

Connecting the dots ...

“If we lose freedom here, there is no place to escape to.”

President Ronald Reagan

By Bill Johnson

Weeks ago I was honored at my former high school by being inducted into the Portland High School Hall of Fame. (I graduated in 1965). I'll spare you the details. Suffice it to say, it didn't take long for me to get back to the present reality: the more pressing reality.

Not that the '60s were free of major troubles. As Jan (my wife of 43 years) reminds me as we consider recent history, the '60s were extremely difficult! I know. I lived through it during my twenties. The sex revolution, the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., then U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, the expansion and the controversy of the Vietnam War, the massive peace marches on Washington DC which helped elevate societal divisions, the Kent State University killings of college students by the National Guard, racial riots in Detroit, followed very shortly after in the '70s with the Watergate scandal, the drawn-out congressional hearings followed by the resignation of President Richard M. Nixon, the naming of his Vice-President, Gerald R. Ford, to the Presidency.

It has been widely documented that in the '80s, there was a resurgence of liberty and conservatism, with a growth in the economy - with millions of new job creations, new housing starts, low unemployment, an advancement of societal vibrancy during the Presidency of Ronald Wilson Reagan (1981-1988). [In spite of such accomplishments, those who are decidedly liberal and who found Reagan policies antagonistic to their leftist views, are proponents of higher taxes, government expansion, the slashing of the military, the advancement of abortion rights, etc..]

However, neither time nor space permits me the luxury of documenting my historical recol-

lections, but rather my intent is to highlight and summarize concerns for what lies ahead.

The U.S. Constitution was, I believe, sovereignly ordained by God - that America would be a long term instrument for the preaching and proclamation of the Word of God throughout the world - that the gospel of Jesus Christ would be made known. From our beginnings, America was founded on Biblical principles. Our Constitution and the Declaration of Independence reflect the wisdom of God. The U.S. Constitution was created for a moral/religious people, as stated by President John Adams and echoed by others. Too, it has been recognized by many historians since the founding that America has thrived as Americans remained within a Judeo-Christian framework. Clearly it wasn't lawlessness that marked America. There was a general agreement upon what was right and what was wrong. This unity in purpose, outlook and gratitude for liberty and freedom characterized America because it marked Americans.

However, it would be naive to think that Satan's arrows weren't targeting America from the very beginning, advancing and elevating with the passing years: Darwinism (the survival of the fittest), the advancement and aggressive propagation of the theory of Evolution, the assault upon Christian orthodoxy that came to America from the European elite via the aggressive, anti-God ideology of the Enlightenment: that man could bring about societal perfection (the answer to all man's woes); socialist solutions to mankind's dilemmas emanating out of the Great Depression (social security, Medicare); Kinsey Sex and Fraud: the indoctrination of a people regarding human sexuality via the deception of Dr. Alfred C. Kinsey; Hugh Hefner and his hedonistic, pornographic assault



upon marriage through Playboy magazine (1953); the insidious advance of Communism and communist ideology in America (referencing the powerful DVD "Agenda: Grinding America Down," by Curtis Bowers), President Obama's failure to identify the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist group and as an enemy of the United States has left America increasingly vulnerable to terrorist attacks like the Ft. Hood massacre, 9-11, the Boston Marathon massacre.

Judicial activism (and not just in recent years): The U.S Supreme Court has expelled God, prayer and the Ten Commandments from the public square. Mark Levin, former Chief of Staff of U.S. Attorney General Ed Meese, writes that "too few

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From the desk of Bill Johnson

Connect the dots ...

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judges keep their sworn oath to uphold the Constitution.” The misapplication of the Separation of Church and State; Roe v. Wade (1973) - abortion; U.S. v. Windsor (2013) - the legalization of homosexual marriage; The Supreme Court’s Decision on Obama’s Health Care Law (2012). U.S. Senator Mike Lee stated recently that this decision by the Supreme Court was an “open and hostile violation of the Constitution’s separation of powers for the U.S. Supreme Court to not only rewrite ObamaCare but to simultaneously unite the power of making and interpreting law into their own unelected hands.”

