

ISIS, ISNA, CAIR: Separate or Similar? Terrorist or Peaceful?

By Bill Johnson

Gruesome and frightening headlines have flooded the news ever since Americans first learned of the terror group “The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria” – otherwise known as ISIS. Heinous beheadings of American and European hostages. Iraqi Christians raped, tortured, driven from their homes, with many – including children - martyred for their faith in horrific fashion.

And now we learn of a new concerning terrorist group - Khorasan – specializing in bomb-making. At a recent Pentagon press briefing Lt. Gen. William Mayville said that Khorasan "was in the final stages of plans to execute major attacks against Western targets and potentially the U.S. homeland."

As radicalized American Muslims are recruited to join ISIS, only to return to wage Jihad on American soil, ISIS has released another video with a message from ISIS spokesman Abu Muhammad al Adnani, stating: *"O America, O allies of America, and O crusaders, know that the matter is more dangerous than you have imagined and greater than you have envisioned. We have warned you that today we are in a new era. ...If you can kill a disbelieving American or European ... kill him in any manner or way however it may be."*

These are the headlines we see. What is even more frightening is the news that the mainstream media doesn't report. Such as the U.S. Border Patrol report revealing that more than 470 illegal immigrants from terrorist-linked nations have been caught trying to enter the country. How many slipped through our porous border undetected?

Yet in spite all of these reports, groups such as CAIR (Council on American-Islamic Relations) and ISNA (Islamic Society of North America) try to silence all criticism of Sharia and radical Islam while our president claims ISIS – the “Islamic State” – isn't Islamic. To respond to these escalating concerns, we have scheduled a seminar

featuring two highly regarded and powerful speakers – both men experts on the threat and agenda of groups such as ISIS, ISNA, and CAIR.

Speakers include:

Patrick Poole: a counter-terrorism and national security consultant. He is an internationally recognized subject matter expert on domestic terrorism and the global jihadist movement, and he has been actively involved in and served as a consultant on numerous terrorism cases.



Mr. Poole regularly briefs members of Congress and congressional staff, he has conducted lectures and training for federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, and has taught classes at the U.S. Army War College and the U.S. Air Force Staff and Command College. He is a frequent contributor on the Glenn Beck program.

Mr. Poole has also testified before the Arizona House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee and the Arizona Senate Border Security, Federalism and States' Sovereignty Committee on the topic of “Cross Border Terror Threats and Islamic Terror Support Networks in Arizona.”



William Wagner: a Constitutional Lawyer most recently with Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan and will be shortly serving as a professor at Trinity International University (Trinity Law School) in Orange County, California.

Professor Wagner has served as a senior United States prosecutor, litigating hundreds of federal cases and serving as chief of appellate litigation for the Office of the United

States Attorney. Prior to serving in the Justice Department, Professor Wagner served as legal counsel in the United States Senate and as chief counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee of the Michigan legislature. As chief counsel, he supervised all legislative issues involving the separation of powers, due process, and other protections of individual rights and liberties, including the right to free expression and the free exercise of religious conscience. Professor Wagner previously served as a federal judge and now serves as the President of Salt and Light Global.

Further details:

Anti-terrorism and security consultant Patrick Poole will provide information about recent research that he has done regarding security issues in Michigan and throughout the United States.

Professor/attorney William Wagner will provide valuable background information on who such groups as CAIR, ISNA, and ISIS really are, what their agenda is, and why it might be that governmental leaders refuse to identify them as an enemy, ignoring them at our peril.

What: ISIS, ISNA, CAIR: Separate or Similar? Terrorist or Peaceful?

When: Saturday, October 11 - 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Where: Lansing, MI - Ramada Inn, 7501 W. Saginaw Hwy. Lansing, 48917

Why: To inform, encourage and to take action

Registration and Cost: Register in advance or at the door. Seating is limited. Call 231-924-4050 to assure a seat. To help cover the costs, a donation of any amount is requested, but not imperative.



From the desk of Bill Johnson

Truth Demands Confrontation

Sometimes it's very painful to stay informed AND to take action.

I like to feel safe and secure in my little "bubble," then I read and find out a wide variety of troubling things that are going on in our country: terrorism, the Benghazi coverup, IRS fraud, racial profiling, etc. and I have a deep realization that threats exist both near and far.

