

## The conservative conscience and the GOP The Great Divorce

By Bill Johnson

What's with such a title as we begin a new year? Let me explain.

***“The Conservative Conscience and the GOP - The Great Divorce”*** is based on a growing sense that conservatives by the droves are divorcing themselves from the bureaucrats (individuals such as Jeb Bush, Ohio Governor John Kasich, Lindsey Graham - to name a few) - and the growing popularity that controversial voices as Ted Cruz and Donald Trump are garnering.

In too many cases, we are allowing duplicitous leaders to lead us. When back in the home district, they promise to defund Planned Parenthood, and then when they return to Washington they do the opposite. With few exceptions, this has become the norm rather than the exception!

**What thinking person can deny that our nation is facing immense spiritual, moral, and security issues with life-threatening implications for the very survival of our country?**

Whether we like it or not who leads this country matters. It matters greatly. I know that most of you agree. You would agree with statements made by Franklin Graham that the upcoming November presidential election is the most important election in our lifetime.

***“The Conservative Conscience and the GOP - The Great Divorce”***. I took this from a featured article and interview done with Daniel Horowitz by Steve Deace, host of a nationally syndicated radio show that is influential in politics.

Daniel Horowitz is a conservative writer and policy analyst and the Senior Editor at <https://www.conservativereview.com/>.

In the discussion, Horowitz states that old promises repeatedly made by the Republicans are not matched by actions.

Examples of such duplicity are many and are exemplified by U.S. Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) who spent millions of dollars campaigning to defund Planned Parenthood and to overturn Obamacare. Yet days after reelection McConnell reneged on his campaign promises.

Similar duplicity led to the downfall of former U.S. Speaker of the House, John Boehner, and it is already being reported that the new Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-Wisconsin) has already picked up the gauntlet of deception. Though eloquently stating things will be different under his leadership, he already has led the charge in passing a year-end omnibus bill that fully funds Planned Parenthood and gives President Obama all that he sought.

What about voters in recent voting seasons? Voters have voted and consistently shown an increasing desire for change in public policy regarding the weakening of our military, opposing open borders, government controlled health care, common core, etc..

Yet Republican leadership, though speaking eloquently on concerns expressed by their constituents, repeatedly vote in lock-step with the Democratic Party and President Obama. Voters wonder: Where is the balance of power? How can there be such accommodation on such life-changing matters as military, economy, borders, marriage, health care, education, justice law enforcement, freedom of speech, religion, assembly, freedom to bear arms, etc.

Horowitz makes the following clear in the interview:

*2016 and the presidential election must not be about figuring out who is most conservative or “conservative enough” but about selecting a candidate who will fundamentally challenge the transformation enacted by President Obama. Certainly a candidate must be a strong conservative but the American people are once bitten and twice shy with those who act conservative during election season and then roll over once in office.*

A few talking points in conclusion:

Both parties are guilty of double talk. Though this article has focused only on the Republican Party, what about the Democrat Party? The degree that the Democrats have turned leftward is not only concerning but frightening. Socialism, larger government intervention, the legitimization of homosexuality and same-sex marriage, transgenderism, failure to acknowledge the threat from without and within posed by Islamists: CAIR, the Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamic State, ISIS, ISIL, Hamas, Islam, ISNA.

In closing, we at ADA believe there are a few gifted individuals who by God's grace could lead with integrity and great capability.

Leading America in such times as this would not be an enviable role for most of us. With disgust, I believe that American leadership has contributed to the violence, the terrorism the needless death and dying, and the expansion of Jihad being exerted around the world.

Yet, there is a praying remnant We are part of that remnant. We trust that you are too.



From the desk of Bill Johnson

### Light and darkness have no communion

Where does our sense of urgency come from? Is it self-concocted? Is it from God above?

Knowing that things can change quickly in our lives for the bad or good, I am thankful that God quickens us by His Spirit day in and day out.

As we start a new year recognizing how much energy, resources, health, and unity in the spirit are needed, I am not oblivious to our need - to my need for the Spirit of God to do that which He has called and allowed me to do. To show up each day seeking His face one day at a time, working in His mighty Name!

