

What Can the Righteous Do?

By Bill Johnson



When the foundations are destroyed what can the righteous do? Psalm 11:3

Every day we're reading and seeing that indeed our foundations are under immense attack and are being destroyed. We wonder **"Where is a sense of urgency to be found?"** We know some of you can identify with this concern.

There was a time in history when "Christian" nations were a force which held evils at bay. "Christian" nations would join in the fight to defend life, to strive for freedom, and to spread the gospel to every land.

As a people move from true Christian faith to mere religious observance there is a vacuum that is created and an even greater danger of what will fill that space. It only takes a generation to quickly move from observance to non-observance.

All across Europe and England there's an ever-increasing number of churches which are becoming unoccupied or being used for something other than the ecclesiastical purposes for which they were built. The fact that these churches are there shows us that Christianity was vital and that it had done its part to hold various evils at bay for some time. The fact that they are empty speaks to the massive effect that secularism has had on these communities and countries. **And**

what is filling the void in Great Britain and Europe left by the church? Islam.

It is often said that America is about ten years behind the trends of Europe. That would appear to be an understatement.

Our culture is in the midst of a collision of worldviews. It's a battle of theologies and ideologies - with Christianity the mutual target of both Islam and secularism. Yet instead of defending herself against these forces that would muzzle her influence, **the Church in America far too often accommodates.**

Our staff is going through a small book entitled **"When Worlds Collide: Where is God?"** by R.C. Sproul as part of our morning devotions.

Sproul writes: **"The most significant element to the construction of a worldview is our understanding of the nature of God. ... What I'm saying here is politically incorrect because American civil religion teaches as its central axiom that all religions are the same and that everyone is worshipping the same God. But Christianity says, 'No, we do not worship the same God. ...'**

"It has been said by biblical scholars that the greatest weakness that led to the destruction of the Jewish nation in the Old Testament was not a military weakness but a

theological weakness. What got the people of Israel in trouble with God over and over again was the blending and mixing of their God-given faith with pagan religion."

The Interfaith Dialogue movement is such a mixing of paganism with Christianity. It's a Trojan horse, a way to subdue the Christian church. And, as with ancient Troy, once-stalwart American churches are welcoming the teachings of Islam within their doors under the guise of Interfaith Dialogue.

Increasingly, churches and Christian institutions are accepting the Islamic invitation to "build bridges" between the two faiths. As innocuous, even commendable, as that sounds, such bridge building does not consist of real conversation between two faiths, but is a form of stealth Jihad – a one-way bridge leading to the suppression of Christian influence and truth.

I wrote this on the day that a large Interfaith Dialogue event occurred in Bloomfield Hills. Don't miss the seriousness of this event and the players involved.

Quoting an article by Leo Hohmann:

Parents, pastors, politicians and educators joined a Muslim imam at a mosque Friday (April 20) in Oakland County, Michigan, to pray and discuss how to make their schools



From the desk of Bill Johnson

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and community safer in an era of mass school shootings.

The Muslim Unity Center, a mosque in the wealthy Detroit suburb of Bloomfield Hills, is hosting an "Interfaith Prayers and Symbolic Walkout Vigil" April 20 that feeds off of the anti-gun fervor created in the wake of the Parkland High School mass shooting that killed 17 students in February.

"These events typically like to attach themselves to the issue of the day, and then bring it back to Muslim oppression in some way," said Philip Haney, a retired Homeland Security officer and co-author of the book "See Something Say Nothing."

"For pastors who sign onto these types of agreements, we are way past the point where they can claim ignorance as an excuse," Haney said. "Islam denies the Trinity, denies that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, denies His death by crucifixion, denies his resurrection and denies his future second coming as the Christian Savior. If that were all you knew about Islam, it's more than enough," Haney said. "Why would you go into the mosques and pray with the imams [to Allah]?"

Leo Hohmann reports that public schools are supporting this interfaith event at a mosque.

Friday's event at the Bloomfield Hills mosque has the support not only of several churches and at least one synagogue but also the local public schools.

