

Catastrophic Failure! Why me? Why you?

By Bill Johnson



For some of you, the title of this article, **Catastrophic Failure**, will “ring a bell,” as the title of a book written by Stephen Coughlin. This would be particularly true if you were one of the 500 plus attendees at our conference in 2015. If so you would remember seeing his book at a book table: a tome, significant in both size and importance

Steve Coughlin is a hero of mine and Jan’s, which makes the fact that Mr. Coughlin accepted our invitation to speak in February an immense blessing! **See page 2 for the details!**

Why Coughlin? Steve is a man answering the call. He was pressed into a battle that he wasn’t asking for, for such a time as this.

Quoting from page 11 in his book:

“I did not set out in life to be a student of jihad and Islamic-based terrorism. In the fall of 2001, I was a reserve officer in the United States Army, called to active duty from the private sector due to the events of September 11. My posting was to the Joint Chiefs of Staff Intelligence Directorate. As I watched America respond to events across the world, I noticed with alarm that decision-making seemed to be increasingly less focused on the threat as it presented itself, and more on the narratives that reduced the threat to a nameless abstraction.

“As a mobilized officer brought into the heart of the strategic intelligence world, I knew there would be a large learning curve

involved in formulating the threat doctrine of an enemy that had brought down the Twin Towers in the name of Islam and according to Islamic law.

“I made a point of going to the source. I found actual books of Islamic law. I read them and found they could be mapped, with repeatable precision, to the stated doctrines and information that groups like al-Qaeda



and the Muslim Brotherhood disclosed about themselves and used when speaking to each other. My analysis helped me develop a threat doctrine, an understanding of the enemy as he understands himself unconstrained by the influences of the environment - Sun Tzu’s “Know Your Enemy.” That threat analysis was in line with all the standard doctrines on threat development I had been taught when I learned to do intelligence analysis.”

Editor’s note: Hear the heart, soul, and mind in this man’s writing. Coughlin: trained as a lawyer, full-hearted, a servant who stands and labors, pouring out his life to preserve our Republic.

Again quoting his book: ***“I assumed everyone with whom I worked in the intelligence directorate was aware of the most basic aspects of intelligence such as threat identification.***

“I was wrong. I had entered the Intelligence Directorate adhering to the traditional methods of analysis. Soon, however, I discovered

that within the division there seemed to be a preference for political correctness over accuracy and for models that were generated not by what the enemy said he was, but on what academics and “cultural advisors” said the enemy needed to be, based on contrived social science theories.

*“It seemed the enemy was aware of this as well. Forces hostile to the United States in the War on Terror appeared to have successfully calculated that they could win the war by convincing our national security leaders of the **immorality** of studying and knowing the enemy. It is not our fault that the threat we face identifies its doctrine along Islamic lines, but it is our fault that we refuse to look at that doctrine simply because our enemy wishes to blind us to its strategic design.”*

Do you know why Steve Coughlin entitled his book “Catastrophic Failure?” ‘Catastrophic’ - defined as: disastrous, calamitous, cataclysmic, apocalyptic, ruinous, tragic, fatal, dire, awful, terrible, dreadful. ‘Failure’ references our national leadership’s failure in naming our ENEMY as the ENEMY! The call goes out to you and me. Join with us as Coughlin feeds us more solid food to ground us for the fight ahead!





From the desk of Bill Johnson

Why Me? Why you?

Steve Coughlin (as quoted on the front page) starts the introduction to his book by asking the question “Why Me?”

He proceeds to answer his own question.

“I did not set out in life to be a student of jihad and Islamic-based terrorism. In the fall of 2001, I was a reserve officer in the United States Army, called to active duty from the private sector due to the events of September 11. My posting was to the Joint Chiefs of Staff Intelligence Directorate. As I watched America respond to events across the world...

He had particular skills that the Army saw in him: Bright, diligent, a skilled lawyer, a wordsmith, scholastic, focused, a dedicated man. They were in need of his expertise and they called upon him.

I first became aware of Steve Coughlin while watching a video presentation made for Frank Gaffney and the Center for Security Policy. It was a five part series largely demonstrating the kind of presentations that Coughlin had been giving to military leaders at the highest level, to help them understand our enemies, both international and those with influence in our own government. They referenced organizations like the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas, the Council on American Islamic Relations, ISNA, Hezbollah, Boko Haram, etc.

