

THE MORAL COFFIN GETS ANOTHER NAIL

Christians were dismayed, although probably not shocked, by the Justin Timberlake/Janet Jackson fiasco at the Superbowl. What was ostensibly a family program turned to a bawdy bump and grind halftime show which was capped by the despicable “wardrobe malfunction” that we all now know so well. Virtually everyone and every company associated with the show denounced Jackson and offered apologies to the viewing public. Jackson herself later apologized saying the routine “went to far.” Even the usually amoral MTV complained that the show was improper.

Some people rightly observed that the Jackson move was only a part of a raucous performance that was pure licentiousness through and through. But within a few days we were being told by the enlightened leaders of pop culture that we should just move ahead and get over it. Ironically, the entire event may temporarily slow the spread of offensive television content. At present, the FCC is asking Congress for permission to increase fines for violating decency rules by over 10 times. However, it is likely this is but one more step into the pool of immorality in which our country is drowning.

There is no question that such conduct stands in stark opposition to Scripture. Paul warned the Galatians that “*immoral, filthy, and indent actions*” are condemned (Galatians 6:19, TEV). These sins, so proudly displayed by the halftime performers bring to mind Paul’s comment: “*And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity;*

whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them” (Romans 1:28-32)

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From this verse we learn two important facts about the leaders of our culture. First, these people have chosen to ignore God. And two, these sinners actually take pleasure in their sinfulness. These are the people that we allow to lead our culture. These are the people that we hold up to our sons as role models and that we allow our daughters to dress like. These are the people that we have allowed to set the standard for our country. Common, everyday Christians have abdicated their role as the “*salt of the earth*” (Matthew 5:13) and allowed Satan’s minions to destroy moral, upright living.

What can we do? After all, they are so powerful and we are a minority. Perhaps, but we have neither the luxury nor the right to sit back and watch. Jesus encourages us to be like lanterns and shine forth to all the world (Matthew 5:14-16). Paul, spoke precisely to our situation when he penned the letter to the Philippian Christians. Listen to Paul’s admonition: “*...children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world* (Philippians 2:15). Did you catch that? We, that is, you and me, are to shine in the world. Let us all take this opportunity to assess how bright we shine. Maybe its time to turn up the lights.

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