



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

By Bill Johnson

We are counting down the days as American Decency Association's summer conference will be upon us in less than 70 days.

Last year's conference was applauded for its regarded speakers (Kamal Saleem and Mat Staver) as our audience of over 500 was alerted, stirred, and challenged.

Two years ago our conference featured Gary Bauer, Frank Gaffney, and Pastor Anthony Moore with attendance of over 600.

Most of you reading this are attentive to the concerning news all around us and will agree that this year's conference is the most significant event we have ever hosted. It is important that you let this serve as a grand motivator to come and bring others so that hearts, minds, and souls will be turned to Christ for an understanding of the spiritual/moral challenges that are seemingly expanding daily.

One of our featured speakers is a foremost authority on Islam. I am referencing Steve Coughlin. After the events of September 11, 2001, Coughlin was mobilized from his private sector career to the Intelligence Directorate at the Joint Chiefs of Staff to work in Targeting. Coughlin earned recognition as the Pentagon's leading expert on the Islamic-based doctrines motivating jihadi groups that confront America. He came into demand as a trainer and lecturer at leading commands and senior service staff institutions, including the National Defense University, the Army and Navy War Colleges, the Marine Corps-Quantico, the State Department, and the FBI.

So effective were his presentations that some in the special operations community dubbed them "Red Pill" briefings, a reference to an iconic scene in the film, *The Matrix*. It's an apt metaphor: Once the facts and doctrines are properly explained and understood, there is no going back.

This was more than our enemies - and, it seems, our leaders - could tolerate. Beginning in 2011, the Muslim Brotherhood convinced the White House to ban Coughlin and put an end to his briefings. The move was in keeping with Shariah concepts of slander that seek to blind America to certain realities rendering us defenseless against existential threats. In times like this - when the White House's former counterterrorism strategist can declare it unconstitutional to allow national security analysts to look to Islam to understand jihad - there's an urgent need to pull away the blindfold so we can see and confront the threat.

We're also pleased to have Janet (Folger) Porter speak. Janet once headed Dr. D. James Kennedy's "Reclaiming America" based in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. She is the President and Founder of Faith2Action—created to WIN.

Porter is a powerful voice for the sanctity of life, Biblical marriage, and Truth. Her daily radio program is heard on over 200 radio stations nationwide.

Porter has appeared on NBC's Today Show, ABC's Evening News, FOX News, Nightline, 20/20, Hannity and Colmes, Hardball with Chris Mathews, and many others.

Last, but certainly not least, is Pastor Anthony E. Moore. Moore is a native of Baltimore, Maryland and has served Carolina Missionary Baptist Church since 1987, proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ for over thirty years. Pastor Moore's message at our 2013 conference was a highlight for many.

Pastor Moore dynamically preaches the full counsel of God with power and application, speaking into the issues of the day. His message will culminate the evening with a word of challenge and encouragement - pointing to the hope we find in Christ!

We present this opportunity to you to bring your children and/or young adult grandchildren. The stakes are high.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

ADA Summer Conference

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

The Gathering Storm: Light Wins?

Sometime this month the Supreme Court is expected to rule on the constitutionality of same-sex marriage.

Albert Mohler (President of Southern Theological Seminary) in a speech entitled, **The Gathering Storm: The Eclipse of Religious Liberty and the Threat of a New Dark Age**, stated:

A revolution in morality now seeks not only to subvert marriage, but also to redefine it, and thus to undermine an essential foundation of human dignity, flourishing, and freedom.

Religious liberty is under direct threat. Just days ago the Solicitor General of the United States served notice before the Supreme Court that the liberties of religious institutions will be an open and unavoidable question. Already, religious liberty is threatened by a new moral regime that exalts erotic liberty and personal autonomy and openly argues that religious liberties must give way to the new morality, its redefinition of marriage, and its demand for coercive moral, cultural, and legal sovereignty.

