

“The Moral Evils of Open Borders”¹

by

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Introduction

American immigration issues and questions have been controversial in recent decades and several historical periods. However, the tenor and scope of the immigration problems have radically changed in recent years—especially since January 2021. While much of the debate was stuck in the legal—illegal immigration area—a radical transformation is being imposed upon Americans in the guise that open borders pose few security concerns and that open borders are moral. Tragically, these ideas have found acquiescence or silence among Christian (including Evangelical) elites and laity but an increasing divide between Christian laity and leaders—going back several decades.² Nevertheless, open borders advocates likely have non-Christian or flawed worldviews and defects in their analysis of Scripture or ethics. *See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ* (Col. 2:8-NIV). Tragically, many are oblivious to the moral evils of open borders. Nevertheless, radical open border policies have pernicious effects, fostering moral evils with little hope of abating with individual Christians and Christian churches and organizations mostly silent.³ *Don't let me drift toward evil or take part in acts of wickedness. Don't let me share in the delicacies of those who do wrong* (Ps.141:4-NLT).

The U.S. federal government, through the executive branch, supports *de facto* open borders with its stated and unstated policies by illegally and systematically ignoring and not enforcing numerous laws, rules, and regulations regarding the border and immigration writ large.⁴ However, many recently have described the crisis situation as an invasion intentionally planned, funded, and executed through non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the United

¹ Portions of this Liberty paper were adapted from Carl Rehberg, “Child Sex Trafficking, Open Borders, and America’s Foundations,” *Providence Magazine*, January 8, 2024, <https://providencemag.com/2024/01/child-sex-trafficking-open-borders-and-americas-foundations-1/>. This Liberty paper reflects the views of the author alone and does not necessarily reflect the views of other individuals or organizations. Throughout this paper, there will be frank discussions regarding open borders and the associated moral evils. This author has humbly strived for scholarship integrity, focusing on truth and agape for detractors in good faith.

² Mark Amstutz, *Just Immigration: American Policy in Christian Perspective*, (W. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2017), 183-184. James K. Hoffmeier, *The Immigration Crisis: Immigrants, Aliens and the Bible*, (Wheaton, Ill: Crossway Books, 2009), loc 215.

³ There are two types of evil: moral evil and natural evil. Moral evil is caused by human activity or can be linked to inaction. Natural evil causes pain and suffering to humans, but it is not due to human involvement (e.g., famines, hurricanes, earthquakes) from “What is the difference between natural evil and moral evil?” Got Questions Ministry, accessed February 8, 2024, <https://www.gotquestions.org/natural-moral-evil.html>. “Moral evil is any deviation of a moral agent from the rules of conduct prescribed to him by God, or by legitimate human authority; or it is any violation of the plain principles of justice and rectitude...All wickedness, all crimes, all violations of law and right are moral evils.” Merriam-Webster 1828.com Dictionary, s.v. “evil,” accessed March 3, 2024, <https://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/evil>.

⁴ Todd Bensman. *Overrun: How Joe Biden Unleashed the Greatest Border Crisis in U.S. History*, (NY: Nashville Post Press), 2023. See also Speaker of the House of Representatives, “Biden Administrative Actions That Have Undermined Border Security and Encourage Illegal Immigration,” January 2024, <https://www.speaker.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Biden-Admin-Actions-Undermining-Border-Security.pdf>.

Nations (UN) through our government.⁵ Many of the NGOs are religious NGOs, including Christian NGOs from America.⁶ Ironically, the Christian community has been divided on illegal immigration for decades. However, Christian laity and major Christian organizations appear to have a significant divide regarding open borders. While Christian laity is clearly concerned by open borders, Christian organizations and elite leaders seem to be AWOL in the current debate—silent on the moral evils perpetuated by the intentional open borders.

This paper will examine critical open border areas and highlight the moral evils of child sex trafficking, cartels, drugs, and crime. It will also discuss the national security threats of foreign nationals from China, Russia, Iran, and terrorist nations. It will also discuss how NGOs, including religious NGOs, have enabled open borders. The paper will overview the Bible and immigration with a summary analysis of the Bible and open borders. There will be an evaluation of Evangelical Christians and some leading Evangelical organizations' views on open borders. Finally, there will be an assessment of America's foundations linked to the Golden Triangle of Freedom with conclusions and vital recommendations in several critical areas.

Open Borders by the Numbers

Since January 2021, the U.S. has supported open borders with a series of stated and unstated policies documented in excruciating detail by long-time investigative reporter Todd Bensman in his recent trailblazing book.⁷ Bensman makes the case that the U.S. is in its greatest border crisis ever, not by accident or incompetence. The federal government has failed to enforce numerous laws regarding immigration by federal officials (e.g., Border Patrol, ICE, Immigration Courts, DOJ, HHS, et al.), which has destroyed the rule of law on the border and inside the country.⁸ From January 2021 through January 2024, the total number of new illegal alien encounters was 8.7 million nationwide, with 7.2 million encounters at the Southwest border.⁹

In FY 2023, 2.5 million encounters at the Southwest border broke all records, with some 600 thousand entering undetected or gotaways (Figure 1). Since 2021, the “gotaway” numbers have skyrocketed, with 389,515 gotaways in FY 2021. In FY 2022, there were 599,000 gotaways. The FY 2023 numbers were slightly higher, with 600,000 gotaways.¹⁰ The term “got away” is “an unlawful border crosser who (A) is directly or indirectly observed making an unlawful entry into the United States, (B) is not apprehended, (C) is not a turn back.”¹¹

⁵ Todd Bensman, “Don’t believe the lies: The UN is paying illegals using US taxpayer cash,” *NY Post*, January 22, 2024, <https://nypost.com/2024/01/22/opinion/dont-believe-the-lies-the-un-is-paying-illegals-using-us-taxpayer-cash/>.

⁶ Todd Bensman, “Biden Admin. Sends Millions to Religious Nonprofits Facilitating Mass Illegal Migration,” *Center for Immigration Studies*, January 30, 2024, <https://cis.org/Bensman/Biden-Admin-Sends-Millions-Religious-Nonprofits-Facilitating-Mass-Illegal-Migration>.

⁷ Todd Bensman, *Overrun: How Joe Biden Unleashed the Greatest Border Crisis in U.S. History*, NY: Nashville Post Press, 2023.

⁸ Rehberg, *Providence Magazine*, January 8, 2024.

⁹ House Homeland Security Committee (Majority), “Border Crisis Startling Statistics,” February 20, 2024 [Data through January 2024], <https://homeland.house.gov/2024/02/20/factsheet-secretary-mayorkas-sets-another-record-the-most-january-border-encounters-ever/>.

¹⁰ House Homeland Security Committee (Majority), “Border Crisis Startling Statistics,” October 26, 2023 [Data through the end of FY2023—September 30, 2023], <https://homeland.house.gov/2023/10/26/factsheet-final-fy23-numbers-show-worst-year-at-americas-borders-ever/>.

¹¹ 6 USC § 223: Border security metrics, March 15, 2024. “(3) Got away,” [https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=\(title:6%20section:223%20edition:prelim\)](https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=(title:6%20section:223%20edition:prelim)).

Figure 1: NY Times Partial Figure on FY 2023 Attempted Border Crossings.¹²



For FY 2024, the numbers continue to break records, with 242,587 nationwide encounters in January 2024, the worst January on record and 154% more than January 2021. In addition, there were 176,205 encounters at the Southwest border in January 2024 (highest ever). The total “gotaways” from January 2021 through January 2024 are some 1.8 million. However, most border experts believe that the “got away” numbers could be more—estimates of 20% or higher—meaning at least 2.0 million.¹³ Keep in mind that the gotaways are likely the most dangerous. Gotaways do not want to be caught even though they would still likely have a high propensity to be paroled under the current Biden Administration policies.

