



Christian Identity Ministries

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“Blessed be the LORD God of *Israel*; For He hath visited and redeemed *His* people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for *us* in the house of his servant David; as he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began; That *we* should be saved from *our* enemies and from the hand of all that hate *us*; to perform the mercy promised to *our* fathers and to remember his holy covenant; The oath which he swore to *our* father Abraham, That he would grant unto *us*, that *we* being delivered out of the hand of *our* enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of *our* lives.” Luke 1:68-75; the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic-Germanic-Scandinavian people are *ISRAEL!*

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FAITHFUL MARTYR OR EVANGELICAL WEENIE?

by Rev. Brian M. Abshire

A Practical Guide To Handling Persecution, Suffering And Adversity.

Introduction:

I think every school has one. You know the kind of kid I am talking about. Perhaps he was an only child, or maybe he was sick as a baby or somebody dropped the poor thing on his head or something. Whatever the reason, his parents were almost neurotically over-protective of him. If little junior fell down and scraped his knee, Mommy would wail and cry and carry on as if he lost a leg or something. When the other boys were rough-housing and wrestling, his mother would come screaming to chase away all those nasty ruffians, lest her little precious get a bump or bruise. In the inevitable scraps that young boys are prone to, one little punch and he would cry like a baby. In short, he was a sissy-boy, a weenie; someone who couldn't stand up on his own two feet because nobody had ever taught him how to deal with the pain and vicissitudes of life.

Now nobody can be crueler to one another than kids, especially in a public school. And every godly parent wants to protect his children from pain and suffering. But the reality is that in this world, a man has to be able to face a certain degree of pain, affliction, suffering and sometimes downright persecution. If a man cannot take the heat, then he becomes a slave of whatever he fears. And that in a nutshell is one of the most serious failings of the modern evangelical church. When we need valiant warriors to stand up and fight for the crown rights of King Jesus, instead we have evangelical weenies that run home crying to Mama when the going gets tough. They then, sometimes unconsciously, compromise the faith and become acculturated to the present age because they fear the consequences of being different.

In my family, Mr. and Mrs. Abshire didn't raise any sissy-boys. Standing order #1 in our house was, “no broken bones, no spurting blood, no fussing.” As a result (and with the benefit of three older brothers who often exerted their authority in ways that stopped just short of spurting blood and broken bones) we learned early that pain was no big deal. Lacking a formal education, my parents would not have recognized the ancient Roman maxim “with your shield or on it” (i.e. it is better to be a dead lion than a live dog) but they certainly would have approved of the sentiment. Growing up during the great depression, they expected life to be cruel, difficult and unfair. In my parents' view (and that of my extended family) a man ought to be

able to stand up, face his fears and do his duty. We were taught never to look for trouble, but if it came, face it squarely and meet it head on. We were not expected to win every fight, just not give up. Dad's standing order #2 was that we had to get up one more time when we were knocked down

This has served me well since the time I was a youngster. Once there was this time in a certain third world country, I found myself with only one bullet left and surrounded by No, never mind; you'd think I was bragging. Perhaps Brian's Nostalgic Anecdote #327, “The Case of the Dangerous Dog,” better illustrates this principle. Every afternoon when I was twelve, as I rode my bike home from school, a big, nasty mastiff would come roaring from behind one certain house and nip at my heels. Twice he actually managed to knock me off my bike. I hated that dog. He scared me so bad I seriously considered going almost a mile out of my way just to avoid him. Someone (probably a weenie teacher) suggested I try making friends with him by giving him a piece of meat. He bit my hand.

Instead I took the advice of an old Mainer who said something to the effect that, “You got to use diplomacy; just say ‘nice doggy’ until you can find a great big rock.” However, usually, we cannot handle matters in such a “direct” manner and may have to find other ways of dealing with our fears. Adversity is a tool in God's hand to train us

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for dominion in a sin cursed world. And while living in a land where the blessings of the covenant are evident is a great blessing, with that great blessing also comes a greater responsibility.

Affluence makes us soft, not only around the waistline, but in the head as well. Evangelicals have had it so easy for so long, that we have lost our edge. We fear affliction, persecution and suffering and therefore often do not have the moral fiber to take a stand. Can anyone deny that the *psychological* reason behind the almost fanatical devotion some Christians have to the pre-tribulation rapture is that they fear persecution and suffering? Again and again, Christians have stated to me that God loves them too much to let them go through “the Great Tribulation.” Their fear of suffering leads them to a defeatist theology and an abandonment of the cultural mandate. They are willing to give up because they fear the pain from standing up to a hostile world. It is interesting that in nations where the church has suffered the most horrendous persecution, almost no Christians look to the rapture for relief. They know what suffering is and while they are not romantic about it, at least they are schooled to handle adversity.