A new moral and legal order is ascendant in America, and this new order is only possible, in the arena of American law and jurisprudence, if the original intent and the very words of the Constitution of the United States are twisted beyond recognition. ...

What will this look like - this twisting of the Constitution of the United States beyond recognition?

At times answers come from unexpected places. *The New York Times* reports the following in an article entitled: **Presiding at Same-Sex Wedding, Ruth Bader Ginsburg Emphasizes the Word ‘Constitution’**

But first these few comments:

At this writing, the Supreme Court hasn't announced its decision regarding homosexual marriage. Yet a justice from the highest court in the land, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, arrogantly sees no reason to constrain herself in presiding over a marriage between a man and a man.

Quoting the New York Times:

But the most glittering moment for the crowd came during the ceremony. With a sly look and special emphasis on the word “Constitution,” Justice Ginsburg said that she was pronouncing the two men married by the powers vested in her by the Constitution of the United States.

No one was sure if she was emphasizing her own beliefs or giving a hint to the outcome of the case the Supreme Court is considering whether to decide if same-sex marriage is constitutional.

A sly look! And, this isn't the first time that Justice Ginsburg has “performed” a same-sex marriage.

And yet, sadly, Justice Ginsburg failed to recuse herself from the court deliberations when the court took up the case in recent days.

Mohler's article title, need I say, is heavy with meaning - *The Eclipse of Religious Liberty and the Threat of a Dark Age*.

As the Judeo-Christian philosophy is replaced advertently or inadvertently with lawlessness, all hell will break loose.

The late, great Dr. Francis A. Schaeffer wrote prophetically in 1984 in his book “The Great Evangelical Disaster.”

There are hard days ahead of us - for ourselves and for our spiritual and physical children. And without a strong view of Scripture as a foundation, we will not be ready for the hard days to come. Unless the Bible is without error, not only when it speaks of salvation matters, but also when it speaks of history and the cosmos, we have no foundation for answering questions concerning the existence of the universe and its form and the uniqueness of man.

Nor do we have any moral absolutes, or certainty of salvation, and the next generation of Christians will have nothing on which to stand. Our spiritual and physical children will be left with the ground cut out from under them, with no foundation upon which to build their faith or their lives.

... All is relative and arbitrary. And so modern man is left with nothing to fill the void but hedonism or materialism or whatever other “ism” may be blowing in the wind. ...

And the threat of a New Dark Age

The years between 500 and 1000 A.D. - were marked by frequent warfare, intellectual darkness, and barbarity.

But what about now? How can we not see that we are already well advanced into such a time where irrationality and barbarity are elevated and common sense and godliness are under attack.

The list is endless illustrating the gathering storm: increasing attacks upon religious liberty, biblical marriage, and the sanctity of life; spiritual lethargy and moral decay; political corruption and apathy towards the growth and threat of radical Islam.

However, these words from Charles Spurgeon help to keep all of these very real concerns in perspective.

The world is upside down, and therefore, the first are last and the last first. See how the servile sons of Satan lord it in the earth! What a high horse they ride! How they lift up their horn on high! Haman is in the court, while Mordecai sits in the gate; David wanders on the mountains, while Saul reigns in state; Elijah is complaining in the cave while Jezebel is boasting in the palace; yet who would wish to take the places of the proud rebels? and who, on the other hand, might not envy the despised saints? When the wheel turns, those who are lowest rise, and the highest sink. Patience, then, believer, eternity will right the wrongs of time.

The Unlearned Lessons of Garland, Texas

by Chris Johnson



At first glance, the shootout in Garland, Texas seems like an isolated incident at least in America. But, that's at first glance.

It's been a while since we've had a high profile terror attempt on American soil like that of the "Underwear Bomber" or the Fort Hood Shooter, or even the Boston Marathon Bombing, already two years past.

Lately, we've been allowed to ogle the savagery of Islamic extremism from across an ocean as terrorists pointed guns at primarily non-American civilians whose mortal crime was being non-Muslim.

