

Speaker 1 ([00:04](#)):

Welcome to the Bill Walton Show featuring conversations with leaders entrepreneurs, artists and thinkers. Fresh perspectives on money, culture, politics and human flourishing. Interesting people, interesting things.

Bill Walton ([00:24](#)):

Welcome to the Bill Walton Show. Newsflash, the New York Times has reported that the idea of the founding of the United States of America did not begin with the Declaration of Independence in 1776. No, we are informed that the actual founding of America occurred in 1619, the year 20 or so African Slaves were brought Jamestown, Virginia. The Times tells us, in an ongoing project, that the American Revolution occurred primarily because of the American's desire to keep their slaves and that America is irrevocably and forever rooted in injustice and racism.

Bill Walton ([01:08](#)):

To make sense of this, and also to talk about the Trump presidency, I'm here with two distinguished leaders and thinkers, Robert Woodson and Kenneth Blackwell. Robert Woodson is the founder and president of the Woodson Center and an influential leader on issues of poverty alleviation and empowering disadvantaged communities to become agents of their own uplift. A best selling author, among as many honors, Bob is the recipient of the MacArthur Genius Fellowship Award, the Bradley Prize, the Presidential Citizens Medal, and the 2018 William Wilberforce Award.

Bill Walton ([01:47](#)):

Ken Blackwell is a senior fellow at the Family Research Council, also a national best selling author, and serves on the boards of many of our leading conservative organizations. Ken has had a vast political career. He was Mayor of Cincinnati, Treasurer and Secretary of State for Ohio, under secretary at the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development, and U.S ambassador to the United Nations Human Rights Commission. Ken is also an advisor to President Trumps reelection campaign.

Bill Walton ([02:18](#)):

Bob, Ken, welcome.

Bob Woodson ([02:21](#)):

Pleased to be here.

Ken Blackwell ([02:21](#)):

Good to be with you.

Bill Walton ([02:23](#)):

It's great to be with you. Your resumes, and I only got about 10% of them, so I'm here with an impressive crew. Bob, you've launched the 1776 project to refute what's in the New York Times 1619 project. What's going on here? What's the background for all this?

Bob Woodson ([02:41](#)):

Well first of all, let me just explain a little bit about my background. Someone said I'm the only non-communist to get a MacArthur Award.

Bill Walton ([02:50](#)):

I was wondering about that.

Bob Woodson ([02:54](#)):

I think I kind of slipped through, and so I just want to clarify that it doesn't really reflect on me. But as an organization that has been concerned for many decades about the uplift of the poor, particularly poor blacks, I was particularly outraged that the New York Times would really exploit America's birth defect of slavery and weaponize race and use the conditions of the black community as a bludgeon against this country's character, almost defining it as if it's a criminal organization.

Bob Woodson ([03:41](#)):

But what they're also doing is insulting, particularly insulting is the assumption that as consequence of our birth defect, that all whites are therefore guilty and should be punished. And that all blacks are victims and should be pitied. And what this does, it really is demeaning to black America to say to the country that we should be defined by oppression or slavery. And that the current conditions of out of wedlock births at 70% and the black on black violence is somehow related to something that happened 150 years ago, that's an insult. It assumes that we don't have the capacity to solve our own problems too. So that's we have launched an alternative.

Bill Walton ([04:33](#)):

Ken, you want to weigh in on your thoughts?

Ken Blackwell ([04:36](#)):

For 40 years, I've been a friend of Bob's. I've been able to be at his side and learn from him. But more importantly, learn from the people who has empowered to be agents of their own upliftment. And he's done it in concrete terms and I've watched folks who were in public housing move through a system of independence where they now are owning their own house, or they are managing the homes in which they live. Look, I had a great uncle, his name was DeHart Hubbard, and that name is probably unknown to most Americans. But he was the first black American to win an Olympic Gold medal in track and field, and won in it in the Paris games in 1920, excuse me, 1924 Paris games. And he won it against... he was to compete against Eric Liddle in the 100 yard dash.

Bill Walton ([05:38](#)):

Chariots of fire.

Ken Blackwell ([05:40](#)):

And he was supposed to run in the high hurdles and the long jump. But when he got to Paris, he was told that the 100 yard dash and the high hurdles where white only events and he didn't get to compete. But he set the world record in the long jump. But he and Eric Liddle remained sort of pen pals. And when he came back home, he told my mom's generation, he said, "He leaned something. He thanked God for the lesson that was taught him by the example of Eric Liddle." And he said what he learned at that time was fidelity to faith. And I sort of run this through the experience that I've had, not only in my life, but in my reading of the lives of others, and that is we are a people basically have a fidelity to faith. Secondly, we understand what Lincoln said, and that is that America is not perfect, but it is perfectible.

Ken Blackwell ([06:49](#)):

And so, when I am engaged with folk like both you all in different levels, different settings, well, for 40 years with Bob, I've watched him actually put a lot of the biblical underpinnings of our time in this country into motion by empowering folks and making them agents of their own upliftment. And making them understand that the human condition isn't a spectator sport. You can't sit on the sidelines. You have to be engaged and [inaudible 00:07:26] being a witness of what work he has done. But as important, the work of the people that he's worked with [crosstalk 00:07:36] inspirational.

