

**The “Manhattan Declaration”
Selling out the Reformation?—Part II**

By Dr. Robert A. Morey

www.faithdefenders.com

The Roman Catholic “Manhattan Declaration” was one of the most deceptive statements ever written. It affirmed that human reason apart from and independent of Scripture was the ultimate and final Judge of truth and morals. It was an affirmation of Catholic Natural Religion, Natural Theology, and Natural Law. It was also a protest statement against the Reformation doctrine of Sola Scriptura in which the Bible alone is the ultimate authority over doctrine and morals.

The following Protestant leaders who signed the Catholic statement of faith in Natural Law fall into three groups:

- a. Some of them did not read the document but signed it because they trusted those who said it was “OK” to sign. “If so and so signed it, it must be OK.” They were ignorant and foolish to sign a “Manifesto” without understanding what they were signing.
- b. Some read the Declaration superficially and were ignorant that it was teaching Catholic Natural Religion, Law, and Theology. They did not understand that the Reformation had repudiated Catholic Natural Theology and Law as humanism.
- c. Some of them do not believe that the Bible is the final authority over morals and doctrine but they trust in their own reason, feelings, and experience as the Origin of truth, justice, morals, meaning, and beauty. They do not believe in Sola Scriptura and laughed at those who signed it in ignorance.

As we documented in our last report, Catholic leaders, such as Dr. George, who wrote the Declaration have publicly stated their amazement that Evangelical leaders would sign a document that was actually a repudiation of the Reformation. We are just as amazed.

The following well-known Protestants leaders signed the Declaration. We know some of these men and hold them in the highest respect as fellow brothers. We know that they believe in Sola Scriptura and that they will be embarrassed now we have exposed the Catholic nature of the “Manhattan Declaration.” We pray that they will be not angry for our pastoral admonition for signing such a document. To receive correction is a mark of true humility and wisdom. Thus they should demonstrate their love of the truth by withdrawing their name and support for the Declaration.

Those leaders who signed the Declaration with full knowledge that they were dethroning the Bible and replacing it with human reason, should be placed under church discipline and fired from their teaching or pastoral positions. We do not view them as fellow Christians but as “wolves in sheep clothing.”

The Catholic “Manhattan Declaration” underscores the importance of my new book, **The Bible, Natural Law, and Natural Theology: Compromise or Conflict?** We must boldly proclaim that the Bible is the final Rule of faith and life and that any attempt to replace it with rationalism, mysticism, empiricism or fideism is heretical and a denial of the Reformation Gospel.

Contact those who signed the Catholic Statement and ask them to withdraw their name from it. If they refuse to do so, then do not financially support them or their schools, churches or organizations. Be bold as a lion and kind as a lamb because most of the signers were ignorant of what they signed. If they deny it was a Catholic Declaration or that it repudiated Sola Scriptura, it will reveal that they signed it in ignorance.

Lastly, pray for these people as they have a hard decision to make. If they humble themselves before the Lord and affirm their allegiance to Sola Scriptura, they must swallow their pride and admit that they signed the Declaration in ignorance of what it really meant. But such humility will be hard for those who are bloated with their own self-importance. But as soon as some of the well-known leaders withdraw their name, many others will follow their lead. Who will be the first leaders to do the right thing and withdraw their name?

If you contact a signer and he denies the Catholic connection to the Declaration, make the following offer: Dr. Morey is ready, willing, and able to debate you in public whether the “Manhattan Declaration” is a Roman Catholic affirmation of Natural Law and Natural Theology and whether it is in principle a repudiation of the Reformation doctrine of Sola Scriptura.”

Religious Leaders who signed the Catholic Manhattan Declaration.

