

Morality

Every civilization needs a foundation, a place to stand, a framework for allowing people to live together. Many people would affirm that the law or Constitution is the basis for society. However every system of law stands atop another, separate system of morality and ethics. In the United States, our system of law is built upon “certain inalienable rights” which were given man by the “Creator.” The assumption is that these rights cannot be taken from man, at least not until that man forfeits the rights because of criminal misconduct. It is a truism that once law separates from its foundation, societal collapse will follow. Typically, the Roman Empire is cited as the best example of a nation that died from within itself.

It is also true that our country daily slips further and further from it’s moorings of morality. Witness the frequency of abortion, the staggering rate of divorce, the lack of marital faithfulness and the conduct of our national sports and Hollywood celebrities. However, the push away from morality is not the fault of the government. Rather, individuals reject morality, live immorally and belittle those who seek to live clean and pure lives. Soon, through the cowardice of elected officials and the activism of some amoral judges, the government begins to follow along and condone immoral behaviors. Because of their victories over good and moral people, the wicked have become more aggressive and now force their immorality upon good and Godly people. The media, ostensibly unbiased and merely a reflection of common values, serves as a parrot of the immoral, directing valueless programming right into our living rooms. Like newly hatched birds awaiting a meal, we open wide and swallow whatever they offer. We then reward them by supporting the very businesses that pay their salaries through advertising.

Presently only about 43% of Americans attend a church service in a given week.¹ Stated differently, most people did not attend church, 57% stayed home. Certainly this number does not support continued adherence to the moral code established in the Bible and adopted as the foundation of our system of national laws.

Followers of Christ are to be both the “*salt of the earth*” (Matthew 5:13) and the “*light of the world*” (Matthew 5:14). Both designations suggest that we should have some impact on those around us. If a light is covered or if salt loses its strength, all hope of impact is lost. Perhaps we can do a better job in a least two areas.

Let us swell the ranks of *faithful* Christians. With over half of Americans staying away from worship, we should be able to find at least one, maybe two neighbors who are “unchurched.” Many of these people describe themselves as spiritual and interested in God but have never had a friend to help direct them. If we step out of our comfort zones we may find that more Christians means more opposition to things immoral.

Secondly, let Christians rise up! Why should our country and culture be changed by those like Michael Newdow² who actually oppose the very underpinnings of our society. Consider this: If God is not the source of morality, who is? If an individual, why is his morals better than someone else’s? If Government, Hitler ought not have been held responsible for World War 2 and Sadaam should have been left alone. If each person forms his own morality then let us abandon law altogether. We can then say with the writer of Judges, “*every man did that which was right in his own eyes*” (Judges 17:6)

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¹ www.barna.org, The Barna Update, March 1, 2004.

² Newdow is the man who tried unsuccessfully to remove “in God we trust” from the Pledge of Allegiance and to stop the prayer at President Bush’s inauguration.