The lessons of September 11, 2001 have long been forgotten and, if anything, our government is less wary of the ideology that ushered over 2,000 American sons and daughters into their graves that day.

As I'm sure you've heard, recently two Muslim radicals with guns showed up at Pamela Geller's Mohammed drawing contest to attempt to massacre its attendants. The shooters were killed in the attempt having accomplished nothing more than piercing an infidel foot and making the nightly news.

We can safely say that is purely God's grace.

But, in as much as so violent a reaction to insulting Islam has not been experienced in our country before, at least not with such a specific focus, the attack is certainly not the only one of its kind; it's not even the only one of its kind this year. And, if we think that this is the end of it, we're simply fantasizing.

In Bangladesh, three attacks motivated by

Islam have taken the lives of anti-Islam bloggers this year. The bloggers have been hacked to death with machetes and meat cleavers in broad daylight on the streets of their cities.

And of course, we cannot forget the horrific Charlie Hebdo attacks in which Muslim radicals entered the French magazine's offices and opened fire, killing twelve staff members.

Before that there were threats of violence when Terry Jones threatened to burn the Koran on the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001, and attempts on a Danish cartoonist's life for drawing Mohammad holding a bomb in 2005.

What stands out about each of these attacks is the wrong-headed tendency for the conversation to revolve around the right of the cartoonists to draw such "provoking" depictions.

It pains me to say this, but I'd personally be inclined to agree with Bill O'Reilly's analysis of the event.

"...Some Muslim countries are now fighting ISIS and al Qaeda themselves. Jordan and Egypt are two of the most powerful. ... do you think it's a smart strategy to insult the Muslim countries of Jordan and Egypt by besmirching their religious icon? ...insulting a religion with more than a billion followers does not advance the cause of defeating the fanatical jihadists. It hurts the cause."

For a Christian, whose motivation in everything should be to bring glory to God, it is a questionable tactic at best. Albert Mohler (President of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) offers his insightful comment:

An argument can be made that the exhibition in Dallas was in bad taste, and certainly when it comes to Christians driven by the gospel that is not the approach that we would want to take. But we should be deeply concerned when you have the editors of the New York Times trying to argue that they can make a distinction between Charlie Hebdo on the one hand and the

Garland, Texas, exhibition on the other. They can declare that one is an exhibition of free speech, and the other of hate speech. The very logic of hate speech is the problem here because this is a logic that can be turned on any argument that anyone doesn't want to be injected into the public square. And we can quickly see how this logic can be extended even to a theological critique of Islam, or for that matter any other worldview. And when it comes to the current moral revolution over the issue of gay rights, it's very easy to understand where the logic of this hate speech argument can go. ...

How long will it be before we are told that the understanding of the exclusivity of the Christian gospel, that is that only those who come to a conscious saving knowledge of Jesus Christ will be saved, is itself a form of hate speech? But wait a minute, we don't have to wait. That argument is already in some quarters being made.

That is one of many troubling aspects surrounding this story. When "hate speech" is such an ambiguous and indefinable term, it leaves the door open for the culture, and eventually the courts, to try to deduce the motivation behind the expression. **To those outside of the Christian faith, it is too easy to dismiss the exclusive nature of our faith as "hate speech," when in fact our attempt to convince people of Biblical truth is motivated by love.**

However, this is certainly not the only takeaway coming out of the Garland, TX shooting. Consider the following points from Gary Bauer's End of Day update, May 6, 2015:

1. *No American who chooses to exercise their First Amendment right should be blamed for violence that is done by someone else who is intolerant. Extortion is a crime. We do not give in to mob violence or terrorism.*

2. *Censoring ourselves because we fear Islamic violence is a slippery slope. In countries like France and England, Jews*

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The Most Important Thing My Parents Did

by Tim Challies - Ligonier Ministries



I grew up in a church culture, a catechizing culture, and a family worship culture. Each of these was a tremendous, immeasurable blessing, I am sure. I am convinced that twice-each-Sunday services, and memorizing the catechisms, and worshipping as a family marked me deeply. I doubt I will ever forget that my only comfort in life and death is that I am not my own, but belong in body and soul, both in life and death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ, or that the chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever. I can still sing many of the psalms and hymns of my youth, and I have precious memories of my family bowing our heads around the kitchen table.