Bloomfield Hills School District is promoting the event on its website, as is the nearby Birmingham school district website and the Walled Lake school district website. The school districts describe the event as including interfaith prayers with Muslim, Christian

and Jewish leaders as well as a "community conversation" designed to "educate" the public and "raise awareness and increase involvement around building safe schools and communities in the wake of the Parkland shooting and in light of remembering the many victims of gun violence across the country.

I know of a sixth grader who got permission to take his Bible to school, in Grant, Michigan. Several of his friends looked at it and said that they had never even seen a Bible. Our Christian-founded nation has come to a point where schools don't allow the teaching of the Bible or even to have the Ten Commandments posted, prayer is highly restricted, and Christian influence is hardly, if at all, allowed. Yet, this interfaith event is advertised and encouraged through the public school system.

This Bloomfield Hills event is just one of the many interfaith events sweeping the nation, Hohmann reports.

In Missoula, Montana, the First Presbyterian Church hosted a "Celebrate Islam Week" event the week of April 9-14.

The mission was to spread tolerance and understanding through the "aromas of shared food," according to Imam Jamal Rahman, who has been organizing such events for years. ...

Teamed with a liberal Reformed rabbi and a pastor from the ultra-liberal United Church of Christ, Rahman has been giving talks wherever he can find a church or synagogue that wishes to learn about Islam [which means submission not peace].

At the April 20 event in Michigan, "interfaith leaders from across different religious communities will offer a prayer for the future," according to the promotional media on the school-system websites.

Dick Manasseri, an Oakland County resident and spokesman for Secure Michigan, said interfaith cooperation with mosques has broad support in Michigan, especially among left-leaning churches.

And it's not just left-leaning churches involved in promoting a deceptive view of Islamic ideology. In January,

LeoHohmann.com reported "that the FBI's Detroit office hosted one of its quarterly BRIDGES outreach meetings at which the FBI emphasized domestic terrorism and Islamophobia as a bigger problem than Islamic terror."

The goal of such events is deception, so that the non-believer (non-Muslim) may come over to Islam. The deceit of "peace among all" is held up to capture the hearts and minds of well-meaning - albeit confused - individuals who don't want to be considered "Islamophobic," intolerant, or un-Christian. This "peaceful" Islam presents a side which ignores the fact that Allah has cursed any who are not adherents of Shariah (especially Christians and Jews).

As I wrote on page one, this is a battle of ideologies. It's a spiritual battle; **it's a battle for our nation, it's a battle for Truth. Our foundations are being attacked. Will we fight to defend them?**

Two major events

Friday, June 15

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

American Decency Association
203 E. Main Street, Fremont

Speakers:

*Frank Gaffney, Pres. Center for Security Policy, Washington DC

*Phillip Haney, Founding Member of the Department of Homeland Security, Retired, Author "See Something Say Nothing"

*other speaker to be announced

Saturday, June 16

2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Bloomfield Hills Baptist Church
3600 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills

Speakers:

*Frank Gaffney

*Phillip Haney

*Dick Manasseri

*other speaker to be announced

Till Death Do Us Part?

by Steve Huston



With the ever increasing normalization and encroachment of the culture of death in our nation, **we ought not to be surprised at the normalization and romanticizing of euthanasia for the elderly.**

Nonetheless, being the ever hopeful optimist, I was surprised recently. On March 13 I read an article from The Wall Street Journal (WSJ), reporting how *“people over 65 years old would outnumber children by 2035, a first in U.S. history, according to updated projections released by the Census Bureau on Tuesday.”* The following day, March 14, I read another article in the Daily Wire entitled: Assisted Suicide: Documentary Celebrates Elderly Couple Killing Themselves. The title of this Romeo and Juliet style documentary is: *“Living & Dying: A Love Story.”*

One day I’m reading about the birthrate decline and how that will put a strain on our economic growth, as, comparatively, the elderly population increases. The next day a romanticized story is told about how an elderly couple who stepped over the threshold of their marital journey, 66 years later step over the threshold of death together via suicide.