On a more trivial level, yet nonetheless troubling as it does impact my desire to think that all is nice and good, I like baseball and follow the Detroit Tigers. But then I read about "star" pitcher Justin Verlander and his fling Kate Upton and their nude pictures. It disgusts me and baseball loses its innocence in my eyes.

People mostly prefer sheltering themselves. My dad used to say of my mother, "Your mom likes to think that life is a bowl full of cherries. It's not."

Look at this in a spiritual light. Here are some thoughts about being in the world, but not of it from a pastor/author from the late 19th century – the late, great J.C. Ryle.

The Mindset of a Pilgrim

"A holy man will follow after spiritual mindedness. He will endeavor to set his affections entirely on the things above, and to hold things on earth with a very loose hand. He will not neglect the business of this life now; but the first place in his mind and thoughts will be given to the life to come. He will aim to live like one whose treasure is in heaven, and to pass through this world like a stranger and pilgrim traveling to his home..."

Here are a few of my take aways.

1. A holy man will seek to be spiritual - seeking to set his priorities in accord with God and His Kingdom principles.
2. A Christian man is to staunchly remember that he is a pilgrim on this earth – a stranger in a foreign land.
3. However, at the same time, he is not to neglect the business of this present life.
4. He will be in the world but not of it.

Clearly, Ryle's emphasis is upon being spiritually minded, yet with a caution not to neglect the business of this life now.

You have also heard the comment regarding certain individuals, "They are so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good."

There is a place for taking care of business - of knowing and doing.

Dr. Francis A. Schaeffer stated it this way:

*Truth demands confrontation. And now we must ask where we as evangelicals have been in the battle for truth and morality in our culture. Have we as evangelicals been on the front lines contending for the faith and confronting the moral breakdown over the last forty to sixty years? Have we even been aware that there is a battle going on – not just a heavenly battle, but a life-and-death struggle over what will happen to men and women and children in both this life and the next? If the truth of the Christian faith is in fact truth, then it stands in antithesis to the ideas and the immorality of our age, and it must be practiced both in teaching and practical action. **Truth demands confrontation.** It must be loving confrontation but there must be confrontation nonetheless. [From "The Great Evangelical Disaster."]*

I say all of that to make this point: Truth demands confrontation! Get truth. There is a battle going on, and not just in the heavenlies, but a "life-and-death struggle over what will happen to men and women and children in both this life and the next!"

GET INFORMED.

Who am I you might ask? I'm just a mere

man who has learned to fight the fight of faith with my wife of 44 years, and still going strong by His grace. Here, though, is some counsel that I have learned and place before you. May God use it in someone's life today.

Pray. Learn to pray. Learn to take time to pray and set aside a time to seek His face.

Read. Spend time with God in His word. If you are just beginning, I suggest short books of the New Testament that have short chapters of doctrine followed by hard hit practical application. I suggest Paul's letters: Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, Romans, etc.

Make it your life and your lifestyle. Study God's word. Let it come into your heart, mind and spirit and affect your thinking, life, and actions.

Read another devotional such as: C.H. Spurgeon - Morning by Morning and/or Evening by Evening, or Oswald Chambers - My Utmost for His Highest, or F.B. Meyer - Our Daily Walk.

Pray as you finish your time of devotion. Ask God to open your heart and mind to what He would have you be and what He would have you do.

No matter your age or stage God is wanting to make you into His person. There is a spiritual war and you and I are in it, whether we recognize it or not. He wants to prepare us for His service.

Oswald Chambers says it this way:

And when the strain of the crisis comes, you can be relied upon by God.

Are you saying, "But I can't be expected to live a sanctified life in my present circumstances; I have no time for prayer or Bible study right now; besides, my opportunity for battle hasn't come yet, but when it does, of course I will be ready"? No, you will not. If you have not been worshiping in everyday occasions, when you get involved in God's work, you will not only be useless yourself but also a hindrance to those around you.

More Than a Tradition

by Chris Johnson



In a recent essay, Southern Baptist Convention President Albert Mohler effectively encapsulated the crises faced by Christianity in today's culture of "tolerance."