In early March 2024, the Biden Administration admitted that they had flown some 320,000 illegals into the United States into 43 US airports from numerous locations around the world in calendar year 2023.¹⁴ By all appearances, these 320,000 are not part of the official numbers reported by DHS and CBP, but they also raise significant security concerns. These illegals are coming via a phone application called the “CBP One phone scheduling application” and “...are able to remain in the U.S. for two years without obtaining legal status and meanwhile are eligible for work authorization.”¹⁵

Figure 3 demonstrates that most encounters are paroled, given a court date, or served with a deportation order. These actions allow illegal aliens to enter and live in the U.S. with impunity—even criminal aliens. That is because ICE has been almost completely cut off from doing its job since few deportation orders and other actions are very rarely executed (see footnote 16 &17).

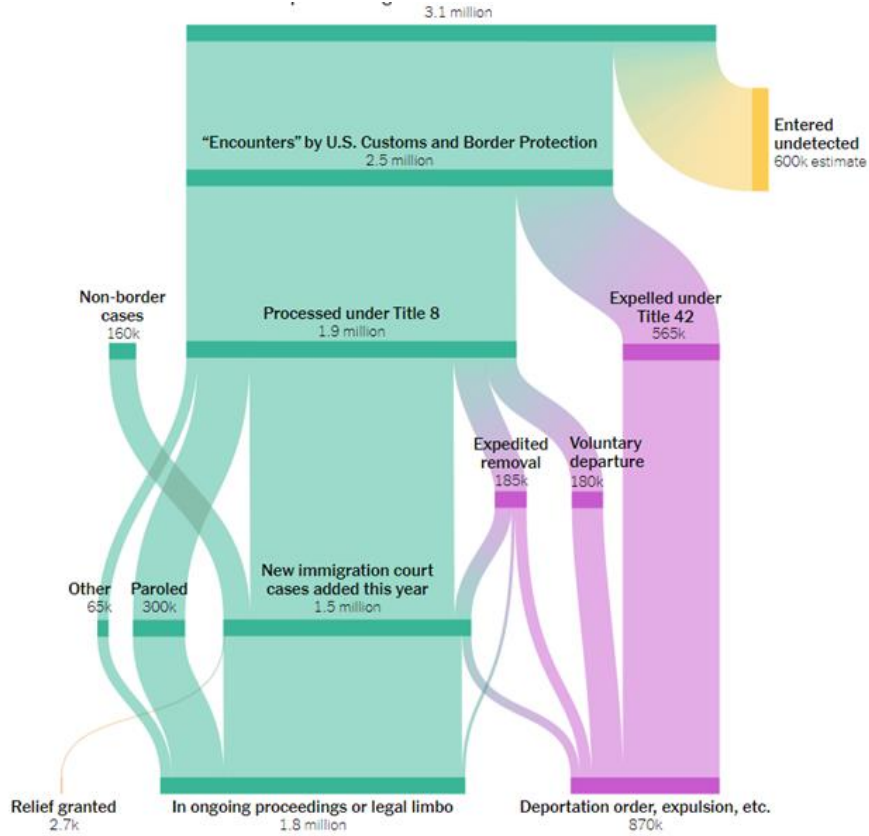
¹² Steven Rattner and Maureen White, “How to Fix America’s Immigration Crisis,” *NY Times*, January 9, 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/01/09/opinion/immigration-in-one-chart.html>. Attempted Crossings include “encounters” plus “undetected” or “got-aways.” Data was cross-checked with FY2023 DHS data: 2.47M Southwest border encounters + 600K undetected (i.e., gotaways) equals 3.1M total (Footnote 9).

¹³ House Homeland Security Committee (Majority), “Factsheet: Secretary Mayorkas Sets Another Record—The Most January Border Encounters Ever,” February 20, 2024, <https://homeland.house.gov/2024/02/20/factsheet-secretary-mayorkas-sets-another-record-the-most-january-border-encounters-ever/>.

¹⁴ Todd Bensman, “Government Admission: Biden Parole Flights Create Security ‘Vulnerabilities’ at U.S. Airports,” Center for Immigration Studies, March 4, 2024, <https://cis.org/Bensman/Government-Admission-Biden-Parole-Flights-Create-Security-Vulnerabilities-US-Airports>. Several news organizations have debunked this story, but Bensman came back with an extensive counter & unbiased fact checkers sided with Bensman (e.g., AllSides).

¹⁵ *Ibid.*; US Customs and Border Protection, “CBP One™ Mobile Application,” last modified March 4, 2024, <https://www.cbp.gov/about/mobile-apps-directory/cbpone>; Katelyn Carelle, “Biden administration ADMITS flying 320,000 migrants secretly into the U.S. to reduce the number of crossings at the border has national security ‘vulnerabilities’” *Daily Mail*, March 4, 2024, updated March 7, 2024, <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-13155765/biden-illegal-migrant-flying-program-national-security-vulnerability.html>.

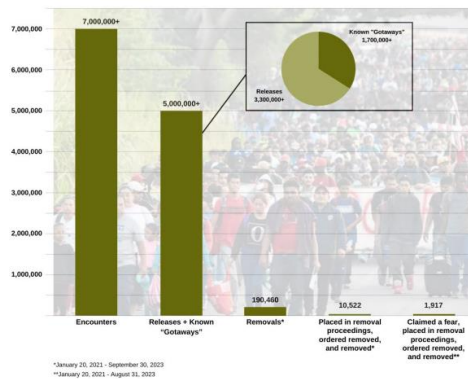
Figure 2: NY Times Figure on FY 2023 Attempted Border Crossings & Disposition¹⁶



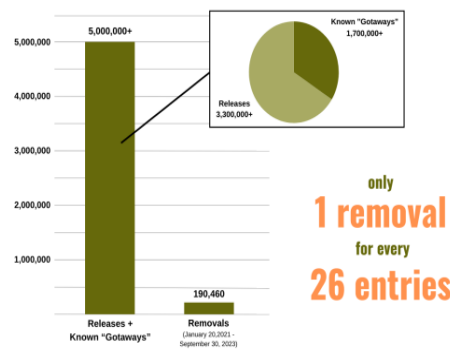
Sources: U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Department of Homeland Security. Note: These figures are for fiscal year 2023, which starts in October 2022 and ends in September 2023.

Figure 3¹⁷

Outcomes of Illegal Aliens Encountered at the Southwest Border Under the Biden Administration



Releases and Removals During the Biden Administration



¹⁶ Steven Rattner and Maureen White, "How to Fix America's Immigration Crisis," *NY Times*, January 9, 2024. This figure is excellent. However, it conveys false impressions that most border crossings are dealt with. In reality, almost all are released into the U.S. (i.e., "In ongoing proceedings or legal limbo") with very few deported (details later in the paper), and "Deportation orders and expulsion, etc." almost all are NOT enforced (See Figure 3).

¹⁷ House Judiciary Committee (Majority), "New Data Reveal Worsening Magnitude of the Biden Border Crisis and Lack of Interior Immigration Enforcement," January 18, 2024, <https://judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/republicans-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2024-01-18-new-data-reveal-worsening-magnitude-of-the-biden-border-crisis-and-lack-of-interior-immigration-enforcement.pdf>.

Moral Evil: Child Sex Trafficking

A 2023 report on human trafficking shows that 27.6 million people—are in modern-day slavery.¹⁸ Rebecca Munson gets to the heart of the matter: “Evil has swept every corner of our world. The modern slavery problem illustrates this reality like none other.”¹⁹ Human trafficking writ large is a \$236B per year industry (\$176B in forced commercial sexual exploitation) and is rapidly growing.²⁰ A detailed analysis of human trafficking writ large is beyond the scope of this article. However, one area of focus will be on child sex trafficking.