The presentations which introduced me to him were made after the government had foolishly and shamefully gotten rid of him. The lectures were so helpful in understanding the internal threat.

Coughlin writes on page 507 of “Catastrophic Failure,” “President George W. Bush’s post-

attack ultimatum demanding an end to terrorism - including state-sponsored terrorism - was an implicit admission that draining the swamp of Islamic terrorism was a tough job. For America to prevail in this new war, it would require an assessment of that swamp, of exactly how deep it runs and how many and what kind of creatures dwell there.

“While the rubble was still burning, self-described moderate Muslims urged us to abandon this task. They assured our leadership there was no connection between al-Qaeda and Islam itself.”

Coughlin’s book “Catastrophic Failure” was written with the desire to warn people of what has happened and what is happening.

“In this war - unlike in others - we have a self-identified enemy who identifies the basis of a threat doctrine; we know who he is and why he fights. We know this because he tells us. He says he is a jihadi or mujahid. He says he fights according to Islamic law in order to implement Islamic law. These are facts that cannot be contradicted. Not knowing - or refusing to know - either of these facts or their downstream consequences is malpractice.”

Malpractice is an interesting word here. I have heard it used by others regarding the inept leadership at the highest level, calling us to wake up and stand up and fight to win this war against the many infiltrators within our government leading our “heads” astray. If a surgeon was careless, inept, or lethargic and failed to remove cancer from a loved one, he could/would be charged with malpractice. Thus, malpractice here is a very apt term to use.

Continuing from page 508, “*There is overwhelming evidence that sharia does in fact serve as the driver of the enemy’s threat doctrine. This remains true regardless of whether the enemy’s understanding of Islam is accurate. Such evidence makes it possible to successfully lay down indicators of future activities, many of which have, in fact, already come to pass precisely as forecasted. And yet an intelligence officer, an FBI or DHS special agent, or a national security decision maker can be fired for undertaking or even reciting such analysis. This is the very type of analysis that our oaths demand of us and that our positions require. A national*

“What Cost Freedom? The Fight is on”

Friday, February 9, 2018

Time: 7:00 PM

Where: American Decency
203 E Main Street
Fremont, MI 49412

Saturday, February 10, 2018

Time: 9:00 AM

Where: Prince Conference Center
1800 E Beltline Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Join us on either February 9 or 10, 2018

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security professional’s duty is not to know true Islam; it is to identify and establish a functional threat doctrine, regardless of whether that doctrine accurately tracks with ‘true’ Islam or not. What matters is that we understand the enemy’s doctrines, not whether he is correct about them.”

Coughlin, as you probably surmised, was fired from his position for being a truth teller.

Many individuals with Muslim Brotherhood affiliations dictate who can and cannot work for the government on “War on Terror” issues. They also dictate what can and what cannot be discussed. As long as they keep us from understanding the enemy doctrine, they can keep us from winning the war.

As many of you have come to hear Frank Gaffney (and are glad you did), Steve Coughlin, too, is an unsung hero. Just ask Frank Gaffney.

I hope you will join us on either
February 9 or 10. God bless you friend!

Can we forgive heinous crimes?

by Steve Huston



As the #metoo saga continues to unfold, another chapter opens with more stories of hurt, tears, and interrupted lives at the hand of a “trusted” molester who comes forth from my home state, Michigan. Gymnastic doctor, Larry Nassar, is accused by over 100 victims of sexual molestation while working for USA Gymnastics and Michigan State University. **Let’s not forget, it never stops with the victims;** there’s collateral damage that is rightly laid on this man as well. He is responsible (at least in part) for suicides, suicidal feelings, strained and broken relationships, and a plethora of mental health and physical health issues stemming from his deplorable acts of sexual aggression against those who were put into his trusted care.

Kyle Stephens was the first of a multitude of brave women to give testimony; she unleashed a graphic description of the monstrous acts done to her by this man and then also testified that **“without my knowledge or consent, I had engaged in my first sexual experience when I was in kindergarten.”** It wasn’t until she was 12 that she confided in her parents about the abuse; but they wouldn’t believe her after Nassar denied the allegations, even encouraging her, on occasion, to apologize to him.