"Western society is currently experiencing what can only be described as a moral revolution. Our society's moral code and collective ethical evaluation on a particular issue has undergone not small adjustments but a complete reversal. That which was once condemned is now celebrated, and the refusal to celebrate is now condemned."

What makes the current moral and sexual revolution so different from previous moral revolutions is that it is taking place at an utterly unprecedented velocity. Previous generations experienced moral revolutions over decades, even centuries. This current revolution is happening at warp speed."

The moral revolution Dr. Mohler refers to, of course, is on the issue of homosexuality, and, as he notes, what was not long ago almost universally reviled, is now considered by many to be the great human rights battle of our generation, and by many more to be, at least, no big deal.

We've moved a long way from 1996 when Democrat president Bill Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act into law, which solidified marriage as being between a man and a woman for federal purposes. Eighteen years later, the executive office is not defending that law, a portion of it has been ruled unconstitutional, and 19 states recognize homosexual "marriage."

According to Gallup, support for homosexual marriage has doubled in the same time frame. In 1996, 27% of those

polled said that homosexual "marriages" should be recognized by the law as valid. In 2014, 55% expressed that sentiment.

In the midst of this tidal shift of morality - when, as Dr. Mohler says, "the refusal to celebrate [homosexuality] is now condemned" - Christianity is left out to dry.

On his daily podcast, Albert Mohler continued to explain, *"Those who are arguing for the legalization of same-sex marriage come back again and again to the fact that all right-thinking people are moving in their direction, that the cultural momentum is in support of their arguments and that eventually anyone who is an outlier, anyone who disagrees with the normalization of homosexuality, and the legalization of same-sex marriage, is merely going to be written off. And furthermore, they really believe, and numerous authorities make this very clear, they really do believe that everyone eventually is going to have to come to terms with this."*

But, those with a good understanding of scripture disagree. In his podcast, Mohler cites a column from TheWeek.com by Pascal-Emmanuel Gobry. The article, entitled [Why so many Christians won't back down on gay marriage](#), deftly summarizes why Christianity will never cave on homosexuality.

"Christianity's opposition to homosexuality is not the product of some dusty medieval exegete poring over obscure Old Testament verses. From the beginning, what set apart the new and strange sect called Christians from the rest of their culture was their strange sexual ethic. They refused polygamy. They refused the sexual exploitation of slaves by their owners. They refused prostitution, premarital sex, divorce, abortion, the exposure of infants, contraception — and homosexual acts."

... Today, many gay-marriage proponents don't just want a live-and-let-live relationship with Christianity — they want to force Christianity to affirm same-sex marriage. They do this, I think, because they believe very strongly in the rights of gays

to marry, but also largely because they think that it will only take moderate prodding to get Christianity to cave in. History and Christianity's own self-understanding suggest, however, that such an outcome is not in the cards. "

What Gobry hints at and Dr. Mohler affirms is that the basis of our sexual ethic is not simply church tradition; it is scripture itself. We aren't just defending marriage - whether we call it natural marriage or traditional marriage or Biblical marriage - because it's the way we've always done things. We have a much more firm foundation than tradition. We affirm marriage in the way that God himself intended it.

The church is not a Christian congress or Supreme Court. The laws of God cannot be overruled or deemed unconstitutional.

Of course, we ALL break those laws and being a homosexual doesn't make a man a sinner any more or less than being a gossip. Both crimes deserve the death penalty, and only the one who relies on the righteousness of Christ can escape it.

As Pastor Matt Chandler said recently, *"If the church must be anything, she must be a safe place for the gender confused and the sexually broken. If she is not safe for that, then we do not believe our own message. We are all broken, all in need of salvation, all in need of grace, and to take a particular struggle and put it outside the bounds reveals we don't quite understand what it is we believe. That we'll take other people's sins more seriously than we'll take our own. It's wicked."*

So yes, we must love our fellow sinners, but it is not loving to call good what a just God has called evil.

The point is, even if all other arguments were to escape us, i.e. church tradition, science, and logic, our faith would require obedience.

Please take advantage of
a new match challenge!



By the grace of God and by the generosity of one of God's faithful servants, we have been blessed and encouraged by a year-end match challenge, for which we are so grateful. We often wonder "How are we ever going to make it this year?" Once again, the Lord has faithfully provided!

