

Frontline

American Decency Association

July 2015 Vol. XXIV Issue VII

Annual Conference - July 31, 2015 at 6:30pm - 9:30pm



By Bill Johnson

Our Summer Conference that will be taking place in Grand Rapids, Michigan at the spacious Sunshine Community Church on Friday, July 31st IS the most urgent that we have ever hosted.

Why? Because it is likely that the Supreme Court will have already made public their decision regarding homosexual marriage.

If you keep your “ear to the ground,” you are aware that the general consensus is that the Supreme Court will rule against Biblical marriage. (By the time you receive this newsletter their decision should be announced.)

However, we know that irrespective of their ruling, the ground has been laid for the deepening and broadening of the pressure from the “elite” upon the greater population to not only tolerate but to accept homosexuality, same-sex marriage, transgenderism, bisexuality, etc. The pressure is expected to produce societal capitulation. Indeed, that is exactly what we are seeing at the highest echelons - from corporate America and athletes and politicians to pastors and church denominations - capitulation has been the modus operandi.

And the pressure to capitulate is only expected to increase.

Whatever the court’s decision, we invited Janet (Folger) Porter to be one of our featured speakers because of Janet’s deep love and commitment to God and His Holy Word. Many questions will arise in Christian hearts and consciences no matter what the Supreme Court decides. Janet will come armed to ad-

dress them. As a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, she will address them from a spiritual and legal perspective.

An example of one such question: What impact would the legitimization of same sex marriage have upon those of us desiring to teach and train our loved ones under the authority of a loving God?

In addition to this cultural battle, there is a war from without which has also become a battle within which our government has willfully failed to identify as a war. That is the war with radical Islam (in opposition - the Muslim Brotherhood, ISIS, ISNA, CAIR, MSA)

Most of you reading this are deeply troubled by this threat to our nation.

This willful blindness has allowed the enemy (which we do not identify as an enemy) to infiltrate all branches of our government at the highest levels empowering the enemy to undermine American security policy.

My father fought in World War II in Germany. Though my dad was not a huge proponent of war, I know that he would be dumbfounded by the widespread lethargy of the American people in response to the rapid escalation of Islamic terrorism.

What can one person/one organization do to try to help friends, acquaintances and loved ones understand that we are fast approaching a time when we will be ripe for an all out attack because we chose not to stand against wicked forces of evil that have plotted the destruction of America.

“Father God help us to help people to realize that our security is up for grabs.”

God is bringing a great American to speak to us at this year’s conference. His name is Major (Retired) Stephen C. Coughlin. Beginning in 2011, the Muslim Brotherhood convinced the White House to ban Coughlin and put an end to his national security briefings. In my humble opinion, this tells us everything we need to know about this individual. Steve Coughlin was dismissed because he skillfully exposed the truth about our Islamic enemy.

Lastly, but not least, Pastor Anthony Moore is our third and final presenter. Moore dynamically preaches the full counsel of God with power and application – speaking into the issues of the today. His message will be a Biblical message culminating the evening with a word of challenge and encouragement. Pastor Moore has served the Carolina Missionary Baptist Church since 1987.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Friday, July 31, 2015
Time: 6:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.
Location: Sunshine Church
3300 East Beltline Ave NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Cost: Free will offering

To register call Kimberly at our office at 231-924-4050 or email us at kimberly@americandecency.org



From the desk of Bill Johnson

Is it an advantage or not?

One of the advantages of growing older is that you can look back and see the trends beyond just a short period of time - like beyond five, ten, or even fifteen years.

I am now sixty-eight years old.

However, I'm not talking about the "good old days" here. I'm talking about the dastardly assault upon God's standard of holiness over the past few decades of my life.

The Bible told us that these days **WOULD** come upon us. And, to the amazement of many of us, we are seeing them unfold right before our very eyes.

God says in His Word in II Timothy 3:1-7:

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.