As Christians, we often are accused of not being proactive but rather reactive. I would ask, however, what choice do we often have? [It’s ALMOST ALWAYS easier to be lawless than it is to constrain lawlessness.] An individual terrorist or group decides to create a homemade bomb and detonates it into a gathering of people. What can one do to prevent this from happening when so many American citizens have been taught to accept terrorism as a criminal offense and not as an act of war by an identifiable enemy?

Some suggest that the present administration is operating out of ineptness. Really? I don’t think so. I believe the situation is far more grave than that. My concern is that our President is a radical, leftist moving to remake America just as he pledged he would do when he was campaigning. Question: What are we being made into?

I join with many others who wouldn’t be so concerned if we saw President Obama as a leader who respected and abided by the U.S. Constitution.

A growing concern is that this administration will one day target our Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Religion.

In June of this year, the Supreme Court determined that homosexual marriage is legal. Those within the legal community anticipate that the 30 states (including Michigan) operating under the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) will lose that protection - the defense of traditional marriage.

Christians who continue to abide by and cite the Bible, as their rule of faith and practice from that time forward will be viewed in a court of law as in defiance of the U.S. Supreme Court.

This President and his administration, including his Justice Department under Attorney General Eric Holder, have, I fear, incrementally and knowingly brought us to this point.

Why shouldn’t we be concerned? Lawlessness is always concerning, but especially when those who are your leaders in government swear an oath to uphold the Constitution and then proceed not to uphold it.

One act of lawlessness is one thing, but systematically defying the law of the land reveals an agenda. An agenda that rewards those who are with him and punishes those who aren’t.

Consider the following:

(1) The Obama administration under Attorney General Eric Holder determined they would no longer defend the constitutionality of a federal law banning recognition of same-sex marriage, the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). The Justice Department under previous administrations had defended DOMA including President Bill Clinton.

(2) Former U.S. Rep. Bart Stupak (D-MI), who you may remember was the last hurdle the president had to clear before passing Obamacare, was bought with an executive order from the president supposedly ensuring that the executive branch (including HHS) would not allow federal funding for abortion. Even Stupak now testifies to the president’s lawlessness that, having negotiated the Executive Order with the President, not only does that HHS mandate violate the ex-

ecutive order, it also violates statutory law. “If you go back to the Omnibus Budget Act of 2009 - passed by Democratic House, Democratic Senate, signed by President Obama - that is probably the most specific, particular language that no funds can be used to promote abortion...”

(3) President Obama’s Administration’s push of abortion-related policies in Obama-care, included a contraceptive mandate that required all insurance plans to cover their employees’ contraceptives and abortion-inducing drugs free of charge. Employers face the force of law if they do not put aside their beliefs to follow the demands of elected and unelected officials. At stake are First Amendment Constitutional rights of freedom of conscience and religion. And all this is being fought right now in the courts.

(4) Pastor Louie Giglio had been asked to deliver President Obama’s Inaugural benediction because of his church’s incredible work fighting human trafficking. But Giglio was forced to withdraw. His liberal “sin” was that fifteen years ago he delivered a sermon on why same-sex “marriage” contradicts biblical teaching. Pastor Giglio is another victim of the religious intolerance that is growing in Obama’s America. Here’s a pastor who gave a sermon in his church on the biblical message about human sexuality, and now he’s been labeled an extremist by the media and dumped by the White House. Religious liberty is at stake!

Read these words from the Declaration of Independence:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.

We're Doing It Wrong

by Chris Johnson



In kicking around the internet today, I stumbled upon a conference that had been held in 2010 by well-known and somewhat-controversial theologian Pastor Doug Wilson entitled, "Calvin, You Sexy Beast: Keeping Calvin Sassy for the Next 500 Years."

I find that title to be hilarious and interesting and I wish I'd known that it took place in 2010 because I would have liked to listen to it. It also got me thinking. Please, don't take this as a criticism of Wilson - it's merely an observation - but what does it say about our culture when even very conservative pastors like Doug Wilson would choose the word 'sexy' (however tongue-in-cheek it may be) to describe as respected a man as John Calvin?

I wonder what John Calvin would have thought about being called 'sexy' in his day.

Even I remember when I was a little kid and I first heard the word 'sexy' in a pretty innocuous lingerie commercial (though I'm sure it was steamy for the time) and being shocked that you could even say that on TV. Of course, I was a little sheltered when it came to television, but today everything is sexy.