Dr. Daniel Akin

President, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (Wake Forest, NC)

Randy Alcorn

Founder and Director, Eternal Perspective Ministries (EPM) (Sandy, OR)

Rt. Rev. David Anderson

President and CEO, American Anglican Council (Atlanta, GA)

Rev. Dr. Gordon L. Anderson

President, North Central University, Minneapolis, MN

Leith Anderson

President of National Association of Evangelicals (Washington, DC)

Carole K. Ardizzone

TV Show Host and Speaker, INSP Television (Charlotte, NC)

Kay Arthur

CEO and Co-founder, Precept Ministries International (Chattanooga, TN)

Dr. Mark L. Bailey

President, Dallas Theological Seminary (Dallas, TX)

Most Rev. Craig W. Bates

Archbishop, International Communion of the Charismatic Episcopal Church (Malverne, NY)

Joel Belz

Founder, World Magazine (Asheville, NC)

Rev. Michael L. Beresford

(Charlotte, NC)

Rev. Thomas V. Berg

President, Westchester Institute for Ethics and the Human Person (New York)

Ken Boa

President, Reflections Ministries (Atlanta, GA)

Joseph Bottum

Editor of First Things (New York, NY)

Pastor Randy & Sarah Brannon

Senior Pastor, Grace Community Church (Madera, CA)

Brian Brown

Executive Director, National Organization for Marriage (Princeton, NJ)

Steve Brown

National radio broadcaster, Key Life (Maitland, FL)

Dr. Robert C. Cannada, Jr.

Chancellor and CEO of Reformed Theological Seminary (Orlando, FL)

Galen Carey

Director of Government Affairs, National Association of Evangelicals (Washington, DC)

Dr. Bryan Chapell

President, Covenant Theological Seminary (St. Louis, MO)

Timothy Clinton

President, American Association of Christian Counselors (Forest, VA)

Dr. Kenneth J. Collins

Professor of Historical Theology and Wesley Studies, Asbury Theological Seminary (Wilmore, KY)

Chuck Colson

Founder, the Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview (Lansdowne, VA)

Dr. Mark Coppenger

Managing Editor, Kairos Journal

Dr. Barry H. Corey

President, Biola University (La Mirada, CA)

Dr. Gary Culpepper

Associate Professor, Providence College (Providence, RI)

Jim Daly

President and CEO, Focus on the Family (Colorado Springs, CO)

Marjorie Dannenfelser

President, Susan B. Anthony List (Arlington, VA)

Rev. Daniel Delgado

Board of Directors, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference & Pastor, Third Day Missions Church (Staten Island, NY)

Dr. James Dobson

Founder, Focus on the Family (Colorado Springs, CO)

Dr. David Dockery

President, Union University (Jackson, TN)

Dr. James T. Draper, Jr.

President Emeritus, LifeWay (Nashville, TN)

Dinesh D'Souza

Writer & Speaker (Rancho Santa Fe, CA)

Dr. J. Ligon Duncan

Senior Minister, First Presbyterian Church, & President, Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals

Dr. Michael Easley

President Emeritus, Moody Bible Institute Chicago, IL)

Dr. William Edgar

Professor, Westminster Theological Seminary (Philadelphia, PA)

Brett Elder

Executive Director, Stewardship Council (Grand Rapids, MI)

Rev. Joel Elowsky

Drew University (Madison, NJ)

Rev. Jonathan Falwell

Senior Pastor, Thomas Road Baptist Church (Lynchburg, VA)

William J. Federer

President, Amerisearch, Inc. (St. Louis, MO)

Carmen Fowler

President & Executive Editor, Presbyterian Lay Committee (Lenoir, NC)

Commissioner Israel L. Gaither

National Commander, The Salvation Army

Maggie Gallagher

President, National Organization for Marriage (Manassas, VA)

Dr. Jim Garlow

Senior Pastor, Skyline Church (La Mesa, CA)

Steven Garofalo

Founder, National Apologetics Training Center (Charlotte, NC)

Dr. Robert P. George

McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence, Princeton University (Princeton, NJ)

