

What to do in this new moral void of America

By: Dr. Jeff Fuller

References: Judges 17:6; Psalm 11:3; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Romans 2:1-11

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22

We live in a new world, one which has become more and more secularized in its approach to life and liberty. It is not the world of your parents or grandparents and has become one for which we shutter when we think what our children will face, should the Lord tarry that long.

The acceptance of things once only whispered in public society or hidden within the confines of the family unit are now shouted in the streets, flaunted in the public square, shoved into the face of opposing viewpoints. And if anyone should disagree, that individual is marked as a bigot or even worse.

The acceptance of the new norms in society seem to be embraced or at the very least, by political leaders, acceptable and tolerable in order to gain political influence, power and votes from the perceived majority of the population.

Take a moment and examine with me the Moral Issues before us, today:

1) Reproductive Rights

- A woman wants the right to accept or reject the fetus of an unborn child. She wants the freedom to consider a career, reputation, or family and to do so will choose to terminate the life of the child within her.
- In order to push an agenda, there will be those who say this right is acceptable since the “thing” forming within the woman is nothing but a piece of tissue. There seems to be no consideration for the life being formed within the womb, because life began at conception!
- Yet, the government will pass laws to make it criminally chargeable as manslaughter should someone cause an accident which claims the life of a mother and her unborn child.
- Leaders will pass bills to protect instinct animals, art, or an assortment of other items of interest to them. All the while providing funding for abortion across the country and around the world.

2) Traditional Family Values

- We have for centuries, from the beginning of time, recognized Gods plan for a family unit being one man-a husband-and one woman-a wife-as outlined by the Word of God. God was very clear that man was to unity with a woman for the purpose of procreation and to raise and nurture the family unit. There are multitude of scriptures to support this as truth.

- Yet, now we see the popular opinion and government authority moving forward with a change to the definition of marriage. Instead of a quiet push, it has become an all-out assault on the family unit and traditional family values in America. Government leaders seem to casually thumb their collective noses at the notion that this the right way and embrace with great celebration homosexuality. Laws have been passed within recent years which support their thought process, such as the Supreme Court in upholding marriage licenses for same-sex couples.
- Additionally we see more and more couples living together without the benefit of recognizing the vows of marriage, single parent homes, divorce and all other factors destroying the foundational belief of American thought and Biblical truth.

3) Religious Liberty

- Christians are enduring more persecution than ever, it seems. Churches and preachers of the Gospel are being threatened with sanctions if they speak against the Political Correct thought, refuse to conduct same-sex unions, take issue Biblically with laws or policies being instituted, and an assortment of others as the attempt is made to stifle Christian thought.
- Christians are told they cannot talk about or read the Bible in the workplace, students are forbidden from wearing shirts with scripture emblazoned on the front or back, prayer in public places or at government meetings is said to be offensive, and the rights of Christians are being muffled with each new day.
- And around the world the church is pushed into the background because everything is permissible and Christian thought is not.
- Defending the persecuted church and others of faith around the world and defining freedom of religion at home should be a huge moral issue but so often is lost in the media hype.

4) Terrorism

- At one time terrorism was something happening in a foreign land, but since 9/11 we see it more and more as a part of the normal day news.
- Strengthening America in this war and in the clash of civilizations against radical Islam has been swept under the rug of Political Correct thought.

5) Faith-based solutions

- Feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, taking care of the disadvantaged has become more a joke than a reality. Numbers are inflated to reflect what the government is doing, but these are so votes can be counted on at the polls.

- Many are receiving federal assistance but do not qualify, some have babies for nothing more than another check from Uncle Sam, and others are trading their EBT cards for cash so they may buy another round of LOTTO tickets.
- There are truly faith-based solutions to societal problems but the Bible is rejected. Therefore the poor, disadvantaged, education and others are disregarded.

6) Media

- The negative impact of mass media on culture is lost in the confusion of voices.
- Speaking out on pornography, sexual exploitation and violence is not common place.

7) Gambling

- Since the late 1990's the issue of legal gaming in the state of Alabama has become one of the most vocal, hottest fights in the legislature each year. It seems this is the "get results quick" answer to our financial crisis. Advocates will push forward their thoughts on the matter by pointing out "lottery is not a tax," so what is the harm in allowing people who drive to distance states to gamble be allowed to gambled in the state and the state benefit from the many dollars which go to other states. These same people will continual bombard the voters with a lottery as the immediate solution for the financial woes of the General Fund, for Medicaid, or Education. Additionally, there is always the statement, "We already have gambling in the state...what is the problem by making it legal so the state can benefit from it?"
- Leader's clamor to pass a constitutional amendment to allow lottery in this state, opening Pandora's Box for all forms of gaming. Make sure you hear this right! To amend the constitution of the State of Alabama in order to allow gambling-a state run lottery-will open up the flood gates for all forms of gambling.
 1. An example of this is the State of Mississippi. In Mississippi, the state voted to institute a state run lottery, but not one ticket was ever sold. Instead, casinos popped up on the coast and the state has found itself in the casino business. It still appears on the lower totem pole in regards to education, still struggles with balancing the budget, and still suffers as a poorer state in the south.

2. Drive down to the bayous of Louisiana and you will find schools in desperate need to repair, but they have a lottery and casinos.
3. Or, take a look at the Hope Scholarship in Georgia, which is a point some lawmakers make in Alabama with an education lottery for free college education, and you will find that the greatest majority of those who receive such a scholarship are from upper-middle class families based on a high grade point average.
4. Or, think about how many times we are reminded that charities benefit from gambling in the state of Alabama.