Even today as I was up at 3:45 in the morning with energy and a sense of God's presence, I came across several readings that I believe God used to refresh and stir me.

Here is a portion: I hope you can apply it to your life and need for the light of the world - as I desire He do in my life day by day.

*O Lord Jesus, be thou our light throughout the whole of this day, for thy light is the light of men.*

*"And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness."*  
— Genesis 1:4

*Light might well be good since it sprang from that fiat of goodness, "Let there be light." We who enjoy it should be more grateful for it than we are, and see more of God in it and by it. Light physical is said by Solomon to be sweet, but gospel light is infinitely more precious, for it reveals eternal things, and ministers to our immortal*

*natures. When the Holy Spirit gives us spiritual light, and opens our eyes to behold the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, we behold sin in its true colours, and ourselves in our real position; we see the Most Holy God as he reveals himself, the plan of mercy as he propounds it, and the world to come as the Word describes it. Spiritual light has many beams and prismatic colours, but whether they be knowledge, joy, holiness, or life, all are divinely good. If the light received be thus good, what must the essential light be, and how glorious must be the place where he reveals himself. O Lord, since light is so good, give us more of it, and more of thyself, the true light.*

*No sooner is there a good thing in the world, than a division is necessary. Light and darkness have no communion; God has divided them, let us not confound them. Sons of light must not have fellowship with deeds, doctrines, or deceits of darkness. The children of the day must be sober, honest, and bold in their Lord's work, leaving the works of darkness to those who shall dwell in it for ever. Our Churches should by discipline divide the light from the darkness, and we should by our distinct separation from the world do the same. In judgment, in action, in hearing, in teaching, in association, we must discern between the precious and the vile, and maintain the great distinction which the Lord made upon the world's first day. O Lord Jesus, be thou our light throughout the whole of this day, for thy light is the light of men.*

~ C.H. Spurgeon, Morning by Morning

We will be dealing with tough things in our lives because we are sinners living in a sinful world. There is a reason why Paul tells us so clearly in Ephesians 6 to put on the full armor of God that we might be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

There is ample reason why Peter writes that the trials of your faith are much more precious than gold that perishes though you be tried with fire. I Peter 1.

Younger ones often think that life is supposed to go their way. This is not la-la-land down here on earth. For good reason, God tells us in His word that we are strangers/pilgrims in a foreign land. The Bible states that this world is not our home. We are just passing through. As we grow up, we see that. Jesus

says "in the world there shall be tribulation but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Too, Jesus makes clear at one of His last appearances before the disciples, I will leave you but I will not leave you comfortless.

Indeed, He does leave us with His Holy Spirit and He comforts us in our times of need, through loneliness, heartache, trials, tribulations.

As we look upon a world on fire, to a culture that is being undermined by socialists, communists, Islamists of a variety of stripes, local schools of higher learning, even churches engaged in so-called bridge building - saying that both Muslims and Christians worship the same God), we are called to turn to God that He would awaken us so that we are not lulled to sleep by the forces of evil that dull and neutralize us to the spiritual warfare that is before us.

Darkness is growing. There are forces within: (governmental, educational, judicial systems, media, etc.) that are at war against God, His Truth, and believers.

We better be armed in Him that we can be trained in discernment, growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ; that we would have the spiritual capability to represent Him well before a fallen world in whatever capacity we are called upon to serve, to sit, stand, or walk.

That may mean having a godly, peaceful presence in a nursing home. It may be living with great pain knowing that life on this earth is short, but realizing God is using you as you suffer with endurance, still praising God.

One never knows. It could be persecution either here or abroad. God is at work. In the world there will be tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

# Do I have to eat my words?

by Bill Johnson



*Will this be an indoctrination session trying to soften up their audience for moving a young listening audience to accommodate to the “peaceful religion” of Islam?*

*Perhaps I will have to eat my words. Perhaps not. Honestly, I hope I have to humble myself and admit that I surmised when I shouldn't have. A true Christian college would certainly not sugar coat Islam.*

That is what I stated in an email alert the day before a public “Teach-In” at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan on the subject of ISIS, Terrorism & Refugees, which I attended on December 3.

