018, a [report on security weaknesses](#) at the U.S. border with Mexico made headlines with the shocking news that terrorists from mostly Middle East criminal networks have hidden among migrants entering the country illegally.

“Even the liberals who wrote the report had to admit that there is a clear and present danger of ISIS infiltration into the U.S. from our southern neighbor:

“While President Trump may have raised the prospect of terrorist border infiltration to gain political advantage, facts would support his contention that Middle Easterners from places like Syria, Iraq, and Egypt, as well as from South Asia and the Horn of Africa, do indeed routinely travel the same routes as Hondurans to the U.S. southern border and that some terrorist suspects have traveled among them.” (<https://www.theconservativebrief.com/isis-enters-u-s-from-mexico/> [Last Accessed 7/16/19])

God’s Word is clear that His will is that we reach out to all others and speak the truth in love. (Ephesians 4:15) He has called us to be his witnesses (e.g., Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Peter 3:15); nevertheless, we must do so “with our eyes wide open,” i.e., loving people with the realistic perspective of what in historic Christian theology is referred to as God’s special revelation (in the Bible, including the Biblical teaching on human sinfulness) and God’s general revelation (including the most accurate of news reporting).

You mentioned your concern about referring to undocumented immigrants as illegal immigrants, for several reasons, including your belief that they are children of God. You also raise the question of what would Jesus do? My answer is in the following reply. I’m glad you are referring to the criterion and most important standard of decision-making: God’s Word and will. I will begin with your first comments.

Pertaining to what Jesus would (and in fact did) preach, we do not see anywhere in the Bible that all people are children of God. To cite just a few passages, we read that God’s children are those whom he has adopted due to their/our faith in Jesus Christ. According to God’s Word, our relationship with God is never a matter of bloodlines. Consider John 1:10-12 ff., “¹⁰He [Jesus

Christ] was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all [Jews and Gentiles] who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God....” The great Lutheran Bible scholar, R. C. H. Lenski, explains the meaning of the Greek tenses of the verbs “received” and “gave,” and then he writes this exceedingly good news, “The instant of accepting Christ is the instant of receiving the gift of childhood. To receive Christ is to receive life, light, and salvation.” (*Lenski New Testament Commentary – The Interpretation of St. John's Gospel* [p. 61]). Many other passages throughout the Bible, explain that it is faith in God’s only begotten Son that makes us God’s children. See, e.g., John 8:34-47; 14:1-27; Galatians 3:26-29; Romans 8:12-17; and 1 John 3:1-2, “¹How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he [Christ] appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

While God’s Word teaches that it is only those who believe in and obey Christ’s commandments, who are God’s children, we do see both the Old and New Testament clearly teaching that all humans bear God’s image, which is the only solid basis (including our relationship with the triune God) for valuing and respecting all people. Nevertheless, as we read throughout the Bible, God’s children sometimes do wrong, and all of us need to repent. (In the Bible, the word repentance means a 180 degree turn away from the wrongdoing to right behavior.) Thus, speaking the truth in love about a matter does not dehumanize a person; sin and wrongdoing diminish us and the others harmed by wrongdoing. In fact, having sinned and whenever I do so, makes me a sinner, as the Lord’s disciple and apostle, Peter, acknowledged. (Luke 5:8) Yet, it is only when we acknowledge our condition that we can deal well with it.

Accordingly, failing to acknowledge the reality of wrongdoing, including illegality, endangers, physically and spiritually, the person, others, the church, and society. In many places throughout the whole Bible, justice, i.e., righteousness, and love appear together; in fact, justice, God’s and ours, is an aspect of love. (Cf., Jeremiah 9:24 [original Hebrew and NRSV]; Micah 6:8; 1 Peter 3:8-9) Furthermore, bringing a lawbreaker to justice can actually save his or her life and the lives of others. For example, one who speeds, texts, or drives under the influence and is caught and receives appropriate justice, can be spared from a tragic accident that could result in his or her death, and/or lifelong para- or quadriplegia and disability, and from causing the same to someone else. All these factors need to be included in our understanding and practice of compassion.

Our nation has established laws that must be followed in order to avoid chaos and to provide an orderly, productive, and pleasurable life, and since all humans are fallible, our nation is constantly in the process of improving those laws. Typically all other nations do so as well.

I also should say that I read not only your message but your references. With the possible exception of the article from the Jesus Film Project blog (“Five Groups of Outcasts that Jesus Loved,” in which Biblical accounts Jesus was not actually referring to immigration [See more below.]; He’s teaching us, not the government [addressing an individual ethic, not a corporate ethic], how to function in these cases.), they seem to come from one side of the issue, from

sources, some more and some less, oriented to the left of center on the liberal-conservative continuum of thought and practice, which involves not only a particular worldview and way of looking at a matter but omitting reference to key research, news reports, events, people, and perspectives that don't fit their message. This is also true of the American Psychological Association. There is another side to each of these references. In order to discern and speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), we need to first ascertain the truth that comes from listening carefully to all sides and then subjecting everything to the criterion of God's Word, the Holy Bible.

You asked where is the compassion? I thought Dr. Dobson began with considerable compassion, and expressed it in other places throughout his message, and I said I agreed with him. My purpose was not to duplicate what he was saying. (By the way, I don't see anywhere in what I wrote where I said anything about Dr. Dobson having or not having a political agenda. He did make references to political attempts to address this crisis, but that is one way our country is trying to manage the situation. Both parties have undertaken actions, and inaction, some of which have been good and some counterproductive.)