This story is from Europe, right? No, the Oregon Health Authority legally sanctioned Charlie and Francie Emerick to die by self administered lethal injection. Charlie had an advanced form of Parkinson’s Disease and Francie suffered from lymphoma. Their eldest daughter told reporters, *“In their last years, Dad was Mom’s eyes and Mom was Dad’s ears. It was natural for them to want to die together.”*

Although some 1,300 people have legally committed suicide under Oregon’s 1997 “Death with Dignity” law, it’s speculated that this is the “first couple” to do so together. To some this may seem sweet, in a creepy sort of way; but it also raises many

concerns that must be considered.

As society continues to demean the sacredness of life, how long before “allowance” becomes pressured or compulsory? Looking at this in light of the other end of the spectrum (abortion), we see doctors encouraging new mothers to have tests performed to check for Down Syndrome. This is offered to give these parents “a choice.” If your child will be born with troubles, murder (termination) is an option. How long before an elderly person is encouraged to “self-terminate” because they have been diagnosed with the beginning of Alzheimer’s, dementia, cancer, or are even just fearful of becoming a burden on others?

How wide and deep will the pool of “willing” victims grow? As lower population growth becomes a drag on economic growth and as a growing elderly population puts *“pressure on lawmakers to shift funding toward programs such as Medicare and Social Security”* (WSJ), it’s not outside the realm of possibility to encourage or force grandpa to put himself down for the sake of the grandkids.

As a culture embraces and normalizes death at both ends of the spectrum (pre-born and elderly), it simply starts metastasizing from both ends until it’s normal to do away with any portion of the society which is considered an undesirable group. It’s truly a slippery slope and the speed only increases as one gets nearer the end.

What might make up a group of undesirables? It wasn’t that long ago that Hillary Clinton described a *“basket of deplorables”* as being: *“racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, Islamophobic - you name it. And unfortunately there are people like that.”* There have been several from the left who have accused Christian parents of being child abusers for teaching Creation instead of evolution. Christians and conservatives are being demeaned and accused of many “deplorable” acts.

There’s not a lot of space between standing by and watching as someone kills themselves with the needle you gave them,

to encouraging them or shaming them into self-termination, to jabbing them with a needle against their will. After all, this is for the good of society, it’s for the children (even though we are murdering them too).

There’s a very fine line between safety and death; and it all depends on who is running the show and defining the terms. Do you belong in a “basket of deplorables” or are you a person endowed with God-given, unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness? **Eventually, whoever defines the terms decides the termination.**

Finally, let’s ask ourselves, “Where do God and faith fit into this equation?” Why isn’t the church coming alongside hurting individuals, sharing the grace of God and encouraging them with the love and compassion of Christ? Surely we can offer words of hope and actions of loving service rather than watching image bearers of God snuff out their own light. Even in the midst of various kinds of pain, God is still sovereign and loving and there. Showing compassion shouldn’t be confused as seeing someone off at the death train depot.

It must have been Job’s friends who gave rise to the old saying, “With friends like these, who needs enemies.” His wife even said, “Curse God and die.” Let us instead, be like Job and point to the goodness of God, even if that goodness is hard to be seen because of our temporal lack of understanding. Let us comfort, even at the expense of our own comfort. Let us lift others up in prayer, also praying for ourselves that we might even better know God.

Because of our choices, the facts are what they are. The elderly are becoming a larger part of our population while the supporting workforce is diminishing. This may cause problems; however, let us not compound our troubles by accepting sinful and easy solutions. **Rather, let us pray for wisdom and do the right thing because it’s the right thing. Let us watch for unbiblical or ungodly laws or protocols and stand against them. Let us stand for life, trusting that the Hand of Providence is ever right.**

Political Perversion

by Lisa Van Houten



Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ): *“Is being gay a perversion?”*

Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State nominee: *“Senator, when I was a politician, I had a very clear view on whether it was appropriate for two same-sex persons to marry. I stand by that.”*

Booker: *“So, you do not believe that it’s appropriate for two gay people to marry?”*

Pompeo: *“Senator, I continue to hold that view.”*

Booker: *“You believe that gay sex is a perversion? Yes or no? Yes or no? Do you believe gay sex is a perversion?”*

Thus was the outrageous badgering faced by President Trump’s nominee for Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, in a recent Senate confirmation hearing.