Bill Walton ([07:37](#)):

Well the thing is pernicious about The Times is that they've got us born into original sin, generation, after generation, after generation, I guess it's in our DNA. And therefore, you can never do anything about it. You've written about this, you have two on the issues of human agency. And you all of the sudden say, "Gee, you're not responsible for your life. It's because of historical conditions that we can't reverse."

Bob Woodson ([08:04](#)):

See, what we did was we brought together an assembly of black scholars, not all black, but scholars, but also activists, people's whose very lives are the embodiment of the principles of our founders. Because no individual or nation should be judged based upon our birth defect. I said to a group, "How many of us want to be judged by the worst things we did as a young person?"

Bill Walton ([08:28](#)):

This is the 17... You got Shelby Steele and Clarence Page and John McWhorter.

Bob Woodson ([08:34](#)):

John Ponder, ex-offender who just pardoned by the President Trump, who used his life, his witness as ex-offender to help 2000 people coming out of prison in Los Vegas, with only 6% recidivism rate, join 40% of the mentors are police officers, establishing so that the city, as a consequence, has the lowest rate of negative interaction between police and minority.

Bob Woodson ([09:06](#)):

So they're not only agents of transformation. But they're examples of when you take the principals of founders and actually implement them to demonstrate that the adaption of these principals can create a better life and a better community. But this is in jeopardy by 1619 because we will discount the people in the past and in the present who are engaging in activities that are having a consequence of improving the quality of life. Only in America do we have a country that has an Emancipation Proclamation, no other place in the world.

Ken Blackwell ([09:49](#)):

Put it in today's terms, the 1619 project is nothing but a group of apologists for the expansion of the welfare state. What we're talking about in 1776, is the creation of opportunities in society. I mean, those in straightforward terms, that's the clash. And what Bob has done by assembling these doers and these thinkers and these thinker doers, is that we are saying, "We can muscle up and we can show through example, why our expansion of an opportunity society and individual empowerment is in keeping with Frederick Douglass's notion that we all have to be agents of our own well-being."

Bill Walton ([10:46](#)):

You're watching the Bill Walton Show. I'm here with Bob Woodson and Ken Blackwell and we're talking about the pernicious effect of the New York Times 1617 project and what we can do to refute it. Bob and Ken, you've mentioned principals, what are the key principals that you see that transcend race and class?

Bob Woodson ([11:08](#)):

First of all, the expectation that all of us, that the victimized might have knocked us down, but the victim has to get up. If you get mugged by someone and you lay there and wait for them to come by and rescue you, you need to be taken to a mental hospital.

Bob Woodson ([11:26](#)):

And so, first of all, it's a belief that people have within themselves, the capacity to uplift and all they need is an opportunity. And also, I think faith in God [inaudible 00:11:39], gives people that kind of opportunity. In other words, if you have expectation, it's important to provide the means for people to conform and apply that expectation. And this is where opportunity can help. People with means have a responsibility to help those without it, but only if they're willing to help. No one should do more for you than you're willing to do for yourself.

Bill Walton ([12:04](#)):

Well you ticked off some... Yes.

Ken Blackwell ([12:08](#)):

Let me just go someplace where Joe Biden better not try to go again, and that is, that second paragraph in the Declaration of Independence. My dad, a World War II veteran, used to always say, "We hold these truths to be self evident." He said, "That's a highfalutin way of saying, 'Any knucklehead should be able to get this, that we are all created equal.'" It didn't say that if you're tall, if you're a white, if you're a black, if you're short. We're all created equal and we're endowed by our creator with certain unalienable Rights. Which means that there isn't a government on the face of the earth that can give us our fundamental human rights. They can only protect and promote. And therefore, we don't have a dependence on government. We have a dependence on an environment that allows us to flourish and achieve based on our abilities and our effort.

Bill Walton ([13:05](#)):

And at the time it was written, there was no other document in any other country, on the face of the planet that had ever come close to that.

Ken Blackwell ([13:12](#)):

Absolutely.

Bob Woodson ([13:12](#)):

And our Constitution's provided means for us to refresh and renew and revisit. It was a mechanism to help us to generate reforms century, after century. And that's what America is doing. We document in our essays who were born slaves who died millionaires.

Bill Walton ([13:31](#)):

Well how do we answer the question, well, the founding fathers that wrote this amazing document, well, many of them had slaves. So therefore, anything they said or did can be discounted because of what they were doing. Now, there was already a big trend in America at the time, slavery was on its way out, particularly we got around toward the Civil War almost. But it was a fact that it's hard to-

Ken Blackwell ([13:56](#)):

But these same people will say that, do they discontinue using the word liberty? Do they discontinue to use the word freedom? Or do they discontinue to use the concept of independence? No. They are basically saying that the dispenser of these things is a strong centralized government. And we basically said, "That's nonsense and it's not keeping..." There's been a clash between moral absolutes and relativism for a long time now. But what the folks in 1619 overlook is what Bob said earlier, we actually did come out of slavery. And there was a time when there was capital formation in black neighborhoods and they had banks and insurance companies and they were employers. And so it wasn't until the reestablishment of the black code and other Jim Crow initiatives and laws that we moved back towards a dependency on government and a reluctance to look those things that can contribute to your own individual collective upliftment. And Bob, we worked and we challenged the Model Cities Program.