What was true of my family was true of many of my friends' families. They, too, grew up around churches and catechisms and rigid family devotions. In fact, in all the times I visited their homes, I don't think I ever witnessed a family skip over their devotions. It was the custom, it was the expectation, and it was good. Our church had near 100% attendance on Sunday morning and near 100% attendance on Sunday evening. It was just what we did.

But despite all of the advantages, many of the people I befriended as a child have since left the faith. Some have sprinted away, but many more have simply meandered away, so that an occasionally missed Sunday eventually became a missed month and a missed year. Not all of them, of course. Many are now fine believers, who are serving in their churches and even leading them. But a lot—too many—are gone.

Why? I ask the question from time-to-time. Why are all five of my parents' kids following the Lord, while so many of our friends and their families are not? Obviously I have no ability to peer into God's sovereignty and come to

any firm conclusions. But as I think back, I can think of one great difference between my home and my friends' homes—at least the homes of my friends who have since walked away from the Lord and his church. Though it is not universally true, it is generally true. Here's the difference: I saw my parents living out their faith even when I wasn't supposed to be watching.

When I tiptoed down the stairs in the morning, I would find my dad in the family room with his Bible open on his lap. Every time I picked up my mom's old NIV Study Bible it was a little more wrecked than the time before, I would find a little more ink on the pages, and a few more pieces of tape trying desperately to hold together the worn binding. When life was tough, I heard my parents reason from the Bible and I saw them pray together. They weren't doing these things for us. They weren't doing them to be seen. They were doing these things because they loved the Lord and loved to spend time with him, and that spoke volumes to me. I had the rock-solid assurance that my parents believed and practiced what they preached. I knew they actually considered God's Word trustworthy, because they began every day with it. I knew that they believed God was really there and really listening, because they got alone with him each morning to pray for themselves and for their kids. I saw that their faith was not only formal and public, but also intimate and private.

Here is one thing I learned from my parents: Nothing can take the place of simply living as a Christian in view of my children.

No amount of formal theological training, church attendance, or family devotions will make up for a general apathy about the things of the Lord. I can catechize my children all day and every day, but if I have no joy and no delight in the Lord, and if I am not living out my faith, my children will see it and know it.

For all the good things my parents did for me, I believe that the most important was simply living as Christians before me. I don't think anything shaped or challenged me more than that.

The Unlearned Lessons of Garland, Texas



[Continued from page 3]

have been told that they can go anywhere they want. But they have been strongly discouraged from wearing anything that identifies them as Jews because it might enrage Muslims. By this flawed logic if Jews are attacked it must be their fault. No! The only person responsible is the assailant.

3. *By the way, how did the Coptic Christians who were beheaded by ISIS offend Muslims? What did the Boston Marathon runners do that offended the Tsarnaev brothers? How about the Israeli worshippers hacked to death at a synagogue in Jerusalem?*

4. *What happened to the courage of all those marching in the streets of Paris after the Charlie Hebdo attacks? Remember the chant, "Je suis Charlie"? (I am Charlie!) Perhaps we need a new campaign: "I am Pamela!"*

In the end, followers of Islam tried to kill Americans because of a few pencil marks on a page, and we're more concerned with those who did the coloring than those who tried to do the killing.

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A&F - Faithfulness still pays off

by Lisa Van Houten



Our bumpersticker from our “Boycott Abercrombie & Fitch” campaign

For those of you who have followed our ministry for a number of years, you are aware of our campaign against the pornographic advertising schemes of Abercrombie & Fitch in the early 2000s. American Decency led a nationwide campaign against A&F, which included calling for consumers to boycott the retailer. We circulated postcards, petitions, and even “Ditch Fitch” bumper stickers! Thousands of people joined the effort by expressing outrage to A&F over their pornographic marketing campaigns.