Pompeo’s views on homosexuality and gay marriage are rooted in his Christian faith and align with historical, biblical Christianity. They are views shared by vast numbers of Americans and evangelical Christians worldwide. Yet even though Mike Pompeo testified that he respects every individual, regardless of sexual orientation, Pompeo’s Christian beliefs make him unfit for office, according to Senator Cory Booker.

This is the latest in a troubling trend by liberal politicians to disqualify Christians for public office. **Imposing such a religious test for public office is explicitly prohibited by Article VI of the Constitution.** Yet politicians such as Booker are deeming that anyone who holds to biblical views which they disagree with, are unacceptable to hold office. And Booker isn’t alone. As of this writing, it appears that all of the Democrat members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will vote against Pompeo for

Secretary of State. This will be unprecedented and puts in jeopardy Pompeo’s confirmation. It has long been the practice for the Senate to confirm such nominees unless they don’t have the qualifications to serve in that capacity.

So – other than being a Christian - does Mike Pompeo have the credentials to serve as Secretary of State? You be the judge.

Pompeo graduated first in his class from West Point in 1986, serving in the U.S. Army for five years, including service in the Gulf War, reaching the rank of Captain. After his time in the military, he graduated from Harvard Law School, had a distinguished business career in the aerospace industry, and was elected to four terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. In 2017, President Trump nominated Pompeo for Director of the CIA and the Senate confirmed his nomination by a vote of 66-32. Now, numbers of those same Democrat senators who approved Pompeo to lead the CIA just last year, are stating they will not vote for him to lead the State Department.

Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md) stated that Pompeo *“has a clear record of public service to his nation -- in uniform, in Congress, and as the director of the CIA.”* Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn) said that Pompeo *“will work hard to restore morale at State...”* **Yet both have stated they are voting against him!**

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) stated she won’t be voting for Pompeo because of *“Mr. Pompeo’s past statements and policy views, particularly in regards to the LGBTQ community ... and women’s reproductive rights.”* (That’s liberal code language for holding to the historical definition of marriage and being pro-life.)

If this is what makes him unqualified for office, then potentially over half of the U.S. population is unqualified. And considering that Pompeo’s view on gay marriage aligns with more than 85% of the countries of the world, it certainly shouldn’t be a factor in his role as Secretary of State.

But leftist politicians want our Secretary of State to continue to force LGBT ideology

upon the nations of the world as the Obama administration did. As Family Research Council reports: *“Under Barack Obama, world leaders were furious with the way the president used the State Department to export his LGBT agenda globally. Trump’s predecessor not only sent openly gay ambassadors into countries that are culturally opposed to homosexuality, they used foreign aid to bully other nations into accepting Obama’s twisted agenda. He flew rainbow flags over our embassies in Muslim countries and appointed a special taxpayer-funded LGBT envoy whose sole purpose was forcing the president’s radical social agenda on reluctant countries.”*

In a lengthy Facebook posting, Senator Booker wrote: *“Mike Pompeo pledged to me over and over again that he would treat all those under his leadership with respect and treat them equally. But I am not sure how you truly lead others -- not to mention “love thy neighbor” -- and still view a fundamental and innate part of who they are as a perversion. ...”*

Such a claim, equating love with acceptance, shows a complete lack of understanding of the Christian faith. Senator Booker isn’t looking for respect or equal treatment. **He, and other leftists, won’t be satisfied until all Christians have capitulated and affirm as good that which God calls evil.**

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The Banning of Knives in Regards to the Gun Fight

by Chris Johnson



Should you ever visit London on holiday and feel the urge to go for a picnic in Derbyshire, you'd best cut your crumpets before you leave home. If Mayor Sadiq Khan hears about it, he'll send the Bobbies after you.

Defenders of the Second Amendment have joked about it for years, "gun control? What's next, knife control?"

The jokes have become the headlines: "**After murder rate passes NYC, London Mayor Sadiq Khan calls for sharper knife control**" – USA Today.