Without a doubt, the most heinous, wicked moral evil of human trafficking is child sex trafficking.²¹ Published estimates claim that some 6.3 million people are in commercial sex exploitation, including 1.7 million children (27%) in sex trafficking worldwide in 2021.²² “Although forced commercial sexual exploitation accounts for only 27 percent of all people in privately imposed forced labour, it accounts for 73 percent of total illegal profits from forced labour...[sex exploitation 7.4x more profitable per person].”²³ However, some experts claim that the numbers are likely much higher. Although this is a worldwide moral evil—the U.S. is the #1 magnet due to its demand-pull of customers, with Mexico as the #1 supplier.²⁴ The power of open borders and its economics (e.g., cheap labor, fentanyl, cartels, special interest aliens) overrides what some call mere moral concerns about the significant growth in child sex trafficking and other moral evils. Exact figures are difficult to ascertain, but they can be estimated by examining Unaccompanied Alien Children (UACs), which likely correlate highly with child sex trafficking.²⁵

In 2014, then-Vice President Biden warned that between 75 and 80 percent of UACs are brought into the United States by smugglers, many of whom “routinely engage in physical and sexual abuse, and extortion(p. 1).”²⁶ According to a U.S. Senate Committee report in (December 2022) “...the number of UACs entering the U.S. reached record highs. As that number has increased, the Biden administration reduced the protections for those children

¹⁸ US Department of Homeland Security, “DHS Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking,” January 27, 2023, para 1, https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2023-01/23_0126_sec_ccht_fact-sheet-dhs-efforts-to-combat-human-trafficking.pdf.

¹⁹ Rebecca Munson, “The World Confronts Modern Slavery, Offering Hope.” *Providence Magazine*, December 17, 2021, <https://providencemag.com/2021/12/world-confronts-modern-slavery-offering-hope/>

²⁰ International Labour Organization (ILO), Profits and poverty: The economics of forced labour, ILO, 2024, pp. 1-15, https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipecc/documents/publication/wcms_918034.pdf.

²¹ US State Department, “Understanding Human Trafficking,” December 12, 2023, <https://www.state.gov/what-is-trafficking-in-persons/>.

²² International Labour Organization (ILO), 2024, pp. 1-15.

²³ *Ibid.*, p. 15.

²⁴ Emma Watters, “U.S. Is a Top Destination for Child Sex Trafficking, and It’s Happening in Your Community,” *Heritage Foundation*, July 27, 2023, <https://www.heritage.org/crime-and-justice/commentary/us-top-destination-child-sex-trafficking-and-its-happening-your>.

²⁵ The Homeland Security Act of 2002 defines “unaccompanied alien children” as children under the age of 18 who have “no lawful immigration status in the United States” and who do not have a parent or legal guardian in the United States or whose parent or legal guardian in the United States cannot care for them.”

²⁶ US Senate, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, “Protecting Unaccompanied Alien Children from Trafficking and Other Abuses: The Role of the Office of Refugee Resettlement,” January 2016, [https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/imo/media/doc/Majority & Minority Staff Report - Protecting Unaccompanied Alien Children from Trafficking and Other Abuses 2016-01-282.pdf](https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/imo/media/doc/Majority%20&%20Minority%20Staff%20Report%20-%20Protecting%20Unaccompanied%20Alien%20Children%20from%20Trafficking%20and%20Other%20Abuses%202016-01-282.pdf).

against abuse and trafficking.”²⁷ The diminished protections are evident from policy changes to HHS’s Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), which is responsible for UACs. “In 2021, HHS weakened its requirements for background checks on potential sponsors and related adults (p. ii).”²⁸ These changes reduced identity and address verification and put UACs at increased risk for child trafficking, according to numerous experts.

All these changes occurred during an explosive growth in UACs, which “...swelled to more than 146,000 in FY 2021 and 152,000 in FY 2022. In FY 2023 [as of July 5, 2023], there were more than 70,000 encounters of unaccompanied alien children. However, the UAC totals for FY2023 are still not available.”²⁹ In March of 2022, it was revealed that the ORR had lost track of some 20,000 UACs.³⁰ On April 18, 2023, it was exposed that another 85,000 UACs were lost, or the ORR did not know where they were.³¹ On April 26, 2023, a Health and Human Service (HHS) whistleblower, Tara Lee Rodas (working for ORR), testified before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement, shocking many in the audience with her testimony.

*Whether intentional or not, it can be argued that the U.S. Government has become the middleman in a large-scale, multi-billion-dollar child trafficking operation run by bad actors seeking to profit off the lives of children... It is a terrible thing when you blow the whistle to try to save children, and you're retaliated against for trying to help... The H.H.S. did everything they could to keep all of this silent.*³²

Most likely due to the wide publicity regarding the UAC crisis, very little new data or information has been forthcoming since April 2023, even with Congress demanding answers. As a follow-up to a lack of response by the DHS-ORR, in December 2023, Senator Grassley and 38 senators signed a letter demanding policy changes to protect UACs and ORR whistleblowers.³³ In late January 2024, the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) filed a FOIA request for HHS UAC records, which, according to whistleblowers, HHS may be covering up the largest child-trafficking scandal in U.S. history.³⁴ Child sex trafficking is perpetuated in the U.S. due to

²⁷ US Senate, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Federal Care of Unaccompanied Children: “Minors Remain Vulnerable to Trafficking and Abuse.” December 2022, [https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/imo/media/doc/Federal_Care_of_Unaccompanied_Alien_Children_Report_\(FINAL\).pdf](https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/imo/media/doc/Federal_Care_of_Unaccompanied_Alien_Children_Report_(FINAL).pdf)

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Uzay Bulut, “America's Darkest Secret': Sex Trafficking, Child Abuse and the Biden Administration,” Gladstone Institute, July 6, 2023, <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/19780/sex-trafficking-child-abuse-biden-administration>.

³⁰ Andrew R. Arthur, “Biden Administration Lost — Yes, Lost — Nearly 20,000 Migrant Children,” Center for Immigration Studies, March 2, 2022, <https://cis.org/Arthur/Biden-Administration-Lost-Yes-Lost-Nearly-20000-Migrant-Children>.

³¹ Representative Andy Biggs, Post and Video of the ORR Director on 85,000 Lost Children, April 28, 2023, <https://twitter.com/RepAndyBiggsAZ/status/1648349822016012288>.

³² Bulut, July 6, 2023.

³³ Senator Charles Grassley, Letter to Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), December 4, 2023, https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_et_al_to_marcos_and_hild_-_orr_proposed_rule.pdf.

³⁴ Colin Farnsworth, “During Human Trafficking Prevention Month, CIS Sues HHS for UAC Records,” Center for Immigration Studies, January 26, 2024, <https://cis.org/Farnsworth/During-Human-Trafficking-Prevention-Month-CIS-Sues-HHS-UAC-Records>.

American and Mexican government actions and inactions. From America, it is primarily the DHS, DOJ, HHS, U.S.-based NGOs, and the ORR responsible for UACs.³⁵

If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. Matthew 18:6 (NIV)

Moral Evils: Cartels, Drugs and Crime

Throughout the history of the Southwest border, the power of the cartels has risen and fallen depending on many circumstances. The latest border crisis has turned into an open borders crisis, creating new dynamics that impact the cartels, crime, and drugs. These new dynamics have dramatically increased the power of Mexican cartels, significantly increased crime in Mexico and the U.S., and the inflow of drugs—especially fentanyl.³⁶ The fentanyl crisis, along with other drugs, is what many are calling the reverse Opium War against America by China using numerous proxies.³⁷ This time, the cartels are indeed in charge of the nation’s Southwest border on the Mexican side but also in some key areas on the American side and well past the border area—which puts the cartels de facto in charge of U.S. immigration policy.