Modern Christians need to rediscover a theology of suffering. The bill is now coming due for a hundred years of cultural retreat. The God-haters have control of our nation and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Like the martyrs of the early church, Christians today face a hostile culture and a state all too willing to persecute those who will not burn incense to Caesar. Think I am paranoid? Well, a lot of people died at Waco because the Federal government didn't like their theology. But they were just a bunch of heretics and cranks, weren't they? Surely it couldn't happen to us? But are you so sure YOUR church is Government approved?

Therefore, with the idea that evangelical weenies will never advance the kingdom, and that we need men who can persevere despite adversity, the following principles from 1 Peter 3 are offered for consideration. This is not intended to be the last word on how to handle difficult times, just some practical suggestions on how to develop the right mind-set.

“*And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?*” 1 Peter 3:13. Let's put the issue of persecution into perspective. Essentially Peter is saying here that if we are zealous for doing good, people will not harm us. The best way to deal with persecution is that, as far as it depends on you, never give them an excuse to persecute you in the first place! To the contrary, we need to be as “wise as serpents” and as “gentle as doves.” Let us develop a reputation for charity and good things, despite their moral bankruptcy. For example, even unregenerate men will throw themselves on hand grenades to save the lives of their friends (usually not the best way to handle the problem. If you have enough time to throw yourself on a hand grenade, you probably have enough time to pick it up and throw it back at the enemy. Furthermore, if it goes off, experts tell me that most likely, you will lose your hand, but because of the blast pattern, you probably will not lose anything vital. On the other hand, throwing yourself on the grenade means the fragments will penetrate your center mass where you keep all the important stuff). Even unrighteous men, because they are created in the image of God, can respect, admire, approve of deeds of mercy, grace, charity, etc.

Thus even when they hate us, they can still approve of our righteous acts. In fact, it disarms them, confuses them and undercuts their own persecution of us. Early Christians were marched into the arena to be eaten by voracious wild animals. Rather than cower in fear or plead for mercy or agree to sacrifice to the emperor and be freed, instead, they met their fate singing Psalms and hymns to the glory of God. The Romans were astounded, and to a certain degree, the people themselves demanded an end to the execution of Christians. In an age of cruelty beyond our imagining today, the Romans saw the dignity, courage and faith of our fathers and were moved by it. Not all men are epistemologically self-consistent with their own rebellion. They want to live autonomously, but they cannot, and as a consequence, find themselves loving and approving our good deeds.

However, the key here is “good deeds.” If Christians DO what is right, good, and proper with a humble attitude and servant's heart, it will be approved. But that's the problem isn't it? What is the most common concept of a Christian today? A self-righteous, pompous, money grabbing hypocrite interested in only fleecing poor unsuspecting yokels while sleeping with their daughters. And let's be honest, that's not all that unfair a caricature of some segments of the Christian community. Christians are hated and ridiculed today not just because the world hates Jesus the Christ, but also because most Christians do NOT serve, minister, or demonstrate the character of Jesus. Why was “Mother” Teresa held in such high esteem when she had such deviant theology? She put her faith in action. Even God-haters saw her good deeds and approved of them.

Sometimes, Christians bring persecution on themselves. Not because of their stand for truth, but because of their actions and demeanor. More than a few Southern Presbyterians have told me that the cause of Christian Reconstruction was destroyed in the PCA by the intemperate

words of just a few people back in the late seventies and eighties. Reconstructionists were perceived as arrogant, obnoxious, insensitive and unkind. They wrote huge volumes acerbically (and often correctly) critiquing the follies of modern evangelicalism, but produced very few actual, successful ministries. If instead of just pointing out the errors, Recons had just quietly built several successful charitable ministries, who knows, things might have been different. If nothing else, the broader Reformed community might have left them alone, because they would not have seemed a threat to the status quo. But it is a whole lot easier to write witty tracts humiliating others, than it is to quietly serve them (and yes, I know, “Physician, heal thyself...”).

Hence diaconal work is not just a nice thing we ought to do, it may well be a central survival strategy and the salvation of the Church during times of persecution. Caring for the poor, adopting unwanted babies, ministering to bums, schizophrenics and drug addicts (excuse me, I mean “the homeless”) is not glamorous and not nearly as exciting as spitting in Caesar's face. But it is God's desire for His people.

“*But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled...*” 1 Peter 3:14.