The cornerstone of A&F’s sexualized advertising campaign for many years was their quarterly “catalog.” Four times a year A&F would send out a 300 page magazine, devoted to selling sex to teens, rather than merchandise. Each magazine was filled with dozens of erotic photos of nude young people in explicit poses – often implying group sex. In 2002 the television show “Entertainment Tonight” described the A&F quarterly this way: ***“It is a clothing catalog that is so controversial it comes with a XXX rating. Nudity, topless women cavorting and a young man seemingly in bondage are just some of the images in the summer issue of the Abercrombie and Fitch quarterly.”***

As we kept the pressure on Abercrombie & Fitch, together with thousands who boycotted A&F, we made an impact and Abercrombie finally stopped the production of their quarterly “catalog” in the last few years.

And yet A&F continued bombarding shoppers with large, explicit window displays and shirtless male “greeters” at A&F stores in local malls. A&F has never completely rid themselves of pornographic

advertisements.

Arrogantly and intentionally they pushed a lifestyle of sexual promiscuity, destruction, and deviance with no regard for the thousands of expressions of outrage and concern they received over the years and no regard for the damage done to the young people from whom they profited.

However, as Abercrombie & Fitch found out, sex doesn’t always sell. Over the last decade, A&F sales have dropped nearly every quarter – including for the last 11 quarters straight. All of this was under the direction of A&F CEO Michael Jefferies who stubbornly pushed forward with his controversial marketing ploys.

After years of seeing the A&F brand drop in regards to sales and public opinion, there is now new leadership at the retailer. And with a new CEO, very overdue changes are coming to A&F.

As The Wall Street Journal headline stated, **“Abercrombie is Dialing Back the Sex.”** “In a set of personnel policies announced Friday, the company said it would stop hiring sales staff on ‘body type or physical attractiveness’ and will relax its infamous ‘look policy’ so that employees can dress in a more individualistic way. Brand Representative will replace Model as the title for sales staff.”

They go on to report, “Store openings and events will no longer be decorated with shirtless models, and the company’s sex-tinged marketing is being dialed back as well.”

An Abercrombie & Fitch news release stated this:

“By the end of July, there will no longer be sexualized marketing used in marketing materials, including in-store photos, gift cards and shopping bags ...”

What had become obvious, the chain plummeted under the offensive marketing schemes of Michael Jefferies. As the Wall Street Journal opined: *“The changes—many of which were championed by the new heads of the Abercrombie and Hollister brands—amount to a broad repudiation of the highly sexual tone set by former Chief Executive Mike Jefferies. He created a cult following with teens, who clamored for Abercrombie’s logo-emblazoned T-shirts and sweatshirts, and willingly paid full price for tattered jeans.”*

Yet we are not naïve. A&F is driven by profits. Their change in advertising is not due to a sudden concern for our youth, but only by a loss of profits.

This was a long term battle that we fought faithfully and diligently in the later 1990s and into the 2000s.

We monitored the store windows, diligently documenting the window displays. We documented each of the troubling catalogs quarter after quarter for a number of years. We “beat the drum” on this issue for a number of years as well as making other ministries aware of this degrading catalog. Our national interviews and emails kept the concern going and expanding.

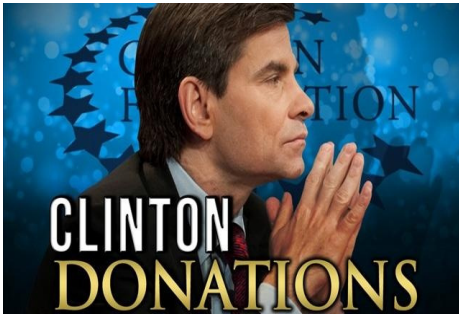
There was no glory in it as we saw A&F discontinue producing the highly sexualized catalog, but we knew God was in it as we fought, by His grace! We are thankful for this good news and hope this positive change will be lasting.