From the prestigious platform where political leaders now announce policy changes - Twitter - Khan said this: ***"No excuses: there is never a reason to carry a knife. Anyone who does will be caught, and they will feel the full force of the law."***

Now admittedly, crumpet cutting is probably not the primary use of a knife, even in London, but it takes no imagination to come up with myriad other reasons one might want to carry one. Yes, most of those reasons involve cutting something, but virtually none of them involve cutting someone.

You may notice that Mayor Khan's tweet calls for sharper knife control, implying that there are already knife laws in place, which indeed there are.

The laws prevent selling a knife of any kind to anyone under 18 (except in Scotland where 16 year olds can buy kitchen knives) and the carrying of any pocket knife where the blade locks back to prevent it from folding in on your fingers, or any folding blade larger than three inches.

They even invented a new classification of cutlery to more easily curb their being carried: zombie knives. What is a zombie knife? Why, it's a normal knife, with a picture of a zombie on it.

Even with its hard line on zombie paraphernalia, the current law is a little more lenient than Mayor Khan, granting three examples of a good reason to carry a knife:

Examples of good reasons to carry a knife in public can include:

- taking knives you use at work to and from work
- taking knives to a gallery or museum to be exhibited
- the knife is going to be used for theatre, film, television, historical reenactment or religious purposes, e.g. the kirpan some Sikhs carry

Hopefully the utter ridiculousness of Great Britain's knife laws can teach us something.

Could we even ask for a better disapproval of the idea that taking away guns erases violence? In the last newsletter, I argued that taking a gun away from a violent person still leaves you with a violent person. As we can see, these killers may not be able to get their hands on a firearm, but they haven't let that slow them down.

Need more proof still? Last year Great Britain added corrosive household cleaning products like bleach to a list of offensive weapons because of a rash of acid attacks.

Freedom advocates have often argued that a gun is only a tool in the hands of shooter whether the shooter be good or bad. How much more so a knife? A knife is one of mankind's very first tools shaped from stones out of sheer necessity; that just reinforces the fact that anything can be used as a weapon.

London's knife and attack problems are what we can expect to see in our future, should gun control ever be enacted. That's because the root of the problem is not the tool used to commit violence, it's the sinful human heart. When hearts are not con-

strained by a preeminent love for God and a desire to love our neighbor as ourselves, there will always be violence.

National Day of Prayer May 3, 2018



Thursday, May 3, 2018 is the National Day of Prayer. Cherish this right and this opportunity to gather with others around our country to pray. **If you live in the West Michigan area, come join us at Veterans Memorial Park—in Fremont—at noon. Join us, fellow believers, and Pastor Terry Slachter at noon for a season of prayer.** Otherwise, we encourage each of you to seek out a place near you; who knows how much longer this freedom of assembly and expression will exist?

We've all seen great divisions around us: Left vs. Right; Young vs. Old; Propaganda vs. News; the State vs. the Deep State; Globalism vs. National Sovereignty; allies of injustice vs. allies of justice; falsehood vs. Truth...and with these divisions come an uncommon, immense hatred unleashed upon the opposing sides. Have we ever been so divided, as a nation, as we are at this moment in time? Our nation and its people are in desperate need of the uniting power, soothing love, and bold truth which the Holy Spirit brings. **Let us pray for such love and unity.**

With the brokenness of our nation, we are in desperate need of a national gospel awakening and a revival within the lukewarm Church! These two things would go far in unifying our nation. God calls His people to pray. This year's National Day of Prayer focus is on UNITY! Let's pray for America; let's pray for unity.

Toys R Us Troubles ... nothing to play around with

by Steve Huston



By now most people have heard that Toys R Us (one of the nation's largest and oldest toy retailers) is closing all 800 of its stores. What some people don't realize is that sagging birth rates are a contributing factor to this toy paradise's demise. **What many more don't recognize is that not only have we played a part in this by ignoring the fact that children are a blessing from God, but unless we get back to the precepts and statutes of His Word, it'll be "game over" for our culture.**

Apparently Toys R Us has a problem with math or logic or both. At the very least, Geoffrey's (the Toys R Us giraffe mascot) left hand didn't understand the implications of what his right hand was doing. This toy retailer recognizes that the decrease in numbers of children is responsible for the closing of their doors. Part of their statement reads, *"Most of our end-customers are newborns and children and, as a result, our revenues are dependent on the birthrates in countries where we operate. In recent years, many countries' birthrates have dropped or stagnated as their population ages, and education and income levels increase. A continued and significant decline in the number of newborns and children in these countries could have a material adverse effect on our operating results."* Yet, this very same toy chain donated a lot of money—both directly and indirectly—to Planned Parenthood (America's leading murder mill of children—more than 320,000 abortions per year). Selling toys while funding systematic infanticide? Not too bright. Didn't they realize that would be akin to putting a knife to their company's neck, helping to commit fiscal suicide?

