

# Spiritual Covenant with America

from *The Left Hand of God, Taking Back our Country from the Religious Right*  
by Rabbi Michael Lerner

1. **We will create a society that promotes, rather than undermines, loving and caring relationships and families.** We will challenge the materialism and selfishness (often rooted in the dynamics of the competitive market place) that undermines family life. Our spiritual focus incorporates but goes beyond the normal list of demands for child care, flex time, etc. to insist on fundamental change in the values that our society promotes.
2. **We will take PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY for ethical behavior,** reviving the sacred element in sexuality, looking for purpose and values in life, contributing to the common good, respecting and learning from our senior citizens, devoting energy to caring for each other and ourselves. We affirm pleasure and humor and joyfulness and celebration of the grandeur of the universe. We recognize that government cannot replace our own efforts to build a spiritually-grounded life. We will be compassionate toward each other's fallibility. We will resist all attempts by governments, media or corporations to snoop into our lives.
3. **We will build Social Responsibility into the normal operations of our Economic and Political Life.** We support public financing of political campaigns. The Social Responsibility Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that we propose requires corporations to get a new corporate charter once every ten years. This would only be granted to those corporations which could prove a satisfactory history of social responsibility to a jury of ordinary citizens. This is one step toward our larger goal of transforming the bottom line in our economy, government, and social institutions.
4. **We will emphasize in our educational system the values of love, caring for others (including the most vulnerable in our society), generosity, intellectual curiosity, tolerance, cooperation, non-violent communication, compassion for others (including parents), and environmental responsibility** without abandoning necessary reading and writing skills.
5. **We will include respect, gratitude and awe for the wonders of the universe, and recognition for the goodness in human beings.** We'll honor the legacy of cultural, literary, artistic, spiritual and scientific wisdom of the human race and use these as a foundation on which to build our future.
5. **We will seek a single payer national health care plan and also broaden the understanding of health care.** Our physical health cannot be divorced from environmental, social, spiritual, and psychological realities.
6. **We will be stewards of the environment,** championing voluntary simplicity and ethical consumption while seeking a global economy ordered in more rational and sustainable ways. We'll bring spiritual wisdom into daily life to change our addiction to endless consumption. We'll save Christmas and Chanukah from the frenzy of buying that pushes people to believe all year long that they have to buy gifts to show love and caring.
7. **We will build a safer world through a strategy of generosity and non-violence.** We will support a Global Marshall Plan to use the resources of the advanced industrial societies to end global poverty, disease and inadequate education. We will promote Truth and Reconciliation Commissions to foster societal healing. We will challenge the globalization of selfishness promoted by corporations. Our path to a peaceful world must be a path of peace, social justice and non-violence.
8. **We will seek separation of Church, State and Science.** We will protect our society from fundamentalist attempts to impose a particular religion on everyone, but will not fall into a first-amendment fundamentalism which attempts to keep all values out of the public sphere. We will protect science from invasion by the state, religion or corporate priorities. But we will reject the worldview that claims that everything worthy of our attention can be measured or reduced to scientific or mathematical terms.