

The great tug of war continues: Godliness or Godlessness?



By the time that you receive this newsletter, the November 2 election will be upon you, or it will have just passed. As you well know, this is a very key time in the history of our nation. Many are calling this the most significant election in our lifetime!

By now many of you have heard or read others express their view upon the present and what lies ahead. Permit me, as well, to weigh in on the situation we face. I will conclude this short piece on how I see the unfolding history affecting the central calling of this ministry: decency.

Even as I read today's news (October 20), I see a headline entitled: *For the second time in little over a month, President Barack Obama stripped the word 'Creator' from the Declaration of Independence when giving a speech.* (CNSNews.com)

David Barton, President and Founder of Wall Builders, for years has been faithfully educating Americans about the Christian underpinnings of this nation. Barton writes:

In his famous 'Farewell Address' in which he announced to Congress and the nation that he would retire from public office at the end of his second term, [George Washington] offered candid advice on what it would take to keep America strong. For generations afterwards, Washington's Farewell Address was considered so important and its content so profound that it appeared as a separate, stand-alone school textbook; students were taught that this Address was the most significant political speech ever delivered to the

nation and were tested on its content. Regrettably, however, Washington's Farewell Address has now largely disappeared from current textbooks – apparently because it has too much religious content for today's often secular-minded educators.

As an example secularists today ignore and even attempt to suppress Washington's unequivocal declaration in that Address as to what made the American political system so successful:

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars." [George Washington]

Washington specifically identified religion and morality as the two most important elements of the American political system and even warned that anyone who attempted to separate those two elements from the political realm could not be considered an American patriot. Such anti-secular sentiments were expressed not only by Washington but also by numerous other Founding Fathers.

America's system of government was deliberately and intentionally built upon religion and morality; it has subsequently enjoyed unprecedented success. America is now the world's longest on-going constitutional republic, and to exist more than two centuries under the same governing document is an accomplishment unknown among contemporary nations. For example during the same

time that America has had just one government, France has had fifteen, and in just the twentieth century alone, Russia had four; Afghanistan, five; Poland, seven; etc.

Significantly, each nation had access to the same body of political philosophies and writings when forming their governments; yet our Founding Fathers evidently selected ideas that the other nations chose not to apply. What were the sources of the Founders' successful ideas?

[Taken from America's Godly Heritage by David Barton]

We are offering David Barton's "America's Godly Heritage" in both booklet and DVD. The book and the DVD contain the same information and documentation. I urge you to order a copy and strengthen your understanding of our Godly heritage. **(See enclosed response card for information.)**

If you order a copy of this great resource you will see that the major source of our Founder's successful ideas flow from the Bible.

The Bible is clear that God blesses those who bless Him, but curses those who curse Him. No matter the results of this election, as we erase God from our lives, history, legislation, judicial decisions, schools, what will be His just response?

Without a return to God and His principles, our stand for the Biblical ethic of decency will be all but over except for those few who will stand for His Holiness no matter what.



From the desk of Bill Johnson

A Young Man and an Internship

Recently, Chris left for a two month internship with CNSNews in Alexandria, Virginia (just outside of Washington DC).

CNSNews.com, a division of Media Research Center, was initially named conservative news service but has been renamed cybercast news service. Founded in 1998, CNSNews has described its role as putting a “higher premium on balance than spin” by covering stories that mainstream news organizations ignore.

Though we will miss Chris’ contribution here, we believe this presents a great opportunity for him. A special thanks to his young wife Stacey for her prayerfulness and willingness to have Chris respond to this opportunity.

A number of you have affirmed Chris in his writing and have asked questions regarding his future. On the day before Chris took off for DC I asked him to respond to several questions regarding God’s leading in his life. His responses follow:

Q) You’re only 21 and God has already done some amazing things in your life. Can you name a few?

A) I think one of the obvious things that God has done in my life is that He saved it. A couple years ago I had a pretty nasty accident that should not have ended as nicely as it did. I walked away from it with just a couple scars. So that is one of the biggest things I thank Him for. I think another thing is His putting me here at ADA. I don’t just say that for you; I really think it’s true. When you look at the way I ended up here, you really can’t come to any other conclusion. It was on a Thursday while I was still working at the local Ford dealership and you said something about me coming to work with you one of these days.

