

Religion and government, with the family to serve them both, are the primary fundamental institutions of our society. Church and state deal with the same people, each rendering them a vital and indispensable service, the one in law and order and the other in moral and spiritual values. A high wall separates their functions, but not their mutual services. Ideally, they are the spiritual and temporal poles of all human life. Each should show sympathy one to the other, and, within the limits laid down by federal and state constitutions, each should cooperate with the other. Each should also be jealous to protect its own rights—the state the rights in the field of government and the church the rights in the field of religion.

If organized religion interferes with the operation of government, or if the government intrudes in the field of religion, there is sure to be trouble. But if each, working in its own field, supplements the other in the interest of the individual and society, if each renders to the others its dues and tries to develop its services in a spirit of enlightened unselfishness, only good can result. Government supplies, or should at least provide for, peace and order, law enforcement, opportunities for education and the necessary public welfare. The church should supply the ideals and inspiration which will produce worthy citizens and keep the state moving steadily toward its highest goal.

Government, in spite of occasional excesses and neglect, is becoming more social minded, and on the whole, more efficient in our country. It has stood relatively well the strains and readjustments that have resulted from the new scientific outlook, war, population changes, industrial and racial strife, and it has made its contribution to the meeting of new social needs. But it needs the service of religion, with its emphasis on spiritual values, to provide a proper balance. Religion, by cultivating the sense of answerableness to God and of duty to one's generation, is the factor which has shown the largest capacity to provide an adequate motive for responsible citizenship. And a responsible citizenship is the very foundation stone upon which organized society rests.

I would say to you then, as clergymen, that you will serve your government well if you continue to promote this wholesome alliance between church and state which has made the American creed, the American dream, almost as one with the Christian ideal. You and your church will serve your government by doing as Isaiah, Amos and the other great prophets of Israel did—proclaim God to men.

“Where there is no vision the people perish,” it is written in the Book of Proverbs. And if the church cannot give vision—spiritual vision—to