I remember reading this passage while in my thirties (in the 80s). It seemed almost inconceivable at that time that there would be such a shifting tide toward godlessness.

A couple of years ago Jan and I went to a gay pride parade in Detroit. We went to see which corporations were sponsoring this parade. We were par-

ticularly trying to determine if a particular corporation was a sponsor.

As we watched the parade as it worked its way to downtown Hart Plaza, we came away heavy hearted over the parade of souls strangely attired in bizarre outfits and gaudy clothes with the look of brokenness indicating a lostness, a confusion, a contortion of identity and personhood.

In 1996, I recall several friends whose organizations were increasingly addressing the homosexual issue. This blew me away.

I usually see myself as well informed - not often shocked by the happenings of the day.

Indeed, I was aware of the sitcoms that network television was airing. I was aware that certain major corporations were beginning to sponsor television programs insidiously promoting homosexuality.

March 1996, AFA Journal: *"It is amazing to see two gay weddings within a month on two big sitcoms. It seems like they're trying to push some buttons. Even in the gay community, a full-on same-sex marriage is a minority kind of thing,"* said Rob Greenblatt, executive vice president of development for Fox. *"It is 1996, and little by little everybody has gotten a little less afraid of the old taboos."*

I wasn't exactly blindsided, but nonetheless I was and continue to be shocked by the massive caving in (broadly speaking) of our culture.

God's word refers to homosexuality as an abomination. Men kissing men. Women kissing women. Disgusting. Perverse.

Of course I realized what television writers and producers were trying to do - grease the skids for homosexuality, perhaps even for same-sex "marriage" - that the general public would tolerate and finally find homosexuality acceptable.

American Decency Association was engaged in monitoring concerning television shows portraying homosexuals in a positive light. We saw first hand the shift in the tone of the advertiser responses to our letters. In earlier years, corporations would write conciliatory letters apologizing for offending

us and indicating that they would pull their advertisements from those particular shows. But then we saw them say such things and yet advertise on programs with similar content. And, of course, now advertiser responses basically take no responsibility for what their sponsorship empowers and they even defend their decisions with the excuse of reaching a "diverse" audience.

Many politicians are like that, as we are finding in these days of capitulation - as are many church goers, pastors, and church leaders.

Keep your "finger to the winds" and bow and bend, but always be careful to adhere to what is politically correct.

There is corruption and evil bringing degradation at warp speed at the highest levels in our government, federal courts, colleges and universities, our public schools, and families. Our churches often seem oblivious, or at the very least are silent.

Many of us ask the question: "Won't somebody, anybody please, please stand?"

Sure it's hard. Sure it's lonely. But, it can be done, and it is being done! What shall enable a believe to bear all this?

An old preacher from the past writes with clarity and proven substance:

A saved soul has many sorrows. He has a body like other men - weak and frail. He has a heart like other men - and often a more sensitive one too. He has trials and losses to bear like others - and often more. He has his share of bereavements, deaths, disappointments, crosses. He has the world to oppose, a place in life to fill blamelessly, unconverted relatives to bear with patiently, persecutions to endure and a death to die. And who is sufficient for these things? What shall enable a believer to bear all this? Nothing but "the consolation there is in Christ." (Phil. 2:1)

~ J.C. Ryle

Let us stand!

Josh Duggar – Pray for Him – Pray for Us

by Bill Johnson



As I read the news accounts regarding Josh Duggar, I felt compelled to offer my perspective myself – a sinner in need of a Savior. Duggar, as most of you have read by now, resigned from his leadership role with the Family Research Council Action.

FRC posted a statement with these words:

Washington, D.C. - Family Research Council President Tony Perkins released the following statement regarding the resignation of Josh Duggar:

“Today Josh Duggar made the decision to resign his position as a result of previously unknown information becoming public concerning events that occurred during his teenage years.