The next day I got fired, and the following Monday I was working at ADA. So I really can’t come to any conclusion but that God put me here.

And this whole internship business is pretty obviously God’s handiwork, too. It just came out of the blue when I hadn’t even applied for it or given it any thought at all. I think you had e-mailed them some of my writings and a suggestion that they consider me at least a month and a half before they got in touch with me which was while we were in D.C. at the Values Voter Summit. Media Research Center had a booth there and the internship administrator was manning it that Saturday. I was able to have a face-to-face interview with him and a week later he offered me the internship. The way all that worked out was pretty amazing.



Bill and Chris at U.S. Capitol in November 2009

Q) You were mostly homeschooled but you also were in Christian school for a while. What was the impact of these two forms of education in your life?

A) I would say one of the most valuable things that I learned during homeschooling was to think critically and logically. There were also some outstanding Bible and Church History lessons, the Theology tapes by R.C. Sproul, a few of the classics that you guys forced on me, and of course the influence of my mom who is a saint. I went to Christian school K-3 and probably the biggest contribution in those early years was learning to read. Their teachings and having to choke down Erasmus and Saint Augustine in homeschool made me a great speed reader, which is invaluable. I went back to the same school as a Senior in high school.

That was where I took my first government class and followed the 2006 mid-term elections. That is probably the best thing they taught me on my second tour there.

Q) You went to Christian college for one year. Was that a positive or negative experience in your life?

A) I think that for the most part it was a positive experience. A big part of that first year was self-discovery. For the first time I was away from everyone I was familiar with and close to, and I had to start all over in a brand new environment. I think that kind of experience always makes you learn more about yourself.

I also had a few challenges to my beliefs on issues like Biblical roles for manhood and womanhood and the integrity of the Genesis story. These helped me solidify my beliefs. And another thing that I came away with is the idea of desegregating the “sacred” and the “secular.” God doesn’t separate the world into those categories, things either honor him or they don’t and that’s how we as Christians should look at the world. Does it honor the Lord or not?

Q) You are leaving ADA for now – for a two month internship with CNSNews which is affiliated with the Media Research Center. Tell us about CNSNews.com. Do you think that will be a good match for you?

A) CNS News is a conservative news website. It is one of Media Research Center’s family of organizations which include Newsbusters, Culture Media Institute, and Eyeblast.tv. Basically, CNS tries to accomplish what the mainstream media does not: objective reporting. By their own description, they seek to bring light to “news that’s ignored or under-reported as a result of media bias by omission.”

As an intern, I am told I will act as a reporter with press credentials to the Capitol and deadlines on my stories. It sounds like a challenge, and it will definitely be uncharted waters, but I think that I will enjoy it. I am especially looking forward to spending the mid-term election period in that area. It will be great having a front row seat during this historic election.



We recently received the following email.

I will join you in this boycott!

Today I took my 10 and 13 year old daughters to the mall. We went into Abercrombie and Fitch to purchase a couple shirts. I almost passed out when I saw the porn by the checkout counter. When I spoke to the manager, who isn't married and doesn't have children yet, he claimed it didn't offend him. I told him I will talk to him in ten years when he has a child of his own! They are selling sex, and I cannot support a company who is so blatantly immoral.

*Thank you for this wonderful website.
C.F.
Canton, GA 30115*

The pictures posted at the link below help tell the story of A&F.
<http://www.americandecency.org/archives/af-pornographic-wall-displays/#more-4328>

Pornography desensitizes, addicts and destroys. Of that there is no doubt. We opposed A&F in the past. My Christian conscience forbids me to turn my back on targeting this reprobate company that will lure children in via sexual imagery – a pornographic store for youth.

Sign our online petition and circulate:
<https://secure4.afo.net/ada/petition.php>
Or for a printed copy, call us at 888-733-2326.

A&F's recent return to publishing their pornographic Quarterly is also an arrogant, intentional push to promote and encourage a lifestyle of sexual promiscuity and deviance with no regard for the thousands of expressions of outrage and concern they've received over the years and no regard for the damage done to the young people from whom they profit.

A Word About Our Finances as 2010 Nears an End

By Bill Johnson

God has blessed us so amazingly and graciously during these difficult times.