Every life impacts this world, leaving its "footprint" upon it. We can't help but consider what might have been, recognizing the ghost-like lack of a footprint left by

those who were ripped from their mother's womb, so to speak. One might wonder if a cure would have been found for some disease or a solution to some other great trouble. **The main issue is the destruction of life; but we can't neglect the fact that we reap the consequences of our own actions.** These consequences are as broad as the aspects of our lives—economic, spiritual, and social, etc.

In the case of Toys R Us, when considering how the loss of life, through abortion, affects the economic bottom line, one cannot neglect to consider the potential affect, also, of the progeny of those lives lost to infanticide. Quoting from Lifesitenews.com, *"Pro-life political consultant Mark Olson estimated in 2012 that when one factors in the children and grandchildren those aborted babies would have grown up to have, America's true population loss due to abortion is at least 117 million, or roughly a third of the U.S. population – and a considerable number of lost Toys R Us customers."*

To be fair though, no one can lay **ALL** the blame of Geoffrey's woes at the feet of abortionists, murder mills, abortions, and the companies (or governments) that fund them. There's another problem, a problem which is sure to affect all of us eventually. Another part of the declining birth rate deals with younger generations following the famous jingle of the Toys R Us commercial: **"I don't want to grow up..."** ("...cuz maybe if I did, I wouldn't be a Toys R Us kid!") America is suffering from extended adolescence and turning the noun "adult" into a verb describing what one can do on occasion, **only if they must.**

Putting responsible adult life on hold so that they can play instead of work; living in their parents' house instead of going out on their own; just "hanging out" instead of pushing forward; and wanting to raise puppies and plants **instead** of children, is affecting our society and our culture in adverse ways. I know I'm painting with a very wide brush and that there are exceptions; but eventually the piper must be paid. God will not be mocked; whatever a man sows, that will he reap.

Andrew Van Dam, of the Washington Post, ties the sagging birthrate to a future economic concern for all of us. *"And that's why the company's demise should worry the rest of us. Toys R Us focuses on kids, so it's feeling the crunch from declining birthrates long before the rest of the economy. But it's just a matter of time before the trends that toppled the troubled toy maker put the squeeze on businesses that cater to consumers of all ages."*

"The smaller generation of children whose lackluster toy consumption brought down Geoffrey the Giraffe will be adults soon. They'll become the prime-age consumer spenders that drive U.S. economic growth."

"And the generation after them will be smaller still, after accounting for a slight bump from the generational fallout of the baby boom." (emphasis mine)

We have been sowing into a culture of death instead of sowing life; we shouldn't be surprised to find ourselves reaping death in its many forms. We have been economically, relationally, and spiritually self-centered and these also bring harvests of death in their own wake.

The church must, in part, take responsibility for the situation we find ourselves in. The church, its leaders, and its members have largely been silent on both of these issues—culture of death and extended adolescence. (Again, broad brush and exceptions.) Instead of proclaiming that God is sovereign, children are a blessing, and that in all we do we are to point to God and His glory, we've sadly endorsed worldliness and the ways of our culture of death by our silence.