Google defines sexy as "sexually attractive or exciting." While it's definitely still used that way, the context of the word in modern vocabulary often would make "sexy" a synonym of "awesome."

I've heard phones called sexy, cars called

sexy, pizza called sexy, and there's even a dog grooming product called "Sexy Beast." And now, I've heard John Calvin called sexy.

Being sexually attractive/sexy = being cool.

All of that is to show that our culture is engrossed in sex. It permeates every facet of society. It is the theme behind TV shows, pop music, fashion, and art. When acceptance or admiration is based on physical attraction, society has its priorities wrong. In our society, sex is not considered a sacred rite of the two-become-one, it is simply a pastime - like watching a movie, but with fewer explosions. In the box through which we catch a glimpse of "normal" life, sex is what you do on the first date so you know whether to pursue a relationship or not. The deciding factor on whether you are considered moral by our culture is how "tolerant" you are of different "sexual identities."

Hear me here. The point of this writing is not to call sex bad. I think too often Christians allow ourselves to be known as having a low view of sex, but it is pretty obvious that it's a system designed by God and thus it is good. Some would even say it's very good. The Christian view of sex is not people should stop doing it, but they should stop doing it wrong. God designed sex to unite two people on three levels - physical, spiritual, and emotional. When intimacy is there on all three levels, sex is awesome, but our culture only focuses

on the physical pleasures and thus they ruin the beauty of the design. It's like using a Van Gogh painting as a table cloth.

Our schools are not isolated from this cultural influence. Guidance counselors and health teachers (with some exceptions) around the nation teach from a curriculum assuming that every student who hears it is having sex with his/ her fellow students.

The "gospel" of sex ed is "safe sex," freeing the participants from that nasty side effect of sex - babies.

But, what if this concept of "safe sex" is a lie? This is where Pam Stenzel comes in. Pam is motivational speaker who speaks to about a half million high school kids per year by way of school assemblies and youth conferences.

She teaches something very different from the "wear a condom, you'll be fine" crowd. Pam gets to travel the world and tell 500,000 kids every year that everything their culture teaches them about sex is wrong.

Her shocking message is that sex is not the moral equivalent of a handshake. That swapping bodily fluids with anyone and everyone is not as safe as the Department of Health and Human Services makes it sound.

There are presently 30 sexually transmitted diseases infecting those who are sexually active around the country. Condoms do nothing to protect from the vast majority of them, for some there is no cure, and for some there are no symptoms - but they can still do great damage.

Another often unrecognized bit of information for the guys is that for the birth of every baby, the social security numbers of both parents are required. If the father is not in the picture, the federal government will garnish his wages to support the child until the child's 18th birthday.

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Pam said all of this and much more when she came to speak at ADA's headquarters. She held rapt two crowds in afternoon and evening presentations including a group from an area public high school which a caring health teacher had arranged to come hear her presentation.

ADA has sold Pam Stenzel's very educational resources for years and, some of you may remember, she keyed our 25th anniversary dinner. It was a pleasure to bring her back to Fremont to present her vital message to the community.

We hope that Pam's warnings about the real dangers of abusing God's beautiful design for sex will continue to be spread around the world and that we can continue to be a part of it.

Please, visit the video section on our webpage (americandecency.org) and watch her presentation for yourself or share it with someone who needs the information. You can also order a DVD or CD of Pam's presentation - see the enclosed response card for more information.

I might not have all the answers to those difficult questions, but this is what I do know; I know that my God is so awesome and so amazing that He is capable of taking your worst pain, whether it was something that you chose or whether it was something that was done to you, and my God can make something very beautiful come from that. That is Amazing Grace – the ability of God to even take what Satan meant for evil and make something good come from that. ...

Pam Stenzel

Please take advantage of a year end match challenge!



The times they are a changin' goes the old Bob Dylan song of years ago. Indeed, they have and, indeed, they are!

With those changes, come the increasing pressures upon each of us. This newsletter alludes to and addresses a myriad of those pressures.

Financial pressures, too, are so very real in many individual and family lives. They are true in this ministry as well. For a number of years, we have seen a decline in the number of gifts we receive on a monthly basis and therefore on a yearly basis.