Several years ago Macon County voted to allow Bingo to support charities. Milton McGregor, since that time, has been the focus of several high profile cases. While Bingo is acceptable for charities, on paper, but the Bingo by VictoryLand and in others of the state are not as prescribed by local legislation. Furthermore, from VictoryLand, very little money is put back into the pockets of charities. Sure there have been a few fire trucks, police cars and buses bought by McGregor for various county organizations the bulk of the money has gone to operating expenses and payouts are small in comparison to the income raked into the palace along Interstate 85 in Macon County. Personally, I do not know if ole' Uncle Milton is waiting in the wings for an approval for a lottery so he can run over to Montgomery with his cronies and get casino gambling legalized or if he is pushing the lottery with great amounts of money. But it is a known fact he has made millions off of the people of this state and surrounding state with his illegal Bingo machines.

I can predict that if this state approves a lottery, we will see a flood of amendments to the Governor's lottery. It will not be long before we will see casinos popping up in Mobile, Orange Beach, Montgomery, Huntsville and maybe even Phoenix City. ⁱ

The aforementioned moral issues are just a few examples. Examples which alert us to the assault of our foundational principles on which this nation has been built. A foundation which is cracking and crumbling with each serious blow it endures. While these things

transpire, we must hear the question from David: “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” **Psalm 11:3 (KJV)**

Therefore, how do we respond in this ever changing culture in which we live for our present time? What do we do in this new moral void of America?

I believe it is important we return to the old adage, “We must keep the main thing the main thing.” Our priority is not anything less than the proclamation of the Jesus Christ! Time and again we are reminded to take the message of Christ to the nations. Jesus said:

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
Matthew 28:18-20 (HCSB)

Before He ascended into heaven to take His rightful place with the Father, He told His disciples and all of us who call ourselves by the name of Christ:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
Acts 1:8 (HCSB)

The church desperately needs to stand strong, send others, and seek out others with the message of Christ which is the salvation of lost souls. Jesus said we are to be His witnesses, living our lives in such a way as others will see Jesus and want to know what makes the difference in our lives.

This is why the text for this message is so vital for an answer to the question: What do we do in this new moral void of America?

“Rejoice always! Pray constantly. Give thanks in everything, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. Don’t stifle the Spirit. Don’t despise prophecies, but test all things. Hold on to what is good. Stay away from every kind of evil.” **1**
Thessalonians 5:16-22 (HCSB)

While there are a good many points to cover for this section of scripture, I have three which stand out to me today in light of this message today:

Keep The Word of God

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping Your word. I have sought You with all my heart; don’t let me wander from Your commands. I have treasured Your word in my heart so that I may not sin against You.”
Psalm 119:9-11 (HCSB)

The Word of God and His ways, His directions are to be our focus in all things. All that we are as believers is tied to the Word. What we do, how we act, what we think is centered in the Word of God. We are to be disciples, making disciples, digging deeper, and walking more in line with His directions than ever before.

The world needs to hear the message we have, because it is the answer for their thirsty souls. God's Word is the "bread of Life," "milk," making one "wise unto salvation," because it is a "delight," it is "truth," there is "life" in it and there are "seeds" for future growth. Believers "have tasted the good word of God" and know it is the "sword of the Spirit."ⁱⁱ Oh, we are to:

- Embrace it!
- Believe it!
- Live it!
- Share it!

It tells of our great history and it tells of future events! The Old Testament points to a redeemer and the New Testament tells us of this redeemer who has come as God in human flesh, to seek and save all who will believe. The New Testament tells us of future events, as many turn a deaf ear to the message of hope, choosing instead to follow vain follies, to meet their ultimate doom. Is it important for me to say: I believe the Word of God, from the table of contents to the maps, from cover to cover? Does anyone doubt that as truth? Then I want to settle your minds and hearts. Yes, believe the Bible to be the inerrant, infallible, inspired Word of God as instructions for my final exam.

Keep Proclaiming Truth

As a people of God we must live out the life of Christ. We must be examples of grace and mercy. We must be the hands and feet of Jesus. We believe in Him so we show Him to the world around us by our actions and our words.

It will not be easy, but it was not something which was easy for Jesus. He taught of peace and love, mercy and grace. He pointed the way toward the Father. Yet, he was threatened, belittled, cast out of assemblies, and ultimately died for the same people who persecuted Him. His was not an easy life and He tells us to bear the cross with Him.

Keep Praying

This should be the first, most important item in this list. So often we are apt to say, "I'm praying for you. Is there anything else I can do?" Friends, this is the most important thing you can do for others, for your nation, and for your state. The Word says, "The prayers of the righteous man avails much."

We must be fervent in our prayers. We must take before the Father every concern of our hearts. Instead of debating and talking things to death, we must go before the Father,

bombarding the gates of heaven on the behalf of this morally void world. We must call out the names of our governmental leaders before the Father, asking Him to intercede in their lives as He adjust their moral compass. We must stand in the gap for this poor, desperate, decaying world.

These are things we do as believers because we love God, love our families, and love our state. May we ever be reminded of Solomon's words:

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths. Don't consider yourself to be wise; fear the LORD and turn away from evil. This will be healing for your body and strengthening for your bones. **Proverbs 3:5-8 (HCSB)**

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ⁱ From various sources, with interest in the DNC party platform for 2016. Additionally the lottery issue in Alabama as reported by AL.com, WSFA, and other media outlets.

ⁱⁱ Scripture: Hebrews 6:15; 2 Timothy 3:15; Psalm 1:2; 1 Peter 2:2; Daniel 10:21; Philippians 2:16; Matthew 13:3-8