Furthermore, personally, I can, and probably at this point should, say that I have much appreciation for Hispanic people, which began when I grew up with Hispanic people in my community in New York; many of my classmates and others in my school were from Puerto Rico and good friends. I studied Spanish for over four years, including in a summer study program at the University of Madrid. I've been to Mexico a number of times, including teaching a Pastors' Seminar there. Many, if not most, are fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. As I write this message here at home, I've been enjoying talking with seven Mexican concrete workers whom I've hired to replace the driveway, patio, pathway and front steps. They are very pleasant people, work very hard, do excellent work, carry out their commitments well, clean up and replace everything the way it was, express genuine and sincere gratitude for the bottles of water I've given them to help them in the 100+ degree temperatures, and I've been especially enjoying my conversations with the supervisor, who works along with his crew, and who is a fellow Christian whose values parallel mine: he has a strong desire for his church to remain true to the faithful proclamation of God's Word in order to transform the culture, rather than to be conformed to it, as God has called us to do. (E.g., Romans 12:1-2). As I will document below, we all know that some people from Mexico have crossed the border illegally and have committed horrific crimes—but not all of them—this is a key difference Jesus Christ makes in people's lives!

Also, since a large number of the people coming into our country over our southern border are from many countries in addition to those from Mexico and Central and South America, I want you to know that I also care very much for other people all over the world. I've worked and taught in many other countries, including in Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, as well as in Asia, and I have friends for whom I care deeply in those places. As a Christian pastor and college and seminary professor, I strongly resonate with and affirm Christ's call for all of us who believe in and follow Him that we are to reach out in love to all people throughout the world, that His church is truly catholic, i.e., global, and that it will consist of "a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language,..." (Revelation 7:9) How exciting that will be!

Race is not a negative matter to the followers of Christ Jesus, who are maturing in him by daily reading the Bible, meditating on its profound passages, praying, diligently trying to obey God's Word and will, (John 14:21) and participating in God's worship in church on a weekly basis. (Many of our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters in Christ, and countless other Christians, engage in corporate worship each day!) We glorify God and His handiwork in and through His creation of the many different kinds of people, whom He loves, and with whom together we share His world.

Why do we believers in and followers of Christ act in love and compassion for all people? Without repeating what I said in my reply to Mike, we do so mainly and most of all because of our criterion reference, i.e., our relationship with and obedience to God. He has made everyone in his image; we all are His creation whom He loves and has called us to love. We cannot disregard His Word and His will that teaches us to love and care for our fellow human beings who bear His image. (For what bearing God's image means, and the other aspects of historic Christian theology to which I refer, see my PowerPoint presentation, "Essential Christianity: Historic Christian Systematic Theology," subtitled, "With a Focus on Its Very Practical Dimensions, Including God's Answers to Our Great Questions of Life—for Now and Eternity," on my Website, www.fromacorntoak12.com [or for faster reference www.edwardseely.com]).

In addition, the story throughout history of Christian missions is deeply moving and compelling. Missionaries go into the whole world to bring the good news of Jesus Christ, and they do it through many means, beginning with meeting the great needs of the people with whom they are living, providing food, clean water, medical help, education, and in many other ways, caring for people holistically, including their greatest need: to know and follow the Lord Jesus and all He taught in order to have not only life now but eternal life, life in the fullest. (John 10:10) These missionaries are not just from the West. The church in every country is involved in missionary work; it is our calling. (Cf., e.g., Matthew 25:32-40; 28:18-20) Many of these missionaries have shown such great love that they've been martyred for doing so. (Cf. John 15:13)

Rev. Franklin Graham, son of Rev. Billy Graham, and the head of the superb Christian mission organization, Samaritan's Purse, which is doing outstanding work for the Lord all over the world, wrote in their January 2018 newsletter of their organization's state-of-the-art field hospital just outside Mosul in Iraq, where they were treating the wounded of all people involved in the war with ISIS. In a heavily guarded and separate section of the hospital, where they were treating ISIS captives (who have done such widespread killing of Christians in their attempt to establish a caliphate that Secretary of State John Kerry of the Obama administration on March 17, 2016 and Vice President Mike Pence of the Trump administration on May 11, 2017 called the ISIS killings genocide, as documented by the American Center for Law and Justice in emails on March 18, 2016 and May 16, 2017 respectively), one of the nurses, who spoke Arabic, said that she overheard one of the ISIS prisoners say to another, "Why are we fighting these people [Christians]? They're so nice!" Yes, we believers in and followers of Christ Jesus, do have love and compassion for all people, even our enemies, as our Lord taught us to do, e.g., Matthew 5:44 and Luke 6:27-35.

Not that we're doing this as we should. We must always remember that we all sin and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23) Nevertheless, many national and international Christian organizations are doing well, as in the exceptionally fine work of Samaritan's Purse. Furthermore, when talking about Jesus and the Bible, it is important to know that these commands He has given are for His people, the church. He did not command this love and these extraordinary deeds of the government.

Recognizing the widespread nature of sin and sinfulness, our country's Founders established laws to control the effects of sin. Historian David Barton in his carefully and extensively documented book, *America's Godly Heritage*, cites a 10-year study of political science professors that concluded, "The Bible therefore was far and away the most influential source of ideas in the Founding Era." (p. 24) The 10-year study is cited in the book by Donald S. Lutz, *The Origins of American Constitutionalism* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1988).

