Denise
Hi and welcome to the Black and White Podcast where we speak radical grace, raw truth and real hope in a gray world. I'm your host Denise Pass with my co-host Micah Maddox, and this month we've been talking about, oh Micah (says Denise, laughing). I'm so tempted to do it "Mel Gibson" style again.

Micah
Oh no! (laughing). Oh no, maybe I should do it for you. I'm kidding go ahead.

Denise
Yeah, go ahead Micah (laughing).

Micah
I don't know (a dainty voice), I don't know I'm a little shy today.

Denise
Alright, I won't say freedom in the way Mel Gibson did, but I really, really wanted to. Maybe, at the end of this series I will (laughing). So. Micah we've been talking about the freedoms we have in Christ and in this nation. We discuss politically or religiously correctness in the church and now how today I want to discuss that. Political correctness in a biblical world view seeing our history through God's eyes. I can't resist sharing two scriptures if that's okay for today's episode. The first one is out of Psalm 33:12, the New International Version, so beautifully describes the promises we have when our nation is founded on Christ. It say's "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. The people He has chosen as His own inheritance when we uphold God as our Lord and His standards for our nation. I also need to share this scripture from Ecclesiastes 10:2, New International Version again and a little tongue and cheek. When we are trying to discern on how we should vote to uphold our conviction of being a nation founded on Christ. It say's "The heart of the wise inclines to the right, the heart of the fool is to the left (laughing).

Micah
The right is that what you said? Oh boy! Here we go.

Denise
Obviously that scripture is not talking about political parties but, is does make one wonder.

Micah
Yes! Oh, we're going to get some e-mails about this one.

Denise
Now everyone knows we are supposed to avoid political and religious discussions, right?

Micah
That's right. We're going to be tolerant.

Denise
It's taboo! But that says something doesn't it? We have the right of freedom of speech in this country so many rights have been given, but little by little they can be stripped away if we do not uphold them or talk about them in a healthy manner. But how do we uphold them and how do we talk about the sticky subjects in a healthy way?

Micah
It's a tough one, but I really think that we have a purpose as believers as Christ followers we have a purpose of doing our part to educate others who we have an influence on. God has given us a place of leadership. Whether it be in our home or in our church or in our community or our neighborhoods on the ballfield. God has given us and influence over people and it's important that we use those opportunities of influence to educate others about the truth of God's word and to educate ourselves and to know what are the current issues that we are dealing with and what does God's word say about them. What would our founding father's say about what's going on right now and how would they react in response to some of the things that are going on in our nation and in our culture. The culture is definitely trying to influence our children and our children's children through the media. Even through the church and society at a rapid pace. We are constantly being bombarded with media that is warped that's twisted just a little bit to make us think that our government is one way or another way. If we don't look at history and learn from history, we are going to be destined to repeat the same mistakes over again.

Denise
We know we have all heard that phrase, but we need to keep saying that to remind ourselves. When I hear you talk about this sphere of influence that we have what's sad to me, is the first thing I thought about was the school system or even people at work. They are kind of told you can't bring God in here. All the freedom's our nation fought for could be lost. We need to remember who we truly are. I love that we are called the melting pot. Such beautiful diversity, but we were united together for one purpose. We were a nation founded on Christianity. Why do I say were? Because a lot of times people are saying we are now living in a post Christian era. Look at different statistics and I guess it depends on where ever you pull them from, but it is referred in the past tense and that is true to the original founding was with that intent, but we have to be stewards and maintain that. There are arguments on this day but hopefully today we can shed some light on it. You know Micah, I home educated my children because I wanted to teach them the importance of our history and that history being built on Christ. We used the curriculum by David Barton, the Wallbuilders ministry, called "Drive Through History." He states that The Declaration of Independence, The Paris Peace Treaty of 1783 and The Constitution give conclusive proof, that America is a Christian nation. But we can lose that heritage if we let it be stolen by what is called freedom and snaring our nation to pagan customs and forgetting the great grace that God has given us.

Micah
It's so true, you know The Declaration of Independence mentions God many times and His role in establishing us as a nation. It's important that we go back, and we look, and we realize where our nation was founded, what it was founded upon. It says that men are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. God sets His people

free. Our nation rose above slavery and has been known as a righteous nation even though every nation has sins and can fall from within, it does not remain in Christ. Jesus, the foundation of our lives, was the foundation of our country. Now in the society we live in we do heat a lot of doom and gloom especially on the Christian side that we are a post Christian nation, but it comes down to when we face those moments of trauma and difficult times in our nation, So, I think back to 911. We were attacked and there's many situations that are happening all over our country where there's going to be shootings and just devastation. But when those things happen in our country, we see the same response, people rally together. People love their neighbor no matter their skin color, no matter their nationality, right? No matter where they came from or how they got here, we rally together. We link arms and that's showing the love of Christ. So, even though I think there is a lot of doom and gloom I do think we need to remember those moments of hardship in our country because those are what make us look back to the foundation of where we came from and really link arms together and follow what I think our forefathers tried to implement.

Denise
Wow! Well in some ways it's like we can't let your struggles define us, but then we can. Right? Because there is a sense of oh, look at all the wrong that's here, but look at what's right in the mist of the wrong. I think a lot of times you do turn on the tv, which I rarely do but when I do, and it's like this is horrible, but who is framing it up that way. Now, there is horribleness. There are things that are not good. We are not going to white wash over that or sugar coat it but, I love that your looking for the positive and looking for what is redeeming in that. There is still a remnant that has not bowed their knees to the lies that political correctness spews out. We need to turn the tide and that is one reason we want to do our part in refreshing our memories today about who we truly are. One nation, under God with liberty and justice for all.