“Josh believes that the situation will make it difficult for him to be effective in his current work. We believe this is the best decision for Josh and his family at this time. We will be praying for everyone involved,” concluded Perkins.

My heart goes out to Josh and his family and to the FRC team. As a fellow Christian, I felt compelled to share a few words regarding Christians as hypocrites.

I wasn’t raised as a church kid. I went to church very sparingly growing up. I went through a time at Michigan State University that I’m not proud of, but in many ways, that time of godlessness helped set the stage for my recognizing that I had a need beyond myself.

As a born again Christian, my eyes were wide open as I sought to discover what it meant to be a Christian, to understand what it meant to be a part of the body of Christ, the church.

In retrospect, I see now that my expectation was way too high (and unbiblical). I was very critical of the church and of Christians for a number of years. I expected Christians to be like a few Christian men and women that I saw as godly: Donald E. Wildmon, James Dobson, my in-laws (both now deceased).

What I didn’t see then, I now see in life and in what the Bible consistently and resplendently shows throughout - that all men and women are marked by sin. Each and every one has sinned; that when a person becomes saved they will have to fight fiercely against sin and temptation all the days of their life.

Though Christ came to set us free from the burden of sin, being saved doesn’t equate to perfection. As Christians, we are to be holy as He is Holy (I Peter 1:15,16), but not ONE human being (other than Christ) will reach perfection this side of Heaven.

Yet, in saying that, the Bible also speaks about how God uses trials and tribulations to bend and shape us, to conform us to His image.

God works in the Christian, bringing tangible evidences of spiritual growth called the fruit of the Spirit. (*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control*. Galatians 5:22-23)

Names of friends and loved ones come readily to mind - wonderful, godly people that display love, joy, peace ...

Does that make them perfect? Far from it. Though mature in Christ, each will always have within them that sin nature that will be with them all their days. Sin is never totally eradicated this side of Heaven.

Even mature Christians have “skeletons” in their closet. Does something they did years ago make them a hypocrite? Or does it indicate that the mark of sin has been upon them at a particularly low point in their life.

Sadly, I don’t expect those prone to condemnation (whether believers or non-be-

lievers) to be sympathetic to Josh Duggar.

Josh is marked for something he did during his teen years - twelve years ago. Does that make him a hypocrite? You be the judge. I choose not to judge, but to pray.

Pray for Josh. Pray for his dear family.

A Few words about this and that from Bill Johnson

I’m writing in regard to a few questions that may be on your mind about several in-house matters.

As you know, in each of our mailings (particularly in our monthly newsletters), we enclose a response envelope. We do that to make it easier for those who want to use the envelope to send us a gift.

Some people may think sending a return envelope each time is wasteful. However, to comport with postal regulations, each item that we send out in a bulk mailing must have the same contents and have the same weight. The post office weighs our mailings to make sure that our mailing items are each the same. So we can’t pick and choose between sending one household a return envelope but not another.

Also, on occasion, someone will say “you are always asking for money.” Actually, we really aren’t. Though it is true that our newsletters include response envelopes, most of the time in our newsletters we are not asking for financial support, though we are making it easier for you to do so and not to have to dig around to find an envelope and address it. It also serves (we know) as a reminder that we seek funds year around to help keep us as strong financially as possible.

Lastly, as an update, our last appeal letter was in May. You may recall that it references Ferdinand the Bull. We were seeking funds in that letter as it was an appeal letter. In closing, we are thankful for the help of so many to that request!

The gathering at the Shack: a short overview

by Bill Johnson



This past weekend (June 5-7) a group of 55 gathered for our weekend conference which we called: “Bringing Christ Home – Family and the Supremacy of Christ.”

Highlights of the weekend just to name a few:

Ken Smith’s message (Saturday morning). Ken spoke on the important issue of lust, pornography, and God’s will.

