

FREEDOM IS NEVER MORE THAN  
ONE GENERATION AWAY FROM EXTINCTION...  
- RONALD REAGAN

# ONE GENERATION AWAY

THE CHANGING FACE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN AMERICA

PASTOR/MEMBER ENGAGEMENT GUIDE

MEDIA | FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

WRITTEN BY DAN PANETTI

## PASTOR'S GUIDE

### What?

The movie One Generation Away is a fast-paced, informational film produced by American Family Studios and Echolight Studios in conjunction with Abington Ridge Films and Triple Horse Studios. The following topics are discussed in this film:

**Religious symbols**  
**Discrimination**  
**Religious Persecution**  
**Practical Action Steps**

**Christians in business**  
**Religion in the Military**  
**Discerning the Times**  
**Framing of America**

**Separation of Church and State**  
**Religious Freedom on College Campuses**  
**Public Education and Religion**

### How?

The movie One Generation Away has a running time of 85 minutes and can be shown to your congregation to deepen their awareness and understanding of multiple current cultural issues. The film is non-partisan and non-denominational and is appropriate for most age groups from middle school and older (the film does address the topic of homosexuality and same-sex marriage from a cultural standpoint only).

### Who?

The issue of religious liberty touches every Christian living in this country and, in effect, touches every American. If you have Christians in your congregation with children in the public school or if you have Christian businessmen and women who want to take Biblical values into their place of work, they need to see this film. If you have Christians in your congregation connected to the military or who are professional counselors, they need to see this film. If you live in a community that is considering an ordinance adding “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” to their anti-discrimination policy, you need to show this film. If you have Christians in your congregation who don't take every opportunity to vote, you need to show this film.

### Why?

While the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects the ability of citizens to freely exercise their religion in the marketplace of ideas, there has been a dramatic shift over recent years in this concept. It is becoming far more common that some people want freedom from religion instead of freedom of religion and they are using the courts to systematically erode religious freedom for all Americans. Listen to the wisdom of former President Ronald Reagan:

*Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it on to our children in the bloodstream. The only way they can inherit the freedom we have known is if we fight for it, protect it, defend it and then hand it to them with the well taught lessons of how they in their lifetimes must do the same. And if you and I don't do this, then you and I may well spend our sunset years telling our children, and our children's children, what it once was like in America when men were free.*

## **MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND!**

*Listed below are the Action Steps suggested in the film One Generation Away:*

### **1. Repentance and Humility**

- Many people outside the church, and especially those of the younger generation, see the church as exclusionary and intolerant. In addition, some people see the church as part of the problem, not part of the solution. Understand that there is some validity to the opinions of others and proceed graciously as you engage culture for the cause of Christ. Remember that as ambassadors of Christ, our ultimate goal is to lift up Jesus in all we say and do, so as we have the opportunity to interact with others let them see our good deeds as we glorify God.
- Before you speak to others, prayerfully ask God to give you humility as you speak the truth in love. Remember that your actions can speak louder than your words!

### **2. Become Informed**

- First, know your rights as a citizen. Liberty Institute has some outstanding resources on their website to help you know your rights, especially if you are a student in a public school (<https://www.libertyinstitute.org/pages/about/resources>)
- Secondly, become informed on the issue at hand. Don't just take second-hand information, take the time to read and study an issue well enough that you can explain it to others. Connect with a Biblically-minded organization to help you stay informed and involved. A great place to start is with a family policy council recognized by the Family Research Council (<http://www.frc.org/state-policy-organizations>)

### **3. Vote**

- The political process in America is dependent on the involvement of a concerned and well-informed citizenry. Take the time to cast an informed ballot and also consider engaging in the political process through involvement in a political party. Major political parties document their views and values in their party platforms - informed citizens should become familiar with these stated positions.

### **4. Speak the Truth in Love**

- John wrote that the world would know we are Christians by our love. We must remember that in speaking truth into a situation, we must also demonstrate the love of Jesus even as it was demonstrated to us while we were yet sinners!

### **5. Share Resources**

- Share the film One Generation Away with others. Look for additional resources from trusted sources such as The Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview (<http://www.colsoncenter.org/wfp-home>) or The Truth Project from Focus on the Family (<http://www.thetruthproject.org/>).