One doesn't have to be a Christian to recognize the need for laws, but it helps greatly. (Of course, laws are made and administered by imperfect, even sinful, people, so an appellate system and other ways of overcoming and correcting unjust laws typically exists.) Thus, countries worldwide have laws to constrain sinful people from actions that can and often do lead to chaos and the destruction of their nation. Barton documents how "America's system of government was deliberately and intentionally built upon religion and morality; it has subsequently enjoyed unprecedented success. America is now the world's longest on-going constitutional republic, and to exist more than two centuries under the same governing document is an accomplishment unknown among contemporary nations. For example, during the same time that America has had just one government, France has had fifteen; and in just the twentieth century alone, Russia had four; Afghanistan five; Poland, seven; etc." (p.22)

Thus, laws are essential. When one breaks a law, he or she is acting illegally. In order to be realistic and to most successfully address illegal behavior now and over time, it must be called what it is. If someone enters our, or any other, country illegally, he or she is an illegal alien. To refer to the norm reference, which has its limits but is applicable with regard to this point, I have travelled to, visited, and worked in many countries; if I entered any of them without proper documentation, and if I overstayed the limits on that documentation, I'd be treated as an illegal alien and rightly so. As I enter other countries, whether for work or another purpose, I'm constantly aware of, and appreciate, how careful each one is to examine my travel documents to validate their authenticity so as to protect their country.

Before those applications to immigration, I should refer to the other serious matters pertaining to Isaiah's prophecy. Here, again, is an illustration of the importance of speaking the truth in love. As I wrote in an article in our area's local newspaper, which I posted on my Facebook page in February, "The Holy Bible records the Prophet Isaiah saying, 'Woe to those who call evil good and good evil.' (5:20) Clearly, not only those who believe the Bible is the Word of God, but others able and willing to reason open-mindedly, observe Isaiah's prophecy occurring now.

When people cheer the signing of a bill into law that permits shredding a baby at any stage of his or her development, as was recently done in New York and promoted elsewhere with pleasant-

sounding albeit deceptive terminology, and when bills and laws prohibit caring for babies who survive an abortion, we must call such legislation and the evil it permits and facilitates what it is: premeditated and willful murder of a human being, as OBGYN scientists and practitioners readily testify. Here is another of many examples in our culture of cloaking evil with euphemisms. Multitudes lament the moral and spiritual decline and degradation of our society and culture. To make the needed changes, we must begin by speaking the truth, including as we used to say, ‘calling a spade a spade.’

Nevertheless, we need to speak the truth in love. (Ephesians 4:15) It is unloving to withhold the truth. We start by gratefully acknowledging that Christ is the truth and the way to forgiveness. [John 14:6] The Lord provides the help to prevent and overcome difficult situations; seek that help. Deception is dangerous and disastrous, not only for society but for ourselves. One day we will all appear before Him who is all-knowing and whom we cannot deceive....take the opportunity to attend worship services at a church that proclaims the Good News of what Jesus came to do, including forgiving His followers, and what He will do when He comes again!”

For all these reasons, I’m concerned for our society, including the people in it, who are deceiving themselves by using euphemisms that also deceive others. There are many more examples, e.g., “gay.” Jesus said we should love everyone, including homosexual people, but loving does not always involve agreeing. Sometimes love means having to disagree and point out why. Thus, how is it loving to affirm, much less encourage, someone to embrace a lifestyle that is extremely unhealthy, violent, and unholy? You won’t read about this research in the biased news media, but careful science reveals that homosexual people are not gay; for example, they die 20-30 years earlier than the average person. The average age of a male homosexual is 46, and the average age of a lesbian is only 47. In my book on this subject, I cite and document not only a multitude of statistics from sound sources, but also the exceedingly heartrending and poignant plights of specific homosexuals and lesbians who lament, “Why wasn’t I told this?” (as one 42-year-old said as he lay on his bed dying in pain) and as a lesbian pleaded for help from her pastor to be freed from this unholy and unhealthy lifestyle. If you would like the details on this subject, see my book, *What Is God’s Will Concerning Homosexuality? Help for Church Leaders and Others to Speak the Truth in Love*. Chapter Two contains the results of careful scientific research, most of which goes unreported in the media, but it is readily available, and I’ve documented the findings in almost 700 footnotes throughout the book. The first chapter contains what God’s Word says on the subject. The second edition, which I hope to publish next year, has much more and over 700 footnotes. The book is accessible and downloadable for free, as is everything else on my Websites, at www.fromacorntoak12.com (also www.edwardseely.com) on the Current Issues page, and at <https://seelyedward.academia.edu/>).

Not speaking the truth in love, facilitates peoples’ continuing to act in ways counterproductive to their own and others’ well-being. That is not the love of which our Lord speaks and which people need.

Pertaining further to compassion related to the matter of immigration, since our Lord Jesus Christ commanded us to love all people, e.g., Matthew 5:43; 22:39, we need to take the broad perspective and include also the parents of Kate Steinle, who was killed by a seven-time illegal alien felon who had been deported to Mexico and returned five times. She died in her father’s

arms, saying with difficulty breathing, “Help me, Dad.” As a dad, I can’t describe the great emotional pain I feel when I remember that incident; I can’t even imagine how excruciatingly painful and agonizing that experience was for Kate’s dad. But just try. Talk about compassion, what do we say to him and his wife, and to the wife and young son of Cpl. Ronil Singh, 33, who was shot and killed by an illegal immigrant? Significantly, Cpl. Singh also was an immigrant himself, but he became an American citizen legally; it was his dream to become an American and a police officer and enforce the laws that historically have helped make our country a place where people want to live safely in contrast to many other countries in the world. Similarly, we sympathize for Julie Golvach, the mother of Spencer Golvach, who was shot and killed by an illegal immigrant and the many others who have been victims of people here in our country illegally.

ABC News (WTVD, Channel 11), in Raleigh, North Carolina, reported on the story of “The family of a Raleigh man killed in a crash in September [who] said he wouldn’t be dead if the man who hit him had not illegally entered the country.

“The man who hit Jamar Beach, 26, pleaded guilty Friday to hit-and-run causing death—it was the only criminal charge prosecutors said they could defend in court.