Bob Woodson ([15:25](#)):

Always.

Ken Blackwell ([15:27](#)):

We challenged it because it created black communities, latino communities that were nothing more... and urban Appalachian communities that were nothing more than continuant for capital. They prohibited creating the institutions that would turn capital over four, five, six times in a community and create wealth. They kept us focused on income, but not wealth creation. We had an experience with wealth creation, and Bob is a walking history book on this.

Bill Walton ([16:06](#)):

I say slavery is on its way out, in most of America it was, certainly not in the south. But there was a huge constituency of white Americans that thought it was a sin and did a lot to stop it. And yet you read in the Times, by the lead writer Nicole Hanna Jones, America wasn't a Democracy until black Americans made it one. What's she saying to us here?

Bob Woodson ([16:31](#)):

I don't know.

Bill Walton ([16:33](#)):

But see, this gets published in the New York Times and it's treated as-

Bob Woodson ([16:38](#)):

Not only that, but again, they have a ground game. The Pulitzer Organization has taken this document-

Bill Walton ([16:44](#)):

Pulitzer Organization's behind 1619, yeah.

Bob Woodson ([16:45](#)):

... and then made it available for the 3000 schools around the country, they're doing plays, they're doing movies. I mean, again, they have a ground game. It's indoctrination and it is not education.

Ken Blackwell ([17:00](#)):

And what measurement? In 240 odd years, America is the most diverse, the wealthiest democratic country in the world. We do it through constitutional republican government. But the fact of the matter is that you can't argue with that. And that's why it's been so interesting for me to watch how the President came in and he said, "I'm going to reverse the flow of capital. There are two, \$3 trillion offshore just sitting on the fence because of our regulatory environment, because of our tax environment." He's said, "So I'm going to change that environment and see if I can redirect capital back into this country." Now the capital is coming back into this country and what we have been working on is how do we in fact create environments where that capital comes back into these neighborhoods that have been neglected, and then on the hook for expanded government welfare as opposed to wealth creation. And we know the talents there.

Bill Walton ([18:20](#)):

I do want to get into the indoctrination project. I want to talk a bit about Harold Zen in a minute. But Bob, you've done a lot of interesting work on what black America looked like sort of pre-1965, great society that had just the opposite effect. And there was an incredibly vibrant black community throughout America. Something like 90% of the families in New York City, black families, husband, wife raising kids. I mean, sort of Ozzy and Harriet.

Bob Woodson ([18:48](#)):

I think there's so many examples. For instance, at the end of slavery, 75% of all ex-slaves were illiterate. In less than 50 years, that number went down to 35%. The Freedmen Bureau said that went they sent government agents south to help, they said, "There's nothing we can do that the black community isn't doing for themselves."

Bill Walton ([19:13](#)):

Hadn't already been doing for themselves.

Bob Woodson ([19:14](#)):

Had already been doing for themselves. And we had maybe 20 blacks who were born slaves who died millionaires. And when we were refused banks, we established our own. We had our own railroad that operated in Baltimore, Maryland. In 1868 when 1,000 blacks were fired for striking, our response was to borrow \$10,000 from our burial societies and finance our own railroad, the Chesapeake Main Dry Dock and Railroad Company. We operated from Baltimore to Main and hired back those workers, and including white workers. In Chicago, for instance, in 1929, there were 731 black owned businesses and \$100 million in real estate assets when the out of wedlock birth was 15%, and that was considered a scandal.

Bill Walton ([20:03](#)):

15% was considered a scandal, yeah.

Bob Woodson ([20:08](#)):

15%, out of wedlock and that was a scandal. And even during the 30s, between 1930 and 1940 and during the Depression, we had the highest marriage rate of any other group in America. And our strong Christian values helped and served as a shield. And so our elderly people could walk in our community without of being attacked by their grandkids.

Bill Walton ([20:32](#)):

You're watching the Bill Walton Show. I'm here with Ken Blackwell and Bob Woodson and we're talking about the state of black America before the Federal Government came in and said, "We're here to help you."

Ken Blackwell ([20:46](#)):

The Great Society Program, the Model Cities Program, if you go back and look at the underlying policies of those programs, they created incentives for the separation of the family, the destruction of the family. It became more profitable for a mother to have a child out of wedlock than to, in fact, stay with her husband that was working but was of low income. It became a system of disincentives for marriage, disincentives for self-control. It rewarded-

Bill Walton ([21:35](#)):

Were these good intentions that drove this, or were there villains here? I mean, what's the motivation behind-

Bob Woodson ([21:41](#)):

The scholars at Columbia University, Cloward and Piven, they were the ones who issued the paper. No, they wanted a redistribution of income in American. And they said, "What we can do is reveal the contradictions of capitalism by flooding them with welfare recipients." They said, "If we can separate work from income, it'll make the father redundant. And therefore, school dropouts, drug addiction and whatnot." And they couldn't have done it alone, so the government poverty offices opened and actually recruited people. But then they had to denigrate the stigma that was attached to welfare, because in the black community, it was an insult to say it was on welfare.

