

American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont, MI 49412 231-924-4050 www.americandecency.org

Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts

September 2011

Doing the Right Thing - September 24, 2011



Featuring
Chuck Colson
& Friends

Our country is in an ethical crisis. How can we, as a society, do what's right even in the face of powerful temptations and incentives to do what's wrong?

Join Chuck Colson and distinguished panelists Del Tackett, Robert George, Michael Miller, John Stonestreet and host Eric Metaxas for an in-depth examination of the problem and the solution.



We know you share our concern about the erosion of the moral fiber of our nation. The news is rife with stories of greed, corruption, fraud, deceit and scandals. We think you will agree that it's time to return to the Bible as our standard of truth and to launch a movement to do the right thing – both personally and publicly.

American Decency Association will host a special webcast event with Chuck Colson on September 24th that will explore the problem and the solution.

DOING THE RIGHT THING
Saturday, September 24, 2011
9:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

This event, which will be viewed via webcast on a large screen, brings together an impressive panel of speakers who will start the dialogue in our community with an

in-depth examination of America's ethical crisis and what we can do about it. We invite you and your family and friends to join us for this important event. There is no charge to participate though there will be a free will offering taken.

We'll be happy to provide free promotional materials for your church. Please let us know if you're interested in attending or would like promotional materials. Call ADA at 888-733-2326 or email kimberly@americandecency.org

We hope you'll join us on September 24th and help make this a community-wide event that will have lasting impact.

Join Chuck Colson and distinguished panelists, Del Tackett, Robert

George, Michael Miller, John Stonestreet and host Erick Metaxas for an in-depth examination of the problem and the solution.

9:30 am - Session 1:
A Crisis of Ethics
- Chuck Colson

10:15 am - Session 2:
The Roots of Moral Authority - Del Tackett

10:50 am - Session 3:
A Return to Virtuous Living - John Stonestreet

11:25 am - 30 Min. Break

11:55 am - Session 4:
A Matter of Life and Death - Robert George

12:30 pm - Session 5:
Ethics in the Marketplace & Public Life - Michael Miller

1:30 pm - Program Ends

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Children of Light



THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Separatism, in the sense of total withdrawal from the world, has appeared at various points in church history. Many ancient Christian ascetics led solitary lives in the desert because they wanted to battle Satan in a setting free from worldly temptations. Some groups in our country, such as the Amish, form closed communities with limited access to the surrounding culture. Basing their practices on texts such as 1 Corinthians 15:33 (“bad company ruins good morals”), such Christians believe limiting contact with the world is essential for holy living.

We may sympathize with this separatist impulse, living as we do in an ungodly culture. Absolute withdrawal from the world, however, is not what the apostle has in mind in texts such as 1 Corinthi-

ans 15:33. After all, in the same epistle Paul tells us that the separation he encourages is not separation from unbelievers who live ungodly lifestyles but from professing believers who celebrate their sin (5:9–13). He confirms this point in Ephesians 5:7-9. We are not to become partners with those who attempt to deceive us through empty words — people who teach that sexual immorality and covetousness are compatible with faith in Christ (Eph. 5:3–6). We can — and must — have friendships with non-Christians without engaging in their ungodly behavior or approving it, for God may work through us to win them to Jesus. But we must be willing to rebuke professing Christians who engage impenitently in sin. This may even mean withdrawing from them if they sin obstinately and yet continue to claim the name of Jesus.

Once we were darkness; now we are light in the Lord (vv. 7–8). Therefore, we can no longer live as if we were still in Adam and approve of sin; rather, we must walk in the light of Christ (1 John 1:7). We must expect others who profess to be in the light to

walk in the light as well — to exhibit the virtues of goodness, righteousness, and truth (Eph. 5:9). Sinless perfection is not what we demand of ourselves or others. Instead, we look for a desire to live consistently with God’s law, a desire that manifests itself in repentance and a striving after holiness. When we partner with professing Christians who approve of sin, we implicitly make the gospel a license for ungodliness and confuse the world about the true nature of biblical faith.

The fruit of light listed in Ephesians 5:7-9 — goodness, righteousness, and truth — are examples of what Paul elsewhere refers to as the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22–24). These things, along with qualities including love, joy, patience, and self-control, are the marks of the true Christian. Believers do not practice such things perfectly, but they should be able to find some evidence, however small, of these graces in their lives.

[Taken from Ligonier Ministries, *Tabletalk* devotional, August 2011.]

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