When I received word about this “Teach-In” on Islam, I knew I needed to be there to monitor what was being presented. I knew there would be time for questions and comments. I sensed an urgency that I be there to counter falsehoods or errant teachings/indoctrination. I say this with sadness. Once Calvin College was a trusted conservative Christian institution of higher learning. However, as with many Christian colleges of the past, Calvin has drifted leftward.

The event featured several Calvin faculty members, but no outside experts on national security:

\* Bert de Vries (History & Archaeology): *The Refugee Crisis in the Middle East*

\* Doug Howard (History):

*ISIS and Regional Politics*

\* Jason VanHorn (Geography):

*Mapping Terrorism*

\* Frans van Liere (History & Medieval Studies): *Is Islam a Violent Religion?*

As I stated, “Perhaps, I will have to eat my

words. If that is the case, I will humbly apologize at my earliest opportunity using this very forum.” So – do I have to eat my words?

**Unfortunately, things were even worse than I surmised. The answer is no.**

The presenters were to give brief presentations followed by a brief “Q&A” after each speaker (one or two questions for most of the speakers) and concluding with a panel discussion.

It was a timely topic that had the potential of dealing with topics of great import and societal impact - especially considering the tragic news coming out of San Bernadino, California in regard to the terrorist attack which took 14 lives with 21 seriously injured just one day before this “teach-in.”

However, consistent with the entire tone of the “Teach-In”, this terrorist attack was never brought up by any of the professors or discussed except in passing by one of the questioners – yours truly.

In a 150 minute time frame, there was no mention of border control, vetting of refugees, illegal immigration, Civilization Jihad, Taqiyya, Sharia Law, the caliphate, honor killing, etc.

I will share observations from just a couple of the presenters.

Bert de Vries: The philosophy/worldview communicated by Professor de Vries could be best encapsulated by an emotional slide show that he had created for his students from a visit to Syria. That slideshow was his strongest pro-refugee argument - no discussion regarding vetting, cautions, issues surrounding potential dangers at all.

The final presenter, Frans Van Liere, was also the moderator. “The title of his presentation was, “Is Islam a Violent Religion?” Professor Van Liere stated right from the top that he wasn't a Koranic scholar, knew no Arabic and was not a specialist on the subject of Islam. What he had to share, he said, were personal observations and also his interactions with

students on the subject. Quoting Professor Van Liere:

*You cannot just compare violent episodes in the history of Islam with peaceful periods in the history of Christianity. That makes about as much sense as taking Jihadi John as a representative of Islam and Mother Teresa as the representative of Christianity. It's no comparison. Yet, this rhetorical technique is often applied by Christians in the discussion about Islam and violence. All the places where the Bible preaches peace then are juxtaposed to all the places where the Koran seems to condone violence. That will simply not do. 'Because you can just find lots of places where the Bible condones violence and where the Koran preaches peace. This kind of proof texting only proves that both religions have their origins in ancient culture where warfare and feuding were endemic.*

Incredibly, this Christian college professor, equated the Koran with God's Word, the Bible!

One female questioner from the audience was given the opportunity to ask the last question of the evening which left the panel stumbling for an answer and debunked the academic tone of the evening.

*“So, my heart is with the Christian communities in the Middle East and North Africa who have been decimated with a concerted, intentional systematic effort to religiously cleanse Christians in the Middle East whether it's from Boko Haram in Nigeria and Jajui in Sudan. But I hear, unless I'm not listening fully - an apologist for this Islamic wave of mass murder which has touched every continent and nearly every common country. My question is, Christians who live as neighbors with their Muslim friends and neighbors in these countries in the Middle East with identical living circumstances, under the same weather/agricultural circumstances, and political and economic situations - do not engage in systematic campaigns of terror. What's the difference?”*

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# Movie: Woodlawn

Friday, January 15, 2016



Join us at American Decency headquarters on Friday, January 15 for what I consider one of the most inspiring movies I have ever seen - "Woodlawn."

