

BUILDING & Battling

A quarterly publication of the



Winter 2021 - Vol. 33, Issue 2

All dates are tentative and subject to cancellation due to COVID-19 restrictions

AACS National Fine Arts Award Ceremony
April 16, 7 p.m.
streamed at aacs.org

BCSO Fine Arts Review Mtg
May 13 (a.m.)
via Zoom

BCSO Board of Directors' Mtg
May 13 (p.m.)
via Zoom

AACS Youth Legislative Training Conference
July 5-9
Washington, D.C.

A full, downloadable 2-year calendar of events is available on our website.

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BCSO school leadership asked to voice support for tax credit program

Ohio leadership asked to adopt a Non-Chartered Scholarship Tax Credit Program

By Jeremy Bickelhaupt ~ Editor, *Building & Battling*



BCSO President, Rob Kurtz

In a recent email, BCSO President Rob Kurtz asked BCSO school administrators and their supporting churches to reach out to their local state representatives to voice their support of the proposal of a non-chartered scholarship tax credit program.

“An opportunity has arisen that may be a tangible blessing from God for our BCSO schools,” said Kurtz. “Discussions are ongoing regarding tuition tax credits and scholarship granting organizations. The potential benefit for our schools is enormous.”

Kurtz continued, saying, “BCSO schools have operated with a sincerely held religious belief that we will not accept government money and the associated government control. As days pass and the direction of our country continues away from Biblical values, this belief becomes more important. However, our school families pay taxes that assist students enrolled in government schools and in schools that accept vouchers. This tuition tax credit opportunity would afford our families some long overdue support. Instead of paying taxes to the state, individuals, families and

See ‘Tax Credit’ on pg 3

“If we work upon marble, it will perish; if we work upon brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal minds and instill into them just principles, we are then engraving that upon tablets which no time will efface, but will brighten and brighten to all eternity.”

~ Daniel Webster

No Authority But of God

Obey those in authority; yet, resist the abuses of authority



By Keith Hamblen,
BCSO Executive Director

Mr. Jamison Coppola represents us well in Washington, D.C. as he serves as our AACCS Government Affairs Director. Jamison has a grasp of the biblical theology of civil government along with a biblical philosophy of our country's founding. His background includes active local church involvement including administrating his church's Christian school. He recently cited a 1750 Jonathan Mayhew sermon, which John Adams said significantly influenced Christians' moving toward a "Declaration of Independence." A synopsis of that sermon is easily found at the National Humanities Resource Center entitled, "[A Discourse Concerning Unlimited Submission and Nonresistance to the Higher Powers.](#)"

While we cannot predict what will happen as the Biden administration's executive orders trickle down (thirty-two as of 2/25/21), as health departments pressure our teachers to get immunized, and as Governor DeWine continues giving directives touching our daily lives, we do know that we intend to respond biblically. It is good to review principles pertaining to the Christian's response to civil government. Here are six:

- 1) See **authority itself as always good** (in the sense that "there is no authority but of God") - (Rom 13:1-7; I Pet 2:13-16; II Pet 2:10-11; Acts 23:2-5).
- 2) Understand that **abusers of authority are to be resisted** - (Ex 5:1-14:31; Dan 1:8-16; 3:17-18; Acts 4:19; 16:37; 25:11/28:19).
- 3) Identify who is legitimately in authority, that is, **who has jurisdiction** - (Mark 12:17; Rom 13:7).
- 4) **Obey God rather than man** - (Acts 5:29).
- 5) **Disobey only when authorized** by another authority (interposition: all levels of authority are "of God," so an individual should avoid resisting authority without operating with the sanction of another authority) - (Rom 13:1).
- 6) **Consider what others have written:** *A Discourse Concerning Unlimited Submission and Nonresistance to the Higher Powers*—Jonathan Mayhew; *A Defense of Liberty Against Tyrants*—1579; *Lex Rex*—Samuel Rutherford, *The 1776 Report*—The President's Advisory 1776 Commission (1/21); *Theology of Civil Government*—CBCLima.org *Informational Booklets*) (**Pro 25:2**—some things must be searched out; **Rom 12:1-2**—there will be judgment calls but we can know the perfect will of God; e.g., John MacArthur responded to criticism when they kept their church open despite the governor's order by saying that all Christians eventually must decide where to draw the line and some will draw it sooner than later). [An excellent analysis of what happened at the Capital on November 4, as well as a simple explanation of "wokeness" and its relationship to Marxism and critical theory is found in an interview of James Lindsey entitled, "[A New Leninism Is Gripping America](#)"]

Summary: Obey those in authority; yet, resist abuses of authority. – II Kings 16:10-16 (bad example); II Chronicles 26:16-23 (good example)

Continued from 'Tax Credit,' pg 1

businesses could divert the money to scholarship granting organizations. Our school families could then receive some help with tuition costs.”