I personally have heard many messages on the subject (and given many myself). This was the very best of any I have ever heard. Ken heads the Biblical Counseling Center in Jenison, Michigan. He understands the brokenness of people and as a pastor he teaches and preaches under the authority of God’s Word. We anticipate this will be available online and available as a CD or DVD.

Ken Smith’s sermon on Sunday was taken from Lamentations chapter 3. When I saw that it was coming out of Lamentations, I wondered what Ken was going to do with this section of Scripture. This message, too, was powerful as he gave heavy reference to Jeremiah in Lamentations and from the book of Jeremiah. How Jeremiah at an early age was called of God to speak a prophetic word into the Israelites and how Jeremiah’s calling included suffering for telling and standing for truth in the midst of a hostile, God-hating culture.

Ken’s message powerfully helped the congregation recognize how God preserved his remnant in the midst of trials, wicked leadership, suffering, weakness, captivity, and death.

I was amazed at how God led Ken with a thoroughly scriptural message with such timely application and that so magnificently encapsulated the entire weekend.

Bruce Kuiper’s messages (Friday and Saturday) regarding how men build a legacy of grace as prophets, priests, and kings and the earthly and eternal consequences when they don’t. Bruce shared sobering statistics and accounts of the breakdown of male leadership in the family both without and within the church.

Discussions included saving and sanctifying eternal souls through the simple strategy of Father-led Worship; that God holds men accountable as spiritual leaders of their family. Bruce is the founder of Grace Legacy Builders, Grand Rapids.

Will Wagner is the Professor and Director at the Center for Human Rights, Trinity International University, Santa Ana, California. Wagner’s discussed the Judeo-Christian worldview underlying Constitutional protections for marriage between a husband and a wife. He explained how activist courts use a different worldview in an attempt to redefine marriage. He finished with an overview of the arguments he made against redefining marriage to the U.S. Supreme Court (in a brief representing over 25,000 Christian churches and ministries).



A question and answer session was eye opening as people were drawn into seeking answers regarding “Civil Disobedience.”

In addition to our speakers, I also asked one of our attendees, Christian attorney Dave Kallman, to participate. Dave Kallman is representing Yvette Cormier in the Planet Fitness case. The case involves Cormier (a Midland County, Michigan resident) who expressed concern that a man, identifying as “transgender,” was allowed to share the woman’s locker room. When Cormier

informed other female gym members of the Planet Fitness policy, her gym membership was canceled.

We closed out Saturday with a time of praise and worship led by Brent and Britany Jackson out of the Dayton, Ohio area.

Further highlights:

One middle aged man from Grand Rapids came up to me and said he came because a family member encouraged him and his wife. He told me he hadn’t been a Christian very long but that this conference really helped him see new things as a Christian that he had never seen or understood before.

Others with tears looked at me on the closing day and just said “Thank you so very much for an amazing weekend.”

The time of fellowship that people have with one another is also a strong highlight. People who were strangers to each other meet, discuss, share, and become friends and kindred spirits. It is special to listen as the fellowship area buzzes with laughter and a sense of joy.

Our prayers were answered that “God would be glorified.”

To order DVDs or CDs of these conference presentations call 231-924-4050.

American Decency Frontline
Vol. XXIV, Issue VII
Published monthly by
American Decency Association

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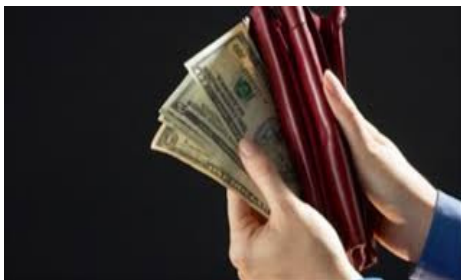
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By Our Shopping We Will Be Known

by Lisa Van Houten



While the Wells Fargo wagon of yesteryear delivered goods to American families, the Wells Fargo Bank of today is delivering an agenda – and it's anything but good. Wells Fargo Bank is out with a new television commercial which seeks to normalize gay parenting and warps the definition of family.