As early as June 2021, it was likely that the Biden administration had ceded control of the border to the cartels. It was reported that “...agents at the Southwest border are under orders not to arrest smugglers ferrying migrants entering the United States illegally. Given this, the Biden administration has effectively ceded control over immigration policy to those smugglers — or more precisely to Mexico’s criminal cartels.”³⁸

The critical dynamic that has changed the cartels is the linkage of the Mexican cartels with the Chinese—specifically the Triads—a notorious criminal enterprise that operates and facilitates Chinese Communist Party (CCP) goals. It has been reported that the Triads have become the senior partner in their alliance with the Mexican cartels.³⁹ When it comes to fentanyl, the precursor chemicals for the manufacture of fentanyl come from PRC. The CCP deliberately facilitates fentanyl as a form of a WMD attack on America that falls into the CCP’s concept of Unrestricted Warfare.⁴⁰ Former senior FBI official Frank Montoya Jr., who served as a top counterintelligence official at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, stated CCP’s purpose clearly:

³⁵ Hannah Davis, “Fighting Human Trafficking and Battling Biden’s Open Border,” Heritage Foundation, March 14, 2023, <https://www.heritage.org/immigration/commentary/fighting-human-trafficking-and-battling-bidens-open-border>.

³⁶ Jessica M. Vaughn, “Biden Border Policies Are Working Fine — For the Cartels,” Center for Immigration Studies, February 5, 2024, <https://cis.org/Vaughan/Biden-Border-Policies-Are-Working-Fine-Cartels>.

³⁷ Peter Schweizer, *Blood Money: Why the Powerful Turn a Blind Eye While China Kills Americans*, Harper, 2024.

³⁸ Andrew R. Arthur, “Report Reveals Smugglers and Cartels Are Now in Charge of Immigration Policy,” Center for Immigration Studies, June 2, 2021, <https://cis.org/Arthur/Report-Reveals-Smugglers-and-Cartels-Are-Now-Charge-Immigration-Policy>.

³⁹ Sebastian Rotella and Kirsten Berg, “How a Chinese American Gangster Transformed Money Laundering for Drug Cartels,” *ProPublica*, October 11, 2022, <https://www.propublica.org/article/china-cartels-xizhi-li-money-laundering>.

⁴⁰ Schweizer, 2024; Robert Spaulding, *War Without Rules: China’s Playbook for Global Domination*, Sentinel, 2022.

We suspected a Chinese ideological and strategic motivation behind the drug and money activity. To fan the flames of hate and division. The Chinese have seen the advantages of the drug trade. If fentanyl helps them and hurts this country, why not?⁴¹

The impact of open borders on America's crime leaves little doubt of increased crime well beyond noteworthy cases (e.g., Laken Riley). Nevertheless, the noteworthy cases can provide a case study for insights, including the lack of data from sanctuary states, counties, and cities that justify the non-enforcement of illegal alien crime.⁴² In addition, immigration enforcement (e.g., ICE) is almost non-existent—even among known criminal aliens.

The Biden administration has dramatically cut immigration enforcement in the United States and the result has been a decrease in arrests, prosecutions, and removals of criminal aliens. The administration has chosen to leave tens of thousands of criminal aliens in American communities without any apparent concern about the impact on public safety and national security.⁴³

Moral Evil: National Security Threats Ignored

One of the most concerning threats may be what is termed “special interest aliens,” which, according to DHS, refers to an “illegal alien from a nation that either promotes terrorist activity, harbors terrorists, or poses a possible security threat to the U.S.”⁴⁴ The “special interest aliens” numbers have skyrocketed, including some 70,000 from terrorist nations in the last two years.⁴⁵ In addition, there are rising concerns about special interest aliens being primarily military-age men from countries like China and Russia. A February 2024 report showed that in FY 2024, 22,098 Chinese foreign nationals encountered at the Southwest border (through January 2024—263 in all of FY 2021), mainly in San Diego County--the epicenter of open borders now.⁴⁶ Even the FBI, including Director Ray, has legitimate national security concerns

⁴¹ Rotella and Berg, October 11, 2022.

⁴² Andrew R. Arthur, “Illegal Immigrant Killing of Nursing Student Elicits Yawns and Deflections from the Media,” *Center for Immigration Studies*, February 28, 2024, <https://cis.org/Arthur/Illegal-Immigrant-Killing-Nursing-Student-Elicits-Yawns-and-Deflections-Media>. Jon Feere, “Three Years of Biden Immigration Policies Have Benefitted Criminal Aliens,” *Center for Immigration Studies*, January 9, 2024, <https://cis.org/Report/Three-Years-Biden-Immigration-Policies-Have-Benefitted-Criminal-Aliens>.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, Arthur. See also Simon Hankinson, “How ‘Sanctuary Cities’ Are Costing American Lives: The BorderLine,” *The Daily Signal*, <https://www.dailysignal.com/2024/03/08/how-sanctuary-cities-are-costing-american-lives-borderline/>.

⁴⁴ Todd Bensman, “Thousands of ‘Special Interest Aliens’ Posing Potential National Security Risks Entering via CBP One App,” *Center for Immigration Studies*, October 24, 2023, <https://cis.org/Report/Thousands-Special-Interest-Aliens-Posing-Potential-National-Security-Risks-Entering-CBP-One>.

⁴⁵ Virginia Allen, “Here’s How Many Illegal Aliens from Terrorist or Suspect Nations Were Encountered at Border,” *The Daily Signal*, October 10, 2023, <https://www.dailysignal.com/2023/10/10/data-reveals-70000-illegal-alien-terrorist-threatening-nations-encountered-border/>.

⁴⁶ Bethany Blankley, “As Texas' Border Security Efforts Succeed, California is ‘New Epicenter’ of Crisis,” May 1, 2024, *Home Security News Wire*, <https://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20240501-as-texas-border-security-efforts-succeed-california-is-new-epicenter-of-crisis?page=0,1>. For more info on San Diego County crisis, see California Insider, “San Diego Border Resident Reveals What’s Happening at The Border | Cory Gautereaux,” at Epoch Times, streamed live April 13, 2024, YouTube Video, 48:59, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWOapuAUPtQ>.

about the border. However, his recent testimony was generic to the concerns of the “gotaways” and concerns about the number of illegal aliens apprehended that were on the terrorist watch list.⁴⁷

It is inconceivable to think that most of these Chinese nationals are crossing the border without the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) knowledge, acquiescence, or plan. Many likely have Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) affiliations,⁴⁸ Military State Security (MSS—China's CIA) or connected to transnational crime organizations tied to or based in China (e.g., Triad).⁴⁹ Massage parlors, weed factories, money laundering and facilitating human trafficking are some of the examples of Chinese foreign nationals' activities. One specific example is the use of Chinese foreign nationals in the rural portions of Maine at numerous Maine acreages that were purchased by the Triad and then turned into illicit drug factories.⁵⁰ In addition, Todd Bensman provided rationale based on his long-standing expertise, stating:

*China is sending them in because, like the millions of other nationalities coming in from all over the world, its apparatchiks well know Biden's Border Patrol will quickly process almost all of them into the country on their own recognizance to later claim asylum and sink roots into American society for years with almost no questioning or vetting at the border to discern past service in China's military and intelligence services.*⁵¹

Open Borders Executed-Enabled by American NGOs

For several years, articles and reports have expressed concerns and tried to understand how NGOs (e.g., the U.N., religious and non-religious NGOs) are part of the open border crisis and invasion. Intrepid reporters who have often followed the trail of immigrants have anecdotally reported on some NGOs' presence and activities. Nevertheless, there was little or no detailed investigative reporting on these activities until about a year ago.⁵² Since then, several experts have concluded that open borders could not have happened serendipitously. Without prior

⁴⁷ House Homeland Security Committee, “FBI Director Wray Confirms the Border Crisis Pose[s] Major Homeland Security Threat, DHS Secretary Mayorkas Stonewalls,” Testimony, November 15, 2023, <https://homeland.house.gov/2023/11/15/fbi-director-wray-confirms-the-border-crisis-poses-major-homeland-security-threat-dhs-secretary-mayorkas-stonewalls/>.