Nonetheless, God has shown His amazing grace and faithfulness in and to this ministry. Despite a declining number of gifts, the giving total for the year stays very similar year after year. With ongoing inflation, that is not good, but our needs here have been met.

One of the factors that has been immense in the ongoing financial stability of this ministry has been a year-end match challenge that has been graciously extended for a number of years by an anonymous donor.

This has helped energize year-end giving and strengthened us to strongly finish out our year and start off a new year with solid financial grounding.

As you know, our anonymous donor has once again extended a year-end match challenge.

If you are someone who has never given or someone who hasn't given for quite sometime, it would give us a great boost and be an encouragement to have you show your tangible support by helping to strengthen this ministry as we move toward the close of another year.

As this newsletter once again

demonstrates, we are engaged and involved and staying true to the ministry calling that God has given us.

The mission of the American Decency Association is to educate its members and the general public in matters of decency, to initiate, promote, encourage and coordinate activity designed to safeguard and advance public morality consistent with biblical Christianity. And most importantly, as Christians to love Jesus Christ and to do His will - to "Pursue holiness without which no man shall see the Lord." [Hebrews 12:14]

Here are the details of this gracious match challenge:

We will again match new gifts or increased gifts received up to \$15,000 that ADA receives between 9/1/13 and 12/31/13. A new gift is anyone who has not given since 12/31/11. An increased gift is the incremental gift given over last year as long as it was given after 9/1. E.g. Joe gave \$1,000 in 2012. He gave \$1200 in 7/2013 and \$500 in 9/13-\$500 would qualify as increased gift.

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Bill Johnson, President and Founder
bjohnson@americandecency.org

Lisa VanHouten, Executive Assistant
Kimberly Cargill, Administrative Asst.
Chris Johnson, Administrative Assistant

P.O. Box 202
Fremont MI 49412-0202
Phone: 231-924-4050
Fax: 231-924-1966
www.americandecency.org



I Hate Porn

By Eric Simmons



Pornography is a problem.

Porn is like a narcotic, it hijacks the brain, it redefines human sexuality, and in the meantime ruins lives, destroys families, and destabilizes ministries. And honestly it's a problem that makes me tired — tired of the devastation Satan is causing to children, women, families, pastors, churches, and the world with this tragic evil.

Porn became a problem for me when I was only six, and by the grace of God that problem ended when Jesus saved me at age seventeen. But I know it rarely happens so cleanly. It is still a temptation, yes; temptation abounds living in the city I do, and with the heart I have, but grace abounds all the more in Jesus Christ.

Friends, I hate porn. And here's why.

I hate porn because it is a perversion of what God created in man and woman.

I hate porn because it exploits women made in the image of God into an image made for a man's lust.

I hate porn because it objectifies women into a consumable product instead of a glorious image-bearing creature of God. I hate porn because I love women — in particular my wife and three daughters.

I hate porn because it takes the soul satisfying experience of sex with a covenantally-committed spouse and turns it into a twisted soul shrinking experience of self-sex.

I hate porn because it turns sons and daughters of God into slaves of sex.

I hate porn because it turns potential missionaries into impotent Christians.

I hate porn because it destroys marriage, many before they even begin.

I hate porn because it extends adolescence and keeps men boys.

I hate porn because it lies to men about beauty and leads men to look for a porn star instead of a woman who fears the Lord.

I hate porn because it robs men and women of the full joy of obedience.

I hate porn because it fractures trust between a husband and wife.

I hate porn because it is a diabolical, satanic activity that is subtly leading thousands upon thousands to hell.

I hate porn because it leads to disqualified pastors and impotent churches. (Pastors, if you are addicted to porn, you are disqualified, and you are killing your church!)

I hate porn because I suspect it's the most significant reason we are not planting more churches and sending more missionaries

I hate porn because it disqualifies gospel preachers who could fill the empty church buildings in my city and so many others.

I hate porn because of the disappointment children have to go through when their dad tells them why they lost their job or opportunity to lead in the church.

I hate porn because it teaches a distorted view of sex to children before it can be explained by loving parents.

I hate porn because I am tired of sitting in my living room with sobbing, confused, devastated wives and broken, embarrassed,

condemned men who got caught.