Let us take to heart some spiritual warnings from our past:

"What one generation tolerates, the next generation will embrace." –John Wesley

"Man's mind is like a store of idolatry and superstition; so much so that if a man

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The Ugliness and Arrogance that Blights Beauty

by Judy Krause



Being brought up in a Christian home had undergirded my belief system about submissiveness. That was thoroughly taught in my church and I believed it then and still do with all my heart. This is not popular in today's culture, but the Scripture clearly states for wives to "submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord" (Colossians 3:18). Just as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands (Ephesians 5:24) and "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:22). A key principle here is "as to the Lord." **Scripture says that the husband cannot make his wife submit to ungodly or sinful practices.** This helped my understanding of submissiveness. A minister told me that I must be very careful about approaching my husband on his pornography, because he was my 'head'. Yet the Bible very clearly states that a husband cannot make his wife submit to ungodly practices. Having the teaching of submission ingrained in me since childhood and believing it so deeply, confronting my husband was a decision I faced with fear and trembling.

Finally, my Biblical Counselor suggested I read "Bold Love" by Dan Alender. The author states that "love, in many cases, is a covering over of the offense with long-suffering patience ... **Love may pardon an offense, but it does not ignore the ugliness and arrogance that blights beauty.**" By beauty, he's referring to overcoming sin, turning to repentance, and receiving restoration first from God and then from the one you have sinned against. Covering sin tries to pretend it doesn't exist. That began a new way of thinking for me. I began to see true, godly love could be used as an instrument to destroy evil. I had become very good at overlooking evil and as a result I was getting sicker and sicker and my husband was not called to a better

way of living which could ultimately lead to healing and restoration. One of the principles that Dan Alender explains is that many Christians have perceived love as something saccharine and frilly, best described as "unconditional acceptance." The assumption seems to be that if I ignore how bad you are and continue to be kind, maybe, somehow, something will occur to make you a nicer person. Dan Alender advocates a view of love that is consistent with doing ultimate good for the other. **Giving a hard rebuke may result in a great work of redemption.** Instead of love being "unconditional acceptance," it is very conditional in that love cannot flourish and bring forth fruit in arrogant and unrighteous soil. Therefore, love must be an intrusion of a good gift of word or deed that makes the greatest demand of life: Follow Christ and serve Him with your whole heart, soul, strength, and mind. Bold Love is the tenacious, irrepressible energy to do good in order to surprise and conquer evil. **What may appear to be unloving – in fact, cruel – may be a passionate wounding that is designed to heal.** Proverbs 20:30 says that "Blows that wound cleanse away evil; strokes make clean the innermost parts."

Dan Alender states that "the task of loving an evil person requires supernatural intervention. The battle is not yours; it is the Lord's. That, however, will not take away the cold gaze of hatred and the sting of shame. The only motivation strong enough to propel you in battle is an unquenchable desire to know the mighty God who changed your heart and can change the evil person's as well."

This enlarged and challenged my thinking about submissiveness and sin. I had always only looked at what I could do, or shouldn't do, my weaknesses, my sin, and my selfishness. I never crossed the line to call another person to responsibility, which I was beginning to learn was the only way of warning the sinner of the direction his sin would eventually take him. The energy behind godly discipline is not getting even, but getting restored. "Without repentance," the author points out, "the evildoer will ultimately be required at the Judgment to

account for his life, and if he is unable to plead for mercy on the blood of Christ, he will be required to pay for his sin with his life."

I now began to see that I could have an important part in the restoration process between my husband and myself. And I could begin with greater understanding and new skills. I was beginning to increase in hope that I could do something constructive for the rebuilding of our relationship. I had a new courage. I had a new direction.

**Toys R Us Troubles...
nothing to play around with**



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believes his own mind it is certain that he will forsake God and forge some idol in his own brain." –John Calvin.

Looking to an even wider scope than Toys R Us and the U.S. economy, the words from these two Johns help us to see the importance of holding fast to holiness, Jesus, and Biblical precepts. As another John once warned. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (1 John 2:15) **This world is not our home; Christians need to stop living as though it is.**

Toys R Us has sown to the wind and is reaping the whirlwind. We may very well reap that same whirlwind if we don't embrace Biblical truth, embrace life, and point to the glory of God in all that we do.

Co-conspirators in a Cultural Revolution

by Lisa Van Houten



This organization, American Decency, cut its teeth on encouraging individuals to withhold their patronage, but not their voice, from stores and corporations that were flooding the marketplace, the airwaves, and our communities with degrading material.