⁴⁸ Melissa Koenig, “Chinese nationals crossing into US from Mexico border reaches new high, sparking national security concerns,” NY Post, November 2, 2023, <https://nypost.com/2023/11/02/news/chinese-nationals-crossing-into-us-reaches-new-high/>.

⁴⁹ Melissa Koenig, “More Chinese migrants now crossing San Diego border than Mexican nationals: report,” NY Post, February 23, 2024, <https://nypost.com/2024/02/23/us-news/more-chinese-migrants-now-crossing-san-diego-border-than-mexicans-report/>.

⁵⁰ Steve Robinson, “Triad Weed: How Chinese Marijuana Grows Took Over Rural Maine,” *The Maine Wire*, November 8, 2023, <https://www.themainewire.com/2023/11/triad-weed-illegal-chinese-marijuana-grows-are-all-over-maine/>; See also Donovan Lynch, “Illegal marijuana sites dot central Maine amid scant enforcement” *News Center Maine*, November 27, 2023, <https://www.newscentermaine.com/article/news/crime/central-maine-sees-multiple-illegal-marijuana-sites-amid-scant-enforcement/97-0dd55f46-e344-49d2-8a7a-d4628c331bcf>.

⁵¹ Todd Bensman, “China is exploiting Biden's lax border policies — imperiling US security,” *NY Post*, February 25, 2024, <https://nypost.com/2024/02/25/opinion/china-is-exploiting-bidens-lax-border-policies-imperiling-us-security/>.

⁵² Heritage Staff. “Tracking Movement of Illegal Aliens from NGOs to the U.S. Interior,” *Heritage Foundation*, December 5, 2022, <https://www.heritage.org/the-oversight-project/securing-americas-borders/tracking-movement-illegal-aliens-ngos-the-us>.

coordination by the administration with NGOs (including the U.N. and American-based religious NGOs), the massive flow of illegal aliens into the U.S. and then dispersal throughout the country could not have happened. With trailblazing research, Todd Bensman breaks this story wide open with critical revelations.

A follow-up CIS examination of the more than 30 faith-based nonprofits among those UN NGO partners — representing Jewish, Lutheran, Seventh Day Adventist, Catholic, and nondenominational evangelical organizations — shows that the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) have been mainlining taxpayer funds to these groups, which then distribute them to keep hundreds of thousands of migrants comfortably moving toward illegal U.S. southern border crossings.⁵³

Benson’s revelations are infuriating, but it does not stop there. There is evidence now that citizen taxpayer dollars are facilitating open borders through U.S. contributions to the U.N. U.S. dollars are given to some 15 U.N. agencies based on the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP). In turn, those funds are given to numerous American religious NGOs.⁵⁴ Although detailed analysis is unavailable, prominent Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, and some Evangelical organizations are involved through U.S. direct funding (e.g., DHS, HHS, ORR), U.S. funding through various U.N. agencies, or both.

The Bible and Immigration

When analyzing the Bible and discerning a biblical worldview on immigration, borders, etc., it is critical to understand what the Bible intends as the purposes or roles of civil government. It is also vital to analyze Scripture’s imperatives, which apply to individuals, civil government, society, or some combination. Although Scripture does not go into great detail, there is little or no dispute that God’s primary purpose for civil government includes preserving order, protecting citizens (and others), and punishing wrongdoers (Rom. 13:1-7).⁵⁵ In addition, 1 Peter 2:13-17 and Titus 3:1 state that secular authorities “bear the sword” for “preserving law and order, fighting off invaders and punishing those who break the law.”⁵⁶

Biblical Worldview Analysis of Open Borders

A biblical worldview analysis is complex for some areas of modern life. It requires the proper use of hermeneutical and exegesis principles, as there is little direct reference to the complexities of current immigration issues in Scripture.⁵⁷ In addition, most of the insights come

⁵³ Todd Bensman, “Biden Admin. Sends Millions to Religious Nonprofits Facilitating Mass Illegal Migration,” *Center for Immigration Studies*, January 30, 2024, <https://cis.org/Bensman/Biden-Admin-Sends-Millions-Religious-Nonprofits-Facilitating-Mass-Illegal-Migration>.

⁵⁴ Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela, “Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP-Jan 2023-Dec 2024),” n.d., <https://www.r4v.info/en/rmrp2023-2024>.

⁵⁵ James R. Edwards, Jr. “A Biblical Perspective on Immigration Policy,” *Center for Immigration Studies*, September 16, 2009, pp. 1-2, <https://cis.org/Report/Biblical-Perspective-Immigration-Policy>.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, 2.

⁵⁷ Amstutz, 2017; Rae, 2018; Edwards, 2009; Hoffmeier, 2009.

from the Old Testament (or Torah), with some (not many) additional insights from the New Testament. Nevertheless, Mark Amstutz thoroughly analyzes immigration in his book *Just Immigration: American Policy in Christian Perspective*. Amstutz highlights how a biblical worldview provides essential insights from a moral perspective but has limitations for detailed and specific policy recommendations.

One important technique in studying Scripture is thoroughly examining the history and etymology of keywords in the original language (Hebrew or Greek). Some original language words do not translate well into English. The words sojourner, alien, foreigner, etc., are critical for this topic.⁵⁸ For example, the Old Testament has several Hebrew transliteration words for sojourner, alien, foreigner, and stranger: “ger, nekhar/nokri, and zar.”⁵⁹ “In the Hebrew Bible, the sojourner or alien (*ger*) was a person who entered Israel and followed legal procedures to obtain recognized standing as a resident alien.”⁶⁰ Therefore, according to Hoffmeier’s analysis, the Hebrew word “*ger*” likely refers to a legal alien of today.⁶¹ Rae states it slightly differently that the “...term [*ger*] describes a person from another land who has settled in the land and resembles a more permanent or integrating resident.”⁶² James Edwards makes similar claims—there are “two classes of aliens: 1) those who were temporary visitors, who owned no landed property; and 2) those who held permanent residence without becoming citizens (Lev. 22:10; Ps. 19:12). Nevertheless, both of these classes of aliens were their conditionally, but they had same basic rights as other Israelites (Lev.19:33, 34; Deut. 10:19).”⁶³ Those rights included equality under the law including no partiality shown (Num. 15:15-16).⁶⁴

In addition, the Hebrew terms for foreigner were “*nekhar* and *zar*.” The Scripture demonstrates a difference in treatment between “*ger*” and “*nekhar* and *zar*,” which lacked legal status and was not mentioned in the law.⁶⁵ “This is a salient point in the current debate about aliens and illegal immigrants in America, especially for those that look to the Bible to establish their position on how illegal aliens should be treated by the legal system.”⁶⁶ So, there is significant consensus amongst biblical scholars that “*ger*” was treated differently than “*nekhar*” and “*zar*.” Still, the Mosaic Law addresses the non-Israelites with care since Israel was a nation of sojourners. For the sojourners and aliens [“*ger*,”] Israel must (1) not take advantage, (2) assist the poor among them, (3) treat them the same as others within the community, and (4) include them in religious ceremonies. However, it is the responsibility of the outsider to be obedient to the Mosaic Law.⁶⁷ It is important to note that there are some differences between scholars as to the biblical terms and how they equate to illegal aliens of today.

⁵⁸ Hoffmeier, 2009; Edwards, 2009; Amstutz, 2017; Rae, 2018; Carrol R, 2020.

⁵⁹ Rae, 2018, 466.

⁶⁰ Hoffmeier, 2009, 71-72, 156.

⁶¹ Ibid., H1616 - *gār* - Strong's Hebrew Lexicon (nkjv). Retrieved from <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/h1616/nkjv/wlc/0-1/>. The KJV translates Strong's H1616 in the following manner: stranger (87x), alien (1x), sojourner (1x), stranger (with H376) (1x), stranger (with H4480) (1x), strangers (with H582) (1x). Other transliterations are-- גַּר *gār*, *gare*; or (fully) *geyr* (*gare*).