As a reviewer for The Christian Post wrote about Woodlawn:

*The best sports movies aren't even about sports.*

*Instead, the best sports movies use sports as a backdrop to tell the story of something far more significant and important, something that even non-sports fans can embrace.*

*Such is the case with "Woodlawn" which recounts the true story of a newly integrated high school football team in Birmingham, Alabama, that is the source of racial tension until most of the players accept Christ and spark a city-wide revival. Set in the early 1970s, "Woodlawn" is the best sports movie I've ever seen, although that label really doesn't do it justice. That's because it's simply a great movie – even without the sports – and it's among the most inspiring and uplifting films I've watched.*

This riveting true story of courage, strength, and football at the height of racial tension in Birmingham, Alabama, inspired the motion picture Woodlawn, and tells the story of Coach Tandy Gerelds, his running back Tony Nathan, and a high school football game that healed a city.

Starring Sean Astin ("The Lord Of The Rings" trilogy) as a determined sports chaplain and Oscar-winning actor Jon Voight as legendary Alabama coach Paul "Bear" Bryant, "Woodlawn" is one of those movies that wouldn't be believable if it weren't true.

WOODLAWN is more than a movie. It's a true story about people changed by love and devotion to Jesus. It's time for that to happen again.

Join us on Friday, January 15 at American Decency headquarters, 203 E. Main Street in Fremont for "Woodlawn". We will have showings at 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM. For more information call us at 231-924-4050.



**Friday, February 19** Showing the movie "War Room" at 1 PM and 7 PM at the ADA office in Fremont, MI.

**March 22 & 24** (Locations to be determined) Dan Celia at perhaps two locations in Michigan. Dan heads Financial Issues with Dan Celia, on American Family Radio's Talk Network, which airs each week-day starting at 8 AM CST and Saturdays at 10 AM CST.

**Friday-Saturday, June 3-5** ADA Spring Conference at the Shack in Jugville, Michigan. With speakers to be announced, which will include **Rev. Ken Smith**, Head of Biblical Counseling Center, Jenison, Michigan. Stay tuned.

**Friday, July 22** ADA Summer Conference in Grand Rapids (location to be announced) with speakers: **Dr. Joel Beeke**, A minister of the Heritage Netherlands Reformed Congregation and President and Founder of Puritan Theological Seminary, Grand Rapid, Michigan, and **Curtis Bowers**, former Idaho State Representative, Creator of award winning movie "Agenda: Grinding America Down" and more recently "Agenda 2: Masters of Deceit".

# Do I have to eat my words

by Bill Johnson

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At several junctures, I raised concerns (more than once) that the teach-in was so heavily one sided in perspective making it dangerous for the young college students who were being slowly but surely indoctrinated to see the Koran as non-violent, on the same level as the Bible. The Bible, of course, teaches - love your neighbor as you love yourselves; to love your enemy. Whereas the Koran implicitly teaches the Muslim to kill the infidel (the infidel being the Christian, the Jew, the unbeliever). A huge difference, yet this clear difference was never even remotely touched upon.

**These young unsuspecting college students were hearing presentations that served as an apologist for the Islamic wave seen around the world.**

In closing, I did take a few moments after the event to go directly up to speak with the man behind the event: Professor Frans van Liere. I spoke conciliatorily with him, but also once again made it clear of my concern to have young people be under one-sided teaching that was inaccurate. I told him it was dangerous and damaging.

It is important that leadership and shapers of young minds hear from you regarding this one. Express your concern to the President of Calvin College by mailing the enclosed postcard.

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## One and the Same? Absolutely Not!

by Chris Johnson



***“I stand in religious solidarity with Muslims because they, like me, are people of the book. And as Pope Francis stated last week, we worship the same God.”***

Wheaton College professor Larycia Hawkins recently raised many eyebrows when she made that statement, as well as pledging to wear a hijab, the headscarf worn by conservative Muslim women, as a celebration of Advent - the weeks anticipating the celebration of Christ's birth.

Professor Hawkins was promptly put on administrative leave by Wheaton, “in order to give more time to explore theological implications of her recent public statements concerning Christianity and Islam.” Chaos then ensued as liberal news media around the nation pounced on a fresh opportunity to denounce a Christian institution as intolerant.

