

American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont, MI 49412 231-924-4050 www.americandecency.org

Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts

January 2009

Is Decency outmoded in 2009?

Submit to pressure from peers and you move down to their level

By Bill Johnson



With the onslaught of pornography, obscenity and indecency engulfing our every day worlds, it is easy to think that decency is outmoded. On occasion I have had people say upon hearing the name of our organization "American Decency Association." Are you kidding?

Satan and his minions would have you and I believe that decency is old fashioned, corny, prudish.

Decency is defined by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary as conformity to standards of taste, propriety, or quality. The Free Dictionary Online defines decency as "conformity to prevailing standards of propriety or modesty."

I submit that the final authority is God and God's Word! It is to His standard that we need to continually look. Christ is the

standard bearer.

God's Word is the standard for all of life.

God desires that His people honor, obey, love, walk in His Word and proclaim His Word to those around them.

In doing so the body of Christ is being the salt and light of the world and is setting the pace in establishing and/or reestablishing standards of propriety or modesty.

As the body of Christ falters or fails at being salt and light, the standard of propriety or modesty declines and/or is swept away.

Christ tells us in Matthew 5:13-15:

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that

are in the house."

When I was a teacher, for years I placed on my bulletin board a poster and would make effort to install it in the children that I taught. The words of the poster say this:

Will the Real You Please Stand up?

Submit to pressure from peers and you move down to their level. Speak up for your own beliefs and you invite them up to your level. If you move with the crowd, you'll get no further than the crowd. When 40 million people believe in a dumb idea, it's still a dumb idea. Simply swimming with the tide leaves you nowhere. So if you believe in something that's good, honest and bright - stand up for it. Maybe your peers will get smart and drift your way."

It's a compelling statement but far more compelling are the words of our God in Romans 12:2 - "And be not conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

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The action side of American Decency Association

"... but if the salt have lost its savour ..."

By Bill Johnson



When I became a Christian in my early twenties, I began to see there were many words communicated via sermons, bulletin inserts, newsletters, radio broadcasts, but not too much call for a response to the Word or activism.

I also began to see that one of the red flags within Christian circles was that if a church became too concerned about activism then the preaching of the Gospel was taking a back seat and being minimized.

In the 1980's, Focus on the Family initiated an attempt to encourage churches to have social action committees to deal with social concerns within the local community, state and/or nation.

This social action could be in the form of a letter writing campaign to advertisers

sponsoring filth, working with crisis pregnancy centers, or encouraging the county prosecutor to prosecute pornography, etc.

I learned about spiritual warfare. I learned that Christians are to be influencers and change agents of Christ. We are His workmanship.

One key portion of my leading/calling stands out clearly. I will give you the very abbreviated version.

As many of you know, God used AFA's founder Donald E. Wildon significantly in my calling. One of his writings in his AFA Journal impacted me years ago. It was entitled "And 300,000 pulpits were silent." The premise of it was that though Satan is attacking individuals, the home, community, state and nation, many pastors and churches don't preach about being salt and light, leaving Christians oblivious to what is pleasing to God and what is not pleasing to Him, many were vulnerable to attacks of the evil one in regard to matters such as porn, homosexuality, gambling, abortion.

A portion of Dr. Wildmon's challenge: "Today 4,000 innocent precious lives of unborn babies were snuffed out. Their arms and legs were torn from their bodies, their skulls crushed. One and one half million times each year our "civilized" society will take an innocent life.

And 300,000 pulpits are silent.

Six hundred thousand children, between the ages of 3 and 18, are involved in child pornography. Twenty thousand of them will disappear each year, never to be seen again.

And 300,000 pulpits are silent. ...

What important matters are being dealt with in our churches?

The church bulletin says there will be a meeting to plan the church-wide supper. We are raising money to put a new floor cover in the kitchen. (The old one doesn't match the new stove and refrigerator.) The sermon subject last Sunday was 'How to Have a Positive Attitude.' We are organizing a softball team. ...

Sometimes blasphemy comes unnoticed."

[Taken from AFA Journal, December 1985]

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