I hate porn because it leads to rape, molestation, and perversion that can devastate people for the rest of their lives.

I hate porn because it turns men inward and suffocates a man's ambition to make God's name hallowed.

I hate porn because it says sin, Satan, and the world are more satisfying than our Triune God and his grace.

I hate porn because I hate ungodly guilt and condemnation.

I hate porn for the fear it induces in the hearts of parents everywhere that their child could stumble upon a sight and get addicted.

But I love Jesus.

I love Jesus because he loves people with porn problems.

I love Jesus because he is powerful to free porn-enslaved hearts.

He who knew no porn addiction became porn addiction so the porn addict might become the righteousness of God in him.

He who had no sin became sin for you so that you may become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).

In that one brilliant sentence, Paul puts an end to the porn problem.

Friend, you are no longer in Adam but in Jesus. Jesus became a substitute. It was as if he became the porn addict, by receiving the just penalty due for our perversion, and you became the righteous son or daughter of God with all its benefits.

Friend, in one act of Love and Justice, in the cross-work of Jesus, through faith in him, you are now clean, holy, accepted, forgiven and free. Let me say it again . . . *free!*

I love Jesus.

We've sunk a long way, baby

by Lisa Van Houten



“You’ve come a long way, baby.” I’m old enough to remember that advertising slogan made popular by the Phillip Morris tobacco company in the early 1970s. Phillip Morris targeted women to buy their Virginia Slims cigarettes, using the popular theme of “women’s liberation” to convince young women that smoking cigarettes in general, and their brand specifically, was glamorous, sexy, and liberating.

The ads weren’t just selling cigarettes; they were selling a concept – changing public perception and helping to create a new cultural norm – female “empowerment.”

And the ads worked. The U.S. Surgeon General linked the ad campaign to a marked increase in cigarette smoking among teenage girls and young women.

Forty years later the entertainment and advertising industries have themselves “come a long way” in cultivating the cultural conscience of what is viewed as acceptable and what is not.

In the late 1990s NBC broke new ground with the sitcom *Will & Grace* featuring two homosexual characters in lead roles. *Will & Grace* was the first network program to really push the homosexual agenda – selling to the American public that homosexuality should be accepted as a new “norm.”

Again, it worked – propagandizing a young generation of viewers to not only “tolerate” homosexuality, but embrace it. *Will & Grace* was the top-rated sitcom among young viewers (18–49 year olds) – the key demographic in not only selling products, but also selling an agenda.

While there’s not much I agree with when it comes to the opinions and viewpoints of Joe Biden, there is one statement from our vice president with which, unfortunately, I can’t disagree. Last year Vice President Biden commented regarding the promotion of homosexuality that the TV show *Will & Grace* “probably did more to educate the American public than almost anything anybody’s ever done so far.” However, I wouldn’t use the term “educate,” – indoctrinate is a more apt description.

NBC is now trying to push the agenda a step further. One of the stars of *Will & Grace*, Sean Hayes, is now starring in a new NBC sitcom, *Sean Saves the World*, about a man (Sean), who was married to a woman, fathered a daughter, then realized he was a homosexual, and is now raising his daughter on his own.

As Phillip Morris used their ads to convince a generation of women that smoking was copacetic, *Sean Saves the World* is teaching viewers that homosexuality and gay parenting is commendable.

In addition to the propaganda, it wouldn’t be a sitcom today without a heavy dose of promiscuity and crude sexual innuendo. In one episode Sean mentions he had sex with his daughter’s soccer coach and, as he prepares to go out on a blind date with another gay man, he tells a friend that hopefully the date will end with sex as he makes lewd, explicit references to oral sex.

One of the show’s main characters is Sean’s mother, Lorna - played by Linda Lavin. Lorna is the stereotypical nymphomaniac grandmother portrayed on much of television today.

Let’s just say that Lorna is no Grandma Walton. Instead, she encourages her 14 year old granddaughter to masturbate, telling her to “explore her own body.” She also shares “motherly” advice with her gay son as she encourages him to find a man – not for a relationship – but just for sex. She counsels, “*Whose talking about a relationship? Just roll around a little, have some fun. That’s what I do.*”

The show’s content goes downhill from there. As a reviewer for the [Salt Lake Tribune](#) wrote:

And, like “Will & Grace” at its worst, “Sean Saves the World” confuses tasteless and vulgar with funny. In one episode, Lorna encourages her granddaughter to examine her own vagina in a mirror. Another episode is replete with uncomfortable incest jokes involving Lorna and Sean.