Bob Woodson ([22:22](#)):

So what they did was they said that the nuclear family is Eurocentric and therefore racist. And the black power movement came along and gave support to it, the women's movement who wanted men, fathers, to be redundant, so it was a combination. ACLU filed lawsuits against the welfare department demanding that the paternity of the child be revealed. So it was these combination of social forces. So within about a three year period in the 70s, millions of blacks flooded into the welfare system at a time when the unemployment rate for black men in New York was 4%. And so it created exactly what the social engineers at the time... And New York, remember, went bankrupt.

Bill Walton ([23:07](#)):

That's right.

Bob Woodson ([23:08](#)):

And that was their goal, to do this all over the country. And so 1619 is really the fulfillment and a continuation and fulfillment of that plan to really assault this nation.

Bill Walton ([23:23](#)):

Ken, you were Mayor of Cincinnati, when were you mayor?

Ken Blackwell ([23:26](#)):

Late 70s, 80s.

Bill Walton ([23:31](#)):

You continue with your point, but I'd also like to bring it back to your first-hand experience as mayor, what you saw happening-

Ken Blackwell ([23:37](#)):

Well, one of the things that was fascinating to me was that people think it's just a matter of words. But when we move from a program that was called Relief, to a program that was called Welfare, that was a major leap. Look, there were times, particularly during the Depression where Relief was available to folks of all strikes. But once it became Welfare, it became a reinvention of a plantation system. That became, to me, the 20th century plantation system.

Bob Woodson ([24:26](#)):

Or reparations. That's how the social scientist said, "Welfare should not be considered social insurance. It should be considered reparations." And they actually used the word back then, Cloward and Piven and some of the social scientists at the time, liberal social scientist.

Bill Walton ([24:41](#)):

So there's a paper, a book that exists that was written by these guys in '63, '64. This takes the shelf right next to the Power of [crosstalk 00:24:51].

Bob Woodson ([24:50](#)):

Exactly.

Ken Blackwell ([24:51](#)):

And coming back, look, as a local leader, we saw the cities' population go from 500,000 in 1960 to closer to 400,000 in 1980, and now it's around 310,000.

Bill Walton ([25:17](#)):

Cincinnati?

Ken Blackwell ([25:17](#)):

In Cincinnati. And so the migration patterns were very interesting. People went to where there were good schools, and they went to where there were safe neighborhoods. And as a consequence, one of the things that we had to do to bring back what I call net tax payer, people who paid more in taxes than they demanded in service, was to create a competitive school system. And secondly, we had to in fact make

our neighborhoods safe. And then the third thing was to develop a capital base, our physical plants, that would be attractive to capital investment.

Ken Blackwell ([26:03](#)):

But what we did was that we moved to school of choice. We worked with our archdiocese and our public school system and we said, "Hey, all of us will die on the vine if we in fact can't give the consumer a choice for quality education." It was unprecedented cooperation between the two school systems. Now, I have a stake in this because my wife, Rosa, was superintendent of public schools at a time when she brought them out of emergency to good standing. But it was because she was not afraid to create a choice system within the school system and to work cooperatively with the archdiocese.

Bill Walton ([26:50](#)):

You too are very close to this. In your view, what caused the destruction of the urban inner city public schools? I mean they were pretty vibrant in the 50s and then now we got something which doesn't work at all.

Bob Woodson ([27:07](#)):

Again, it's all part of what I described about the whole disintegration of the families. If you have black families and 86% of all black families in the 60s have a man and a woman raising children, and that goes less than 25%, the kids who are coming to schools are not prepared to take advantage of the opportunity. So you can't really blame the schools either. And also, the union teachers, they have all kind of clauses that-

Bill Walton ([27:38](#)):

So it's the breakdown of the families more than [crosstalk 00:27:41].

Ken Blackwell ([27:43](#)):

And just think about this, when we were coming up, our schools were segregated and they started to integrate right when I got into the ninth or 10th grade. But the reality was, that there was a connectedness between work, home, school and church. And it was the cutting of those ties and that connectedness and then taking kids out of the neighborhood on the basis of this numbers game as opposed to true integration. It was a joke. So we in fact took away from young people that network of institutions, that connectedness, that gave them a foundation or a springboard for upliftment.

Bob Woodson ([28:41](#)):

There's always been in the black community... I was born in the Depression. In the black community, there's never been kind of economic integration. Wealthy blacks did not live where my family lived because we were all blue collar, we're driving trash trucks and all.

Bill Walton ([29:00](#)):

Even then we were complaining of income equality.

Bob Woodson ([29:02](#)):

Yeah, but our segregated elementary school, plays were held at night so parents could attend. And you would have hundreds of lunch pails on the table in the back because that's how attentive parents were.