While I agree with the reason for Professor Hawkins' publicity stunt - “I love my Muslim neighbor because s/he deserves love by virtue of her/his human dignity” - her execution is tragically misinformed.

**It is of the utmost importance that Christians and the culture around us recognize that Allah and Yahweh are not the same God.** There is a reason that Jews and Christians share a common scripture, albeit an incomplete one in the case of the Jews, and Muslims alone hold aloft the Qur'an - the claims set forth by each are often contradictory.

Before we go into specific contradictions, let's establish this: Muslims understand the Qur'an to be the direct revelation of their perfect, inerrant god just as Christians believe the Bible to be the direct revelation of our perfect, inerrant God. If we are both worshipping the same perfect, inerrant God

who by definition does not make mistakes or contradict Himself, the scriptures of Islam and Christianity must be completely and entirely consistent. A perfect, inerrant God cannot disagree with Himself.

Having established any contradictions between the Qur'an and the Bible, identifying the deity described in each as being one and the same would be insulting to both. If we insist they are the same in spite of the inconsistency, by necessity, neither one is perfect or infallible.

**To paraphrase Steve Coughlin from our last summer conference, “you can believe in one, you can believe in the other, you can believe in neither, but you cannot believe in both.”**

I'm not by any means an expert on Islam, but even for the layman inconsistencies are not hard to find. The obvious expressions of religion aside - dietary restrictions, holidays, and yes, sometimes terrorism - Allah and Yahweh demand to be worshipped in different ways. The good Muslim must face Mecca in prayer so many times a day. No such demand exists for Christians. The good Christian partakes in the Lord's Supper and, to my knowledge, no such demand exists for the Muslim, etc.

Even more foundationally, Christianity has no foundation without the Deity of Christ, yet the idea of Christ being God is anathema to Muslims and is, in their understanding, idolatry. In fact, the Qur'an vehemently denies this, the founding doctrine of Christianity: “People of the Book, do not go to excess in your religion, and do not say anything about God except the truth: the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, was nothing more than a messenger of God...” (Sura 4) and again in Sura 23, “No son did Allah beget, nor is there any god along with Him...”

**Surely if one God wrote one book to the Muslims and one to the Christians He would at least describe Himself in the same way.**

As I said above, Muslims deserve dignity as humans and Image bearers of God, but

Professor Hawkins' expression of solidarity was a poor choice.

By claiming Christianity, Larycia Hawkins is making claims that no Muslim can agree with and still remain a Muslim. Yet, by wearing a distinctively Muslim headscarf, she is donning a marker that identifies her as Muslim or, “not Christian.” Surely there is a way to affirm the human dignity of Muslims without denying the uniqueness of the two largest and ever-at-conflict religions in the world! Or, to be more blunt, surely a Christian professor can affirm the human dignity of Muslims without affirming their worship of a false God.

And let us take that as an abrupt segue to another problem with Hawkins' expression of solidarity - what does it say to the Middle Eastern Christians who are facing massive human rights violations at the hands of Muslims every day.

Dr. James Hoffmeier, a professor at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, lived in Egypt for over 20 years.

When the Wheaton controversy broke out, he asked some of his Middle Eastern Christian contacts for their take on it.

All their answers were compelling, but this from an Egyptian anthropologist especially struck bone.

“If [Hawkins] is concerned about the cause of the oppressed, there are many Christian and non-Christian organizations she can join that are really bringing change to people's lives. Many such organizations are working with Middle Eastern refugees at different campsites. Our focus should be on such groups—Yazidis, Christians, Alawites, and moderate Muslims—who are experiencing genocide. My wife went to a refugee camp in Jordan this past summer to serve these groups who are literally stripped of their dignity. . . . Egyptian and Middle Eastern Christians have their own concerns and hardships. This type of gesture [wearing a hijab] is viewed as a form of empty propaganda; we call it shi'arat in Egypt.”

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## One and the Same? Absolutely Not!