⁶² Rae, 2018, 466.

⁶³ Edwards, 2009, 2; Hoffmeier, 2009, 71-73. It is important to note that there are detractors to these views, including Carrol R. (2020) et al.

⁶⁴ Hoffmeier, 2009, 76, 154.

⁶⁵ Hoffmeier, 2009, 73. "H5236 - *nēkār* - Strong's Hebrew Lexicon (kjv)." Blue Letter Bible. Accessed 3 March 2024. <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/h5236/kjv/wlc/0-1/>;

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Rae, 2018, 471-477.

Figure 4: Summary of Biblical Analysis of Immigration/Open Borders Today⁶⁸

Questions/Values	Answer//Level of Confidence	Rationale/Support	Other
Does the Bible support borders?	Yes//High	Gen 15:18; Joshua 13-19	Communitarianism (statists), Positive Law
Does the Bible support open borders?	No//High	No biblical support.	Cosmopolitanism is globalist, but there are other forms of globalism: secularism, Postmodernism & Marxism—esp. Neo-[Cultural] Marxism.
Does the Bible support individuals, NGOs, or civil government enabling or facilitating open borders?	No, Individuals, No, NGOs No, Civil govt// High—all three	Agape to illegal aliens/immigrants but “never do anything to promote, enable or excuse illegal immigration [open borders]...” ⁶⁹	Contrarian view—compassion supersedes law: “Paradox 1: Compassion vs. law and order.” ⁷⁰
Does the Bible support preserving order and justice [restraining evil]?	Yes, primary role of civil govt//Very High	Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17; Titus 3:1	Civil govt: to both restrain evil and promote the good of its people. ⁷¹
Does the Bible support agape, compassion, and mercy?	Yes, primary role of individuals & churches//Very High	Ex 22:21; Matt 25:31-35; Gal 2: 10 Micah 6:8	“Paradox 1: Compassion vs. law and order.” ⁷²
Does the Bible support [modern] sanctuary states, counties, or cities?	No//High	Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17	Sanctuary concept(s) in the OT were notably different

⁶⁸ This figure is not exhaustive but a summary. The migration topic is beyond the scope of this article.

⁶⁹ “How should a Christian respond to illegal aliens/illegal immigrants?,” *Got Questions Ministry*, para 4, accessed March 16, 2024, <https://www.gotquestions.org/illegal-aliens-immigrants.html>. For a contrarian view, see Jed, “Christian Ethics and Immigration,” *The Lagos Blog*, September 27, 2021, <https://thelogosblog.com/christian-ethics-and-immigration/>. Article 4, Section 4 of the *U.S. Constitution* is clear regarding [open borders] invasions.

⁷⁰ Ott, Craig, and Tellez, Juan Carlos, “The paradox of American evangelical views on immigration: A review of the empirical research,” *Missiology*, Volume 47, Issue 3, July 2019, 257, <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0091829619858215>.

⁷¹ Amstutz and Meilaender argue that many high-profile public church statements on immigration, which stress love for the immigrant versus concern for the rule of law, typically do not deal adequately with “middle” level considerations such as “the purposes of politics, relationships between insiders and outsiders, and the foundations of international order.” Mark Amstutz and Peter Meilaender, “Public Policy & the Church: Spiritual Priorities,” *The City* (Spring 2011), 13. From Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. “Immigrants Among Us: A Lutheran Framework for Addressing Immigration Issues,” A Report on of the Commission on Theological Relations, November 2012.

⁷² Ott, Craig, and Tellez, Juan Carlos, July 2019, 257.

The noted Christian political scientist from Wheaton College, Mark Amstutz, has been one of the few who have explored the impact of worldviews on immigration and migration. However, his characterization of communitarianism and cosmopolitanism do not constitute complete worldviews like the biblical, Secular, Postmodern, and Marxist worldviews. Nevertheless, when sorting out open borders, "...two alternative worldviews or paradigms of our world are possible—communitarianism and cosmopolitanism. The terms statist and globalists also capture these two views."⁷³ In practical terms, the more radical globalists and others embrace the U.N. document, the *Global Compact for Migration*.⁷⁴ However, radical globalists come in various ideologies, including radical progressives, neo-Cultural Marxists, et al. Their primary arguments include that closed borders are unethical *prima facie*, a lack of [social] justice, other "woke" ideologies, and open borders are needed to reduce the effects of climate change.⁷⁵ It is likely that others may not be of the same worldviews or ideologies but see open borders as a way to accelerate America's decline for a myriad of reasons.

Evangelicals and Open Borders⁷⁶

There are a variety of religious groups in America. However, for an overview analysis of this topic, there are three main groups: 1) Catholics, 2) Mainline Protestants, and 3) Evangelicals.⁷⁷ The Catholics and mainline Protestants are very liberal when it comes to immigration and associated policies from leadership elites.⁷⁸ Although there are differences between the laity and the leadership elites of Catholics and mainline Protestants—they do not appear to be stark. Nevertheless, it is generally more problematic for the laity to have a strong voice in their hierarchal organizations. However, the differences between Evangelical laity and leadership appear much more pronounced. Nevertheless, the dynamics of Evangelical polity are considerably different as the laity generally has a stronger voice due to strong congregational polity compared to Catholics and most mainline Protestants.

The two most prominent organizations representing Evangelical churches are the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) and the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).⁷⁹ The NAE has no public statement or resolution on the open borders crisis or associated moral evils that have transpired since January 2021. The last significant resolution on immigration was back in 2009.⁸⁰ However, in a recent article, the NAE commended:

⁷³ Amstutz, 2017, 80-109.

⁷⁴ U.N., "Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)," n.d., <https://www.ohchr.org/en/migration/global-compact-safe-orderly-and-regular-migration-gcm>.

⁷⁵ John Washington, "11 Arguments for Open Borders," *The Nation*, February 5, 2024, <https://www.thenation.com/article/society/open-borders-immigration/>. This author (Rehberg) did a cursory review of academic papers on open borders via ProQuest over the last twenty years, finding numerous papers supporting open borders and none opposing them.

⁷⁶ Addie Offereins, "Evangelicals try to bring biblical views to immigration debate," *World Magazine*, February 7, 2024, <https://wng.org/roundups/evangelicals-try-to-bring-biblical-views-to-immigration-debate-1707335958>.

⁷⁷ Amstutz, 2017, 134-207.

⁷⁸ Amstutz, 2017, 134-155; 190-207.

⁷⁹ I consider the leaders of the NAE and SBC as Evangelical elites.

⁸⁰ National Association for Evangelicals (NAE), "Immigration," January 1, 2009, Resolution, <https://nae.org/immigration-2009/>.

*...Senators James Lankford, Chris Murphy and Kirsten Sinema for their extensive efforts to negotiate a bipartisan border security bill that seeks to honor our country's legacy as both a place of refuge and opportunity, and as a nation where laws are respected and our communities are protected.*⁸¹

Since January 2021, the SBC has not issued any public statements or resolutions on the open borders or the moral evils that have transpired. However, on June 15, 2023, the SBC passed a resolution, "On Wisely Engaging Immigration."⁸² That resolution affirmed that the people who protect the border "...promote peace and order, including strong borders and clear immigration policies as well as care for migrants— not sacrificing one for the other."⁸³ This resolution showed movement toward stronger borders than previous SBC resolutions in 2018, 2011, and 2006.⁸⁴ However, none of the moral evils of open borders were addressed.

Before immigration was radicalized with open borders, many Christians provided a leavening for a society that was enabled by the insights from a biblical worldview. Since illegal immigration activities were mainly on the margins, the impacts and consequences to the country were substantive but not a crisis. America slowly shifted into rationale and justification for lawlessness at the foundations. Virtually no one predicted that these radical positions would be aggressively and intentionally implemented so soon. These changes came like the "thief in the night" or a "frog in the kettle," with most silent and too few prepared to stand in the gap with any fortitude against open borders and their subsequent moral evils.