All of the households had a man, a woman raising children. Poverty was never associated with disfunction. And middle class was not defined by income, it was by a set of values. But that has all disintegrated. Whenever you break up the family, and whenever you assault the faith... And what 1619 does, it says that Christian faith is homophobic and the nuclear family is racist. I mean, the very attack on the moral formation of entities that [displained 00:29:58] our survival.

Bill Walton ([29:59](#)):

And then fast-forward to the 90s. I had a reading program in Chicago, in the inner-city schools, and it was based on the Sylvian Learning where you have a tutor and three kids there. And we could take kids with very little skills and teach them how to read. But part of the program was to bring the parents in once every six weeks to show what's happening. We'd have parents night and nobody would show up. That's in 90, what would that be, 92, 93, something like that.

Bob Woodson ([30:31](#)):

Let me challenge you on this a bit because this is a discussion I had with conservatives too. And that is, you can't just parachute in good ideas into communities, you need to first go in and find out who is already, where do the kids turn to in those communities where their centers of trust and confidence. And then you go there and partner with them. I mean if parachuting in doesn't work coming from the government, it's not going to work coming from a well-meaning private source.

Bob Woodson ([31:03](#)):

And so what we do at the Woodson Center, is that we work with people who want to help, but we first go in and find out what is already going on in that community. You can't assume that there's no capacity and there are not parents, there are not grassroots leaders already in there. And once you go in and your partner with the local groups and then let them invite the children in. Quick example of an abuse center here. Every year volunteers would collect toys and give them to the kids and everybody was happy but the parents. The second year, the director of the program allowed the moms to work and volunteer to earn toy vouchers. And so the Christmas party, the toys that were collected and put in a store, and then mothers who earned toy vouchers went in and shopped for their own children. At the Christmas party, they gave the toys to the kids instead of these volunteers.

Bob Woodson ([32:06](#)):

I just think well-meaning people, what the Woodson Center's trying to articulate, is a strategy to demonstrate to people how you empower communities by building from within what's already there. And then you will see.... We had same thing in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We have young adults in the schools, so moral mentors and character coaches and really dramatically reducing the violence and the suspensions.

Bob Woodson ([32:35](#)):

So the young people said, "We're not getting the parents involved, so how can we address that?" So they got themselves qualified as IRS tax prepares and they told parents, "We're going to help you prepare your taxes." And they got \$670,000 were returned and then they worked with the banks because most black and Hispanic households are non-banked. So a condition of you getting your taxes, you had to open bank accounts. And then the second year, 1.2 million. But see, if you go and ask people in there what are creative ways to get parents involved, they will come up with all kinds of creative ways. Now we don't have any problems of parents being involved.

Bob Woodson ([33:20](#)):

But again, the idea, the innovation, the creativity comes from what I call the social entrepreneurs that are indigenous to these low income communities. We as conservatives must partner with them whenever we want to start something and build from within.

Bill Walton ([33:36](#)):

Ken.

Ken Blackwell ([33:36](#)):

I'll give you an example. You all know Robert Poole at the Reason Foundation.

Bill Walton ([33:42](#)):

Oh yeah, he's been here.

Ken Blackwell ([33:43](#)):

All right, so it's fascinating, when I was a council member, I looked at Robert's book, I think it was Privatizing City Hall. And so I started to look at city services that we could actually contract out or create a competitive model for. And waste collection was the first stop. Well, the unions beat me. But right next door, 90 miles, was Steve Goldsmith. And Steve Goldsmith, in fact said, "Look, many other folks who are collecting our waste were minorities, they know how to do it. They created incubators and they created businesses and these guys competed with one another and drive the cost of waste collection down. But it also empowered to the creation of small businesses." These folks actually knew what they were doing and could do it effectively and efficiently. And so he moved away from the government model-

Bill Walton ([34:47](#)):

Steve Goldsmith was the mayor of Indianapolis then, yeah.

Bob Woodson ([34:51](#)):

We actually worked six years-

Bill Walton ([34:51](#)):

You were there for six year, right.

Bob Woodson ([34:53](#)):

... to help him. Not only that-

Bill Walton ([34:54](#)):

So this was you.

Bob Woodson ([34:54](#)):

Yeah. But not only what Ken was saying, he privatized the maintenance of the parks. At first the black folks said, "Well, he's just trying to privatize it so he can give his white friends in the suburbs contracts." He says, "No." So he contracted with the local black church to maintain the local parks. They hired local

teams to keep the parks clean, and as a consequence, they develop a sense of ownership and so violence went down. And even when the kids were off duty, they protected the park. We also brought together 50 small business owners in Haughville area and created a mini kind of chamber of commerce. And then Steve had the [inaudible 00:35:44] subcontract with the local businesses. So it just takes creativity.

Bill Walton ([35:49](#)):

Sounds like we're going to need.... You're watching the Bill Walton Show. I'm here with Bob Woodson and Ken Blackwell and we're talking about empowering people in the inner-cities and how it works and how we ought to be doing of it. Ken.

Ken Blackwell ([36:03](#)):

Robert Poole inspires-

Bill Walton ([36:06](#)):

Robert Poole, Reason Foundation, Libertarian, private sector solutions, not government solutions for all.