Our friends at AFA gave us a \$5,000 match gift as we approached our 25th Anniversary celebration back on July 30. Within just a few days that match was met.

In early June we were given a gift of \$15,000 just days after we gave word that we were struggling significantly and may have to cut staff. This gift helped greatly in bolstering us as we went into the summer months.

We received a match challenge for \$15,000 from an anonymous friend which we are already closing in on. [See the adjoining column.] This, too, has been so important to our ongoing ability to faithfully stay in the battle.

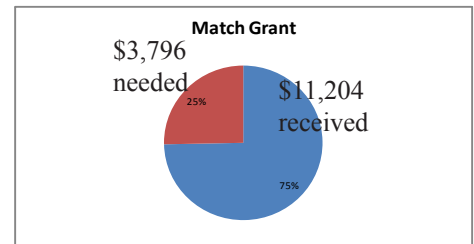
Our faithful monthly supporters are the backbone of this ministry and have been since our inception. A special thanks to each and every one of you.

However, while these wonderful gifts have carried us through the lean summer months, we need continued support in order to maintain this ministry work. In the weeks ahead, I anticipate sending a special appeal seeking strong year end giving. We have opportunity, I believe, to strengthen our ministry outreach but not without some increased giving in the days ahead.

Would you join with us in praying about this possibility? Some of you are in a position of making a very large donation which would allow us to lay a solid groundwork for those coming after us to continue this ministry for years to come!

In the meantime, if you are interested in knowing more about the possibilities, please call and ask to speak with me. I would appreciate talking with you about some possibilities that seem to be emerging. They include getting younger people into the work!

However, without some significant gifts and/or pledges it will only be hopes. I'd love to hear from you. Thanks!



Match Grant Update:

On July 9, we received the following email:

I know your ministry continues to struggle as many are. We would like to try to help again. We will match any new or increased gifts given from 8/1/10 through 12/31/10 up to a total of \$15,000.

A new gift is any amount given by someone who has not given in 2009 or 2010. An increased gift is any amount given by an individual that exceeds the amount the person gave in 2009 (you would add all 2010 gifts from an individual and all 2009 gifts from that person and we would match the excess amount of 2010).

A personal note responding to this generous match grant offer:

Are you a person that cares deeply about God's call "to pursue holiness without which no man shall see the Lord?" Have you sometimes thought "I appreciate American Decency and I need to do more financially for them?" This match challenge is meant for persons like you. If you have not donated since the end of 2008, or if you give more this year than last year the effects of your gifts between now and the end of the year will be doubled!

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Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis?



At this newsletter goes to print we're approaching another election day, November 2. It is evident this election may very well be the most urgent election that we have ever faced.

Let us never forget, however, whoever we place in office is a direct reflection upon us, the people. There are districts that have returned politicians to office who have regularly voted in favor of abortion, larger government, homosexual rights, tyranny.

Godlessness is rampant. We have seen the current administration promote homosexuality, same-sex marriage, abortion "rights", socialism, cap and trade initiatives, Obamacare – all of which serve to destroy liberty and undermine the founding principles of our nation.

It has taken years to come to this place. Many have seen it coming. One person in particular comes to mind: David Barton.

David Barton, the founder of Wallbuilders, is a name with which most of you are familiar. I remember David speaking at a very early AFA gathering (1988?) in Tupelo, MS.

David, as a very young man, was seeing what many now are just beginning to realize.

"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."
[John Adams]

A quick perusal of network and cable television instantly reveals how far we

have fallen from God's righteous standards – standards by which our government and our laws were developed.

Once we as a people regarded and abided by this Constitution. Not perfectly because no individual, no nation is perfect.

It was to the Bible that our founders looked as they sought to create a Constitution that would serve as a system of government which would hold this nation together as a law abiding, God-honoring, God-fearing people.

When one reads quotes from the Founding Fathers, it is completely observable that these were a religious people, that their faith was built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness.

A few quotes help to tell the story, but these are but a mere drop in the bucket:

John Adams, 2nd U.S. President, June 21, 1776.

"Statemen, my dear Sir, may plan and speculate for liberty, but it is Religion and Morality alone, which can establish the Principles upon which Freedom can securely stand."

"The only foundation of a free Constitution is pure Virture, and if this cannot be inspired into our People in a greater Measure, than they have it now, they may change their Rulers and the forms of Government, but they will not obtain a lasting liberty."