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**More than any bigotry, real or imagined, towards Muslims in the United States, Christians are facing genocide at the hands of Islamists today.**

In an piece poignantly titled, “And then there were none,” The Economist reports on the forced Christian exodus from the Middle East, “Overall, the proportion of Middle Easterners who are Christian has dropped from 14% in 1910 to 4% today. Church leaders and pundits have begun to ask whether Christianity will vanish from the Middle East, its cradle, after 2,000 years.”

This is a crisis. It is these Christians who truly need the expression of solidarity from Professor Hawkins, yet these spiritual brothers and sisters have been passed over for the worshippers of a false God who get sideways glances when they wear a funny hat on the bus.

Yes, Muslims are people too, Professor Hawkins. Yes, they are made in the image of God and should enjoy the same human rights that other people do, but Muslims are not being systematically removed from their homeland and mistreated because of their religion. Christians are. **How about we take off that headscarf and hold up a cross and stand in solidarity with them.**

## Match Grant Update

by Bill Johnson

As we wrote in a previous newsletter, a friend of this ministry - an anonymous donor - gave us a much more “challenging” match challenge than usual. The details again were: He and his wife would match any gift, given by December 31, from anyone who had never given before or those hadn’t given to this ministry since 2013.

Finding new supporters (new friends) is not the easiest thing in these days. And, on December 31 we reported via our email alert that we were still short \$2,626.00. Shortly after reporting that, an individual called stating they were giving a first time gift of \$2,000!

Then in a later email alert on New Year’s Eve, which was entitled “It Ain’t Over Til it’s Over”, we reported that we were then only \$431.00 short at the end of the last business day of the year. In the late evening, with hope and prayers, we checked credit card gifts just before the end of the day (December 31) which, praise the Lord, positioned us at \$105.02 short of the goal.

Lastly in our journey, we hoped that as we checked our mail on Saturday, January 2 there would be end of year gifts (post-marked in 2015) given to ADA that qualified for the match. In checking gifts received in the mail we at last reached what seemed an unlikely reality – that we would reach the match challenge goal that was extended to us in October.

**We reached our goal. God has shown Himself strong once again in our weakness!**

In closing, I want to thank the extender of the match challenge, an anonymous donor, who made what we found to be a challenge that stretched us. We knew that it wasn’t going to be easy, and, it wasn’t.

But, that’s okay! This match wasn’t about just matching any and all gifts, but rather about finding new friends, new supporters, or calling out to those who hadn’t seen fit to give for a long time.

This challenge put us in a position of trying harder than ever before to see if in fact we could reach numbers of people beyond our faithful supporters!

So we have done what we could do. (1) We sent out letters to those in our data base that hadn’t given, asking for them to once again stand with us financially. (2) We posted the match challenge request on our Facebook and our website at [americandecency.org](http://americandecency.org), and (3) we sent way more emails asking for financial support - which isn’t our regular practice.

Lastly, though we struggled with making the challenge, that doesn’t mean that year-end giving was weak, because it wasn’t. Our year-end giving was very strong!

By the grace of God - though serious spiritual, moral and political concerns are all around us - rather than seeing friends of this ministry fold, as we review the giving from last year, we are encouraged by the strong support we have received! We thank God for His steadfast love as reflected by the support of people like you.

We ask for your ongoing support. And, as God leads, would you consider joining our team of monthly supporters? Enclosed in this newsletter is a monthly pledge card. Simply send the pledge card in with your gift, indicating on the back that you would like to become a monthly pledge donor. Each month we’ll return your pledge card back to you with your receipt.

On behalf of the American Decency board, staff, and my wife Jan and I, I just want to say thank you, thank you, thank you to all of you who have helped make this ministry possible, in the past, in the present and who have already pledged to stand with us in the future! God bless you each one!

# A Lack of Knowledge at College

by Lisa Van Houten



In a recent lesson with my young Sunday School students, we talked about how some promises tell of something good that will happen, other warn of negative consequences. The Bible gives many examples of both kinds of promises. *“Honor your father and mother; that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.”* (Exodus 20:12) And *“If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.”* (Genesis 4:7)

Another such warning with a promise of consequences is Hosea 4:6: ***My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.***

For lack of knowledge of God’s Word, God’s people are destroyed. That is why we are concerned and give a warning when we see individuals and institutions entrusted to teach God’s Word straying from it.