Ken Blackwell ([36:11](#)):

With an idea and a book, there's a local [inaudible 00:36:15] in Cincinnati that reads it. I read it and I try to implement it in policy, but I get knocked down. But who comes to Cincinnati, because he has friends right up the road? Well, Bob Woodson. And I get inspired by listening to Bob and we continue to push. But he then goes 90 miles over to Indianapolis and they actually do it, they accomplish it. So these are powerful ideas. Just like any entrepreneur, you don't always strike gold on your first initiative, so you just keep plugging. And you go to people who know how to refine that idea and do it better. And that's what he did, he found an environment. And that model was replicated in a number of cities.

Bob Woodson ([37:10](#)):

And he got re-elected, a white conservative prosecutor gets re-elected in a predominantly black city because he delivered concrete and specific remedies using the free market as the mechanism to do it.

Bill Walton ([37:24](#)):

I want to come back to your principals because I want people to take away exactly what we think those first principles are. And you mentioned a strong Christian moral code, self determination, mutual assistance, strong families and communities. And also, you mentioned, Ken, work, home, school, church need to be knitted together. Is that the formula?

Bob Woodson ([37:48](#)):

You give with the expectation that someone has to give back for what they received.

Bill Walton ([37:53](#)):

[crosstalk 00:37:53], okay.

Bob Woodson ([37:54](#)):

That's where dignity comes in.

Ken Blackwell ([37:54](#)):

Because, at the end of the day, as I told you guys off camera, the theme of the Federation of Colored Women's Clubs was lifting as we climb. And that is exactly the ethic that I think has to be permeate our communities, lifting as we climb.

Bob Woodson ([38:18](#)):

The other one is, identify where people want to be, not where they are. I had some middle class women come in, they were going to mentor some kids in inner-city black school, some girls. And she said, "I'm going home and change, putting on my jeans." I said, "Why? No, you go to these girls the way you go to work and see what happens." So when they went with the girls, and they said, "How did you get those earrings, how did you hook up the shoes?" In other words, I said, "You want to identify where people want to be, not where they are." That's like, pimps never drive around in hoopties. Some of y'all don't know what that means.

Bill Walton ([38:51](#)):

I'm taking notes here. I'm going to pull together a book [crosstalk 00:38:51] from Bob and Ken.

Ken Blackwell ([38:50](#)):

But Bill, only a small number of people know [crosstalk 00:39:04]. Bill, watch this one. Bob, what did our parents and grandparents and our pastors teach us about mountains in our lives?

Bob Woodson ([39:16](#)):

Lord, don't move the mountain, give me the strength to climb. Don't take away the stumbling block, give me the strength to go around. If you all want to hear that, just go on YouTube and put Lord, Don't Move the Mountain and listen to that gospel song. Lord, Don't Move the Mountain. It is one of the most popular gospels that the black community plays. Lord, don't move the mountain, give me the strength to climb.

Bill Walton ([39:42](#)):

I plan to do that. So Ken, I know Bob doesn't do politics, you do. You're working with President Trump. Does he get what we're talking about here? Do you think that's part of one of the reasons he's been successful in connecting and particularly connecting with the black community.

Ken Blackwell ([40:00](#)):

Look, this is what I continuously tell the campaign, don't just show up every four years and make promises. And sure enough, this president, he stuck with his initiatives. And so whether you're talking about in the macro sense, he redirected capital offshore back into the country and has tried to create environments through opportunity zones to make that more targeted into our neighborhoods. What we have to do now is work with those indigenous groups and individuals in those neighborhoods who know how to put that into play. And so we're working.

Bill Walton ([40:52](#)):

How do we actualize that?

Ken Blackwell ([40:53](#)):

Well one, we had to first recognize. We had to recognize those people and those organizations that are at the community level making an impact. We are great macro thinkers, but in fact, we're talking about doing stuff at the micro level.

Bob Woodson ([41:13](#)):

Dick Riordan in 1990, was the first Republican mayor of Los Angeles in 35 years. That's because two years before he ran for office, he went into the low income area of East LA, Hispanic, and connected with Jenny [Lichtenberg, 00:41:33], she was a liberal democratic nun, she had an after school program.

Bob Woodson ([41:37](#)):

Dick Riordan recruited some of his friends and built a state-of-the-art facility there. He planted charitably and then he harvested politically, but you don't plant and harvest in the same year. So two years after he made an investment, established relationships, he declared for the mayors' office. And this liberal nun had all the... and campaigned for him and he was the first republican. And when he got reelected with 60% of most of the demographics, 25% of the black community because... And we see this demonstrated politically in the Florida gubernatorial election where DeSantis won by 32,000 votes and that's because 100,000 low-income black parents because of choice and education-

Bill Walton ([42:27](#)):

Came out.

Bob Woodson ([42:27](#)):

... came out and voted for Desantis, the republican. Now Gillum who was the opponent, had Oprah and President and Obama campaigning for him. Which means, 100,000 low income black parents voted against Oprah and President Obama which shows their sophistication. If only republicans, who really should be competitive because it serves the interest of both parties to be competitive in delivering. But I'm surprised that people don't read his book and use him as a model. If you plant charitably, you can harvest political, but you don't show up on election day.