“The judge in the case handed down the maximum sentence of 20-33 months in prison, but Beach’s family said it’s just not enough.

“‘He had no business here in the first place and he should not have been operating a vehicle,’ Beach’s mother Cameo Robinson said. ‘He didn’t have a license. So therefore he’s being treated better than the citizen who’s been killed.’

“Investigators said they could not gather enough information to charge Neri Damian Cruz-Carmano—who entered the country illegally from Mexico—with driving while impaired or causing the accident, even though they believe he did both.

“‘He gets to go home with his two children. He goes home to his wife. My grandson, he doesn’t have a father,’ Robinson said.” (<https://abc11.com/family-upset-with-short-sentence-for-undocumented-immigrant-who-killed-raleigh-man/5195877/> [Accessed 7/11/19])

What does compassion say to Cameo Robinson and to Jamar Beach’s two-year-old son? What answer is given to the little boy when he asks where his daddy is? How is he to be comforted when he learns that his father was decapitated in the motorcycle/van accident and that his body was stuck to the illegal immigrant’s van, which did not stop? Jamar’s family wants the illegal alien deported when his sentence is completed. Lest anyone see this as a white-against-Hispanic racist action, it is not; Jamar and his grieving family are African-American and want justice.

These stories are only a few of many more. They go on and on; I have many in my files. In the statistics which follow, there are excruciating stories behind them all. Compassion views not only the numbers but the incalculable suffering within them all.

Also, we care about the suffering in other countries. Consider Sweden. According to SVT, the country's public news network, immigrants commit about 85% of the rapes committed by strangers. The network reported that a review of 843 court cases in one district over a five-year period found that 58% of the convicted rapists were not born in Sweden. In cases where the rapist and victim were unacquainted, the number of foreign-born attackers rose to 80%. Furthermore, over half of the attackers had lived in Sweden for less than a year before committing the horrific crime.

Again, to not repeat what I said to Mike, since you've read what I wrote, but I want to emphasize, in order to understand what I'm saying, that I reiterate my value of immigrants coming into our country; indeed, we need them. I am especially concerned about those who are truly seeking asylum, and I have advocated for them. For example, I spent much time along with many others supporting the excellent work of the American Center for Law and Justice, and in much prayer, for the freeing of Mrs. Asia Bibi, a wife and mother of five who is a Christian, who spent well over nine years on death row in prison in Pakistan, much of it in solitary confinement, who was to be hanged for her offering a glass of water to a thirsty Muslim on a brutally hot day, because she had already taken a drink from the same cup, a capital offense in Islamic Pakistan. When the Supreme Court of Pakistan finally freed her, it took many months for her to be able to leave the country. Many of us advocated that she receive asylum in the United States, but, thanks be to God, the Giver of every good and perfect gift, (James 1:17) she was given asylum in Canada and is living there now with her family. One major problem is that there are many others in prison and being treated as Asia was persecuted so badly.

In their Tuesday, July 16, 2019, news release, the Colson Center for Christian Worldview (colsoncenter@colsoncenter.org) wrote that "Back in April, World Magazine reported that 'Under [the Trump] administration, refugee admissions have plunged to historic lows, with persecuted Christians in the Middle East suffering from the fallout.'

"To be clear, these 'historic lows' are *really* low. 'The number of Middle East Christians admitted into the United States in 2018 fell by a staggering 98 percent from 2016. Christians from countries that Open Doors ranked highest for religious persecution saw a 76 percent decline from 2016 to 2018.'" Thus, we truly need to do more to admit these asylum seekers, but we have to be sure they are who they say they are. Vetting is essential for the safety of our citizens, for whom we also need to have compassion, as indicated previously.

You are correct when you say that "presenting oneself at the border and requesting asylum is not illegal," but many are trespassing the border and then trying to ask for asylum, which is illegal. Further, as I've indicated, not all people who claim they are here for asylum are telling the truth; thus, they need to be vetted. Thanks to our Biblical understanding of human nature, we can't naïvely make the unwarranted assumption that everyone is truthful. This is especially true of those embracing Islam, which holds to a doctrine called taqiyya, which teaches that Muslims may lie, especially to non-Muslims.

The vetting of people claiming asylum goes beyond what judges are charged and authorized to do. Judges determine whether our laws have been broken. Asylum claims are validated on the

basis of evidence as to how people have been treated in their own countries, which our border patrol and other authorities are empowered to do.

While I recognize the reality that our border patrol and national and state resources are stretched thin and overwhelmed due to the huge number of people trying to enter our country, legally and illegally, our current government needs to do more, much more, to help those who truly need asylum. Both the previous Obama administration and the current Trump administration did not and have not done enough for those who are truly deserving of asylum here in the United States. Nevertheless, we need to vet those who want to enter the U. S., for not all claiming asylum are here for that reason but because it's the fastest route to entry.

Nevertheless, maintaining the broad perspective, we must love, have compassion, and care for the needs, including safety, of everyone. The realistic Biblical understanding of human nature, which David Barton explains is the philosophical basis of our country's founding, informs us that in the process of helping people, in order to survive, we need to know who needs our help and who needs our justice; who are our friends and who are our enemies; and who are coming in to help us and who are coming in to harm us. As I said in my message to Mike, not everyone who is coming across our border is coming for good reasons. In March of this year, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) reported the data which follow.

