



GOD IS THE ISSUE

By Brad Bright

Book Synopsis

What we believe about God will determine how we live and relate to those around us. . Brad Bright brings new and practical insight as to how a highly committed group of individuals can bring God back to the forefront of cultural discussion. By attacking the root cause, the exclusion of God, we can have a positive impact on the American cultural mindset.

1. What does Brad Bright see as the problem that has eroded the foundation of America today?

“The greatest difference between the America of 1776 and the America of today is the banishment of the God of the Bible-the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ-from the public square. To that fundamental flaw in the fabric of our modern culture can be traced the weakening of every moral seam since. Only by restoring God to His rightful place as the central issue in all of human life-political, spiritual, moral, economic, philosophical-will be sufficient motivation and reason to correct what ails America.”

Our founding fathers understood the effects of this very well. George Washington said, “Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.” He also said, “It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.” John Adams said, “Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

2. How do we begin to rebuild the foundation by making the God of the Bible the main issue of life?

We can't win this war by only arguing about certain “behaviors”. The ultimate debate is not just about changing societal behavior but is about the person of God Himself. As a culture, our behavior will necessarily be determined by our underlying God belief. Our view of God will determine our belief system both as individuals and as a society. Our current strategy; however, is not getting the job done. Research indicates that the church today has failed to effectively communicate biblical truth about God. We are losing the battle for the hearts and minds of fellow Americans.

3. Why is this happening?

Brad Bright believes there are three reasons: lack of compassion, lack of boldness and lack of training. Our hearts must truly reflect God's heart and God's heart is for reconciliation, not condemnation. We often fail to engage the culture in dialogue about who God is and if we do step out and tell others about God's love and forgiveness, we may not know how to effectively communicate. Part of being a good messenger is learning how to shape our message so our audience can understand it.

4. How does Brad Bright say we should “reframe the issue?”

When God becomes the central issue, debates about secondary matters often take care of themselves. God must be the focus of our debate and we must always point to Him and biblical truths. If someone asks, “How do you feel about that?” The response should be, “How do you think God feels about that?”



5. What are the seven rules of social change that can increase our chances of changing the culture?

- a. Only a handful of people is required to move the thinking of the broader culture if that group is highly committed to its cause.
- b. Determine your core agenda and message and make ALL decisions in light of it.
- c. Determine your audience as to their receptivity and their potential ability to exert influence.
- d. Tailor your message to the audience. Always begin with the felt need and use that as a springboard into their real need which is a relationship with God. Always show in a positive way why God is relevant to their lives today. Jesus always tailored His words to His audience.
- e. Stay on message. Never react –always reframe.
- f. Eat the elephant one bite at a time. The goal is always to advance the agenda. There is no substitute for perseverance.
- g. Embrace the opposition. Opposition is absolutely critical to long-term success.

6. What are some of the ways we can reframe the cultural rhetoric rather than just react to it?

If a person does not believe that God will hold him accountable for his actions, why would he act in a moral manner if he does not believe it is in his best self-interest? Education that omits “God” is the primary basis for lying, cheating, stealing, etc. The Bible and God are the most legitimate sources of moral authority. We must view conflicting issues as a platform from which to discuss God. Talking about values and morality is meaningless if divorced from their source. If there is no God, we are simply arguing about conflicting preferences, not right and wrong, good and evil. If we want children (or adults) to behave as if there is a God, we must teach them that there actually is a God.

7. What is our personal role in communicating that God is the issue?

We all have a God-given platform and we should use it to expose people to the God of the Bible in numerous ways. When someone asks you how you feel about an issue, respond with how God feels about it, and bring the focus to God and not self. By getting the culture to debate God, we can reach them with the message of Jesus Christ. We should use our platform to impact everyone in our sphere of influence. In every scenario our goal is always to make the God of the Bible THE issue.