In this newsletter we have already given example of a professor at Wheaton College who has claimed the Lord God and Allah are the same. We’ve also discussed a concern at Calvin College regarding their teaching on Islam. In the first case, the problem seems to be with the professor, rather than the college. In the second, sadly, there is evidence that the concern reaches farther than one “teach-in.”

I say that with great sorrow, especially as I am an alumnus of Calvin College. I know firsthand the solid Biblical foundation on which this institution was built. The Calvin Seal is of a hand holding out a heart in offering, with this motto: ***Cor meum tibi offero, Domine, prompte et sincere.*** - ***My***

***heart I offer to you, Lord, promptly and sincerely.*** These have not just been empty words in generations past, but truly a call to bring every aspect of one’s life under the dominion of Christ.

And so I grieve when I see examples of this institution turning its back on the knowledge of God. The latest came from the Calvin student newspaper, The Chimes. An article from December 4 is entitled: [First Gay Couple Married in Kent County Share Testimony of Faith, Love and Time at Calvin.](#)

The article introduces readers to two homosexual men – as the title said, the first to be “married” in Kent County – Calvin graduates who not only identify as homosexuals, but also as Christians. The article goes on to affirm their homosexual lifestyle, giving a venue for the two to espouse views that are antithetical, even heretical to Scripture, with no dissenting commentary given, other than a disclaimer.

Quoting from the lengthy article:  
*Both Zach and Colby struggled with their identities while they were students. But they said they came to the conclusion that God does not desire for them to hide part of their identity at the cost of being a Christian.*

*“It is often times thought of as a dichotomy — that you can’t be gay and Christian at same time.” Colby said. “God takes precedence in both of our lives ... and so trying to reconcile homosexuality and engagement in the homosexual community, which seemed to compromise our beliefs in redemption and in God’s salvation, is something that we’ve struggled with our entire lives.”*

*Colby recounted the moment when he was sitting in the KHvR prayer room, asking God to show him what he should do, and said he felt the Holy Spirit come upon him:*

*“[It was] a feeling I can’t explain — I can’t explain that intense peace and reassurance and it was only in the Holy Spirit that I felt it. It was just intoxicating and fulfilling and I knew that I was not in the wrong; I was*

*just simply trying to show who I am.” ...*

*“Now I can’t imagine it any other way, because everyone around us now knows us as ‘husbands’ — and not only husbands, but Christian husbands. They know us as a unit and we’ve been respected as a union,” Colby said.*

*Both Colby and Zach are active in their church, regularly attending functions and participating in worship teams. ...*

*Zach also said that the church acting in hate toward the LGBT+ community is not the answer.*

*“We didn’t learn how to be gay, ... how to be who we are, but hating other people and standing behind a pulpit and telling gay people they are going to hell, that is something you learn,” he said. ...*

I don’t have the space here to refute all the faulty theological claims these two young men were allowed to make in this Calvin College Chimes article. Such as, the Holy Spirit would not give us “feelings” that lead us against the truth of God’s Word. In fact, as sinful beings, we should never trust our feelings as opposed to Scripture. And much could also be discussed about whether it is “hate” or an act of love to compassionately tell someone of the consequences of sin.

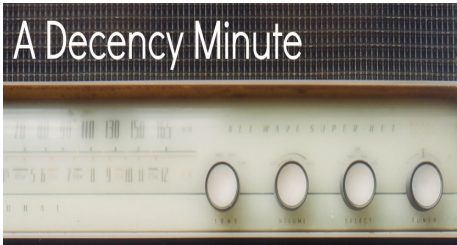
While I won’t delve into these issues in this article, I would like to go back to the warning from Hosea. ***And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.***

When Christian institutions of learning turn their back on the knowledge of God’s Word, there will be consequences for the young people they influence. These two young men are examples of countless others who, as it says in Hosea 8:14, *without understanding shall come to ruin.*

They don’t need our condemnation; they need a true knowledge of God and His Word. And they need institutions who will teach that to them – promptly and sincerely.