What is an appropriate punishment for this multiple time, multi-victim pedophile? We may have our own thoughts but NBCnews.com reports that *“he has already been sentenced to 60 years on the federal child pornography charges, and he could get double that on the state sexual abuse charges.”*

Did Nassar act alone or should the organizations he worked for also be held responsible and be considered complicit in these heinous crimes? Detroitnews.com carried a story entitled **“14 on MSU staff got Nas-**

sar warnings over 2 decades” on January 18 of this year. This article gives details of the abuse which took place and indicates that MSU has indeed had information regarding the atrocities that these young female athletes endured at the hands of this predator. NBCnews.com also reported, *“Some victims condemned USA Gymnastics, which made Nassar its team physician, and Michigan State University, where he had his sports medicine practice, for failing to acknowledge the mistakes they made before and after the scandal broke.”* Add to this that “MSU’s president and trustees skipped the hearing” and one wonders how much true regret or sorrow there is for their “mistakes.”

Being human, our emotions are probably running amok at this story: anger, sorrow, the hurt of stirred up memories, confusion, and the list goes on. Recognizing that, let’s try hard to aim our focus at where it really belongs and will do the most good. Let us focus on the Living Word, Jesus, and on the written Word, the Bible.

These things happen because sin has entered the world. In the flesh, our last response to this would be compassion, love, or forgiveness; yet isn’t this what we are called to? If the Bible is our authority and Jesus our example, aren’t these the reactions and responses we are told to have? Aren’t we to avoid every root of bitterness? And as impossible as it would seem to us, it is true; “there but for the grace of God go I.” We are pretty much clueless as to the depths of depravity which we could be driven if it were not for God’s wonderful and precious grace which He has blessed us with.

In dealing with the heinous nature of sin which interrupts our lives and deeply affects us, we need to ask some questions. Is there any sin so deplorable and deep that God cannot forgive and bring healing to? Is there any hurt so horrendous that we cannot forgive? The answer to both these questions is no; although, IF the answer were yes, we might be tempted to move Nassar near the top of the list.

The fact is, sin is in this world and in its inhabitants. This being the case, how can we

help to protect our children and how can we deal with those who hurt us because sin reigns in their lives? How can we keep the destructiveness of sin to a minimum?

1. Foster relationships of honesty and trust with those in your circles of influence. Help people realize the importance of speaking out and that if they are ever victimized they have nothing to be ashamed of.
2. Check into accusations carefully and thoroughly when you’ve been entrusted with them. We would never want to wrongly destroy a reputation, but neither do we want destroyed lives and continued abuse.
3. Pray for healing for those who have been abused and for the abuser. It is only through Christ that we have the power to forgive and to move on. Pray that by His grace those lives that are seemingly crushed will only be interrupted instead of ruined. By God’s grace we can be strengthened and be able to get back on track by the power of Christ’s love.

We see a powerful example of this in Rachel Denhollander, the first to bring Nassar’s darkness to light. Skillfully crafted and beautifully portraying the gospel of forgiveness, Rachel was the final voice to be heard as she spoke to the court and her abuser before the judge passed sentence.

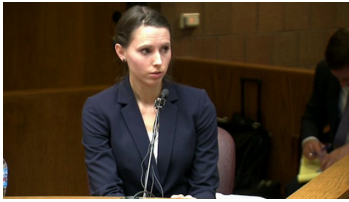
She began by thanking Judge Aquilina *“for giving all of us the chance to reclaim our voices. Our voices were taken from us for so long, and I’m grateful beyond what I can express that you have given us the chance to restore them.”*

“There are two major purposes in our criminal justice system, your Honor: the pursuit of justice and the protection of the innocent. Neither of these purposes can be met if anything less than the maximum available sentence under the plea agreement is imposed upon Larry for his crimes.”

She went on to share her own story of abuse, hurt, and betrayal at the hands of one who was trusted by her and her parents.

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Can we forgive heinous crimes?



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Near the end of her statement, this brave young woman exemplifies the Christian response: *"In our early hearings, you brought your Bible into the courtroom ... If you have read the Bible you carry, you know the definition of sacrificial love portrayed is of God himself loving so sacrificially that He gave up everything to pay a penalty for the sin He did not commit. By His grace, I, too, choose to love this way. Larry, if you have read the Bible you carry, you know forgiveness does not come from doing good things, as if good deeds can erase what you have done. It comes from repentance which requires facing and acknowledging the truth about what you have done in all of its utter depravity and horror ...*

The Bible you carry says it is better for a stone to be thrown around your neck and you thrown into a lake than for you to make even one child stumble. And you have damaged hundreds. The Bible ... carries a final judgment where all of God's wrath and eternal terror is poured out on men like you. Should you ever reach the point of truly facing what you have done, the guilt will be crushing. And that is what makes the gospel of Christ so sweet. Because it extends grace and hope and mercy where none should be found. And it will be there for you.