Nevertheless, the cumulative effects have culminated in shifts that sharply and dramatically moved America from *de facto* immigration lawlessness, to open borders lawlessness and to what many believe is an outright open borders invasion. Many Christians appear blind to the paradigm shift and crisis warning signs of these dramatic turning points. From the radical academic views at American universities--to radical open border policies intentionally planned and implemented (with help from religious NGOs), the moral evils promulgated on a grand scale. Furthermore, most Christian leaders and laity were silent and are silent still.

*Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. Not to speak is to speak.
Not to act is to act. God will not hold us guiltless.*⁸⁵

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Isaiah 5:20-NIV

⁸¹ National Association for Evangelicals (NAE), "[Senate] Immigration Proposal Deserves Serious Consideration," February 5, 2024, NAE Statement, <https://www.nae.org/immigration-proposal-deserves-serious-consideration/>. The author believes that the NAE overstepped the boundaries of biblical-informed justification by supporting this bill based on Amstutz's (2017) criteria. The bill did not even purport to stop open borders, which means the moral evils of open borders would continue.

⁸² Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), "On Wisely Engaging Immigration," Resolution passed on June 15, 2023, <https://www.sbc.net/resource-library/resolutions/on-wisely-engaging-immigration/>.

⁸³ *Ibid.*, para 4.

⁸⁴ Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), "Resources in Resolutions," n.d., Database of historical resolutions, <https://www.sbc.net/resource-library/resolutions/>.

⁸⁵ Eric Metaxas. *Letter to the American Church*, (Salem, 2022), 51-52. Not directly tied to Dietrich Bonhoeffer but associated with him.

American Foundations: Spiritual and Moral Health

A 2024 Pew Research poll has shown that most Americans (78%) believe the border situation is either a crisis or a major problem.⁸⁶ In addition, by all appearances, this will likely be the top issue for many voters in November 2024. So, how can this continue when most Americans (including most Christians) oppose it and (80%) state the government is doing a bad job?⁸⁷ How is it that the political elites ignore the sincere concerns of a vast majority of Americans with rationalizations that are not credible with a pungent odor of mendacity?

In the last thirty years, there have been significant changes in America's spiritual health, worldviews, and moral health. A worldview analysis can help explain spiritual health and moral health changes and interactions. The changes in the worldview distribution in America demonstrate a significant decline in moral health, which supports increased radical moral relativism and attacks the foundations of morality. Radical moral relativism rejects the morality of secure borders as foundational to the rule of law.

When little or no objective morality undergirds the rule of law, it can no longer be sustained. One can point to an erosion of America's foundations that have accelerated the nation towards radical moral relativism. Some even claim open borders as part of a new moral order.⁸⁸ Over the last three decades, there has been a sizable percentage of American elites and a public who disdain any objective morality, including moral principles like the Golden Rule (Matthew 22:39) shared by most religions, including some secular moral traditions.⁸⁹ However, the worldviews of American elites and foremost organizations that impact values, virtues, and behaviors correlating to the nation's moral health have moved radically to the open borders position. Therefore, it is not coincidental that America's foundations—its spiritual health have rapidly declined with significant changes in worldviews; in turn, those changes to worldviews have influenced moral beliefs that affect the overall moral health of the nation writ large.⁹⁰

Nevertheless, religious beliefs significantly impact worldviews and influence moral beliefs. Recent reports show that Gallup recorded the lowest belief in God ever in July 2023.⁹¹ That has been supported and bolstered by a *Wall Street Journal* (March 2023 poll), demonstrating a rapid decline in religious faith and patriotism.⁹² Our Founders repeatedly warned us of this malady, and James Madison was indeed prophetic when he stated:

⁸⁶ Pew Research Center, "How Americans View the Situation at the U.S.-Mexico Border, Its Causes and Consequences," February 15, 2024, <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2024/02/15/how-americans-view-the-situation-at-the-u-s-mexico-border-its-causes-and-consequences/>.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ Gerald Baker, "The New Moral Order Is Already Crumbling," *Wall Street Journal* <https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-new-moral-order-is-already-crumbling-climate-europe-immigration-australia-25d21439?page=1>.

⁸⁹ Matthew 22:39

⁹⁰ George Barna, "Release #4: The National Religious Realignment: Identifying Dramatic Changes in Long-Term Faith Commitments," Cultural Resource Center (CRC), June 8, 2021, https://www.arizonachristian.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2021/06/CRC_AWVI2021_Release04_Digital_01_20210608.pdf

⁹¹ Megan Brenan, "Belief in Five Spiritual Entities Edges Down to New Lows," *Gallup*, July 20, 2023, <https://news.gallup.com/poll/508886/belief-five-spiritual-entities-edges-down-new-lows.aspx>

⁹² Aaron Zitner, "America Pulls Back From Values That Once Defined It, WSJ-NORC Poll Finds," *Wall Street Journal*, March 27, 2023, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/americans-pull-back-from-values-that-once-defined-u-s-wsj-norc-poll-finds-df8534cd>.

*But I go on this great republican principle, that the people will have virtue and intelligence to select men of virtue and wisdom. Is there not virtue among us? If there be not, we are a wretched situation... To suppose that any form of government will secure liberty without virtue in the people, is a chimerical idea.*⁹³

George Barna (for ~30 years) has cataloged a corresponding decline in the Christian worldview and an emerging syncretism or a watered-down version of the Christian worldview.⁹⁴ In addition, there has been a significant increase in the worldviews of Postmodernism, which is "...at the forefront of the emerging, non-traditional moral order in America," and Secular Humanism, which has significantly eroded traditional American morality over the last century.⁹⁵ Still more disturbing is the growth of cultural [Neo] Marxism.⁹⁶ The growth of the Marxist worldview demonstrates that many "...common moral choices in the United States these days are consistent with Marxist ideals."⁹⁷ Together, these trends increasingly boost radical relativism that supports radical open borders--destroying the foundations that underpin the rule of law.

The foundations of law and order have collapsed. What can the righteous do?
Psalm 11:3 (NLT)

Conclusion and Recommendations

Has America already passed its fork in the road regarding its decline? Regardless, if America is to survive and thrive—it must reverse its spiritual and moral decline, or it will descend further into an abyss with not a mere “managed decline” but an accelerated decline. Few people realize that when a constitutional republic is in decline--mere politics will not save it. It is the foundations that must be revived and strengthened. That means a spiritual revival is *sine quo non* to long-term survival and sustainment—not just better politics and effective public policy. Many Christians believe that spiritual revival would see new converts and lukewarm adherents recommit to discipleship for spiritual growth. In turn, spiritual growth results in greater

⁹³ AZ Quotes, “James Madison Quotes on Virtue,” n.d., https://www.azquotes.com/author/9277-James_Madison/tag/virtue.

⁹⁴ George Barna, “Release #1: America’s Dominant Worldview Syncretism,” CRC, April 13, 2021, https://www.arizonachristian.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2021/05/CRC_AWVI2021_Release01_Digital_01_20210413.pdf.

⁹⁵ George Barna, “Release #8: Postmodernism and Secular Humanism Increasingly Influence American Adults,” Cultural Resource Center, October 19, 2021, https://www.arizonachristian.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CRC_AWVI2021_Release08_Digital_01_20211019.pdf.

⁹⁶ Mike Gonzalez and Katherine Gorka, “How Cultural Marxism Threatens the United States—and How Americans Can Fight It,” *Heritage Foundation*, November 14, 2022, <https://www.heritage.org/progressivism/report/how-cultural-marxism-threatens-the-united-states-and-how-americans-can-fight>.