# A Radio Outreach of American Decency

by Lisa Van Houten



Did you know American Decency has a one-minute radio commentary, called “A Decency Minute,” heard daily nationwide on American Family Radio (AFR)? AFR is a network of 200 radio stations across the nation. In West Michigan, you can find AFR at 91.7 FM. For other locations, go to [www.afr.net](http://www.afr.net) to find a station in your listening area. Our radio commentaries are also archived on our website, [americandecency.org](http://americandecency.org), where you can listen to current and past programs. Or, if you would like a CD recording of recent programs, request a free copy by calling us at 231-924-4050.

In our “Decency Minute” programs, Bill Johnson gives a perspective on issues of the day and the Christian walk. Listed below are the samples of some of our recent messages from our “Decency Minute” commentary:

## **Decency Minute – The Reason We Celebrate**

Can you imagine the excitement of Adam and Eve each time they had a child? Can’t you just see Cain and Abel and Seth on their mother’s lap, hearing the hope in her voice, as she told them of God’s promise that one of her children would make things right again?

Can you imagine their devastation as they realized the depths of the curse - as their sons began to kill and enslave each other. That’s the context of Christmas.

After generations of hoping, waiting, suffering, and longing, He’s here! Our Hero, whom Eve had hoped for, finally born, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

This week, meditate on why we CELEBRATE Christmas: the coming of the Prince of Peace, the one who restores

the Glory of God in man and returns the peace of God to man. Christ has come to make all things new!

## **Decency Minute – Will We Make Women Fight for Us?:**

When President Obama ran for office, he promised to bring change – and indeed, he has. His radical agenda is impacting every vestige of society – including our armed services.

The U. S. military has long stood as an elite fighting force. Yet under President Obama, the military has been weakened - as national security has taken a back seat to social engineering. The latest example is Defense Secretary Ash Carter’s announcement that all combat roles will now be open to women – with no exception.

As many have warned, this not only endangers the young women forced to fight in combat, but also endangers our national security. And the next step may require 18 year old girls to register for the draft. Women currently serve honorably in many capacities of our military, but are we prepared to send our daughters to the front lines? Will we be a nation that protects women – or sends them into battle?

## **Decency Minute – The Next Generation**

Christmas is a time of joy, yet it can also be a painful time. Many Christian parents and grandparents find their hearts broken as they gather together with family during the Christmas season and hear of loved ones who are compromised in their Christian walk and their lack of discernment. Young people who were taught God’s truth – now dishonor the Lord in their lifestyle, entertainment choices, and beliefs.

God’s Word says: *I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.*

The battle for the hearts and minds of our children and grandchildren is very urgent today. What is right? What is wrong? By God’s grace may you and I be encouragements to those around us. Be

watchful, stand firm in the faith, be strong – and fervently pray for your loved ones.

## **Decency Minute – Religious Liberty:**

2015 will go down in history as the year when five unrestrained justices defied God’s law and the Constitution - and forced homosexual marriage upon America.

Yet, as Christian bakers Aaron and Melissa Klein found out - the ultimate goal of the LGBT agenda is not so-called marriage equality – but the coerced affirmation of sexual deviancy under penalty of law. Just last week the Kleins were forced to pay a fine of over \$135,000 for refusing to take part in a same-sex wedding.

The State will no longer tolerate religious liberty if one’s religious beliefs do not affirm gay marriage.

And it won’t stop with bakers. Every Christian will have to make a choice – will we conform to the teaching of God or man? Even though the consequences might be difficult - the choice shouldn’t be. Choose this day whom you will serve.

## **Decency Minute – A Look Back and Ahead:**

In this past year we’ve seen the crumbling of our nation in ways never seen before – a government that is enabling our enemy, weakening our military, undermining our Constitution, acting as if protecting our borders from those who would do us harm is somehow shameful. Yet no matter how much political unrest or societal upheaval should happen in the year ahead, our God is in control.

As with many of you, I’ve seen God’s faithfulness in my life - day by day and over many years. The world may be in turmoil, but those who rest in Christ have peace. I don’t know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future. By God’s grace I intend to stand and fight the spiritual warfare that lies before me, to be ready always to give an answer for the hope that lies within me. What about you?