I pray you experience the soul crushing weight of guilt so you may someday experience true repentance and true forgiveness from God, which you need far more than forgiveness from me -- though I extend that to you as well." (To read her whole victim impact statement, go to www.cnn.com/2018/01/24/us/rachael-denhollander-full-statement/index.html)

Sin will hit each of us deeply in some way. Only God's grace can heal and lift us above it. As Rachael Denhollander spoke of, look to Christ to combat the sin in your own life and forgive those who sin against you.

Pornography Confronted

by Judy Krause



Continued from January 2018 newsletter:

The hours and days that followed my finding pornographic images on my husband's computer were excruciatingly and indescribably painful. My self esteem and trust were shattered. My first question was, "What do I do about this? And "What do I not do?" After getting on my knees in agony and tears, I knew that the first thing I had to do was confront my husband in love. That is a basic principle right from Scripture! But I did not want to do it. I was afraid of what he might say or do. I didn't know the right words or the right way. Confronting in 'love' – I wasn't feeling any love at all! I was feeling the opposite – disgust, betrayal, the deepest grief I've ever felt, and yes, even hate.

It took me over a week before I was able to get myself together enough to go to my husband and tell him what I found. He said the computer must have been hacked. He denied having anything to do with those pornographic images. I started checking out this possibility. Bill Johnson connected me with professionals around the country who had ministries dealing with pornography. They all told me that my computer was not hacked. They told me that someone had to open those particular sites in order to get that material. I confronted him again and again and there was complete denial. For three very long months he kept up the denial until finally he broke down and with sobbing admitted that he had done it.

All during this time I felt like a completely broken person. Even talking to the closest people in my life did not help much. So again, feeling utterly worthless, I fell on my knees and claimed the promise that God would be with me, direct me and actually be my 'husband' during the darkest months of my life.

I searched for a 'Biblical Counselor' because my thoughts continually would lead me to myself, my pain, and the unjustness of it all. I got stuck in my pain and was

unable to even consider looking at the pain my husband was going through. My counselor stepped in beautifully and kept leading me to scriptures that would help heal the suffocating thoughts that kept flooding my mind. I felt like I was drowning and I could not get out of the water. Two verses were particularly helpful to me:

1. Jeremiah 29:11 NIV - *"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."*
2. Psalm 139: 13-14 NIV - *"You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous – how well I know it."*

My counselor led me back to seeking answers from God's Word with all my heart, strength, and mind. I wish I could say there was immediate inner healing. The truth is it took a long, long time. Looking back, I can say that this developed a new hunger for looking to God for help with all of the issues of life and it is a pattern that has stuck with me.

Simultaneously, I was faced with my husband's blaming me for his pornography habit - another step that I had to sincerely look at. That will be next's month's topic.

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Bill Johnson, President and Founder
bjohnson@americandecency.org

Staff

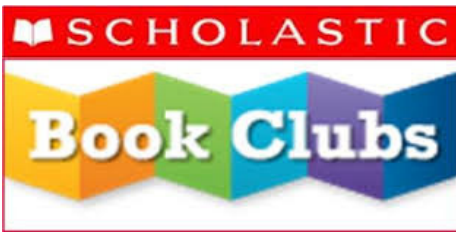
Lisa Van Houten
Kimberly Cargill
Chris Johnson
Steve Huston

P.O. Box 202
Fremont MI 49412-0202
Phone: 231-924-4050
Fax: 231-924-1966
www.americandecency.org



Scholastic - Betrayal from a once-trusted friend

by Lisa Van Houten



"The love of learning, the sequestered nooks, and all the sweet serenity of books."

~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

I was one of those kids who always had their nose in a book. I remember my orthodontist teasing me about putting my book down so he could check my braces. Before God called me to serve here at American Decency Association, I taught first grade for 11 years. What a joy to open the door of reading to children and pass on that love for books to my students!