Express your encouragement to:

Abercrombie & Fitch
Arthur Martinez - Exec. Chairman
6301 Fitch Path
New Albany, OH 43054
614-283-6500
public_relations@abercrombie.com

Cozy Corruption

by Lisa Van Houten



For those who read our newsletter regularly, you should know where we at American Decency stand on many of the cultural and moral issues of our day. To mix a metaphor, we wear our convictions on our sleeve. In fact, the very first sentence of our Purpose Statement affirms: *The American Decency Association is an overtly Christian organization directed by a Biblical worldview.*

It can't be much clearer than that. We at ADA strive to align each viewpoint we espouse with the truth of God's Word. In our frail humanity we may not always be a true and perfect reflection, but that is our desire and goal. We aren't a journalistic organization, merely reporting the news objectively; we are advocates for a specific worldview and make no apologies for that. I believe our supporters wouldn't want it any other way.

Yet when it comes to the news media, the general public has a much different expectation. We do expect that those who deliver the news of the day to be objective. We would like to think, naïvely so, that journalists entrusted with such a position will be unbiased, neutral parties as they wade into the conflict of ideas on which they report. Impartiality, truthfulness, integrity – these are the ethics at the core of true journalism. Today, however, “ethical journalism” has increasingly become an oxymoron.

Nothing epitomizes this more than the recent scandal involving ABC's George Stephanopoulos. Stephanopoulos is chief anchor of ABC News, is co-host of ABC's Good Morning America, and hosts ABC's signature Sunday political show, This Week With George Stephanopoulos. It was

on this later program, which once carried the name of the iconic journalist David Brinkley, that Stephanopoulos so glaringly revealed not only his bias, but a total lack of journalistic integrity.

Stephanopoulos not so much interviewed, but rather berated Peter Schweizer, the author of the newly released “Clinton Cash” – a book which chronicles an entirely different set of scandals associated with Bill and Hillary Clinton and their self-named Clinton Foundation. Schweizer sheds light on shady dealings by the Clintons through their foundation which give every appearance of foreign companies and nations buying influence through massive donations and speaking fees. These and other questionable practices involve not only the Clinton Foundation, but are also tied to influence garnered from Hillary Clinton while serving as Secretary of State.

Any journalist worth their weight would ask probing questions and play devil's advocate when interviewing Schweizer about his research and claims about the Clintons. Yet Stephanopoulos interrogation of Schweizer amounted to a parroting of Clinton talking points – nearly word for word – as he dismissed any consideration of the validity of Schweizer's claims. Stephanopoulos labeled Schweizer as nothing more than a partisan hack since the author had served as a speech writer for four months in the George W. Bush administration. Thus said the kettle to the pot.

Days after this interview regarding Schweizer's book “Clinton Cash,” news broke that some of that cash came from George Stephanopoulos himself. In recent years Stephanopoulos has donated \$75,000 to the Clinton Foundation and has served in various capacities over the last seven years with the Clinton Global Initiative. Stephanopoulos never disclosed the donations when he grilled Peter Schweizer, he never told the executives of ABC News of this particular conflict of interest, and it certainly wasn't known to viewers.

Yet the discerning viewer should have long ago questioned the objectivity of Stephanopoulos. It is George Stephanopoulos who

served for years as a presidential campaign manager for Bill Clinton and a top advisor in the Clinton administration. This should have disqualified him from ever serving in such a role as a supposed objective journalist. Stephanopoulos made a career out of advocating the Democrat party line and defending the Clintons from a slew of scandals in the 1990s, yet he was given the position of chief anchor of ABC News.