But one Christian leader is sending a message not only to Wells Fargo Bank, but to all of Corporate America which increasingly pushes the LGBT agenda. Rev. Franklin Graham has pledged to withdraw all ministry funds from Wells Fargo Bank and is urging Christians to consider what their money is empowering.

Graham challenged believers, asking: *“Have you ever asked yourself -- how can we fight the tide of moral decay that is being crammed down our throats by big business, the media, and the gay & lesbian community? Every day it is something else! Tiffany's started advertising wedding rings for gay couples. Wells Fargo bank is using a same-sex couple in their advertising. And there are more. But it has dawned on me that we don't have to do business with them. At the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, we are moving our accounts from Wells Fargo to another bank. And guess what -- we don't have to shop at Tiffany & Co., there are plenty of other jewelry stores. This is one way we as Christians can speak out -- we have the power of choice. Let's just stop doing business with those who promote sin and stand against Almighty God's laws and His standards. Maybe if enough of us do this, it will get their attention.”*

While the word “boycott” has a negative connotation for some, American

Decency has long contended that boycotting is a matter of Christian stewardship. How would God have us use the funds in which we've been entrusted? How can we knowingly empower corporations which promote that which God calls evil?

It's far easier to tell ourselves what's the point – virtually no major company aligns with biblical morality. What difference will the loss of my business make upon corporate decisions?

Yet what is our ultimate goal in considering the businesses we choose to patronize? Is it to change their ways or to change ours? Is it to “punish” a company or is it to honor God? It may be a minor inconvenience for some of us to change banks, cancel a membership at Planet Fitness, or give up Starbucks coffee. However, it can be in little sacrifices that we learn to lay down our own interests and follow Christ.

J.C. Ryle, writing over one hundred years ago, makes a point that we comfortable American Christians of today need to hear.

There is a widely-spread desire to make things pleasant in religion – to saw off the corners and edges of the cross, and to avoid, as far as possible, self-denial. On every side we hear professing Christians declaring loudly that we must not be “narrow and exclusive” and that there is no harm in many things which the holiest of saints of old thought bad for their souls.

That we may go anywhere, and do anything, and spend our time in anything, and read anything, and keep any company, and plunge into anything, and all the while may be very good Christians – this is the maxim of thousands. In a day like this I think it good to raise a warning voice, and invite attention to the teaching of God's Word. It is written in that Word, ‘Come out and be separate.’

Our actions reveal our faith. By our fruits we will be known – and perhaps even by our shopping.



Wells Fargo

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A note from Bill Johnson:

Years ago I found, through the help of a supporter, that the limited monies Jan and I had in a mutual fund were invested in some corporations which were supportive of pornography, abortion, and other immoral practices. It was shocking to find that through this fund, I was empowering the very things our ministry stands against.

Suffice it to say, I have since had our funds invested with the Timothy Plan for upwards of fifteen years. Biblically responsible investing is what the Timothy Plan is all about.

I can say this as someone whose monies are invested with the Timothy Plan, but also as a Timothy Plan Trustee. As stated on their website, *“Timothy Plan exists to promote biblically responsible investing. Our foundational principle of investing is that God owns everything. This is why our funds take a pro-life, pro-family approach to investing – not only to benefit the investor but the broader culture. We are firmly committed to running a mutual fund company with the integrity, excellence, and wisdom that brings honor and glory to our Lord Jesus.”*

I encourage you to join with other Christians like me who want our time, our talents, and our treasure to count for Christ and His Kingdom. If you have investments, invest with Biblical principles.

Go to www.timothyplan.com to find out more or call 1-800-846-7526 and ask to talk with Debbie. Please tell her Bill Johnson sent you. Thanks.

Innocence Lost

by Steve Huston



As I looked at the picture and read the article entitled: [Outrage! Young Boy at 'Pride' Event Praised by LGBTs for Dancing Sexually to 'Fight Homophobia.'](#) I was torn between anger and pity; I thought, "They are promoting pedophilia, grooming to be gay, harming the young mind, body and soul."

