



Indivisible: Restoring Faith, Family, and Freedom Before It's Too Late

James Robison, Jay W. Richards

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Many books have been written on conservative politics. Many more have been written calling Christians to holiness and spiritual revival. Few, however, have managed to combine a clear explanation of the conservative political perspective with its corresponding personal and spiritual virtue.

In INDIVISIBLE, James Robison, the founder and president of LIFE Outreach International, partners with Jay Richards, Ph.D., a writer who has appeared in both the *New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. Together, they tackle tough, controversial political issues facing conservative Christians today, including abortion, stem cell research, education, economics, health care, the environment, judicial activism, marriage, and others. Written to appeal to a broad spectrum of believers, INDIVISIBLE not only argues political questions from a Scriptural standpoint, it also provides simple arguments that Christians can use to support their beliefs in public settings.

Most significantly, Robison and Richards recognize that the point of origin for spiritual and moral transformation is the individual. "We are convinced by historical precedent that long term cultural change requires not merely sound thinking and public good works but rather, God's spiritual and moral transformation of us as individuals, which will then transform our churches, our communities, our culture, and ultimately our politics."

James Robison is the founder and president of LIFE Outreach International, a worldwide Christian relief organization. He is also the host of *LIFE Today*, a daily syndicated television program that reaches 300 million homes in the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Australia. He is the author of many books, including *The Absolutes*, *True Prosperity*, and *Living in Love*, and has spoken to millions of people through evangelistic crusades since entering public ministry in 1962.

Jay W. Richards, Ph.D., is a Senior Fellow at the Discovery Institute and the author of many books, including the award-winning *Money, Greed, and God* and *The Privileged Planet*. He is the executive director of the documentaries *The Call of the Entrepreneur* and *The Birth of Freedom*. He has been featured in the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* and has appeared on *Larry King Live*. He has also lectured on economic myths to members of the U.S. Congress.

Indivisible: Restoring Faith, Family, and Freedom Before It's Too Late Details

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From Reader Review Indivisible: Restoring Faith, Family, and Freedom Before It's Too Late for online ebook

Katrinka says

My interest in this book rose and fell, sometimes I think due to theories and philosophies outside my knowledge, but the authors gave a balanced and intelligent case for being hopeful about the state of our country with the proper action on our part. There was also plenty of interesting evidence provided to convince the reader why it is in our best interest to protect faith, family and freedom. I feared this book might be extreme in its views, but it was very sensible. I am glad I read it to the end; I feel I am better educated and optimistic for it.

Richard says

This book presents by far the clearest, simplest, most direct defense of traditional values that I have ever read. I highly recommend this book to everyone whether or not you buy into the authors' viewpoint. In fact, especially if you disagree with the authors, you should read this book because it gives you the arguments for the "other" side - respectfully, unpatronizingly, and without excess

Yes, there are a lot of God references in the book. Both authors are men of faith. I don't share the religion of either man, but I can certainly appreciate where they are coming from and why. It doesn't invalidate their arguments. It simply informs me where they are coming from - what their core beliefs are. I don't agree with some of their conclusions or some of their premises, but that's OK. This book makes me think and evaluate my own positions. And that's a good thing for anyone to do.

When I first started reading this book, I thought that it would simply be a trite recitation of traditional values. Boy was I wrong. Occasionally, the book does seem to veer into the obvious, and I started to think, "Well, I can skip the rest of this chapter." But then a page or two later, they go in a direction I didn't expect, or they come up with an analogy I hadn't thought of before, or they go deeper into a subject I hadn't thought through completely on my own.

My hat is off to James Robison and Jay Richards for what they have done here. I hope it isn't too late.

Jamie Byrd says

There is so much good that I could say about this book that it would take all night. Just read it, you will learn a ton and see why our Founders formed the type of government they did and how we today are destroying it.

Jeff Miller says

I recently received Indivisible: Restoring Faith, Family, and Freedom Before It's Too Late for review.