- U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers arrested 266,000 illegal immigrants with previous criminal records over the last two years.
- Of those arrested, crimes included 100,000 assaults, 30,000 sex crimes, and 4,000 murders.
- Texas jails housed upwards of 276,000 criminal aliens from June 1, 2011, to December 31, 2018.
- An estimated 300 Americans have died from heroin overdoses. Almost 90 percent of heroin is trafficked across the U.S.-Mexico border. [A suburban Chicago school nurse asked me last year if I'd heard of the new (of course colloquial) name for the Stevenson Expressway. She said, "It's now called Heroin Highway." The drugs flow from Chicago's South Side to the suburban school in which she works and sees firsthand the horrific results of students' use of this severe drug.]
- Customs and Border Patrol recently seized enough fentanyl at the southern border to kill 115 million Americans. (The vehemently anti-Trump and avowed atheist George Will added in his column published in the Loveland, CO *Reporter-Herald* [p. 4A] on March 17, 2019 that this fentanyl seizure was on just one occasion; many others regularly occur. He cites the fact that 300 micrograms—"roughly the weight of a grain of table salt"—can kill.) More than 28,000 Americans died from fentanyl overdoses in 2018, and the number is growing. Fentanyl trafficking at the U.S.-Mexico border has reportedly doubled over the past year.
- Customs and Border Patrol made more than 1,000 sex trafficking arrests in 2018.
- Gang arrests at the border, including the deadly MS-13 organization, increased by 50 percent in 2018.
- More than 2,000 aliens are being apprehended every day at the Southern border.
- Border Patrol apprehended more than 268,000 individuals since the beginning of the fiscal year.
- Border Patrol saw a 97 percent increase from the previous year.
- Unaccompanied alien children expanded by 54 percent.

- More than 70 large groups of 100 or more tried to penetrate the border. There were only 13 last year.
- In 2017, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol only apprehended about 300,000 illegals. That number more than doubled in 2018, to 683,000. DHS estimates that number will rise to over 1,000,000 this year.

Heritage Action adds more.

- Three-hundred Americans [are killed every week](#) from heroin that comes through our southern border.
- One in three migrant women are sexually assaulted on the journey northward [I've read reports with higher numbers] and just last month more than 20,000 minors were smuggled into the United States. (Heritage Action info@heritageaction.com [Accessed 7/15/19])

These above crimes are not misdemeanors. Of course, we're here referring to illegal immigrants, of which Judicial Watch, a nonpartisan legal organization that prosecutes both Democrats and Republicans who commit illegal acts, estimates there are between 12 and 20 million. These figures do not include those applying for asylum, for whom I, too, have been advocating and praying, or to those entering this country legally. Who can be against immigrants rightly coming into the U. S.? Nevertheless, we have to follow the legal vetting process as much as possible so the large number of dangerous people referred to above don't come in our country to do great harm.

Former Border Patrol Chief Mark Morgan was President Obama's Border Patrol Chief, and he was removed from his job when President Trump came in to save America. Many people in this circumstance would be inclined to bash the new President; instead, he has supported President Trump's plan for a border wall to enable vetting of those entering our country illegally.

(<https://www.patrioticviralnews.com/articles/former-border-patrol-chief-for-president-obama-says-walls-work/> [Accessed 7/15/19])

We have to be careful of all the research studies that are being produced today. Many are very misleading. I speak now from my education and experience in conducting social science research, including on a national scale. In my Ph.D. program at Michigan State University, I had the unique opportunity to head a national study under the auspices of my major professor, an educator highly regarded throughout the world, who worked half-time for USAID. I learned how not to make the intentional and unintentional mistakes of many studies where the researchers violate the scientific method, how to tell which studies are valid and which are not, and which research firms are trustworthy. In fact, I remember professors at MSU saying that "95% of the studies in the field of education aren't worth the paper they're printed on!"

In May, Judicial Watch, one of the trustworthy organizations, reported that "As the illegal alien crisis along the southern border worsens, distressing government figures show that nearly half of all federal crimes in the United States are perpetrated by foreigners who are not American citizens and that immigration cases account for the largest single type of offense.

“Non-U.S. citizens committed 42.7% of all federal crimes in 2018, according to a [report](https://libertynewsnow.com/illegal-immigrants-committing-a-staggering-number-of-crimes/article16755) issued by the United States Sentencing Commission, the independent agency created by Congress decades ago to reduce sentencing disparities and promote transparency and proportionality in sentencing.” (<https://libertynewsnow.com/illegal-immigrants-committing-a-staggering-number-of-crimes/article16755> [Accessed 07/15/19])

Look over those above numbers from the perspective of the loved ones of those who’ve been murdered, raped, and addicted, including a high percentage of the immigrants themselves. The Lord’s command to love surely includes them too.

This inclusion strengthens not only the arguments of all who write on this complex subject. Doing so also strengthens their argument in the light of those who are well-informed from reading all sides of the issue, and also the many immigrants, especially Hispanic immigrants who’ve been speaking out, who’ve waited for years to come into the country by following all the laws and rules and don’t appreciate being unjustly shoved farther back in the line by those entering illegally and taking up all the time of the immigration authorities. We also need to hear and listen carefully to their voices, which are now acknowledged by and printed in some of the so-called mainstream media. Consider this poignant report drawn from *The San Diego Union-Tribune (TNS)* that was published in *The Seattle Times*.

“Some migrants in Tijuana are trying to purchase children from vulnerable single mothers in local shelters so they can more easily cross into the United States, according to shelter directors, migrants and Tijuana law enforcement authorities.

“Migrants in Tijuana shelters said they are alarmed after reports of single mothers being approached by groups of men who have offered to buy children to improve their chances of safely crossing into the United States.

“A decades-old legal document, known as the Flores agreement, says migrant children should only be held briefly in U.S. border custody, which often means they are released, along with the parent or guardian with whom they crossed while they wait for their asylum cases to make their way through clogged immigration courts.

“Typically, when migrants are apprehended at the border with their children they are held in custody for a few days before they are released. Single adults who cross the border can face months in detention.