Bill Walton ([43:13](#)):

This is Riordan's book?

Bob Woodson ([43:14](#)):

Yeah, Dick Riordan.

Bill Walton ([43:16](#)):

What's it called?

Bob Woodson ([43:16](#)):

It's called The Mayor.

Bill Walton ([43:18](#)):

The Mayor. So we should be reading that.

Bob Woodson ([43:21](#)):

You should be reading that.

Ken Blackwell ([43:23](#)):

And again, I want to make... The President didn't just show up-

Bob Woodson ([43:28](#)):

No, he didn't.

Ken Blackwell ([43:32](#)):

... in 2016 and then drop it and then resume the conversation in 2020, he's been plugging away. And this is what my prediction, in 2016, he got 8% of the black vote. McCain and Romney each got 4%. My prediction is that he, meaning President Trump, can get 15 to 18% of the black vote. And people look at me cross-eyed, but there will be a lot of folks who will turn out just as they did in Florida because, one, his initiatives have made a difference in their life. And two, people know that they have been promised a lot by his democratic counterparts and they've dropped the ball.

Ken Blackwell ([44:24](#)):

And then there's another line. Some of these younger blacks are entrepreneurial, they don't want to be wards of the state. I think if we keep pushing and we show measurable results. And that's why it's so important to empower those people at the neighborhood level who are not just wishing to make a difference, but who have made a difference.

Bill Walton ([44:52](#)):

You're watching the Bill Walton Show. I'm here with Bob Woodson and Ken Blackwell and we're talking about how we can really make a difference in the black communities with the principals that Bob and Ken have articulated and also some lines of action. Now circling back to where we started, the 1619 project, New York Times, seems to me that we're in a war of ideas. And if you follow their-

Ken Blackwell ([45:15](#)):

Competing narratives, competing narratives.

Bill Walton ([45:16](#)):

Narratives. And if you follow their narrative, you end up with dependence to spare and anger. Have I missed anything?

Ken Blackwell ([45:23](#)):

You got it.

Bill Walton ([45:24](#)):

Okay, so I'm going to go around and I'm going to be clutching 1619, I'm going to be... But you're heading towards the abyss really. How do we win the war of ideas? You talked about that before we started.

Bob Woodson ([45:36](#)):

1776 at the Woodson Center's sponsoring, we are launching a major campaign, a retail campaign. We've already published 14 essays and it's going to be made into a book, but we're also commissioning 10 more. We're going to reach out to low-income white. No one advocates for low income white people. And Ken and I are going to cooperate on something that Clarence [Payne 00:46:04] said, "We need to do desegregate poverty," and that's what we're going to do. But also, there's national security implications. Because if a 10 year old black kid is being bombard for eight years in schools with 1619, he's going to grow up... But why would that youngster, when he gets 18, want to defend a country against foreign adversaries or become a police officer.

Bill Walton ([46:31](#)):

Where they hate the country. Police officer applications are plummeting.

Bob Woodson ([46:35](#)):

Even though, as one of our scholars pointed out, that black and brown people are fighting, risking their lives to come into this country at a time when 1619 says this is the worst place for people of color.

Ken Blackwell ([46:51](#)):

Let me just underscore something that what I like about 1776 is it's going to be intergenerational also. Bob and I are kind of long in the tooth, but there's some folks-

Bill Walton ([47:06](#)):

You don't look very old to me.

Bob Woodson ([47:07](#)):

I'm right there with you.

Ken Blackwell ([47:10](#)):

We prided ourselves in modeling. But not only just modeling, but identifying folks who are making a difference, folks who have great potential. The integration of these activists and these thinkers and these doer thinkers, that's very important. But more importantly, Fredrick Douglas said, he who is whopped easiest is whopped most often. And what 1776 is, that we're not going to let false narrative beat the narrative that we know that is based on the integrity and the genius and the drive of black folk.

Bob Woodson ([48:00](#)):

And we have a lot of young people Coleman Hughes is undergraduate and he is one of our scholars, and a lot of activists. As Ken said, this is intergenerational, we are bringing a lot of these young people and giving them a voice. Right now, there's no place for them to publish because of their views. But we are a collection point. But again, we are raising the resources-

Bill Walton ([48:21](#)):

How do we find the 1776 project? Website?

Bob Woodson ([48:24](#)):

1776unites.com.

Bill Walton ([48:26](#)):

Okay.

Ken Blackwell ([48:26](#)):

Unites.com. Let me underscore something that my wife told me I better listen to Bob on. She is from Mingo County West Virgin and she said, "Don't think all Urban Appalachians are black."

Bill Walton ([48:44](#)):

I was going to raise that.

Ken Blackwell ([48:51](#)):

She's heard Bob and she says, "Desegregation poverty is very important."

Bob Woodson ([48:56](#)):

That's what we're going to do.

Ken Blackwell ([48:57](#)):

Because what these folks will do with the identity politics is that they will in fact turn folks who should be locking arms against one another in a false competition. We are going to show that this country has moved past identity politics and in fact we can build a force, a political force for change and upliftment for all poor people.

