



# Update

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Vernon & Martha Hedge

## Bigger Than the Culture War

It is increasingly evident that we have an integrity crisis in our nation. It's displayed daily in the news. The culture war between the biblical principles our nation was founded on and those who want to get rid of them is raging. "Raging" is a good description when we literally see the rage of those opposed to anything that has to do with Jesus or the Ten Commandments.

This struggle is bigger than American culture; the outcome will determine the success of our nation. How can I say that? Because the past success of America rests solidly on the foundation of Bible truth. We are a generous nation that historically has defended the weak and stood for what's right. "Righteous" means the right way, and "right" is defined by God Himself.

It is clear that we will destroy ourselves if we turn our backs on God's way. *"There is severe discipline for him who forsakes God's way, and he who hates reproof will die [physically, morally and spiritually]"* (Prov 15:10 AMP).

Let me introduce you to one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence who walked in moral authority solidly based in his relationship with God. **Moral authority is the credibility earned by walking our talk.** This man is an inspiration and only one example of the majority whose lives displayed integrity and courage.

Abraham Clark was born in 1726 in Elizabethtown, New Jersey and grew up on the family farm.

His father realized that Abraham didn't have the body-build to do farm work, but he had ability in math. He hired a tutor to teach Abraham the basics of land surveying. Later, as a surveyor, he studied law on his own.

As with most colonists, Clark saw himself as a British subject and didn't want to withdraw from Britain. From 1752-1766 he served the Crown as clerk of the New Jersey British Colonial legislature and became the High Sheriff of Essex County. In addition to surveying, he widely used his law knowledge by preparing deeds, mortgages, and other legal papers.

His surveying, activities as Sheriff, and legal service made him known to the public. His personal integrity in all his dealings made him a person to trust. He was popular with the common man and became known as "the poor man's counselor" because he defended men who couldn't afford a lawyer.

As British rule intensified, Clark clearly saw that British law was being violated and he changed his position. He became highly vocal advocating that the Colonies should

have their independence. On June 21, 1776 He was one of the delegates elected to the Continental Congress ready to vote for separation from Britain.

Ten days after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, he wrote to Colonel Elias Dayton, a leader of New Jersey militia, *Our Declaration of Independence I dare say you have seen. A few weeks will probably determine our fate. Perfect freedom, or Absolute Slavery. To some of us, freedom or a halter. Our fates are in the hands of An Almighty God, to whom I can with pleasure confide my own; he can save us, or destroy us; his Councils are fixed and cannot be disappointed, and all his designs will be Accomplished.\**

Historian Reverend Dr. Edwin F. Hatfield said, *"Mr. Clark was a man of prayer and was quartered at Philadelphia, with his colleague, the Rev. Dr. Witherspoon. Both these worthy men had acted throughout on Christian principle and with a deep sense of their responsibility to Almighty God."\**

Clark was a praying man with a strong faith in God who laid everything on the line for the freedom of our nation. He knew defeat meant subjection. This was sorely tested when two of his sons were captured by the British, placed in the dungeon of the prison ship named the Jersey, and given no food except that which could be stuffed through a keyhole. Congress learned of it and influenced a change in treatment.

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In the process, the British offered Clark the lives of his sons if he would denounce the Declaration of Independence and join their side. They knew he was a man of influence and widely trusted. Clark so strongly believed what the Colonies were doing was right and just in the sight of God that he refused, leaving his sons in British prisoner of war conditions.

What a choice for a loving father! He was a man of integrity and committed to what was right long before this incident or he would have caved in and become a turncoat. Eventually through prisoner exchange his two sons were released, but their health was seriously affected.

Unless one has visited or lived in a government-controlled country, one cannot understand the freedom we have as Americans. It's all we have known. There is a look to freedom, a walk a person has when free that a person in a dominated country does not have. We not only do not understand the gift we have, we do not understand the cost paid for it.

Most of the signers of the Declaration lost everything they had because of the Revolution. That's how strongly they wanted freedom. Our government was known as the Great Experiment because there had never been one where the people ruled themselves, where justice was a protected right for everyone, and where people could worship or not worship as they chose.

**But there is a great flaw in our system. It will only work as long as people have moral integrity, and the Founders knew that.** Character is who we

are. Our character as a nation was formed based on biblical principles, and when those are removed, we face the loss of freedom.

The culture war we are in today is not a revolution like our Founders faced. They were opposing tyranny and fighting for freedom of enterprise and worship. **Our war is a rebellion against God's authority to determine right and wrong.**

Here is where we are today, *"When the [uncompromisingly] righteous triumph, there is great glory and celebration;"* We live in a nation blessed like none before it. The rest of that verse describes what happens when we turn from God's way: *"but when the wicked rise [to power], men hide themselves"* (Prov 28:12).

Our battle is within, against opposition to the biblical principles American has held to since the beginning. This is not about a political party; it's about holding the course to how God wants us to live based on His Word.

A real danger is that people are so disgusted with what's going on politically that they aren't paying attention to the real issues. I've made it a point to ask people what they think—in casual conversation, with working people and professionals, all ages—a common answer is, "I don't get involved with all that. It's too confusing and I don't know who to believe."

I certainly understand. But I also know **without a doubt** if we don't become informed and vote our convictions as Believers, we will lose this battle for the soul of America.

This is an election year. Go past the noise and rhetoric and look at the integrity and character of each

candidate. What have they stood for in the past? Do they believe in freedom of worship? Christians and Jews **in America** are singled out and persecuted for their beliefs. Do the candidates believe an unborn child is a child with the right to live? Is there a willingness to have open conversation and agree to disagree but move forward? The list goes on.

Integrity, strong character, people who keep their word and demonstrate godly consistency in their way of life—that with unceasing prayer will bring peace to our nation. But only if we make our voices heard by voting!

Why are stories about men like Abraham Clark important today? Their faith in God and prayers for His divine intervention birthed our nation. They were victorious. We too can prevail because we serve the same God who has the same desire to draw us as a people to Himself, so He can continue to bless not only us but the rest of the world through us. ✨

\* *The website of The Society of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. Type in "Patriot Abraham Clark."*

**M**y recovery progress is much slower than I expected, but I am improving with speech. I've progressed enough that the therapist has me working on reading, writing, and simple things on the computer. Thank you for praying! I have a long way to go but I have come a very long way.

Your tax receipts will be mailed by the end of January. Thank you for your prayer and financial support. ✨

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