Thomas Jefferson, 3rd U.S. President, wrote the following in 1781.

"God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the Gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever."

George Washington, 1st U.S. President, writing March 11, 1792:

"I am sure that never was a people, who had more reason to acknowledge a Divine interposition in their affairs, than those of the United States; and I should be pained to believe that they have forgotten their agency, which was so often manifested during our Revolution, or that they failed to consider the omnipotence of that God who is alone able to protect them."

In these days of moral freefall, there is not necessarily a lot you or I can do about anyone else, but there is much we can do about ourselves. Finding a Bible-believing, teaching church is a vital place to start. Get right with God and learn the basics in living a Christian life.

I believe there is hope for America but only as we seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. And may the prayer below by Thomas Jefferson be ours today.

Thomas Jefferson, March 4, 1805

"Almighty God, Who has given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will. Bless our land with honorable ministry, sound learning, and pure manners."

"Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitude brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues."

"Endow with Thy spirit of wisdom those to whom in Thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to Thy law, we may show forth Thy praise among the nations of the earth."

"In time of prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."

A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

by: Lisa Van Houten



Television has been and is one of the most effective forms of inculcation - used to persuade, influence, deceive. It affects the buying habits of millions and has contributed greatly to the change in beliefs and morals of an entire generation within a matter of years.

In the last few decades we have seen television change from offering shows that reinforced family values (remember *Little House on the Prairie* and *The Cosby Show*?) to actively undermining them. And as television has relentlessly depicted sex outside of marriage as the norm with promiscuity, adultery, cohabitation foisted before watching eyes night after night, our culture in general has adopted similar morals - or lack thereof.

Language on TV and in movies has become coarser and coarser and as a result words which would make the previous generation blush are now common fare. (As an example, Facebook, Twitter and text messages are filled with acronyms for profanity rarely heard in 'polite conversation' just a few short years ago.)

However, while television works to indoctrinate, we have a duty to shed light on the darkness. So we warn of the shows that attack your family and the values you stand for and try to instill in your children and grandchildren. We shed light on programs that promote illicit sexual activity such as *Two and a Half Men*, or legitimize vulgar language and crudity as does *Family Guy*.

However, one show of this season's new crop of programs has none of the aforementioned concerns. No swearing or tasteless innuendo, no overt sexual displays or erotic imagery. In fact, some

reviewers, when commenting on the show, have used descriptions such as "likeable," "fascinating," "characterized by an aggressive, relentless good cheer" with "adorable" kids.

Sounds like the next "Cosby Show", right? Hardly. In fact I would rate this as one of the most concerning programs of the new season. The show is "*Sister Wives*" on the cable network TLC. (Formerly known as The Learning Channel.) The program showcases the life of a polygamous family consisting of husband Kody, his four wives, and 16 children.

Depicted oh so sweetly, *Sister Wives* bends over backwards to portray this "family" as not so different from any other, painting a pretty picture of polygamy. The program is one long infomercial for plural marriage (a.k.a. their "lifestyle") as they try to convince the viewer of how wonderful it all is, as the quotes below attest.

'Wife' #1: *"This is the lifestyle we've chosen and the more the merrier, really. ... "I believed in living this lifestyle. It just makes each of us better."*

'Wife' #2: *"I think there's room for everybody."*

'Wife' #3: *"Who says where the line is drawn of who you can love." And describes polygamy as "a blessing ..."*

'Wife' #4: *"There is just something very, very, awesome about this lifestyle. ... We're normal and ... we're just a family. I'm hoping that this will be something that frees the kids from living in secrecy. ... [To be able to say,] "this is who I am'."*

Kody (the 'husband'): *"Love should be multiplied, not divided." ... "My wives are very comfortable with me having another wife." ... "I just fell in love. Then I fell in love again, and I fell in love again."*

The family featured in *Sister Wives* goes to great lengths to present the so-called benefits of plural marriage, trying to shake the stigma of polygamy and portray it as just a normal lifestyle choice.

However, one of the teenage children, even though this is the only lifestyle she has ever known, recognizes how inherently wrong it is. She states: *"If it was my husband with another woman, I'd be ripping her hair out."*

Innate in our very being, for those whose consciences haven't been warped and deadened, is a knowledge of right and wrong. And the concept being portrayed by this "family" is so very wrong.