Dr. Timothy George

Dean and Professor of Divinity, Beeson Divinity School at Samford University (Birmingham, AL)

Thomas Gilson

Director of Strategic Processes, Campus Crusade for Christ International (Norfolk, VA)

Dr. Jack Graham

Pastor, Prestonwood Baptist Church (Plano, TX)

Dr. Wayne Grudem

Research Professor of Theological and Biblical Studies, Phoenix Seminary (Phoenix, AZ)

Dr. Cornell "Corkie" Haan

National Facilitator of Spiritual Unity, The Mission America Coalition (Palm Desert, CA)

Alec Hill

President, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA

Dr. Dennis Hollinger

President and Professor of Christian Ethics, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (South Hamilton, MA)

Dr. Jeanette Hsieh

Executive VP and Provost, Trinity International University (Deerfield, IL)

Dr. John A. Huffman, Jr.

Senior Pastor, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church (Newport Beach, CA) and Chairman of the Board, Christianity Today International (Carol Stream, IL)

Dr. Edith M. Humphrey

William F. Orr Professor of New Testament, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Rev. Ken Hutcherson

Pastor, Antioch Bible Church (Kirkland, WA)

Bishop Harry R. Jackson, Jr.

Senior Pastor, Hope Christian Church (Beltsville, MD)

Jerry Jenkins

Author (Black Forest, CO)

Camille Kampouris

Editorial Board, Kairos Journal

Emmanuel A. Kampouris

Publisher, Kairos Journal

Rev. Tim Keller

Senior Pastor, Redeemer Presbyterian Church (New York, NY)

Dr. Alveda King

Director of African American Outreach, Priests for Life

Most Rev. Emmanuel Musaba Kolini

Primate, Anglican Church of Rwanda (Kigali, Rwanda)

Jim Kushiner

Editor, Touchstone (Chicago, IL)

Dr. Richard Land

President, The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the SBC (Washington, DC)

Jim Law

Senior Associate Pastor, First Baptist Church (Woodstock, GA)

Dr. Matthew Levering

Associate Professor of Theology, Ave Maria University (Naples, FL)

Dr. Peter Lillback

President, The Providence Forum (West Conshohocken, PA)

Dr. Duane Litfin

President, Wheaton College (Wheaton, IL)

Rev. Herb Lusk

Pastor, Greater Exodus Baptist Church (Philadelphia, PA)

Dr. Erwin W. Lutzer

Pastor, The Moody Church (Chicago, IL)

Dr. Joseph Mattera

Bishop & Senior Pastor, Resurrection Church (Brooklyn, NY)

Phil Maxwell

Pastor, Gateway Church (Bridgewater, NJ)

Josh McDowell

Founder, Josh McDowell Ministry (Plano, TX)

Alex McFarland

President, Southern Evangelical Seminary (Charlotte, NC)

Dr. C. Ben Mitchell

Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy, Union University (Jackson, TN)

Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr.

President, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Louisville, KY)

Dr. Russell D. Moore

Senior VP for Academic Administration & Dean of the School of Theology, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Louisville, KY)

Richard J. Mouw

President, Fuller Theological Seminary (Pasadena, CA)

Thomas D. Mullins

Christ Fellowship Church, Palm Beach, FL

J. Todd Mullins

Christ Fellowship Church, Palm Beach, FL

Rt. Rev. Charles H. Murphy, III

Missionary Bishop of Rwanda and Chairman of the Anglican Mission in the Americas

David Neff

Editor-in-Chief, Christianity Today (Carol Stream, IL)

Tom Nelson

Senior Pastor, Christ Community Evangelical Free Church (Leawood, KS)

Dr. Jerry Newcombe

Host/Senior Producer, Coral Ridge Ministries (Fort Lauderdale, FL)

Niel Nielson

President, Covenant College (Lookout Mt., GA)

Nikolas T. Nikas, Esq.