It’s gross and creepy. ...

“Sean Saves the World” just wastes a half hour of your life you’ll never get back.

However, *Sean Saves the World* does much more than waste a half hour of your life; it does what its predecessor, *Will and Grace*, did – indoctrinate. Viewers are sold the homosexual agenda, just as teenage girls were sold Virginia Slims cigarettes. And in both cases, the consequences are devastating.

The young women who bought Virginia Slims didn’t find that smoking brought them glamour or empowerment – instead it often brought lung cancer and death.

And homosexuality is equally malignant – fostering a lifestyle that not only has physical consequences, but more importantly, spiritual ones. While we as a culture are paying the price for the promotion of the homosexual agenda as it undermines God’s design for marriage and family, the greatest price to be paid will be by those who personally embrace the homosexual lifestyle without repentance. [Romans 1] *Sean Saves the World* doesn’t save or liberate its viewers; rather, the lifestyle it promotes leads only to destruction and condemnation.

As our culture has realized the damage caused by smoking and now gives great warning of the risk involved, so we warn about the marketing of a destructive and sinful lifestyle, not because we’re “haters” or “intolerant,” but out of love - because we ourselves have experienced redemption from the deadly consequences of our sin.

Christian Mandate

by: Chris Johnson



At the end of just about every event we've ever held, every conference we've ever attended, and every rally we've ever participated in, the same question has always haunted us. We're always left wondering, "now that I'm all fired up, what can I really do to make a difference?"

Really, what can we do about our weak representatives in government? What can we do about the advance of the homosexual agenda? What can we do about the Muslim Brotherhood's political influence?

There are countless petitions floating around, countless clever Facebook memes to share, and countless protests and meetings to attend, but, in the end, will those things ever really change anyone's heart or mind? Of course, those things are important to do. It is vital that Christian conservatives make our voices heard - kind of like those Whos down in Whoville shouting, "We are here! We are here!" - and it is vital that we rally others to shout with us, but, ultimately, we do not possess the power to change people.

Barack Obama will never become pro-life because he hears the right argument or sees the right protest sign.

Only God can change him. The good news for us is that that is not without precedence. Remember Nebuchadnezzar? Or how about the king of Nineveh? Those were even more radical turnarounds than Barack Obama's would be.

There is also the example of the Pharaoh to whom God called Moses ten times, each time hardening the Pharaoh's heart so that

He could make His own power known, before finally moving him to let God's people go.

Ultimately, it is God who changes hearts.

So we are still left with the question, "what can we do?"

I believe the answer goes all the way back to what is known as the "cultural mandate" in Genesis 1:28 in which God charges his stewards to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it..."

Here, God is not just telling Adam and Eve to make babies, He's telling His representatives on earth to make more representatives and for them to make more representatives until all the world is covered by people who are reflecting the glory and character of God to creation, resulting in God-glorifying art and entertainment and work and culture.

Unfortunately, we goofed that up pretty badly when we sinned in Adam, but when we were again made righteous in Christ, we got another chance to fulfill God's purpose. God again said, in essence, to "be fruitful and multiply," this time armed with the gospel.

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you," Matthew 28:19, 20.

That, I believe, is the only way that America will again be a godly nation. Indeed, I believe that America is, in some ways, a manifestation of the Great Commission distorted, as all things are in our broken world, by sinful men.

So, in short the answer to the question, "what can I do to make a difference," is to share the gospel. But, I think, not just to share the gospel, but to make sure our own lives are being changed by it as well and that we are living according to it. After all, there are two kinds of people in the world and they are not "Christians" and "sinners." They are "Jesus" and "sinners."

That's what it means to be the salt and light - not just to say, "this is what God wants" - but to try to demonstrate through our own lives why God's way is better, never forgetting that we have nothing to boast of because we don't do it in our own strength.

Think about the arguments over "homosexual marriage" while the Supreme Court was considering its constitutionality. God's people should have been able to point to their own marriages and say, "this is how God designed it." But such arguments were laughed at, because all-in-all Christian marriages are no better off than non-Christian marriages.