“U.S. border authorities have been warning since June 2018 about people fraudulently using children who aren’t theirs to pose as family units and gain entry into the United States, a claim that critics said was overblown.

“But now, authorities in Tijuana are warning migrant mothers to keep their children close by and supervised, after reports of men offering to purchase migrant children in order to cross.

“‘I can’t go to work because I can’t take my eyes off my boys,’ said Antonia Portillo Cruz, a 44-year-old migrant from Honduras, who said the men have been targeting the shelter where she stays. She said she witnessed some of the men asking women in the shelter about purchasing their children, but none of them made the offer directly to her.

“Portillo said the groups of men have been approaching the Iglesia Embajadores de Jesus shelter in Tijuana and offering about 7,000 pesos, or \$350, to purchase a child to cross into the United States.

“She said she fears the requests and the offers of money will turn into demands or kidnappings. Portillo said she never lets her two boys, aged 10 and 8, out of her sight.

“‘They want to rob our kids so they can cross into the United States,’ she said angrily....

“Pastor Gustavo Banda, a Tijuana shelter director, said families at the shelter are terrified and feel forced to keep all their children locked inside at all times.

“These are cases of desperation,” said Banda, who runs the Embajadores shelter. “Of course, the women have not accepted any of these offers, but clearly this is a huge concern because of the danger to the children.’...

“Banda stressed that none of the mothers sheltered at his church have sold their babies. He said that as soon as he heard of the threat several weeks ago he called the police, who have been monitoring the shelter every day, sometimes visiting three times a day, to try to identify the suspects.

“In June 2018, then-Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen faced criticism for justifying family separations at the border by warning about adults falsely identifying themselves as parents of migrant children they were traveling with across the border.

“‘I’m sad to say that from October 2017 to this February, we have seen a staggering 315% increase in illegal aliens fraudulently using children to pose as family units to gain entry into this country,’ said Nielsen to the National Sheriffs’ Association in June 2018....

“At the Agape Mission shelter in south Tijuana, Pastor Albert Rivera said he has been alerting authorities to criminal groups looking for unaccompanied minors. He said the criminals offer money to the minors to pair them up with an adult so both can cross into the United States as a family unit.” (Wendy Fry, “Authorities investigate reports of migrants trying to buy children to enter the U.S.,” *The San Diego Union-Tribune (TNS)*, June 30, 2019, <https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/authorities-investigate-reports-of-migrants-trying-to-buy-children-to-enter-the-u-s/> (Accessed 7/6/19)

Compassion requires concern for all the children in the countries from which people are emigrating to the U. S., those already being abused as pawns for illegal immigrants but also to those vulnerable to such abuse. Since it is widely known among those willing to illegally enter our country that it is advantageous to do so with a child, many children are at risk.

In a recent article published by *The Daily Signal*, “Misrepresenting Themselves at the Border,” Senior Legal Fellow, and an authority on matters of immigration and law and government reform at The Heritage Foundation, Hans von Spakovsky, writes the following under a photo of a child being passed over the border from Tijuana into the United States.

“Gregory Nevano, the assistant director of DHS’ Homeland Security Investigations program, recently told a House committee that in just a two-month period, they identified 316 fake family units when they detected fraudulent documents being used by the aliens.

“DHS also initiated a pilot DNA testing program in El Paso and McAllen, Texas, that ran from May 6 to May 10, 2019. DHS tested 84 family units during those four days—16 turned out to be fake families. In other words, almost 20% of these supposed families were frauds. [Compassion requires caring for, including protecting, only one child; think of what it means to take the steps needed to care for almost 20% and likely more.]

“Mr. Nevano also related that Border Patrol agents said other ‘families’ who were not selected for testing ‘voluntarily came forward and admitted they were part of a fraudulent family, as they heard/witnessed that DNA testing was being conducted.’

“In fact, DHS has evidence that aliens and human smugglers are ‘renting’ (and even buying) children to get into the country.

“DHS caught a 51-year-old Honduran who admitted that the infant child he initially claimed was his son was actually purchased from the birth mother for the equivalent of \$84.

“DHS mounted an operation called ‘Noble Guardian’ that identified alien adults who entered the country with accompanying children as ‘alleged family units, and then the children subsequently departed’ the U.S. on commercial airlines back to their native countries.

“DHS believes the children are ‘being used and recycled’ for the ‘purpose of defrauding the United States.’

“We really are facing an unsustainable and unprecedented crisis on the border. And the loopholes in our immigration system—which Congress refuses to fix—are being exploited in a way that is not only dangerous to our security, but for those aliens who, as a DHS official told Congress, ‘put their lives in the hands of smugglers and make the dangerous trek north to the southwest border.’” (https://www.dailysignal.com/2019/07/10/misrepresenting-themselves-at-the-border/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=misrepresenting-themselves-at-the-border?utm_source=TDS_Email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=MorningBell&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTW1Jek1XVXINREZpTIRaaiIsInQiOiIwaE14RmtTQXBSbEdGRG9RVHJ5R0RFVndoQlQ3bmljV0pzQmdqRjVMRWxZeGNrdXlGdkRVekVTakI5czRBMjRNenRhezlsb05WM0V1a3ZkdEFKTnNNZ21KK0QrbkhxNTMrR3NSaDdSWkVTM3JJUGRISXhPTHp0dk5tWWRhcmS0NSJ9 [Accessed 7/13/19])

Tijuana Mayor Juan Manuel Gastélum points to another dimension of the problem. He holds the organizers of the caravans personally responsible for putting people’s lives in danger. “Those are the real criminals,” he said of the organizers, “because they’re dealing with the lives of

people.” (<http://www.restoreamericanglory.com/health/tijuana-mayor-the-real-criminals-are-those-who-organized-the-caravans/> [Accessed 7/15/19])

Thanks be to our Lord Jesus Christ that His church is providing the above-mentioned mission resources to help people in this horrific matter. Yet, as indicated in this article and in many other news outlets, this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Social science research helps explain another cause, in addition to the basic sin and evil involved, and suggests one helpful way to stem the problem. The psychoanalytic school of human learning research has produced a body of studies called reinforcement theory. The basic axiom of the research is that behavior which is reinforced, or rewarded, tends to be repeated. The converse is also true: behavior that is not rewarded tends to dissipate over time and eventually become extinguished. The application to illegal entry is readily observable.