Beginning as a local anti-pornography group, we were successful in virtually ridding our local county of the sale of pornography through petition drives and boycotts. Our Howard Stern campaign led to dozens of radio stations dropping Stern's lewd program as we contacted advertisers nationwide, making them aware of the content they were sponsoring and asking if that was the type of material they wanted their name association with. We had similar success in getting Abercrombie & Fitch to eventually stop the publication of their pornographic catalog. We've had a long history of contacting advertisers, which continues to this day. **We see these efforts as aligning with the Biblical mandate to be salt and light. Boycotting, as we wrote in a brochure years ago, can be a matter of Christian stewardship in how we use the funds entrusted to us.**

There's also something quintessentially American about everyday citizens speaking out against injustice and wickedness. After all, our nation's very founding was birthed when a bunch of "little guys" resisted corruption and coercion brought to bear by oppressive British oligarchs.

But now the tables are turned; and the tactics used by common citizens to effect a positive change in our culture are being used against us to constrain freedom, while tearing off the constraints of morality.

In an oligarchy the power rests with the economic or political elite, often ruling with an iron fist. While the argument can be made that our political system (a.k.a.

"swamp") is fast becoming an oligarchy, we also see the corporate ruling class wielding their iron fists to force acquiescence to their leftist ideology.

Corporate America, the media, and liberal elites, are the oligarchs of today. They are the ones pushing for a new revolution – not for life and liberty, but **one that suppresses** freedom of thought, freedom to believe, and freedom to express those beliefs.

Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, comments on this moral revolution occurring at breakneck speed, stating in his Daily Briefing from April 17: *"Now on the question of the legalization, the normalization of same-sex marriage, we have noted several times that it was the velocity of that moral change that remains absolutely breathtaking. ... What's hard to explain is how that fundamental a moral change can happen in such a short amount of time. We can understand moral change over a process of centuries, perhaps generations. We can understand a shift on a policy position over decades, but when we're talking about something as fundamental as redefining marriage? ..."*

But this moral revolution isn't occurring in a vacuum. Nor is it necessarily arising from a groundswell of everyday Americans clamoring for an overturning of historical views on marriage and gender. **It's those who hold power in our culture who are using their clout to force change.**

In recent years we've seen this play out. When Indiana passed a law strengthening religious liberty protections for its citizens, corporations such as Apple and even the NCAA brought such intense pressure, threatening to boycott the state, that the law was rescinded. Something similar happened in Arkansas when Wal-Mart used their clout to thwart a religious liberty bill.

Recently, the legislature of the small Caribbean island of Bermuda valiantly voted to override a court decision that had forced the legalization of gay marriage upon the nation of Bermuda. With the vote of the people's representatives, Bermuda became the first nation to reverse the legalization of

same-sex marriage. But of course that isn't sitting well with the moral revolutionaries. As a result, the tourist industry, including the influential Carnival Cruise Line, is calling for a boycott of Bermuda, an island dependent upon tourism dollars.

And it's not just marriage and religious liberty that are under attack. In recent weeks Bank of America, the second largest banking institution in the nation, has stated they will not issue loans to any business that manufactures certain legal firearms. The Washington Times reported that Bank of America will "drop current loan-customers Vista Outdoors, Remington and Sturm Ruger, and blackball any other manufacturer of assault weapons."

It's another example of corporate America using their power to force cultural change – in this case, weakening Second Amendment rights.

It used to be that businesses focused solely on their bottom line. Now they use threats of boycotts and intimidation tactics to cudgel Americans to fall in line with their agenda.

As Albert Mohler continued stating, *"This is how cultural leveraging works and in a fallen world it often, as we see here, works in a direction that is injurious to the health of the culture and even to an institution and its stability, an institution as basic as marriage. A moral revolution simply can't happen without an awful lot of co-conspirators. And it's not just the activists behind it, but it is eventually celebrities and corporations who decide to join in the entire process ..."*

These "co-conspirators" use strong-arm tactics to coerce cultural change, **but we rest upon the strong arm of the Lord.**

We ask in this newsletter "what can the righteous do?" **As the moral revolutionaries wage war on truth, we must continue to defend that truth, knowing that we serve the One "who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness." (Is. 40:23)**