INDIVISIBLE can be a turning point in the moral, cultural, and economic decline of the United States-if its readers make it so. The authors-a leading Evangelical and a prominent Catholic-fairly and thoroughly lay out the fundamental principles without which family, freedom, and prosperity will virtually disappear in this country. If men and women of good will, aware of the historic challenges we face, cannot unite behind these principles-indivisibly social, moral, and economic-and elect leaders who will implement them, future generations will only know of the greatness of this nation as the fading story of a lost treasure." (Father Joseph Fessio, S.J., Founder and Editor, Ignatius Press)

The book is written jointly by James Robison, the founder and president of LIFE Outreach International, and Jay Richards, Ph.D a Senior Fellow of the Discovery Institute. This is a rather ambitious book in laying out a bunch of issues along with various responses from a Christian perspective. This is written for a general audience and they cover a lot of information in a very accessible way and there is much I like about it.

Much of it reminded me of Baptist theologian Timothy George reference to the "the ecumenism of the trenches," which they quote. The growing cooperation, both ecumenical and inter-religion, started to coalesce with the Civil Rights movement and solidified in the pro-life movement. The solidarity was also quite evident with the reaction of many non-Catholic groups reacting to the free exercise of religion stamping of the HHS mandate. In the foreword of the book reference is made that some might thing the book to Catholic and some too Protestant. I found it more of a common-cause intersection for a general audience.

I also found that much that was said I was in agreement with and so for me it was not really anything groundbreaking. I had already come to many of the conclusions they made over my life, but I certainly would have liked to read a book of this type much earlier in my life. Some of the areas that I though were not adequately covered I found were better addressed later in the book. For example a chapter on government really did not address subsidiarity where I thought it would have fit right in, but in a later chapter this was described. I think I have become somewhat spoiled by a deeper Catholic understanding considering many of the topics covered, so a book of this type left me wanting at times.

This is also not a polemical book and it really tries to avoid the political divides as far as possible. I enjoyed the variety of quotes and examples they used and the book is up-to-date as far as current events go and they really try to lay the groundwork before addressing the solutions. It's nice to see the natural law laid out fairly well along with relating scriptural verses. There are quite a lot of quotes from Catholics contained within.

There were some things I did not like such as a "good men can disagree" attitude in regards to torture, which they pretty much just passed by. One chapter that addresses pacifism spends a good amount of time on the error of this, but then gave short shrift to the opposite error of what they called the error "realism" and they a short discussion of just war theory. More could have been said here even for a general audience. The attack on the marriage in the family covers a couple of chapters and this of course is fundamental to the problems we are experiencing along with the attack on life. Reading this it also got me wondering about when and if Protestants will start to really pick up on how destructive the contraceptive mindset is and how it sets up the culture of death they also deplore. The authors did not bring up this subject.

As a book that does a good job in covering so many of the obstacles and problems we face along with some good solutions, I would have liked to see more about personal reform. The call to holiness where each and everyone of us must repent and reform ourselves so that we can also see more clearly and to help in the reform of the nation. There is certainly some undercurrent of this in the book and the call to prayer, I just thought it deserved coverage in it's own chapter other than saying "We're all sinners".

Overall though I found much to like about this book in both the tone and the content.

Marsha says

Indivisible: Restoring Faith, Family, and Freedom Before It's too late by James Robison and Jay W. Richards is a respectfully written discussion of American Christianity. The authors gently educate Christians, though non-believers will benefit from reading this book, in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights as it relates to faith in government. It explains such political coined phrases as "separation of church and state" and "social justice". More importantly the book discusses the importance of being a believer in the United States today.

As a writer of Christian Political Commentary I found this book to be an excellent guide for Christians as they evaluate the information being presented to them from the media and various political leaders. Family decisions are now being made by the government and it is important for Christians understand what the government's role should be and what the bible states that we are to do. "Indivisible: Restoring Faith, Family and Freedom" examines the life of a believer as it relates to government rules regarding such behaviors as abortion and marriage.