Bill Walton ([49:25](#)):

One of the things that we see at [inaudible 00:49:27] County Virginia is that there is a real problem among rural white America. A lot of the same destructive things that have happened in the urban communities happening there. So you're saying this is going to be a part of that?

Bob Woodson ([49:40](#)):

But the plantation owners during the Antebellum period, silence poor whites who suffered as a consequence of slavery because they didn't have jobs, they couldn't own land. Well, 1619, they're doing the same thing that the plantation [crosstalk 00:49:58] use identity politics to silence them. And so they're doing the same thing to silence those blacks in the city so they don't have to ask why are blacks failing in systems run by their own people over the last 50 years? So to prevent them from asking those questions, those people were being told, "Oh, your problem is institutional racism. It's internal." What is institutional racism? That's like white folks have-

Bill Walton ([50:24](#)):

I was going to ask you, what does that mean?

Bob Woodson ([50:27](#)):

You people have a remote control that you ride through the black community and [crosstalk 00:50:34].

Bill Walton ([50:34](#)):

I'm not familiar with that.

Bob Woodson ([50:35](#)):

... and you push that remote control that causes people to miseducate their children, cause people to eat more than they should. All of the problems that we have is because of this white remote control. And so we're going to do everything we can, 1619, to take that from you. But we don't want to take it to fast because we're making too much money, which you haven't yet.

Bill Walton ([51:01](#)):

Yeah, there's that.

Ken Blackwell ([51:04](#)):

The funny thing is that we've been called everything from [inaudible 00:51:11] to [inaudible 00:51:13]. What these people don't know, we have fought redlining, we have fought, we have fought.

Bill Walton ([51:18](#)):

We, meaning people that believe that you do, yeah.

Ken Blackwell ([51:27](#)):

Yeah, we have fought... The old folks who have perpetuated the vision and institutional, not racism, but institutional network that reinforces poverty and discourages independence and self upliftment. We fought them. And who do they think running things? George Soros?

Bob Woodson ([51:44](#)):

But I'm really hopeful-

Bill Walton ([51:44](#)):

About George Soros.

Bob Woodson ([51:54](#)):

... I just think people who defend this nation, we need to roll up our sleeves and pull out our checkbooks and invest in a retial strategy like we have the way the left is investing in it. The fact that they did a \$2.3 million ad that played during the Oscars, and also the NBA-

Bill Walton ([52:15](#)):

1619 did a-

Bob Woodson ([52:17](#)):

Yeah.

Bill Walton ([52:18](#)):

... two and a half million dollar ad?

Bob Woodson ([52:20](#)):

Commercial.

Ken Blackwell ([52:21](#)):

Right.

Bill Walton ([52:21](#)):

Man.

Bob Woodson ([52:22](#)):

It's a commercial that they ran-

Bill Walton ([52:24](#)):

And they're putting this in all the public school?

Bob Woodson ([52:25](#)):

Oh yeah, they're putting it into public schools. And Montgomery County Maryland just signed up and Chicago, Buffalo New York, Washington D.C school system signed up.

Bill Walton ([52:38](#)):

Who are your allies in this alliance? If you don't have any, let's get us some. I mean how can we create a coalition?

Bob Woodson ([52:45](#)):

We have freedom loving people who believe in this nation. They are joining us. Our website has so many hits.

Bill Walton ([53:03](#)):

Two minutes left, want to sum up kind of where we ought to be and where we ought to go.

Ken Blackwell ([53:07](#)):

Let me just say, they need to come and take a look at 1776. We're not afraid to have anyone kick the tires. Like I said, we've been around doing this for four or five decades, so you can look under the hood. But once you look under the hood, you kick the tires and you see that this is the real deal, help us.

Bob Woodson ([53:37](#)):

Another reason that we have to do it is because America's problem is race is preventing us from looking at the pain. In Palo Alto, the suicide rate among wealthy white kids is six times the national average, six times in Palo Alto. You got volunteer at railroad crossings to prevent kids from jumping in front of trains. And so that mother of a 17 year old who lost their life to suicide, she has more in common with the black mother in public house in D.C who lost her 17 daughter to homicide. But to fill that hole, we got to put race aside and recognize that we've got come up with solutions to the drug addictions that's sweeping the country. But we can't do that if we're just separated by race.

Bill Walton ([54:26](#)):

We've got a whole other show because what you're seeing in Palo Alto is this notion, you do not control your own life, it's seeped into everybody's souls. And without the principles you've articulated-

Ken Blackwell ([54:39](#)):

I will just say, my drop the mic comment, is Bob and I, we're not sprinters, we're long distance runners.

Bill Walton ([54:51](#)):

Okay. final words. Bob, Ken, thank you, for now. Thanks for watching the Bill Walton Show, joining us. You can find us on YouTube and all the major podcasts platform and looking forward to having you back for our next show. And looking forward to having you guys back. So thanks so much for excellent, excellent conversation.

Ken Blackwell ([55:10](#)):

Thank you.

Bob Woodson ([55:10](#)):

Thank you.

Speaker 1 ([55:12](#)):

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