The principles of reinforcement theory are being successfully employed by Hungary in contrast other European countries. The spokesman for the Hungarian government told columnist Cal Thomas that “Hungary doesn’t have a migrant problem because they don’t have welfare programs...[so] migrants continue their travels to other European countries that do.

“That’s not the end of it though. Hungary has created programs to help migrants stay in their own countries so they won’t feel the need to flee to Europe....

“The government calls it ‘Hungary Helps Project.’ It delivers aid directly to places affected by conflict, the driving force behind most migration. The assistance does not go through corrupt governments, but to churches and charities more easily monitored....

“The government says in just two years the program has helped 435,000 people to stay home. These include persecuted Christians, who are often ignored by governments and the media. In Nigeria, where thousands of persecuted Christians have been murdered, Hungary has provided 1 million euro (\$1.2 million USD) to the Catholic Diocese of Maiduguri. The money is being used to aid the country’s educational and health infrastructure, which have been damaged by repeated attacks from the Islamic terrorist group Boko Haram.

“An additional 500,000 euro (about \$560,000 USD) has gone to social rehabilitation programs administered by Christ in Nations which helps refugees return to their homes ravaged by the extremist group. It also supports agricultural efforts designed to improve the self-sufficiency of households, eliminate food shortages and treat diseases....

“Tristan Azbej is Hungary’s state secretary for the Aid of Persecuted Christians. In an article for the About Hungary website, he writes:... ‘Our approach is simple: To provide an alternative to the exploitation of human traffickers and manipulation of pro-migration NGOs, we are doing everything in our capacity to enable those in need to stay in their homelands. In the words of Prime Minister Orban: ‘Trouble should not be brought here, but assistance must be taken to where it is needed.’ And that’s exactly what we endeavor to do.’” (Cal Thomas, *Reporter-Herald*, July 12, 2019, p. 4A)

As far as what Jesus would do, we must be careful how we interpret the Bible passages, and here we draw on a subfield of Biblical literature called hermeneutics, from the Greek word *hermēneuō*, which means to interpret. You've actually been studying the general field of hermeneutics since the third grade, although it wasn't called hermeneutics. The field of interpretation involves such matters as to how to ascertain the correct translation of the original word when written in a different language (e.g., the Hebrew of the Old Testament and the Greek of the New Testament); how to determine when a word is to be interpreted literally or figuratively; how to understand certain figures, such as hyperbole, metaphor, and parable; how the context helps us discern the meaning of what the author is saying; and whether the text is referring to individuals or a corporate entity (e. g., an individual ethic or a corporate ethic). As with any literature, we need to consider a given passage in its context.

The field of Biblical hermeneutics has some additional dimensions, one of which, as I have always maintained, is that the context of a given passage of Scripture is not only the verse or two before and after that passage, but the whole chapter, the whole book in which it is located, and indeed the whole Bible, which is a unity, God's revelation of His historical plan of redemption for His creation. I agree with you that Jesus spent time with the outcasts of society, he showed them love and compassion and that we should strive to do the same. However, he was not laying down legislation for a country's immigration matters.

In the philosophy of ethics, both secular and Biblical ethics, we need to distinguish between the individual ethic and the corporate ethic. For example, in the Bible in Exodus 20, God gives us the 10 Commandments, which in the original Hebrew are addressed to us as individuals. The Hebrew language also makes clear that the commandment, "you shall not kill" means each of us must not murder. In the very next chapter (Exodus 21), God gives more laws that He directs to the state, a corporate ethic, where He commands what He expects of His people corporately in these matters, including in certain circumstances capital punishment, which is killing but not murder. The same exists in wars, and this same distinction is made in countries around the world today. As Jesus said, there will always be wars and rumors of wars until the time He returns for the final judgment. (Matthew 24:6) Until that time, we must defend ourselves. It is not hypocritical to hold to both the individual ethic and the corporate ethic. It is hypocritical to believe and to not act accordingly within either category.

We are a country of immigrants. Throughout God's Word, we are called to love everyone, including all immigrants, and from that strongest basis to be Christ's witnesses in word and in deed. In fact, it is clear in God's Word, and in historic Christian theology, that the only hope for our country, and all the other countries of the world, is not in which party is in charge or in what laws are passed (as important as those matters are), but by far the greatest hope for our country is the change in human hearts and minds that only our triune God can provide through the regeneration (rebirth) and sanctification (maturity in Christ), the spiritual nurture of those who believe in and follow Him. This is why one of the prayers I pray every day is for God to extend (by spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ through evangelism, preaching, and witnessing) and nurture (by teaching and the work of the Holy Spirit in each believer) His kingdom (His rule in His believers hearts and minds) throughout this nation and every other country, some of which I pray for specifically but always for the whole world.

What began to concern me, however, as I read the articles that you included in your post, is what was omitted, and these omissions are well-known to many people in our country, especially to those who get their news from a wide range of sound sources and do not listen to only one point of view. All the articles spoke of the immigrants that are the easiest to love. But these other well-informed people know that many who are entering our country are coming in to do significant harm.