President and General Counsel, Bioethics Defense Fund

Dr. Tom Oden

Theologian, United Methodist Minister and Professor, Drew University (Madison, NJ)

Marvin Olasky

Editor-in-Chief, World Magazine and provost, The Kings College (New York City, NY)

Rev. Neftali "Charles" Olmeda

Pennsylvania Chapter Director, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (Allentown, PA)

Rev. William Owens

Chairman, Coalition of African-American Pastors (Memphis, TN)

Dr. J.I. Packer

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Tony Perkins

President, Family Research Council (Washington, D.C.)

Eric M. Pillmore

CEO, Pillmore Consulting LLC (Doylestown, PA)

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President, Oklahoma Wesleyan University (Bartlesville, OK)

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Sr. Pastor, Briarwood Presbyterian Church (Birmingham, AL)

Rev. Eugene F. Rivers

Senior Policy Adviser to the Presiding Bishop, Church of God in Christ

James and Betty Robison

Founder and President, LIFE Outreach International (Fort Worth, TX)

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President, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference

Frank Schubert

President, Schubert Flint Public Affairs (Sacramento, CA)

David Schuringa

President, Crossroads Bible Institute (Grand Rapids, MI)

Tricia Scribner

Author (Harrisburg, NC)

Dr. Dave Seaford

Senior Pastor, Community Fellowship Church (Matthews, NC)

Alan Sears

President, CEO, & General Counsel, Alliance Defense Fund (Scottsdale, AZ)

Randy Setzer

Senior Pastor, Macedonia Baptist Church (Lincolnton, NC)

Kelly Shackelford, Esq.

Chief Counsel, Liberty Legal Institute (Plano, TX)

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Director, Evangelicals for Social Action (Wynnewood, PA)

Fr. Robert Sirico

Founder, Acton Institute (Grand Rapids, MI)

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President, Houston Baptist University (Houston, TX)

Rev. Paul T. Stallsworth

Taskforce of United Methodists on Abortion and Sexuality/Lifewatch

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CEO, Christian Medical & Dental Association (Bristol, TN)

John Stonestreet

Executive Director, Summit Ministries (Manitou Springs, CO)

Dr. Joseph Stowell

President, Cornerstone University (Grand Rapids, MI)

Dr. Sarah Sumner

Professor of Theology and Ministry, Azusa Pacific University (Azusa, CA)

Dr. Glenn Sunshine

Research Fellow of the Action Institute (Grand Rapids, MI)

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Chancellor—Dallas Theological Seminary

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Dr. Timothy C. Tennent

Professor, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (South Hamilton, MA)

James R. Thobaben

Professor of Bioethics and Social Ethics, Asbury Theological Seminary

Dr. Greg Thornbury

Dean of the School of Christian Studies, Union University, Fellow at the Wilberforce Forum (Washington, D.C.)

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Founding and Senior Pastor, Mecklenberg Community Church (Charlotte, NC)

Luder Whitlock

Excelsis (Orlando, FL)

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Don Wildmon

American Family Association

Mark Williamson

Founder and President, Foundation Restoration Ministries/Federal Intercessors (Katy, TX)

Parker T. Williamson

Editor Emeritus and Senior Correspondent, Presbyterian Lay Committee

Dr. Craig Williford

President, Trinity International University (Deerfield, IL)

Dr. John Woodbridge

Research professor of Church History & the History of Christian Thought, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (Deerfield, IL)

Don M. Woodside

Performance Matters Associates (Matthews, NC)

Dr. Frank Wright

President, National Religious Broadcasters (Manassas, VA)

Most Rev. Donald W. Wuerl

Archbishop, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.

Paul Young

COO & Executive VP, Christian Research Institute (Charlotte, NC)

Dr. Michael Youssef

President, Leading the Way (Atlanta, GA)

Ravi Zacharias

Founder and Chairman of the Board, Ravi Zacharias International Ministries (Norcross, GA)