It's something I have in common with ADA's president Bill Johnson, who also was a teacher for 18 years – mostly teaching fourth grade. Bill still hears from former students who commend him for instilling in them a love for reading. In fact, Bill even made up this song about reading that he taught to his students!

*Books, books – read some every day
In your school or in your home
and you will surely say –
Books, books – every shape and size,
Each a very wonderful surprise ...
Books, books read one and you'll see
We can learn a lot about
the way we ought to be ...
History, biography, mystery, or poetry –
each one has a thing or two,
it can say to me and you. ...*

Both as a child and as a teacher, I always enjoyed the monthly Scholastic Book Club and book fairs. I remember circling the books in the monthly flyer which I hoped my mother would let me order. And as a teacher, Scholastic was a great tool in building my classroom library.

However, the trusted name of Scholastic in years past is not the Scholastic of today. In recent years Scholastic Inc., the world's largest publisher and distributor of chil-

dren's books, has come under fire for its promotion of LGBTQ lifestyles in the books they market to children.

For example, Scholastic published and promotes the book George – a pro-transgender book for third graders. Quoting the book George: *"When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she [George] knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl."*

Scholastic has taken upon itself to determine that 8-year-olds should be indoctrinated with the idea that a boy named George can really be "a girl."

Yet as the American College of Pediatricians warns: *"Conditioning children into believing that a lifetime of chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex is normal and healthful is child abuse."*

Another offering promoting homosexuality to children is Scholastic's book, Uncle Bobby's Wedding, about a child's uncle who is marrying his boyfriend. The book is geared for children as young as preschool.

Other recommended reading lists on Scholastic's website include *"Mother's Day Books for Two-Mommy Families," "Great Books for Two-Dad Families,"* and *"6 Picture Books About Transgender Children"* — with books recommended for kindergarten children.

Scholastic's website also features a comprehensive page of resources for teachers titled: *"Create Inclusive, Affirming Schools for LGBTQ Students"* offering numerous resources for teachers to promote the LGBT agenda in the classroom. The site also includes recommended reading lists of gay and transgender themed books for ages Pre-K – high school. For Middle School readers (ages 12 – 14), Scholastic offers books such as Anything Could Happen, about "a gay Southern boy in love with his straight best friend." Or books such as a + e 4ever described as *"a graphic novel set in that ambiguous crossroads where love and friendship, boy and girl, straight and gay meet. It goes where few books have ventured, into*

genderqueer life, where affections aren't black and white."

While it's not too hard to figure out what Scholastic's book Two Boys Kissing is about, what is especially troubling is that many of Scholastic's pro-LGBTQ books have very innocuous sounding titles and descriptions. The adage you can't judge a book by its cover certainly applies to Scholastic. For example, one would never guess from the cute description of the book for third graders, Best Friend Next Door, that the book normalizes lesbian co-parenting.

Such seemingly intentional deception on the part of Scholastic makes it nearly impossible for even the most vigilant parent to protect their kids from such LGBTQ brainwashing.

Scholastic wasn't always so aggressive in pushing the LGBTQ agenda. In 2009 Scholastic excluded a book from its school book fairs due to homosexual content. However, after receiving backlash from pro-homosexual groups, Scholastic reversed its decision and issued this statement: *Scholastic does not censor books ... we are committed to a review process that considers all books equally regardless of their inclusion of LGBT characters and same sex parents.*

Scholastic's sales topped 1.6 billion dollars in 2016 and the company influences millions of children a year – both in public, private, and, sadly, many evangelical Christian schools.

However, numbers of Catholic schools have booted Scholastic due to the company's pro-LGBTQ stance. Instead, these parochial schools have turned to recently formed Catholic-based books clubs such as Good News! Book Fair and Eureka book fair.

While very few in number, an online search shows there are a couple of Christian alternatives to Scholastic such as the Christian Book Fair which describes itself as a "Christian ministry dedicated to providing books to increase and restore

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How Social Media is Changing Society

by Chris Johnson



It's an often used cliché, the punch line of sitcoms and comic strips, the criticism of parents and grandparents, the love story of a generation: teenagers and their cell phones.

We're a decade into the smart phone era now and almost everyone knows, at some level, that the time spent by teens on their mobile devices has gotten more than a little out of hand.