It's not an easy challenge as it appeals to new donors or individuals who have not given to this ministry for quite awhile to stand with us again. It also challenges those who have given recently to give over and above what they gave last year.

Our anonymous donor has faithfully challenged friends and supporters of ADA to get behind us so that we would be strengthened. We are grateful for the challenge. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and for doing whatever you can do!

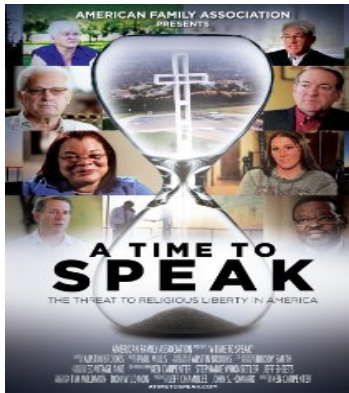
Your support empowers us to "never give up" as this encouraging note received from a faithful supporter emplores of us.

Thanks for sending information all these years! ... I hope our country doesn't fall apart. I nearly gave my life in WWII and pray much for this great country. Enclosed please find a check for \$50.00. I hope and pray you never give up your work. G.J.

Here are the details of this
gracious match challenge:

God has continued to bless us so we will do a matching grant up to \$20,000 for all new and increased giving you receive by 12/31/14. New givers are any givers who haven't given since 12/31/12. Increased giving is anyone who has given more than last year but the additional amount must be after the matching gift is announced. E.g. Joe gives \$1000 in 2013. In 2014 Joe gives \$1500 in August--none of that would qualify. If Joe gave a \$1,000 in August and \$500 more in October, the \$500 in October would qualify for the match.

"A Time to Speak" October 17, 2014



**"There is a time for everything...
A time to be silent and a time to speak."
Ecclesiastes 3:1,7**

For those who read this newsletter and follow the cultural trends, we don't have to tell you that religious freedom is under attack in America. You've heard about Christian business owners being forced to violate their beliefs, judges requiring churches to rent their buildings to ungodly organizations, and children being bullied to abandon their faith at the schoolhouse doors.

The freedom of religious expression was chief among America's founding principles. However, today there is an unprecedented effort to deny this most basic of human rights in almost every area of American life.

A TIME TO SPEAK is a new documentary film from American Family Association highlighting the urgent need for Christians to pray, speak out, and vote. It's a clarion call for the Church to break the silence and preserve this freedom for the coming generations.

American Decency Association will be showing this powerful film, **A TIME TO SPEAK**, on Friday, October 17 at 1:00 P.M. and at 7:00 P.M. For those in the West Michigan area, we invite you to join us at our headquarters, 203 E. Main Street, Fremont MI 49412 for this special event.

However, whether or not you can join us, we encourage you order a copy of the

DVD **A Time to Speak** with the enclosed response card. Not only is this an excellent video to show to family and friends, but it is also intended as a resource for churches.

AFA's Founder, Don Wildmon, stated: **"Our religious freedoms are under full frontal assault. I'm more convinced than ever that "A Time To Speak" can educate pastors and church leaders on the dangers of losing religious liberty. It will also equip them with resources to turn the tide in the most important endeavor of my lifetime. If we lose now, the window of opportunity to turn it around will close. "**

We urge you to share this DVD with your pastor and ask him to show it to your church family. It would make an excellent church-wide Wednesday evening or Sunday School event. On the website www.atimetospeak.com there are valuable resources for your church to use in conjunction with **A TIME TO SPEAK** including a guide for small group study, sermon resources, and a comprehensive voter guide for the 2014 general election.

Pastoral leadership is crucial to preserving the precious gift of religious liberty for the next generation. America needs pastors who will boldly proclaim truth and lead their congregations in helping to restore America's Godly heritage in our generation - and in the next. Now is the time to speak.

American Decency Frontline
Vol. XXVIII, Issue X
Published monthly by
American Decency Association

Bill Johnson, President and Founder
bjohnson@americandecency.org

Lisa VanHouten, Executive Assistant
Kimberly Cargill, Administrative Asst.
Chris Johnson, Technical and Web
Development

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



Banned Books Week? Who is censoring whom?

by Bill Johnson



“Banned Books Week” is a week set aside at the beginning of each new school year by the liberal American Library Association (ALA) to publicly make clear that expressing concern about particular library material is a no–no, especially if you are asking that it be removed.