Every Christian should study the Bible themselves, independent of their church leader. It is important that every American Christian read and the Constitution for themselves as well. Many will cry you can mix your faith with your politics but this is a lie; it is because of the Judeo-Christian faith that we have the system of government that we do. This country is at a very pivotal time and it is important that Christians understand their faith and their government.

"Don't be intimidated. You have every right to apply our faith to your politics, even to make theological arguments in public debates." (Location 725-29)

I read this book quickly because I wanted to post this review in a timely fashion however I am now using this book as a study tool. I recommend you read and study this book.

I received a complimentary copy of this book in eBook form in exchange for an honest review.

James Murphy says

I would echo Gov. Mike Huckabee who said... "INDIVISIBLE can change forever how you see the world. Grasp the wisdom shared in this book, and the scripture "My People Perish for Lack of Knowledge" will no longer apply. this can prove to be the much-needed game changer for America" Gov. Mike Huckabee

Christine says

This book covers the big issues in politics, economics, family, and culture and explains them concisely yet clearly using examples and analogies. Robison and Richards explain the different sides of the arguments, crack down to the logic of each, and use objective truth to make claims on which is true. They then make it practical with a "what should we do?" paragraph at the end of the chapters.

This book has built my knowledge base and confidence concerning where I stand on these issues, which helps me in the newsroom where I'm bombarded by these arguments and ideologies.

John Barbour says

"A Christian Vision of Liberty and Justice for All"

This book is a wonderful addition to the on-going cultural debate going on in this country. It is one of the best I've ever read.

The title "Indivisible" means that we cannot separate economic, political, and religious morality and freedom from each other. They hang together or they all fall eventually. In other words, if we put all of our efforts defending economic freedom and ignore God and the assault against religious freedom that is happening and promote immorality (many libertarians); we will lose all of our freedoms.

On the other hand, if we put all our efforts defending religious liberty and morality and not only ignore what free market economists have to teach us but actually promote policies that decrease our economic and political freedoms (Many Christian leaders); we will lose our religious freedom along with our political and economic freedom.

Sadly, our society is rapidly moving in this direction. We continue to fall for the same lies and elect the same type of leaders in our addiction to entertainment, consumerism, and the government largess.

If we continue, this will not be a pretty picture as 210,000,000 murders under atheistic totalitarian regimes in the 20th century testify. Our overwhelming debts will merely be the tipping point. So, this is a must read for all Americans – especially those who are Christian, religious, and all those who value freedom and liberty. It's a wake up call!

The book is divided into Three Parts: Part I – "First Things", Part II – The Issues, and a conclusion entitled "Living within the Truth" in which are distilled 10 indivisible, inseparable principles. You may be tempted to jump to the end – please don't. You need to read the whole thing from beginning to end. You may be also tempted to think that only a few of the principles are necessary. This is also a mistake. They are indivisible – remember?

The first part defines freedom and demonstrates that all the God-given freedoms are indivisible and that they cannot exist without a moral framework and an objective law.

For example; without a moral framework and the rule of law; there are no free markets.

The second part tackles 17 issues that are at the heart of our current culture wars and the crisis (including financial) that we face not only in the United States but in the western world. This is the heart of the book.

Robison (a Baptist) and Richards (a Catholic) rightly begin with God; the author of liberty; as the hymn "My country Tis of Thee" so beautifully testifies. Here they address and contrast the proper understanding of the phrase "separation of church and state" which is merely a jurisdictional one with the one currently in vogue among intellectual and cultural elites which seek to eliminate God and His laws from all public discourse. They also address the fact that religious freedom is a Christian idea.

They then move on from there in an elegant procession defining the role of government as protecting lives and property (justice, domestic tranquility, common defense, general welfare,) along with its size and scope; the right to life, the role of marriage and family along with the disastrous consequences of redefining them;

and on to education, culture, social justice, welfare, private property and property laws, economics and the free exchange of goods and services, free trade, immigration, the true meaning of equality vs egalitarianism, wealth creation, being fruitful vs redistribution schemes and population “control”, the true meaning of dominion and how it was distorted by cultural elites to discredit Christianity. It’s very comprehensive in its scope and it is just an introduction.