⁹⁷ George Barna, “Release #7: What Americans Find Attractive about Marxism,” Cultural Resource Center, September 30, 2021, https://www.arizonachristian.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/CRC_AWVI2021_Release07_Digital_02_20210930.pdf

sanctification, placing great importance on moral faithfulness, which includes virtue/character development as a foundational priority.⁹⁸

The relationships discussed can be best explained in the Golden Triangle of Freedom (Figure 5): “Freedom requires virtue; virtue requires faith; and faith requires freedom.”⁹⁹ This Golden Triangle of Freedom (GTF) has two sides already introduced—spiritual health for “faith” and “virtue” for moral health. What has not been discussed directly heretofore is that freedom requires virtue. In most cases, a society with less virtue results in many more laws, which invariably leads to less freedom. When we say virtue requires faith, it means that the predominant motivator for virtue is faith. Nevertheless, faith requires freedom—it cannot be vibrant or effective if faith is coerced. The Founders understood that freedom—including religious liberty--the first part of the First Amendment--is not by accident.¹⁰⁰

*Without this triangle of freedom, freedom cannot and will not last. If we celebrate freedom but remove from it all virtue until no good remains, we will not only lose freedom but ensure what is left is evil.*¹⁰¹

Figure 5: The Golden Triangle of Freedom (GTF)¹⁰²



The following comprise some critical recommendations based on this article:

The Evangelical Church must be the Church. That means the Evangelical Church must live out its biblical mission and calling. Evangelical churches must be spiritually vibrant while avoiding “cheap grace” and be active in discipleship, including virtue/character development, Christian ethics, and worldview education.¹⁰³

⁹⁸ Gary Tyra, *Pursuing Moral Faithfulness*, (Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2015), 13.

⁹⁹ Os Guinness, *Unspeakable: Facing Up to the Challenge of Evil*, (Harper-Collins, 2005), 100-103. Metaxas, *Letter to the American Church*, 2022, 51-70.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ Guinness, *Unspeakable*, 102.

¹⁰² First Liberty, “The Forgotten Triangle of Freedom,” April 20, 2018, <https://firstliberty.org/news/the-forgotten-triangle-of-freedom/>.

¹⁰³ George Barna, *Raising Spiritual Champions: Nurturing Your Child’s Heart, Mind and Soul*, (Arizona Christian University Press), 2023. See also James Davison Hunter, *The Death of Character: Moral Education in Age Without Good or Evil*, (Basic Books, 2000).

The Evangelical Church must expose the moral evils of open borders and take action in Christlikeness.

The Evangelical Church must expose the substantial increase in moral evils (e.g., child sex trafficking) due to open border policies. Evangelical organizations (e.g., SBC, NAE) should draft and pass resolutions exposing and highlighting the moral evils of open borders (See Appendix 1 for a sample resolution).

The Evangelical Church should urge all Americans to expose, educate, and eradicate the moral evils of open borders. The Evangelical Church should lead in exposing, educating, mitigating, and eradicating human trafficking, but especially the heinously wicked moral evils of child sex trafficking and other moral evils. Organizations like the Project Defend and Protect Our Children and others should be encouraged, supported and utilized as a catalyst for exposing, educating, and eradicating child trafficking and other moral evils.¹⁰⁴

The Evangelical Church must call on all Evangelical organizations to stop activities that are enabling moral evils due to open borders. Evangelical individuals and organizations should not be promoting, enabling/facilitating, or excusing open borders (and illegal immigrants/immigration) and their associated moral evils. However, we should demonstrate the love of Christ to the victims of the open border moral evils with action while continuing to show agape to legal and illegal immigrants themselves.¹⁰⁵

Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. Ephesians 5:11-13 (NIV)

The Evangelical Church must call on U.S. government (federal, state and local) to end open borders and restore the rule of law.

The U.S. government (federal, state, and local) must end open borders, restore the rule of law, and return to the border status quo circa December 2020.

Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it. The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right; his ears are open to their cries for help. But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil; he will erase their memory from the earth. Psalm 34:14-16

¹⁰⁴ Project Defend and Protect Our Children, America’s Future, <https://www.americasfuture.net/project-defend-and-protect-our-children/>.

¹⁰⁵ “How should a Christian respond to illegal aliens/illegal immigrants?” Got Questions Ministry, para 4, accessed March 16, 2024, <https://www.gotquestions.org/illegal-aliens-immigrants.html>.

APPENDIX 1
Sample Church or Church Organization Resolution

"Exposing the Moral Evils of Open Borders"

WHEREAS, By creating them in His own image, God bestowed upon every human inherent value and dignity no matter their background, race, ethnicity, national origin, or language; and

WHEREAS, We rightly proclaim that any form of nativism, mistreatment, or exploitation is inconsistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, For the ordering of civil society, God has ordained human government to both restrain moral evil and promote the good of its people in the distinct roles entrusted to government by God (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-14); and

WHEREAS, The Bible declares that all people are created by God in His own image (Genesis 1:26-27), teaches the sanctity and dignity of all human life (Psalm 8:4-5), and requires us to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves (Proverbs 31:8, 9); and

WHEREAS, the United States suffers from the worst border crisis in its history (open borders) by almost every measure, and the federal government is not restraining moral evils in human trafficking (including child sex trafficking), criminals, drugs (e.g., fentanyl), other moral evils and not promoting the good of its people by policies and funding that have resulted in allowing and facilitating moral evils; and

WHEREAS, Jesus declared that it is better to have a millstone tied around one's neck than to cause a child to stumble (Mark 9:42) and have nothing to do with the moral evils of darkness but expose them (Proverbs 3:7; 8:13; Ephesians 5:11); and

WHEREAS, Flowing from these God-given responsibilities, governments should promote peace and order, including enforcing strong borders, and Southern Baptists are deeply grateful for the men and women who continue to serve our nation to protect its people by enforcing border and immigration laws and seeking the good of our neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Christians, including Southern Baptists, have long sought to care for the vulnerable, to promote the dignity and unity of the family, and to provide for those who come to this nation legally--seeking safety, freedom, and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, God commands us to take the gospel to all people (Matt 28:18-20, Acts 1:8), and our churches continue to strive to reflect the kingdom of heaven, which includes people from every tribe, nation, and tongue—who seek to love God and love their neighbor as themselves as they serve our communities in faithfulness and are part of God's work in revitalizing our churches (Matthew 22:37-39); now, therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, June 9-12, 2024, affirm the inherent dignity and value of all people, regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity, culture, national origin, or legal status; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage all elected officials (federal, state, and local) to prioritize measures and policies that secure our borders, that support the rule of law with the enforcement of laws, policies, and adequate resources to the Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE), and others; and be it further

RESOLVED, We urge all Christians to expose, educate, help mitigate, and eradicate the moral evils of open borders, which includes human trafficking, but especially the heinously wicked moral evils of child sex trafficking, while exposing those that are enabling, assisting, and facilitating these moral evils and develop Call to Action plans; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we implore all U.S. government organizations (federal, state, local) to take swift and effective actions to protect and eradicate our communities from the moral evils of open borders that have accelerated human trafficking--especially child sex trafficking, including exploitation of unaccompanied alien children (UACs), criminal illegal immigrants, cartels, drugs (especially fentanyl), illegal immigrants with heightened national risks (e.g., China, Russia, terrorist nations); and be it further

RESOLVED, That we commend the excellent work of Southern Baptists among legal immigrants, refugees, and victims of the moral evils of open borders (including victims of human trafficking--especially child sex trafficking) and encourage pastors and lay leaders to continue sharing the gospel, provide Christlike care for many men, women, and children impacted and develop Call to Action plans (local, state and national); and be it further

RESOLVED That we ensure that the language and manner in which we discuss open borders, immigration/refugee policies and practices will recognize and promote the dignity and value of all human beings, including those in our society with differing views; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That as we recognize how the Lord Jesus Christ is at work among us, we will continue to strive toward a just and flourishing society, striving to expose, educate, and eradicate human trafficking, child sex trafficking, and other moral evils, evidenced by our Christlikeness with fortitude while demonstrating love of God and Christlike agape to our neighbors.

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