While avidly pushing their agenda: illicit sexuality, any-faith but Christianity, LGBTQ, etc. they hinder the addition of Christian and conservative material.

Who is censoring whom here? Is it the occasional concerned parent whose complaint is seldom to never honored? Or is it the library that inventories radical left material and excludes conservative, Christian material?

Check out the following [PRO BANNED BOOKS](#) article from the Detroit Free Press entitled: [Birmingham library drawing attention to banned books](#)

... They’ve wrapped dozens of challenged books in plain brown paper — oh, it’s ever so discreet — and they’ll make them available for any adult to check out. Along with the book, each patron will receive “a little bag of Hershey’s kisses to enjoy on your date,” Bergeron said.

Blind-date books will be chosen from among the nation’s most challenged books, including the sexually titillating recent best-seller “Fifty Shades of Grey” and the classic 1950s coming-of-age novel and high-school staple “Catcher in the Rye.”

But adults don’t have all the fun with challenged books. According to the

American Library Association, the single most challenged book of 2013 (and of 2012) was a children’s series about fourth graders whose fictional superhero suddenly becomes real. It’s the Captain Underpants series by Dav Pilkey, replete with flatulence jokes and bathroom humor.

So, at 4:15 p.m. Tuesday, the Baldwin library plans to host a Captain Underpants party for kids, celebrating all challenged children’s books. Such books contain words and ideas that some parents can’t stand but which most kids love, Library Director Doug Koschik said.

“Intellectual freedom is one of our library’s core values,” Koschik said. “Only by exchanging and debating a full range of values can people achieve what’s best and most useful for them.”

Linda Harvey exposed the fraud of the ALA campaign as she wrote: The Bullies of Banned Book Week: “What would you do if you wanted to expose kids to trash and treason while keeping pesky parents away? You might try something like ‘Banned Books Week,’ a diversionary tactic invented by the leftist American Library Association in league with predictable business interests anxious to market tons of total garbage to children without interference.”

The image above is from a full page article from the [Muskegon Chronicle](#) on [September 10, 1989](#). The picture portrays students with their eyes blindfolded as books lay before them on their school desks.

The telling first paragraph below shows that out of over 150 million public school and college students there was a paltry 153 complaints. You do the math on that one. The percentage of complaints per student calculates to the following: 0.00000102.

This past week more than 40 million public school children and 13 million college students returned to their classrooms. But in many of these halls of learning, the shadow of censorship hangs over that

source of light and knowledge, the library. Seriously? If this isn’t overreach, I don’t know what is.

The article continues, stating: In the 1986-87 academic year, People for the American Way reported 153 attempts to remove books from public schools or libraries in 41 states, 37 percent of them successful.

I think of a young teen who, while paging through a computer magazine at our local library, came across a full page ad for XXX rated videos. He told his father who went to the library asking that the ad just simply be removed. He was told to register a complaint at the front desk. It was library policy that a form had to be filled out. The next step that is part and parcel of the American Library Association “Freedom to Read – Freedom to View” agenda is that the complainant has to go before the “library review board.”

The library circles the wagons. Even other librarians from the area are invited and often attend. It is intended to be and IS clear-cut intimidation as the person making the complaint is called upon to express their concern and then publically questioned by a closed-minded review board.

Linda Harvey writes in her thoughtful expose of Banned Books Week with these words:

In reality, there’s no “banning” happening, in the sense of government removal of material from circulation. What does happen is that certain library or school material at the local level is sometimes openly questioned by parents. This infuriates liberals, who demand the right to quietly make decisions behind the scenes. ...

In other words, they practice censorship. But when a wise leftist does it in the privacy of her office, it’s called “choice.”

Banned Books Week? See it for what it is. A diversionary tactic [from those] who want to prescribe for other people’s children a “freedom to read” any kind of jaw-dropping bilge that exists.

Ray Rice - Peeling Away each Layer

by Lisa Van Houten



Cutting through to the central issue surrounding the furor over the Ray Rice beating of his fiancée and the NFL's response or lack thereof, you'll find more layers than an onion.