This partisanship in the guise of journalism is even acknowledged by veteran reporter and news anchor Carole Simpson who served for 20 years at ABC News. When interviewed about the controversy, Simpson stated: **“There is a coziness that George cannot escape. While he did try to separate himself from his political background to become a journalist, he really isn't a journalist.”**

He really isn't a journalist. In a classic bait and switch, ABC has convinced the American people that a man who was “cozy” with the Clintons and worked as a Democrat operative is to be trusted as an “objective” journalist.

While this has become a very public example of partisanship within the news media, if the curtain were pulled back we would see this is far from an isolated event. Those who deliver the news are coming from their own worldview and it is very likely that their perspective differs greatly from those of us who are grounded in a Christian worldview.

Recently the Pew Research Center released the results of a survey showing that the number of Americans who claim no religious affiliation is dramatically growing. In a personal response to those results, Byron Tau, the White House reporter for the Wall Street Journal, tweeted: **“From anecdotal experience, the number of people my age that I know who are Christians is close to zero.”**

This young reporter - who doesn't even know of someone his age who is a Christian - is not from the liberal New York Times,

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Mail Bag

Comments from our supporters



Dear friends,

We here at ... church think that missions are very important in the life of Christ's church, and would like to thank you for your service. Enclosed is a monetary gift in support of your mission. These funds were raised in a special offering, and your organization was chosen as one of the recipients. In the giving of this gift, our members join you in this mission and it is our joy in doing so. Please accept this gift with our gratitude for your service for Christ. G.R.C.

... May God's love flow to you all as you relentlessly serve Him. We so appreciate all you do - standing up for what is right and standing against evil. May God grant you an extra measure of strength and mercy. Keep up all the good work. In His Love, R & S. M.

Thank you, Bill, for speaking truth and being on the front lines doing The Lord's work. I know you don't have it easy and face much persecution from other Christians as well as non Christians. You have spoken so much truth to myself and family and have been very inspiring. I have been praying to be bolder in my faith and in doing God's work. I have been taking baby steps, but you have definitely been an encouragement to me. What God desires of me is becoming more important to me than what people think of me. I just want to thank you and hopefully be a little encouragement to you in your battle for God as I know it must be tough.

Love in Christ, M.B.

I'm not sure how I got on your e-mail list (it's been almost 2 years I believe), but am grateful to receive your letters. Your faithfulness will be rewarded. Not many stand firmly on God's word, His teachings, through the Bible. Thank you for sharing your Biblical wisdom and passion through

your ministry. Sometimes when we (as Christians) feel alone in a fight against this sinful world, your words through the Holy Spirits leading, encourages us to continue the good fight. God bless you and your ministry! S & N. E.

With warmest regards and thanks for what you do in the face of our present sin-loving society. You send out information that your readers could get in no other way. Even though it is very depressing to realize the changes in our country in mere decades, we need to be aware, and we do know that God is still totally in "charge." B.L.

Thank you for standing for righteousness and your informative newsletters. I mail the postcards - thanks for them. May God richly reward you as you faithfully shine His light in this dark world. R.G.

Cozy Corruption

by Lisa Van Houten



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but from the politically conservative publication The Wall Street Journal. So even in conservative circles, we can't trust that reporters will have any understanding of a Christian world and life view. And it's naïve to think that their secular and often liberal perspective does not color the way the news is reported and twisted.

When we listen to the news and as we head into the upcoming presidential election cycle, it is important more than ever to heed God's counsel in Colossians 2:8. **"See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ."**

Trading Honor for Dishonor

by Lisa Van Houten



While my older sisters had Girl Scout sashes filled with badges, I never made it past Brownies back in the early 1970s. However, I still recall the Girl Scout pledge: **"On my honor, I will try: to serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and to obey the Girl Scout Law."** The Girls Scouts were once a commendable group with commendable goals, but no longer.

In recent decades the Girl Scout leadership has had a pronounced liberal agenda with blatant ties to Planned Parenthood and the promotion of abortion. Pledging to "serve God" is now optional. And the Girl Scout Law which once lifted up purity and biblically-based moral absolutes is now a thing of the past.