The specifics of the program to be proposed were included in a separate email from BCSO Legislative Director, Izaak VanderSchel. The proposal

summary can be found on our legislative [page](#) of [bcso.schools.org](#).

“This idea has already been implemented in twenty other states. We are encouraging our legislators to consider adopting a similar approach in Ohio,” said Kurtz. “We hope to have a proposal completed to submit to Ohio leadership. Please pray that God will open doors and hearts, if this is His will.”



EVENT updates: 2021 Basketball Tournament

Submitted by Chris Brown, BCSO Athletic Director

Results from Saturday, February 20, 2020.

Junior High Boys

1st place - Temple (Dayton)
2nd place - LCCA
3rd place - Heritage (Findlay)
Sportsmanship - Heritage (Findlay)

All-Tournament Team

Jansen Gregory - Wayside
Cyle Hughes - LCCA
Ishbin Inyat - High Street
Robert Dell Aria - Temple (Dayton)
Jack Mamula - Temple (Dayton)

Varsity Boys

1st place - Temple (Dayton)
2nd place - High Street Baptist Academy
3rd place - LCCA
Sportsmanship - Wayside

Tournament MVP

Samuel Ashley - Temple (Dayton)



EVENT INFO: 2021 National Fine Arts

This year's AACCS National Competition will be a virtual event. The AACCS Competition Manual (2020 edition) will govern the competition. Only competitors who have won or placed in an AACCS certified state or regional competition may participate.

Because there is not a good way to conduct/judge a meaningful competition with the limitations of the event, the following categories will not be included in the Virtual AACCS National Competition: Bible Quizzing, Debate, Science Fair.

Virtual 2021 Schedule

March 1 *Early Online Registration Opens*
April 2, midnight EST *School Registration Deadline*
April 16, 7:00 PM EST *Award Presentation Streamed Live*

Please be sure to follow all updates at [aacs.org](#).

Joint Statement issued on behalf of Christian schools and educators

The American Association of Christian Schools (AACCS) and the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), representing over 3,000 Christian schools and many hundreds of thousands of students and families, join to express their deep concern about the deceptively named Equality Act (HR 5) which attempts to mandate a single government-approved vision of human sexuality that brooks no exceptions. The bill achieves this uniform mandate of belief by two principal means: first, its elimination of any exemption for genuine religious viewpoints to the contrary; second, its explicit ban on the use of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) to assert a defense for a religious viewpoint contrary to government mandate.

Even at first blush, the Equality Act is so extreme that, unlike almost all state and local sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) requirements, it allows no exemptions for religious non-profits. It does not stop there: it explicitly bans any appeal to the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) which merely gives a religious entity its day in court when faith and government policy conflict. It is the very opposite of a good faith attempt to allow diversity of opinion and respect for those who disagree.

The Equality Act is fundamentally an attack on human dignity and diversity of belief. Its supporters must know and fully appreciate the bill's totalitarian impulse by their explicit refusal to allow for religious and moral citizens the ability to live according to their beliefs. By contrast, Christian schools teach a consistent message of human flourishing held by millions of humans over millennia grounded in biblical teachings of God's love for every person, each of whom is made in His image. This legislation threatens the ability of our schools and educators to share this Good News and to live according to those positive, hope-filled Divine standards.

Our concern is real: some states have already banned faith-based foster and adoption agencies from performing their mission based entirely on their faith-informed view of marriage. Those states choose bigotry over children in-need even in desperate times. The Equality Act imposes a similar threat to faith-based entities whose views on sexuality and marriage accord with what Justice Kennedy described in *Obergefell* as views that “long [have] been held—and continue to be held—in good faith by reasonable and sincere people.”

AACCS and ACSI respectfully appeal to Congress: Please consider this as an opportunity to listen to the voices of people who are desperate to be heard, who care deeply about doing the right thing, and who want very much to see unity genuinely expressed by our elected officials. HR 5, by contrast, is an extremely divisive measure and intentionally forces conflict between people who have sincere but opposing views. Don't let the Equality Act sacrifice the common good on the altar of government-imposed viewpoints. Respect those who uphold the truth about human sexuality and marriage. Do not allow a one-size-fits-all government mandate to abolish the diversity of viewpoints, especially those based on human dignity as expressed in the Judeo-Christian reality.

**This legislation was passed by the House in 2019 but blocked in the Republican-led Senate. This time around, Democrats control the White House, House and Senate. President Biden has signaled his support for the measure. The resolution has once again passed the House (2/25/21) and is now in the Senate. Please contact our Ohio senators to express your opposition to H.R. 5.*

Statement submitted by Jamison Coppola (AACCS) and George Tryfiates (ACSI)