Peel away each layer and you'll find another person, organization, or class of people to point fingers at – often deservedly so. There is the issue of rampant substance abuse among celebrities and athletes. Rice admits to being drunk at the time of the attack upon his girlfriend in the elevator at a New Jersey casino. There is the layer of a culture that deifies athletes to the degree that they see themselves as not only deserving of such worship, but act as a god accountable to no man. And there is our culture at large in which domestic violence is all too common. A recent report reveals 1 in 5 men claim to have physically abused a woman.

Of course the buck stops with Ray Rice. There should be zero tolerance for a man hitting a woman – let alone knocking her out cold with his fist to her face and then dragging her out of an elevator like a sack of potatoes.

Yes, there was some outrage when the assault first occurred months ago. Even without the recently released video of the knockout punch, the evidence and testimony at the time left no doubt as to what occurred in that elevator. However, it wasn't long before many fans – including female fans - were once again cheering for Rice in preseason games.

Rice is hardly the first professional athlete or celebrity who has used a woman as a punching bag only to have fans overlook the despicable act. From the NBA's Jason

Kidd to boxer Floyd Mayweather; from rappers Eminem and Chris Brown to actor Mel Gibson - Americans will turn a blind eye for the sake of winning teams and entertainment.

Yet another layer, another target of contempt, is the National Football League. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell initially gave Ray Rice a mere two game suspension in response to Rice's domestic violence charge. In contrast, the NFL recently suspended Cleveland Brown's Josh Gordon for 16 games for marijuana use and a DUI charge. And then there is Michael Vick who served 21 months in prison for his dog fighting ring and cruelty to animals. I say this as an avid dog lover, but there is something terribly wrong when abusing a dog metes a far stricter sentence than abusing a woman.

Which is yet another layer – a corrupt legal system. Where is the outcry against the judge who gave Ray Rice a mere slap on the wrist, allowing Rice to avoid conviction?

Before the recent video was released of Rice punching his fiancée, Baltimore Ravens coach John Harbaugh spoke in defense of Rice, calling him a “heck of a guy” and domestic violence a “mistake.” Harbaugh stated: ***“It’s not a big deal, it’s just part of the process. There are consequences when you make a mistake like that. I stand behind Ray. He’s a heck of a guy. He’s done everything right since. He makes a mistake, alright? He’s going to have to pay a consequence. I think that’s good for kids to understand it works that way. That’s how it works, that’s how it should be.”***

Yet what are kids learning from the “consequence” of a mere two game suspension for such a loathsome attack? As Harbaugh said, “that’s how it works.” That’s what they’ll learn – how the system works. That domestic violence is no big deal. That justice is not blind – at least if you’re a professional athlete. That in spite of what a parent or Sunday School teacher might have taught, winning must be everything, after all.

Yet now after seeing the video of the attack, the Ravens and the NFL claim to have found their conscience. But perhaps it's not after seeing the video – but after the public has seen the video – as law enforcement officials claim to have sent the surveillance video to the NFL last April.

The NFL is falling all over itself to deal with this public relations nightmare; however, the damage has been done and the NFL's true colors have been revealed. The National Football League doesn't really care about violence against women – even though women are a growing segment of their fan base. The NFL doesn't even really care about their players or the example they set – as long as they can help their team win without causing too much bad press. What the NFL mainly cares about is profit. Sadly, domestic violence by NFL players is not a new phenomenon. Yet the NFL has ignored the issue until faced with the evidence in black and white – the black and white images of a grainy surveillance video.

Recently Commissioner Roger Goodell announced the appointment of four women to “help lead and shape the NFL's policies and programs relating to domestic violence and sexual assault.” Three of these women are experts in domestic violence and will serve as senior advisers. The fourth is Anna Isaacson, currently vice president of community affairs and philanthropy for the NFL, who has a new role of vice president of “social responsibility.”

The National Organization for Women called this move “a step in the right direction - but it's not enough.” And here's yet another layer – feminists such as the National Organization for Women up in arms about this abuse of women, yet condoning the ultimate abuse of those who are truly helpless – the murder of unborn female (and male) babies by their own mothers.