Or, if you'd prefer, we can look at the increasing popularity of Islam in the U.S. Simply put, Islam is simply filling the void left by Christianity! Islam is unashamedly presented as a way of life while too often Christianity is presented as simply a bunch of rules to fit into your life. Or maybe a way to get rich. Much more than that, Christianity is about how we are loved in spite of the fact that we can't live up to those rules!

It is important that I make this clarification: following Jesus is not the way to save America.

Following Jesus is the way to please the God who has not only had mercy on us, but poured out grace as well. America just might be saved as a side effect.

If our primary purpose in following Christ is to "save" America and not to glorify the God who gave us life, that's idolatry.

John Calvin famously called men's hearts 'idol factories.' The bottom line is that everyone worships something - be it Allah, or self, or liberalism, or even (gasp) conservatism. If it's not God, man is not fulfilling what he was created for, and that's why America and the rest of the world are falling apart.

The day the park ranger came to the aid of my father - a World War II veteran hindered by a weak leg

by: Bill Johnson



I was privileged to march at the million man veteran's rally at the WW II memorial a couple of weeks ago when in DC to attend the Values Voter Summit.

My dad, now deceased, was one such vet. He served during World War II. Shortly after the WW II memorial opened, Dad wanted to see the memorial before his ability to get around deteriorated.

A park ranger seeing that my dad couldn't make the final fifty yards, at first declined our request to use the park golf cart saying it went against National Park policy. Moments later the ranger changed his mind, perhaps thinking that it could one day be his father.

This, I believe, is the true spirit of most park rangers - not the barricading of our national monuments. These monuments help instill in us national thanks for our veterans and for their sacrifice that we would remain a free people.

One further insult when I joined the veteran's rally, was that the national park restrooms were inaccessible. Why? As a cost saving measure? Really? Or was it as others have suggested, to punish those whose view of government is to get spending under control and to make a political point.

On Friday and Saturday, I listened, with thousands of others, to many cutting edge presentations at the Values

Voter Summit in Washington, DC.

Not surprisingly, many serious concerns were raised including the following: the assault on Biblical marriage, Obamacare, the attack upon religious liberty and the freedom of speech, the scourge of abortion, the threat of the Muslim Brotherhood and the implications of our government's support of them.

The subject of civil disobedience was also brought up by several different speakers.

In this vein, a haunting question is the likelihood that those employed by the government under the leadership of this administration would always uphold directives from the highest echelons of government. i.e. Will park rangers, even though with the people in spirit, nonetheless do what they are commanded - put up barricades, close down restrooms, and? Scary thoughts arise.

So, on the subject of civil disobedience, when is civil disobedience God honoring and when is it not? With Romans 13 as our



guide we conclude: when a law violates Christian conscience.

Much "meat needs to be put on the bones" as the variety of scenarios are considered. Reluctantly, I find myself thinking about this question and discussing it with others. Perhaps this is your inclination in these times of "soft tyranny" as Mark Levin describes it.

Here is the catch for me, however. So few will give little thought about the spiritual warfare that is increasingly pressing upon us. So few will give prayerful thought for what they will do if they are forced to have health coverage that violates conscience and funds abortions.

Our concern in our daily living is to be God's people, to be true to His standard - to pursue holiness without which no man shall see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). We are not to succumb to the wiles of the devil or conform to this world.

May God help us to guard our consciences and to prayerfully prepare for the assault that may be coming soon upon our Christian conscience.

J.C. Ryle states it this way:

The Christian's fight is a good fight, because it does good to the WORLD. All other wars have a devastating, ravaging and injurious effect. The march of an army through a land is a dreadful scourge to the inhabitants. Wherever it goes — it impoverishes, wastes and does harm. Injury to people, property, feelings and morals invariably accompanies it.

Far different are the effects produced by Christian soldiers. Wherever they live, they are a blessing. They raise the standard of religion and morality. They invariably check the progress of drunkenness, profligacy and dishonesty. Even their enemies are obliged to respect them. Go where you please, you will rarely find that barracks and garrisons do good to the neighborhood. But go where you please, you will find that the presence of a few true Christians is a blessing. Surely this is good!