Little children are to remind us of the kingdom of heaven, not the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah.

The photograph which accompanied this article was of a young boy that looked to be ten or eleven years old; he was made to look very effeminate, wore no shirt and had on short shorts. He'd obviously been groomed to please a particular type of people and as this very young boy grinded and twerked his pelvis during the gay pride event, the crowd watched, cheered him on, and some drew closer.

The Gay Star News praised the young boy for using sexually explicit dance moves to fight homophobia. There was nothing praiseworthy of these actions, the surrounding event, or the minds of those focused on this display of perverted innocence rather than on their Creator. It was a far cry from the praise and worship of King David as he danced in the street before the ark of the LORD. (I'd also like to interject here that fearing and honoring God and His holy word is not the same thing as fearing the homosexual. They like to use the word "homophobia," hoping to shut us up; we dare NOT remain silent!)

Bible verses flooded my mind as I read and as I try to write this article.

Jesus commands us to pray for our enemies

and bless them that curse us. (The LGBT community curses us regularly) Proverbs admonishes us to train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it. (This young man and others like him are definitely NOT being trained up in the way they should go—oh God, help him depart from it!) Paul encouraged Timothy to continue in the things he had learned and been assured of, reminding Timothy that he was raised in the Word thereby making him wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ (Will you please join me in praying that somehow the gospel will be proclaimed to this young man and that the Spirit will prepare his heart to hear?).

Are there still people who are naïve enough to believe the LGBT community is still just looking for "acceptance" or "tolerance?" Is there anyone out there who is unaware that their agenda is to destroy the Church (if that were possible), our nation, the family, and religious freedom?

Look around you; the squeeze is on every side and they are after our children as well. It's infected the public school system and is grooming our children to think of these perversions as normal and acceptable. It's invaded the entertainment industry and gotten us to laugh with and at those who are headed to an eternal hell. It's hijacked our judicial system where those of different morals are forced to either betray their consciences or literally pay the price.

The LGBT agenda is not about equality; it's about the normalization of sexual freedom, sexual perversion, and throwing out the God-given boundaries of the God-given gift of sexuality. Some have already tried to promote the normalcy of pedophilia under the same excuses that were used for the normalcy of homosexuality. As perversion is forced into the mold of right and normal there is great erosion that takes place in the foundation of any society and people. A moral vacuum is created which will pull down and destroy any nation and people which allows such blasphemy against its Creator.

Matt Barber gives this warning, "The sexual anarchist agenda steamrolls ahead and children are in the cross-hairs. The organized 'LGBT' lobby has long lusted for the abolition of all age of consent laws. While not all 'gays' are child abusers, pederasty has been a central aspect of the homosexual lifestyle since the days of the Greek bathhouse."

Although this moral dilemma has been ushered into the chambers of the Supreme Court, that is NOT where it belongs. God has already spoken; it's not up for debate or ruling. It's futile for man to declare good, that which God has already said to be evil; it doesn't change the truth of the matter.

Pray for those making decisions, those of us who will stand for right regardless of what decision is made, and for our nation, that God will come down and revisit us with His saving grace and righteousness. And yes, don't forget to pray for this young misguided lad, that God will bring the gospel to his hearing and salvation to his soul.

***But whoso shall
cause one of these
little ones who
believe in Me to fall,
it were better for
him that a millstone
were hung about his
neck, and that he
were drowned in the
depth of the sea.
Matthew 18:6***

Gender Fluidity

by Lisa Van Houten



Gender fluidity is one of the latest movements in our mixed up culture. The notion claims one's gender can be different than one's sex. In essence it's the creature rebelling against the Creator.