Watching this show left me with a sense of repulsion, as it would anyone biblically grounded. However, the fact that this show is even on the air is a troublesome indicator of our culture. And with little public outcry of disgust, it seems clear the condition of our nation's collective conscience. And so while you and I may be repulsed by the idea of polygamy, millions of others are being indoctrinated with the message to "rethink" the definition of marriage and family.

For if polygamy is deemed acceptable, why not gay marriage? One of the wives stated: *"We believe consenting adults should be with who they want."* And the husband of this harem stated, *"...it's hard to dictate by law who you love."*

Where have we heard that rationalization before? 'The law can't dictate who we love.' 'We're consenting adults.' Every argument that is used for the acceptance of gay marriage can also be applied to polygamy or any such combination. The proponents of such want their own sinful lifestyles validated with a stamp of approval, claiming that the institution of marriage can change with the cultural winds of the time. However, society does not define marriage - God does, and He and His principles are timeless and absolute.

Satan is the master deceiver, coming as light, or in this case as a saccharine, "likeable" polygamous family. And while television has been instrumental in changing beliefs in the past, it is in the process of doing so again through a program named "*Sister Wives*."

See page 6 for sponsors of *Sister Wives*

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An Infestation Across the Nation

by Lisa Van Houten

There's an infestation that has spread throughout the country. It has infiltrated homes, hotels, libraries, family shopping centers. No, I'm not talking about bed bugs. Rather something far more serious – pornography.

The week you receive this newsletter marks an annual event that will receive little notice in the media or even our churches. October 31 – November 7 is WRAP week – White Ribbons Against Pornography. In October we see pink ribbons adorning products and persons and hear news reports bringing needed attention to breast cancer awareness – a disease that has affected millions, including this writer.

And while devastating in a different way, pornography is also like a cancer destroying the lives of millions; but don't expect the media to draw attention to that fact and don't look for a flood of white ribbons displayed as an expression of concern. Evening news and newspaper headlines regularly report on a flood of sex crimes, but liberal media refuse to draw the obvious and proven connection to pornography. And while pornography, tragically, is a struggle for many in the church, it is the rare pastor that speaks out against it.

With the Internet, pornography is a mouse clickaway available to men (and increasingly used by women) with ease and anonymity, giving easy access to material that is much more vile and perverse than the "nude pictures" of a previous generation. And as men become addicted, their compulsion leads them to greater depths of depravity. Consider just a couple of recent headlines from a local West Michigan paper:

“Neighbor caught off guard with charge against man for sexually assaulting pit bull”

“Hill to be freed on child-porn charges – former Egelston official has spent three years in prison”

Pornography can ensnare anyone, destroying lives and families. An example of that is this article: **“Lawyers spar over pedophile's sentence”**

Quoting: *Federal prosecutors say former Tulip Time official Thomas Westerlund should be locked up the rest of his life for preying on teenage boys he recruited as festival volunteers. ...*

“The defendant created a haven for boys so they could be groomed for his sexual gratification,” Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Mearu wrote in a memorandum.

“He was able to position himself as a trusted, upstanding member of the community. Parents trusted him to supervise their children. However, behind closed doors he was sexually assaulting boys.” ...

...Police subsequently found images of Westerlund abusing boys on his home computer.... (Muskegon Chronicle 5/8/10)

This crime took place in a local community known for conservative, family values. An area with deep Christian roots that still thrive today with seemingly a church on every corner. Yet here was an “upstanding member of the community” molesting boys. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to predict what material led this church-going, pillar of society to engage in such crimes.

People are horrified by such crimes, but where is the outrage against this major contributing factor - pornography? The outrage can start with you. Talk to your family about the danger of pornography. Urge your pastor to incorporate in his teaching and preaching what God says about this sin. While WRAP week may have come and gone by the time you read this, it's never too late to raise attention to the damage caused by pornography.

Our friends at Morality in Media (MIM) have made available some helpful resources to assist you in educating others regarding this concern at www.moralityinmedia.org (WRAP Campaign page). You can also call MIM at 212-870-3210, and they will send information in the U.S. mail.

For counseling recommendations, contact us at ADA (888-733-2326) for further information.