As columnist Steve Deace wrote on BarbWire.com: **“I’ve read columns from feminists who support the ultimate war**

[Continued on Page 7]

Ray Rice

by Lisa Van Houten



[Continued from Page 6]

on women, killing them before they're even born, sanctimoniously claiming the moral high ground here. The same feminists who call what previous generations described as honor and chivalry, bigotry and discrimination, and demand we place women at the frontlines in warfare to be blown to smithereens, now all of a sudden want to acknowledge bigger and stronger men have a moral obligation to protect what St. Peter describes as 'the weaker vessel?' Color me confused."

As we peel away each layer, blame can be laid at the feet of each – substance abuse; corrupt legal systems and organizations; a culture that raises brutes and then worships them for their feats.

However, at the center of all these layers is the heart of the matter – sinful men and women. Instead of the perfect union of man and woman as God designed, the opposite sexes are far too often in opposition to each other. Instead of men loving their wives as Christ loves the Church, instead of submission one to another, we see strife and conflict from both men and women.

Ultimately, we don't need a vice president on "social responsibility" as is the NFL response. The only true remedy is the Redeemer. From Ray Rice to Roger Goodell, from the NFL to NOW, each person needs redemption found only in Christ. And may we His representatives, called to be redeeming agents within our culture, work to do just that – peeling back each layer of sin and corruption to shine the light of Christ.

An Alarming Trend in our 'Pornified' Culture

by Lisa Van Houten



Before the pink ribbon campaign bringing awareness to breast cancer, there was the "White Ribbons Against Pornography Week." It's rarely heard of any longer, but this month – October – has long been designated as a month to shed light on the harm caused by pornography, culminating with "White Ribbons Against Pornography Week" where in hundreds of communities across the country concerned citizens would host events and adorn cars and yards with white ribbons and signs to bring awareness to the destruction caused by porn.

We at ADA continue to raise the alarm about the damage done to the lives of both victims and users, of marriages destroyed, and life-altering emotional, physical, and spiritual consequences.

While not nearly enough is said about the far-reaching impact pornography has had and continues to have on our culture, what we do hear brings awareness to the obvious concerns – the vulnerability of men to porn; the easy access to the flood of all forms of hardcore pornography over the Internet; "sexting" by teens; and even the rampant use of pornography by those within the church.

However, there is one group also vulnerable to pornography that we seldom hear of – women.

A recent study by the Christian research firm, The Barna Group, reveals that 15% of Christian women admit to looking at pornography at least once a month. In comparison, 30% of non-Christian women use pornography at the same rate. [Statistics for men indicate 64% of Christian men and 65% of non-Christian men admitted to frequent porn use.] Notice that these figures only include those who admit to using porn.

In this sex-saturated culture which tells

women that their worth is dependent upon their sexuality - lust, erotica, and sexual sin can be a real struggle and temptation. One example of that is the hugely popular book series, "Fifty Shades of Grey" which centers on graphic sexual themes including sexual bondage and torture.

Who is reading "Fifty Shades of Grey," making it one of the best selling books of all time? Women. And not just secular women. Another Barna Group study revealed that *"there is no difference between the percentage of Christians who have read Fifty Shades of Grey and the percentage of all Americans who have read the book."*

Christian writer Dannah Gresh, who promotes chastity among girls and young women through her organization Pure Freedom and her "Secret Keeper Girl" tour, has co-authored the book *Pulling Back the Shades: Erotica, Intimacy, and the Longings of a Woman's Heart* to counter the "Fifty Shades" cultural phenomenon.

Expressing great concern regarding the popularity of "Fifty Shades of Grey" within and without the Christian community, Gresh told The Christian Post: *"I'm sad because the book honors and glorifies bondage, dominance, sadism and masochism [or BDSM sex play]."* She added, *"the normalization of erotica that's resulting from it will have the same impact on the Church as the advent of Internet pornography and men using it 20 years ago."*

Clinical psychologist Juli Slattery, who heads the organization Authentic Intimacy and co-authored with Gresh *Pulling Back the Shades* agreed, stating:

"You've always had erotica and pornography available, but in the last 25 years we've seen men just by the millions get hooked on Internet pornography, and now this is showing that it's become normal for women to engage in this form of pornography. It's very alarming to just see that there's no discernment and there's not an outcry."