You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, "He did not make me"; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"? [Isaiah 29:16]

The ramifications are endless. We're already seeing public schools allowing students to use the restrooms and locker rooms of the gender with which they "identify". We see the same applied to public facilities as more than one woman has been startled to find a "transgender" man in a restroom or changing room. And what about the Olympic Games – and all sports for that matter - in which competitions are based on gender?

The conundrum has also affected feminism. Some "old order" feminists are not happy that their movement has been muddled by the addition of men "identifying" as women. Yet what's a liberal feminist to do? They must either side with the traditional view of male and female or jump on the cultural bandwagon and let biological men into their club. For the most part they have taken the leap.

This is exemplified by the change in admission policies for our nation's leading female-only colleges. Known as the Seven Sisters, these elite, all-female liberal arts colleges have all sacrificed their feminist ideology on the altar of transgenderism.

The new enrollment policy for one such

female institution, Mount Holyoke, states:

"The following academically qualified students can apply for admission consideration:

- **Biologically born female; identifies as a woman**
- **Biologically born female; identifies as a man**
- **Biologically born female; identifies as other/they/ze**
- **Biologically born female; does not identify as either woman or man**
- **Biologically born male; identifies as woman**
- **Biologically born male; identifies as other/they/ze and when "other/they" identity includes woman"**

Mount Holyoke's policy also makes clear who cannot apply, stating:

"Only those born biologically male and who identify as men are ineligible to attend."

Yet in our confused culture where we are told gender is not tied to our DNA, why doesn't the same apply to race? As Bruce Jenner was praised for "courageously" embracing his perceived female identity, Rachel Dolezal, a white woman "passing" as a black woman, has been denounced for her self-identification as black. The former head of the NAACP in the state of Washington, Dolezal stepped down from her position when it was revealed that she is actually white.

While Dolezal has been soundly criticized for claiming to be what she is not, Bruce Jenner received the ESPN Arthur Ashe Courage Award. Many have asked how is one different than the other? As Michael Brown wrote on The Christian Post:

I do not for a moment want to minimize the very real struggles of those who identify as transgender ... I simply want to state once again – really, I want to shout it from the rooftops – that perception does not change reality, and so Bruce Jenner is no more a woman than Rachel Dolezal is black.

Just as we can't change our ethnicity, we can't change our biology.

"'Sex change' is biologically impossible." That statement came not from a layman, but from Dr. Paul McHugh, the former psychiatrist-in-chief for Johns Hopkins Hospital and its current Distinguished Service Professor of Psychiatry. Dr. McHugh stated, "People who undergo sex-reassignment surgery do not change from men to women or vice versa. Rather, they become feminized men or masculinized women."

Studies show that the suicide rate among transgendered people who had reassignment surgery is 20 times higher than the suicide rate among non-transgender people. McHugh cautions that "policy makers and the media are doing no favors either to the public or the transgendered by treating their confusions as a right in need of defending rather than as a mental disorder that deserves understanding, treatment and prevention."

Todd Friel gives this perspective in his blog: ... *Christians love transgender strugglers. We do not want them to live a life of regret that ends in an early death. We want transsexuals to live long and abundant lives.*

Christians don't want anyone to perish on the day of wrath, we want everyone to know, love and enjoy the One who died to save them. We want people to go to heaven.

"Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy" (Psalm 27:6).

While the world kisses Caitlyn, Christians are willing to love Bruce Jenner enough to wound him.

Whether one is seeking identity in a different race or gender, there will be no peace for those who rebel against God's design – that will only come when we find identity in the One who knit us together in our mother's womb.

A Call for Endurance

by R.C. Sproul



I'm not a prophet or the son of a prophet. I've made a lot of predictions and guesses about the future that haven't come true. As I told the congregation of Saint Andrew's Chapel a few weeks ago during a sermon, I'm not infallible, nor have I ever claimed to be infallible.