In a recent episode of "The Briefing" podcast, Albert Mohler stated the issue more eloquently, ***"there is now verifiable data that teenagers and children are becoming addicted, speaking of the kinds of behaviors that come with addiction, in ways that affect their intelligence and their psychological well-being and their moral judgment."***

Mohler is here referencing a USA Today article which reports that a large Apple shareholder is encouraging the company to research the effects of digital technology on children.

That article in turn refers to three studies, which Mohler sums up in his podcast: *"the USA Today piece cited some of the research these shareholders are sending on to Apple with their call for action. It refers to the fact that one, 'A study by the Center on Media and Child Health and the University of Alberta that found that 67% of the over 2,300 teachers surveyed observed that **the number of students who are negatively distracted by digital technologies in the classroom is growing and 75% say students' ability to focus on educational tasks has decreased.**'"*

*"Two, 'Research showing **8th graders who are heavy users of social media have a 27% higher risk of depression,**' meanwhile the*

depression exceeds those who spend time playing sports, hanging out with friends, or doing homework.

*"Three, 'A study by UCLA researchers that showed that **after five days at a device-free outdoor camp, children performed far better on tests for empathy than a control group.**'"*

So all of the time that children and teenagers spend on these devices is changing the way they think, feel, and act, and even influential figures within the digital technology industry are admitting it.

Mohler pulls from two articles in his podcast, the USA Today article quoted above, and a New York Times article, which references several from within the tech development sphere who are uncomfortable with the consequences of technology as it's unfolded.

"These things can be incredibly addictive," said former Apple executive Tony Fadell. ***"It's amazing, but there are a lot of unintended consequences."***

Sean Parker, an early investor, reflected on Facebook, *"It literally changes your relationship with society, with each other. 'It probably interferes with productivity in weird ways. God only knows what it's doing to our children's brains.'"*

And Chamath Palihapitiya, a former Facebook executive, said, *"The short term, dopamine-driven feedback loops that we have created are destroying how society works. No civil discourse, no cooperation, misinformation, mistruth."*

As the words of these industry insiders indicate, it's not only problematic for kids and teens. The constant connection to social sites via digital devices has changed, and continues to change, society.

I want to particularly draw attention to Palihapitiya's comment: *"No civil discourse, no cooperation, misinformation, mistruth."*

That characterization becomes more

poignant in the light of a recent video released by independent undercover journalist, James O'Keefe.

O'Keefe and his team at Project Veritas are in the midst of a campaign exposing the bias and censorship of opposing ideas at Twitter. From Project Veritas' website, *"In a conversation with former Twitter Content Review Agent Mo Norai on May 16th, 2017, we learned that in the past Twitter would manually ban or censor Pro-Trump or conservative content. When asked about the process of banning accounts, Norai said, 'On stuff like that it was more discretion on your view point, I guess how you felt about a particular matter...'*

"When asked to clarify if that process was automated Norai confirmed that it was not: 'Yeah, if they said this is: "Pro-Trump" I don't want it because it offends me, this, that. And I say I banned this whole thing, and it goes over here and they are like, "Oh you know what? I don't like it too. You know what? Mo's right, let's go, let's carry on, what's next?"'

"Norai also revealed that more left-leaning content would go through their selection process with less political scrutiny, 'It would come through checked and then I would be like 'Oh you know what? This is okay. Let it go.'"

So, to the former Facebook executive's point, how can there be civil discourse when opposing ideas are not allowed?

The Project Veritas videos have several more troubling interviews on social media censorship as well.

And Twitter's leftward lean is hardly unique in Silicone Valley. Consider former Google employee, James Damore's current lawsuit against the digital giant.

Google fired Damore when he expressed dissent from the Social Justice Warrior culture within the company.

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How Social Media is Changing Society



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Yet, they are changing, and often *defining* the way our kids think. The average 10 to 18 year-old spends upwards of eight hours a day consuming digital media, and the media that they are consuming is often being filtered through liberal social activists.

And, as the former executives and investor in the Times article reveal, they're changing the way that society works: certain ways of thinking are just not acceptable. Failure to affirm is intolerance; disapproval is hate. Insofar as Social Media sites are directing our future: this is our future.