Micah
You know sometimes we misuse the term liberty. As we have been talking here this month, people use liberty, their freedom, for sin. Then they say that means that I can do what ever I want to do and really that's not freedom at all, it's bondage.

Denise
Yes, you are so right, it's so sad, I mean to say people should do whatever feels good means it is ok if someone harms another person then, right? I mean, I'm allowed to rob because I feel like doing that or I am allowed to hurt somebody. They have that freedom? Also, in the Declaration of Independence is a phrase stated, "That all men are created equal." This is such a beautiful freedom. Scripture even says, "We should view the other person as more important than ourselves. The freedom God has for a nation that follows Him is absolutely beautiful. It does not limit true freedom it provides boundaries that lie in pleasant places that keep us from sin that corrupts us and wrecks our lives.

Micah
Yes, and even though we do have problems in our nation like racism for one. We can't allow those who do not live by Christian ideals to turn us away from who we are. When our nation remembers our foundation, we can keep putting forth the beautiful principles contained in the carefully crafted documents of our founding fathers that sought to design to protect us back then and in the future.

Denise
Yes, I think it's just that even as we have been talking I've been thinking I need to pull out the Declaration of Independence again, The Constitution, and we need to be reading that because we forget to, it's easy to kind of just, it's like a current that pulls us away. But, when we remember that God gave

us mercy and made us a free nation. Remember we were set free to set others free. It is not all about, I want all my freedoms. It's about we have this incredible privilege. What nations can we help? And what people in our country can we help? That is one thing I love about our nation when we see tyranny and injustice, we try to do our part and help defenseless nations. I know there is different opinions on that and no we're not perfect. We are not talking about perfection here. In one way that citizens can do their part is by voting to preserve our heritage. What are some other ways, Micah?

Micah
The right to vote was fought for so that we could help shape our nation, so we have a say and I also think of those who serve who fought hard for causes. I think voting is a huge one because it helps shape our nation when we as Christians do our part as voting we put in, hey this candidate, this person holds the bible true as much as possible in my scope of influence. These are the things that I believe and that I hold to, that's going to shape our nation. One of things that comes to mind is abortion and it's just so rampant in our nation. It's one of those things as Christians, we got to look at that and say, "You know what, I can't compromise here." "I can't say that it's ok for babies to be killed over and over and over again." It's a controversy even in the Christian circle. I know there's people listening to me that's like, I don't know because I don't honor the current administration. I think the powers that be are ordained by God. God lifts up and He tears down and right now the current administration God has lifted up. I was at a huge convention just a couple of months ago where thousands of Christians gathered together, and the Vice President of the United States was invited there and there were some in the group, in the camp, inside the Christian walls, that said, "We should not invite the vice president because that shows that we are taking sides of a political party as Christians. So, they are keeping sides, creating division of church and state. I understood where they were coming from, but here is what it comes down to. The powers that be are ordained by God and whether that vice president or president is a Christian or holds to some other belief, we as Americans have a responsibility to honor those who are in leadership. So, I actually made the news, I got interviewed and I was a little nervous about it because I thought, how are they going to shape my perspective and are they going to cut an edit to make it sound like I was saying one thing or another. But, the question they asked was, "Some people think that the vice president should not be invited or welcomed here, what do you think?" I said, "You know what, it doesn't matter what the vice president believes or states or says, he is the vice president. He does hold that position and so whether he is a Christian or not a Christian, we as Christians (1) and as Americans (2), should welcome the vice president of the United States.

Denise
Yes! Well, we do live in a time period where respect is probably not high in our country.

Micah
Right?

Denise
But, I would say, I really do think that the vice president is pretty amazing man, just for the record, I will go ahead and say that.

Micah
For the record, he did drop some truth bombs at that meeting so, it was great.

Denise
And you have to respect that, and I think that is one thing is people don't want to respect different opinions. What you were talking about church and state separating, we will be talking about that the next episode because there might be some interesting thoughts there about what the original intention was in the framing of the constitution. Well, you know David Barton's ministry has a lot to offer us in this discussion to. We will be providing several links on the website discussing further proof as to who

we were and are as a nation and who we need to remember, what we need to remember about that. When we forget the incredible sacrifice at the onset of our nation and how hard they fought to have religious freedom in this nation.it is truly horrific to let that foundation go, it was costly! Next time we will talk about some ways that Christians can get involved.

Micah
You know this is so important for parents to be implementing these truths into their children. Because our children are going to grow up and they are going to be bombarded with all kinds of information and all kinds of ideas about our government and just open Facebook and all of a sudden you are going to see what the media thinks about the government, right? Some churches will speak out and speak up about truth and some won't. Some will keep quiet so wherever our kids land we need to make sure that in the home that we are teaching our children about this. So, some of these links that are going to be here on the website will be great resources for us as parents to share with our kids. So, the raw truth is that we are a nation founded on Christian principles. The radical grace is that God has allowed our nation to continue in freedom. The real hope is that even when we abuse our liberty there is always hope I restoration if we go back to our foundation in Christ alone. You have been listening to The Black and White Podcast where we filter life through the Bible and live life in the freedom of truth.