On occasion, however, my predictions of the future have been accurate. When you've been writing a monthly column for as long as I have, you invariably comment on cultural matters and the direction that the culture is heading. Recently, I was reading a column I wrote twenty-five years ago for the January 1990 issue of *Tabletalk*, and I was amazed at how prescient it turned out to be.

I wish I could say I'm happy about that. In the column I addressed the specter of a new dark age in our culture. I wasn't referring to a new dark age in terms of the stunted growth of knowledge. What was true then remains true today: we have more knowledge than we know what to do with. Knowledge in every field of study is growing so rapidly that no one can absorb it all. Scholars must choose increasingly narrow specializations to have hope of gaining expertise, and then it is only expertise in a relative sense. This reality has only grown worse with the advent of the Internet and the way it makes truth—and falsehood—more easily accessible than our forefathers ever dreamed.

The dark age to which I was referring was an age of moral darkness, a darkness due to the eclipse of God. Twenty-five years ago our culture would not have God in its thinking, and the same is true today. As a society, we have preferred for the light to be shrouded. We've chosen to close our minds

to the truth. And yet, the light remains. Just as a solar eclipse obscures but does not destroy the light, our moral darkness hides but does not eliminate the light. We see the truth of the apostle Paul's teaching that we suppress the truth in unrighteousness—but we cannot destroy the truth (Rom. 1:18–32).

Humanity remains incurably religious, and we retain the innate sense that we must live by a moral code. But on account of our suppression of the truth, this moral code is twisted to reflect the darkness of our own hearts, not the immutable moral law of God.

Futile thinking continues to result from this. Our darkened minds attempt to shroud the truth of our creator, and we as a society fail to honor Him. This has led to the loss of honor itself, to the sacrifice not only of divine dignity but of human dignity as well.

Twenty-five years ago, I predicted that this eclipse would manifest itself in various cultural struggles such as abortion. Though we have seen the rise of crisis pregnancy centers and bans on partial birth abortion, our culture continues to endorse abortion on demand.

I also predicted that the state would zealously protect its supposed autonomy, interpreting the separation of church and state to mean the separation of the state and God. As I write this column, the state and federal courts of the United States have declared that "homosexual marriage" is a right in the majority of U.S. states, and come June the Supreme Court will rule on whether the Constitution guarantees this right to all U.S. citizens. Since the law is being determined by collective preference and not the revelation of God in the natural order, I have little doubt that the highest court in the land will feel no shame in casting aside God's definition of marriage in favor of the current spirit of the age. In all this, some churches have already capitulated. They are either silent on these matters of life and human sexuality, or they have bowed to cultural pressure to abandon

what God says on these matters.

Yet I do not mean to paint a picture of gloom and doom. There are faithful believers and churches who are not capitulating. God's kingdom continues to grow around the world. The light of divine truth shines brightly even though at times the darkness seems overwhelming. Our Lord is building His church, and He will not be thwarted (Matt. 16:18). At times it may seem as if the darkness is winning, but God's Word stands firm. People around the world are hungry for His truth, and by the Lord's grace, His people are taking it to the nations.

Twenty-five years ago, I predicted that a tremendous struggle was coming.

We are living in the midst of it. Such is the plight of the church militant in every generation. The struggle manifests itself in different forms, but it is essentially the same. We are called in our generation to be faithful to the gospel, for the honor of God is at stake. And when the honor of God is at stake, so is the honor of every human being, for it is God who grants dignity to men and women. Our high calling is to remain faithful to the Lord in this struggle, to fight for the truth of God's Word and not to compromise. If we remain faithful, we are promised a sure and great reward: "The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death" (Rev. 2:11b).

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*Sure I must fight if I would reign;
Increase my courage, Lord.
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain,
Supported by Thy Word.*

*Thy saints in all this glorious war
Shall conquer, though they die;
They see the triumph from afar,
By faith's discerning eye.*

*When that illustrious day shall rise,
And all Thy armies shine
In robes of victory through the skies,
The glory shall be Thine.*