How much control we give them over our and our children's worldview is completely up to us. Can we use these corrupt tools responsibly? **If not, is it worth using them at all?**

Scholastic

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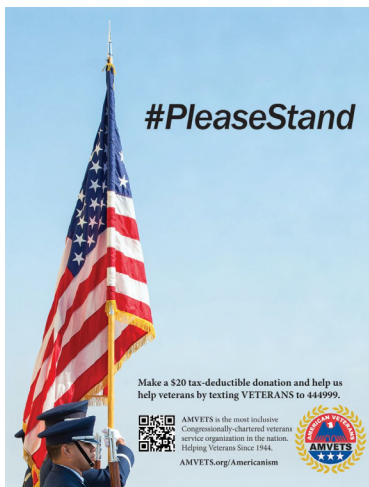
the importance of reading books related to morals and virtues ...”

“We can learn a lot about the way we ought to be” is a line from Bill’s innocent little song he taught his students 30-40 years ago. Scholastic wants kids to learn about the way they want them to be – affirming of homosexual and transgender lifestyles.

Christian parents and educators have a choice – will they continue to support a company that is overtly seeking to indoctrinate children with LGBTQ ideology or will they follow Romans 12:2?

NFL’s Penalty on Patriotism

by Lisa Van Houten



“Please Stand.” That was the polite and simple message of an ad developed by the veteran’s group, American Veterans (AMVETS), for the upcoming Super Bowl program. A gentle request to honor our nation’s flag and the veterans who served under that banner.

The NFL had invited AMVETS to purchase a print ad in the Super Bowl commemorative program. The ad, pictured above, would have cost the veterans group \$30,000. As the Stars and Stripes newspaper reported, the group had planned to use the ad as a fundraiser for its “Americanism” initiative, in which its members travel to schools nationwide to teach flag etiquette. The program also involves a poster and essay contest for K-12 students.

However, when the ad was submitted to the NFL, it was rejected because the NFL deemed those two little words – “please stand” – as too **“political.”** NFL Vice President of Communications Brian McCarthy told the Army Times that the Super Bowl programs have **“never been a place for advertising that could be considered by some as a political statement.”**

How ironic when last year’s Super Bowl had several blatantly liberal political commercials supporting illegal immigration and LGBT ideology!

And since when has standing for the American flag been a “political” statement? It has always been a sign of patriotism –

not politics. Rather, it’s NFL players who politicized the customary observance when they began to kneel as a sign of protest against our law enforcement and American ideals.

As Gary Bauer stated: “The same NFL leadership that in the name of free speech defends the rights of its players to get political on the sidelines is denying free speech to a group of veterans (even though they were willing to pay \$30,000 for that speech).”

Considering the bad publicity, plummeting ratings, and poor attendance of NFL games since Colin Kaepernick and other NFL players began kneeling during the National Anthem, one would think the NFL would want to avoid another public relations nightmare.

Joe Chenelly, the national director of AMVETS, told the Stars and Stripes that the group was “surprised and disappointed” when the NFL rejected the ad. “The NFL said it does not want to take a position on that,” Chenelly said. “Really, by not letting us run an ad, we think they are taking a position.”

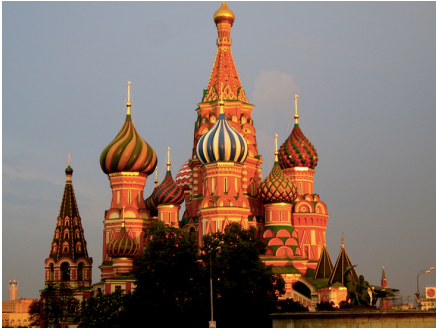
Chenelly also stated that the same advertisement that the NFL rejected was accepted by the National Hockey League and National Basketball Association for programs for their upcoming all-star games.

AMVETS National Commander, Marion Polk, wrote to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell: **“Freedom of speech works both ways. We respect the rights of those who choose to protest, as these rights are precisely what our members have fought – and in many cases died – for. But imposing corporate censorship to deny that same right to those veterans who have secured it for us all is reprehensible and totally beyond the pale.”**

Mail the enclosed postcard to NFL Commissioner Goodell or call him at 212-450-2000 and let him know you are appalled by his blatant disregard of our veterans and their freedom of speech.

All That Business with Russia

by Chris Johnson



To paraphrase Barack Obama, “The 1980s are calling Democrats and they want them to know they’re glad they’re finally taking foreign policy seriously.”