Concerning Western Converts

by Chris Johnson



On September 10, Shannon Conley, a 19-year-old from Colorado, plead guilty to conspiracy to support terrorists - namely the brutal organization known as ISIS that has lately been in the news for cutting off the heads of innocent civilians.

Sadly, Shannon is not the only headline-making American in support of ISIS lately, as the White House recently confirmed the death of Douglas McCain, a 33-year-old man who traveled to Syria to fight on the side of the brutal military force.

And last month, federal authorities arrested Mufid Elfgeeh of Rochester, New York - he is a naturalized citizen - for attempting to provide material support to ISIS.

From Fox News: *“According to court documents seen by the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle, Elfgeeh tried to raise money to enable a Yemeni man to join ISIS. At one point, Elfgeeh allegedly sent the man \$600 to travel from Yemen to Syria. An FBI affidavit alleges that this past April, Elfgeeh traveled to Buffalo with an FBI informant to get a passport for the latter man. Elfgeeh suggested that ISIS would use the informant to “operate a cannon, act as a sniper and/or build bombs,” the document claims.*

Elfgeeh was arrested this past May in the parking lot of a local Wal-Mart after taking delivery of two handguns equipped with silencers and ammunition. Elfgeeh had allegedly given the informant \$1,050 in cash to purchase the handguns, which had been rendered inoperable. Federal authorities said he bought the weapons as part of a plan to kill members of the U.S. armed forces returning from war, as well as Shiites in the Rochester area.”

There are some examples from the United States, but there are many others from European nations. In Austria, two young girls, aged 15 and 16, fled to Syria to marry ISIS fighters and are now, reportedly, pregnant. According to Newsweek, *“In June, three militants involved in an ISIS propaganda video were identified as Cardiff students Reyaad Khan, 20, Nasser Muthana, also 20, and his younger brother Aseel, 17.”*

ABC News claims that over 100 American citizens have sided with ISIS in the Syrian conflict, as well as hundreds from other Western nations, especially France and the U.K.

So, what is the big draw here? Why are citizens from nations with such rich Westernized, and often Christian, heritages flocking to stand with a barbaric, backward ideology that beheads or enslaves the people it doesn't agree with?

A large part of the answer can be chalked up to the influx of Muslim immigrants over the past decades. While the first generation may simply have been seeking a better life in the modern world, their children are often easily turned to radicalism, as Newsweek's France correspondent explains, *“This is the ideology of young French Muslims from immigrant backgrounds, unemployed to the tune of 40%, who've been deluged by satellite TV and internet propaganda.”*

In fact, 16% of France reportedly supports ISIS' cause.

The recently killed American, Douglas McCain, had a similar story. McCain was part of a Somali community in St. Paul, Minnesota. And according to the New York Post, *“This year, law enforcement officials say they learned of 15-20 men with connections to the Minnesota Somali community fighting for extremist groups in Syria.”*

There are also at least three young women missing from the community, and it is feared that they may have found their way to Syria as well.

Who's to blame? Their families and friends for leaving them vulnerable? Their government for not doing more to protect them from radical influence? Yes, I'm sure that both of those were a part of their twisted journeys to joining a terror network.

Here's something else to consider though. Before Shannon Conley was converted to Islam, engaged to a terrorist, and attempted to travel to Syria, she was a young lady searching for truth. Apparently in the midst of planning to leave, she even attended a Baptist church for a while.

The mother of Troy Kastigar, an American Muslim convert who traveled to Samalia in 2007 to fight with Al-Shabaab and also a friend of Douglas McCain, told the New York Daily News that she believed the pair was “sort of searching.”

“I think both of them had a really strong desire to be needed and [be] of value.” (Kastigar also died in combat.)

All these stories of converts going down this violent path start with a vulnerable kid trying to find the truth and where he/she fits into it. They turned to Islam for the same reason anyone turns to any religion - to find a purpose in life - and sadly they turned to Allah and were convinced that he demanded death.

This is where we all ought to be convicted. ***“How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never hear? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?”*** Romans 10:14

The testimony of Douglas McCain would have been very different if he had been led to Christ rather than Allah.

Richard Clarke, a former White House counterterrorism advisor said, *“The appeal of jihad is it gives them purpose. It gives them a way out of a life that's going nowhere. It gives them a higher calling.”*

The same can be said of the gospel of Jesus Christ.