In 1980, the organization began welcoming lesbians as troop leaders. And now girl scouts don't even have to be girls. The Girl Scouts now includes boys who "identify" as a girl. The organization has jumped on the "transgender" bandwagon, pushing the harmful notion of "gender identity" upon children - teaching that one's gender can be different from one's sex.

The Girl Scouts new policy states: *"If the child is recognized by the family and school/community as a girl and lives culturally as a girl, then Girl Scouts is an organization that can serve her in a setting that is both emotionally and physically safe."*

However, the "her" referred to in the statement above is not a girl, but a boy! The Girl Scout organization is hurting, not helping, these confused little boys who are being pushed to accept a false identity in this new social experiment called "transgenderism." And all the while, forcing little girls to share tents and bathrooms with biological boys dressed as girls.

Mending the Net

by Chris Johnson



Member of the Committee of Five which drafted America's Declaration of Independence, Signer of the Constitution, and Former President John Adams famously asserted, *"We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a religious and moral people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other."*

Those are strong words of warning to our adolescent nation - words which we would still be advised to take note of. After all, as his much abridged resume above denotes, John Adams' opinion in the matters of our government is worth listening to.

When Adams wrote them, America was an overwhelmingly Christian nation. Even if, as historical revisionists insist, our Founding Fathers were deists, the moral code Adams refers to is what we would call Biblical morality.

In fact, even Thomas Jefferson, the poster deist for the liberal vision of the founders who famously and literally cut sections of the gospels out of the Bible was misguidedly motivated in this act of spiritual vandalism by his love for the moral code of the Bible, saying, *"A more beautiful or precious morsel of ethics I have never seen; it is a document in proof that I am a real Christian, that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus."*

Do we even need to ask if this vital code of ethics upon which our entire form of government relies according to Adams

(and other Founding Fathers) is still characteristic of the American people?

Currently, the number two song in the Billboard top 100 is a love song about the rapper's stripper girlfriend who helps him make and sell drugs.

Recently, the "Fifty Shades of Grey" book trilogy about a young woman's "romance" with a sexually abusive (and wealthy) lover sold over 100 million copies, spent 100 weeks on the New York Times Best Seller List, and launched a blockbuster film franchise.

One of the most popular shows on television right now is "Game of Thrones" (HBO) which just made the news for scaring off Missouri Senator Claire McCaskill (D) with a graphic rape scene. Of course her loyalty to the show survived the incest/rape, the stabbing in the belly of a pregnant woman, the gruesome killing of a prostitute, and the killing of a baby which The Daily Beast calls, "one of the most unsettling scenes in TV history."

These are some of the most popular forms of entertainment in our culture. I think that the whale has officially gone through the net.

Luma Simms recently wrote on this at TheFederalist.com, noting that, *"Even if the most competent constitutional lawyers were to run around the country stamping out legal fires like the one in Houston several months back or Indiana recently, or the Supreme Court case just argued; if most people living in these United States no longer hold nor can agree on matters of religion or morality, how long before our Constitution, or "government of law," collapses?"*

What then can we do? Can we push back the whale? Mend the net? Fit a camel through the eye of a needle? No, of course we can't, but we can pray to the One who can, and we must be more diligent in doing so.

It is right and good and important to do our civic duty - to vote and be active in our community - but that is the least of the necessary tools at our disposal.

We must pray, we must participate, and we must practice our faith - especially the difficult parts about loving our neighbors.

Here's how Luma Simms puts it (the emphasis is mine):

*"Practically, this means in the public square we do our best to hold on to liberties we inherited from our Founding Fathers and keep those in tension with groups opposing us, while in the private sphere **doing all we can to spiritually love our culture.** The goal must be to bring, if we can, religion and morality back to our culture so that it is capable of desiring and keeping the patrimony of the Founders."*

Of course, in the end, it won't be us who once again injects religion and morality into American culture. That can only be the work of the Holy Spirit. May we be fit to be used by Him.

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