Read it!

Chionescu says

I found this work to be a very level-headed treatise that exposed not only where we are as a country but how we got here. With a great balance of reading level and depth of exposition, *Indivisible* provides a valuable resource for the intellectually, politically, and socially curious (and honest) individual in getting a handle on the key moving parts that comprise modern society in the United States as well as the navigation of the rhetorical minefield of public perception and conversation on the hot issues of the day.

Concerning style and tone, *Indivisible* is pedagogic without being pedantic, philosophical, and yet at the same time persuasive in its arguments for the practical application of essential truths and principles (such as intrinsic value of the individual, the ability to know God and moral truth, the tendency of mankind to violate these truths, et. al.) to the issues at hand. Hot topics are taken head on without resorting to scorched-earth rhetoric with regards to dissenting views and without apologizing for approaching them from a Christian worldview.

A brief mention of the logical approach of co-authors Richards and Robinson: their style is much akin to holding pottery up to sunlight to detect quality and deception. With the presupposition of absolute truth being both real and knowable, arguments on both sides of the topics covered are held up to the light to expose flawed thinking. While the book doesn't set out to be a textbook on formal and informal logic, that it is practically employed is refreshing.

Finally, both authors successfully show the relevance and reasonableness of the Christian worldview in today's America (and indeed the world). By avoiding the often succumbed-to trap of confusing ontology and epistemology with respect to moral truths, they show how one cannot consistently and logically separate morality, economics, sociology, or politics as mutually exclusive entities. At the same time, they make a compelling argument for showing how the Christian worldview provides a solid foundation for understanding the complex interactions of people and ideas whether the reader is an adherent to the faith or not.

I thoroughly enjoyed *Indivisible* for its thought-provoking overview of the subject matter and the personal touches provided by the autobiographical recounts of the authors. If nothing else, the reader should come away with the sense that all is not yet lost.

Jeff Carpenter says

This is an excellent book. In it you will find a pretty good plan for fixing many of the ills that our country faces today. This book was co-authored by a Protestant and a Catholic, which says a lot right there, showing how that God's children can work together for common goals despite theological differences.

Ryan says

A good book on principles of conservative politics. Very well written and persuasive. A bit repetitive at times which is why I gave the 4 star rating. Thanks to the Family Research Council for sending me this free copy!

Jason Lewis says

This book takes what the founding fathers had in mind of freedom of religion with an emphasis of separation of state from the church, not separation of the church from the state. It focuses on freedom of religion influencing how our society should react to situations, not how to react in lieu of religious ideals and responsibilities.

While this book can become a big influence on the thoughts and ideas of how to incorporate this into everyday politics, currently society reacts negatively to such religious intervention as an intrusion versus a recommendation for the decision. To become any type of influence on political decision making, there is a large uphill battle in the way.

Overall it will become an influencing read to some while an intimidating read to others, depending on how someone will feel about religion and politics prior to reading the book.

Rachel says

I'm sure it's good - I just wasn't into it.

Dave says

I think that every Christian, American, and especially every Person trying to make America their home should read this book. Should be a school standard. The truth has never been so clearly spoken.

This book breaks down American culture as it was designed and meant to be. The Authors not only explain the current issues, but also what each and every one of us HAS to do to return America to its true government.....it's People!

Pamela Hubbard says

I loved the solid mix of religion and politics that this book discussed. Every issue was objectively displayed and while the book is written from a religious perspective, it was not extreme or biased and did not bash

other views. It discusses the principles our country was founded on and how the current politics are hurting us rather than helping us. The following issues are presented:

- Religious freedom
- War
- Limited government
- Abortion
- Marriage and family
- Education
- Culture
- Foreign affairs
- Private property
- Free markets
- Free trade
- Immigration
- Equality
- Wealth creation
- Environment

After reading this book, I feel much more educated about political issues and how they relate to my beliefs and the history of our country. This book clearly laid out confusing issues in a way that anyone can understand and apply to their life.