Pertaining to the article about the 12-year-old girl who described the conditions where she was being held, in the light of other news sources, assuming the child is describing the situation accurately and being reported without the bias of *Time*, which could be an unwarranted assumption, a social scientist's first question would be, "How generalizable is this situation?" Certainly, she and the others in her plight have been placed in a highly stressful situation, just by being brought her under the conditions she has experienced.

On the other hand, some good news has come from recent investigations which have revealed that not all the places are as the child described them where she is located. An article by Erik Wasson in the *Bloomberg News* on Monday, July 8, reported that Acting Secretary of Homeland Security, Kevin McAleenan, stated on ABC's "This Week," that "We have no evidence that children went hungry" and that "there's adequate food and water," and the facility's cleaned every day...." While acknowledging the challenges yet in some places, due to the more than half a million people who have crossed the border just since December 30, they are working hard to improve those conditions as well. The recent 4.6-billion-dollar bipartisan aid bill for border immigration relief that Congress approved and the President signed into law, will begin to help soon. These are temporary, remedial, and partial fixes; other work to resolve the main problem is also being done but must include the above considerations in order to be effective over time.

In the interest of hearing both sides, let's also listen to Vice President Mike Pence's observations on his trip to our southern border with Mexico in this July 15, 2019 report from the Family Research Council. This article is just one illustration of why it is important to obtain information from the best resources on both, or all, sides of an issue.

"'CNN is so dishonest,' Pence argued. 'Today, we took reporters to a detention facility on the border for families and children and all told us they were being treated well.' But that's not the story reporters told. Instead of showing the 'compassionate care the American people are providing to vulnerable families,' Pence went on, 'CNN only played video of men in the temporary facility and didn't play any footage of the family facility at all... ignoring the excellent care being provided to families and children.'

"'Part of the stop included some time at an overflowing facility for men, 'many of whom have been arrested multiple times,' he explained. But if you're looking for people to blame, don't point your finger at the Trump administration or Republicans. 'These men were in a temporary holding area because Democrats in Congress have refused to fund additional bed space,' Pence pointed out, a nod to the fiery House debate over humanitarian aid the border....

"'Meanwhile, Senator Graham may have found one reason liberals can't seem to make time for a trip. They can't stand the idea that one of their biggest talking points—family separation—doesn't hold up under DNA testing. 'They're doing a pilot program and checking [to see]: are

these real families?’ Graham said on Fox Sunday. At least 30 percent of the ‘parents,’ he pointed out, are just adults trying to game the system.

“‘They told us about 60 children that were recycled,’ Graham explained. ‘They picked the child up in Central America. They bring them to the United States. Everybody's released, and the child goes back to Central America to do it again. It's \$8,000 for adults, \$4,000 for families. If you bring a small child to America with you, we can only hold that child for 20 days,’ he said. ‘Since we don't want to separate families, we release them all. We released 52,000 people into the interior of the United States at that station this year alone because we don't have places to hold them and we can't keep the family together. The word is out in Central America, you bring a small child to the United States, you're home free.’” More information is contained in the article, which can be read at <https://www.frc.org/get.cfm?i=WA19G16&f=WU19G07> (Accessed 7/15/19).

President Trump and the Congress have taken action to improve these conditions, but with the overwhelming and increasing number of illegal immigrants, which include the criminals identified above, who are crossing our border, a huge challenge that Dr. Dobson carefully described has resulted. As I've mentioned, the Obama administration, recognizing the need to provide safety for the children, until it could determine whether they were being trafficked or whether the adults with them were truly their parents or other relatives, built the cages and other restraining facilities, which were designed to adequately accommodate a much smaller number of people. The Trump administration has continued to manage and improve upon these facilities, in spite of the great challenge with the large increase in the numbers of people entering illegally, while trying to identify the main causes of the problem and address it.

Nick, before I conclude, I have to say that you did make one comment that caused me considerable concern. You said, “I don't consider myself very religious at this point...” Please give much thought to this most important matter of life and eternity. Include daily reading a passage from the Bible (a good place to start is with the Gospel according to John), praying, and worshiping regularly with God's people in a church congregation that is continuing to faithfully proclaim the Bible, speaking the truth in love.

We all need to walk closely with the Lord. He works directly in our lives individually and also indirectly through brothers and sisters in Christ in the church. I hope you already have a good church home. If not, I've written a couple of essays that help in decision-making on this key matter. One is, “What is the church, and why should I attend?” Another is, “What is the church, and why should I join?” The link to these essays is <http://www.fromacorntoak12.com/what-is-the-church/>.

There is much more to be said, and I wish I had the time to include it in this message. However, I hope the above is helpful, Nick. If you want more information, please carefully check out the highly informative, excellent, and trustworthy resources I've previously mentioned (e.g., Judicial Watch, the American Center for Law and Justice, Family Research Council, and others such as the Colson Center for Christian Worldview, Samaritan's Purse, The Heritage Foundation, Hillsdale College, Prager University, and my two Websites (www.fromacorntoak12.com [also www.edwardseely.com] and <https://seelyedward.academia.edu/>). All the information I've

mentioned above, and in my message to Mike, are also documented on the Websites of these organizations and in other trustworthy sources that can be easily obtained on the Internet. Of course, always be careful, for as you know not all sites are truthful. Then, if you still want more, I welcome you get back in touch but by phone. Please give me some time though, for I have these previous international commitments I've made and deadlines to produce the resources they greatly need. I'm not on Facebook much, and I receive such voluminous email that I could miss a notice that I've received a Facebook post. Most of all, keep in touch each day with the Lord through His Word and in prayer. Blessings!