You may remember that during a 2012 presidential election debate, Mitt Romney was derided by Obama for declaring Russia to be America’s top geopolitical threat.

Ever a publication to toss a pom-pom for Democrat ideals, The Atlantic later followed up with a poll which reported that “only 43 percent of respondents now consider Russia a ‘serious problem...’” It went on to report an 18 percentage point jump among Republicans who held that opinion after Romney expressed it in the debate.

Would anyone, besides myself, be interested in seeing the latest numbers on that question? I have a hunch that the 18% hop would look pretty unimpressive next to the great Democratic leap onto the “yikes, Russians!” bandwagon.

Back in July of 2017, James Kirchick, a liberal, eloquently made the point in a scathingly honest piece at Politico (emphasis mine):

“For now, the newfangled Democratic hawkishness on Russia seems motivated almost entirely, if not solely, by anger over the (erroneous) belief that Putin cost Clinton the election - not over the Kremlin’s aggression toward its neighbors, its intervention on behalf of Assad in Syria, its cheating on the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force Treaty, or countless other malfesancies. Most Democrats were willing to let Russia get away with these things when Obama was telling the world that ‘alignments of nations rooted

in the cleavages of a long-gone Cold War’ are obsolete, or that Russia was a mere ‘regional power’ whose involvement in Syria would lead to another Afghanistan, or when he was trying to win Russian help for his signal foreign policy achievement, the Iran nuclear deal. If the Democrats’ newfound antagonism toward the Kremlin extended beyond mere partisanship, they would have protested most of Obama’s foreign policy, which acceded to Russian prerogatives at nearly every turn.”

Now, such honesty on this subject from the left is hard to find. Democrats very badly want Donald Trump to be guilty of collusion and treason and sexual harassment and weird trysts with Russian prostitutes, and kicking homeless people, double parking his Cadillac, dropping kittens in the toilet, eating pineapple on his pizza, and any other atrocities you can think of, because they very badly want the American public to agree that he shouldn’t be president any more.

Of course, their desires don’t make those things true, but they sure can motivate some convincing arguments.

Enter Glenn Simpson, Fusion GPS, and Christopher Steele.

At the behest of the Democratic National Committee, on behalf of Hillary Clinton, former journalist and CEO of Fusion GPS Glenn Simpson hired former MI6 agent Christopher Steele to reach out to his contacts in Russia for any available information on Donald Trump’s business dealings there.

What he found was shocking. While doing business in Russia, Donald Trump had come in contact with some Russian businessmen.

I kid. Kind of. From what we hear of Russia, Putin pretty much runs everything. He has his fingers in all the pies, legitimate business, illicit business, the Russian mafia, etc. It’s not uncommon to hear reports of the wealthy simply being arrested for a trumped up crime and having their assets transferred to someone more favorable to

the Kremlin. So, presumably, to get rich and stay rich in Russia, it helps to be on President Putin’s bright side.

So, for example, for Trump to bring the Miss Universe Contest to Moscow in 2013, he had to do business with the Agalarov family and during the pageant, Agalarov reportedly offered to introduce Mr. Trump to Vladimir Putin, although the meeting ended up falling through.

So the question is, does doing business with Russian businessmen imply influence from Putin?

Christopher Steele and Glenn Simpson seem to think so.

But here’s the kicker: by that standard, Fusion GPS is guilty of Collusion with Russia too.

At the time that the company was putting together the now infamous Steele Dossier, they were also hired by a law firm representing a wealthy Russian family which is as “tied to Putin” as any and which was lobbying to reverse the Magnitsky Act, which accuses certain Russian oligarchs of human rights violations and freezes their assets in the United States, and Putin hates it because it reveals his government as corrupt.

I hope it’s obvious, but nothing in this article is meant to prove or disprove any accusations. I am not trying to accuse Fusion of working for the Kremlin. My point is to show the extent to which Fusion’s dossier can be used as proof of any kind of conspiracy or collusion. Which is that it can’t be used as proof at all, it’s just a bunch of very open-ended questions.

That partisanship that Kirchick mentioned in the quote above can make people see some pretty crazy things, but sometimes it can have the opposite effect as well and can blind the hyper-partisan from what’s right in front of them.

Let us stay humble as we seek to ascertain the truth, and may God grant wisdom to us and our leaders.