Doing what is right, because it is right, will often, generally and in God's providence inhibit and even prevent persecution. Persecution in the Roman Empire was often intense, but of limited duration because quite frankly, they

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needed us. Roman Christians were the hardest workers, the most conscientious craftsmen, the most loyal slaves, the most honest businessmen and sometimes the only ones who paid their taxes. If they killed too many of us, the empire would have collapsed of its own weight.

However, if in His divine providence, God chooses to say, “suffer,” there is still no reason to lose hope: we are blessed! We are special! God uses suffering as a tool in His hands to do deep heart surgery on His Elect, preparing, molding, and reshaping us for the Kingdom and His glory (cf. Romans 8:18). Therefore, while persecution should never be encouraged (Christianity is not masochism) it is not to be unduly feared. If it comes, it comes. Let us make sure that we are persecuted for Jesus the Christ and not for being obnoxious.

“...but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.” 1 Peter 3:15.

This is probably the most often used proof-text for apologetics, but seldom is it considered in its proper context; suffering. When we suffer for righteousness sake (whether by persecution, sickness, or whatever) we are given a powerful moral platform to share our hope in Christ. Pagans see the adversity we suffer, but we do not whine, complain or break God’s Law through revolutionary acts. We are able to suffer with dignity and persevere, despite adversity, because we “sanctify Christ as Lord in our hearts,” i.e. Jesus is actually Lord of our lives; we are submitted to Him, not just in words, but in reality. Persecution and affliction are often ways of testing our faith to demonstrate to ourselves and the world what we really believe.

Hence we have to be ready. We have to not only understand the hope, but to be able to explain it to others, to articulate the gospel. It has gone out of style among many Christians, but we are called here to be able to testify of our trust and dependence in the saving work of Christ and His generous provision. When pagans say, “how can you still believe, even when you suffer such horrible things” we must be able to tell them why.

The word “defense” here is the Greek word **apologia**, which means “a word for.” This was a legal term referring to a formal speech given in a courtroom for the defendant. We get our theological term “apologetics” from this word. But sadly, most Christians, if they know what apologetics are, think of it in purely academic and philosophical terms. This does us a great disservice. The great spiritual battles will not be won in the academic classroom; this is the Greek heresy of neutrality of ideas. Instead, it is the spiritual power of a faithful servant who will not deny his master, even to the point of death that has the power to transform the world.

An “apology” is not an excuse, but a reason for why we did whatever we did. In this sense it means being able to demonstrate from the Scriptures why we believe what we believe, and why they ought to believe it as well! It means that we trust in the providence of God and His great and precious promises and that the worst that men can do to us is simply inconsequential to the life herein to come.

“... and keep a good conscience so that the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behaviour in Christ may be put to shame.” (1 Peter 3:16).

God places the responsibility on us, to do what is right regardless of what others may do. Yes there is injustice,

ungodliness and evil in the world. We have lived in a Christian culture so long that we take certain things for granted and get grossly outraged when we find some new example of corruption and tyranny in Washington. Some Christians seem to act as if their perfidy justifies our rebellion. But, regardless of what other men may do, our responsibility is to obey God. He expects us to be a light on a hill and to live lives above the moral cesspool of contemporary culture.

To have a clear conscience does not mean perfection, but rather that we deal with our sin in an open and Biblical manner. If Christians had disciplined the Televangelists 20 years ago, the media would not have had to. Instead we turned a blind eye to their wickedness, continued sending money to their “ministries” and refused to hold these men to account for their immorality. Eventually God exposed their wickedness to the entire world, and the church suffered a black eye from which she has not yet recovered. [e.g. 4 Corners on the 28th July, exposed CAI in Coffs Harbour, www.abc.net.au/4corners/stories/2014/07/28/4052971.html]. Every Christian organization since the eighties has suffered hard times financially, partially due to cynicism stemming from the expose of the scam artists a decade ago.

Furthermore, not only are we to have a clear conscience, we are to “keep” it; i.e. to treasure it, to maintain it.

A clear conscience is a precious thing and must not be squandered for the sake of expediency.

The “thing in which we are slandered” could and does apply to whatever issues are current at the time. But in context, I would argue that it most likely refers to rebellion; either to king, master, parent, husband, etc. The entire book of First Peter keeps going over the same two themes, the reality of persecution and the necessity of submission to *lawful* authority. It is not unreasonable to think that Christians were already getting a reputation for being a danger to the social order. The freedom

that comes from Christ is a mystery to the world; they cannot understand how we live outside of man’s rules, and yet do it effectively and successfully without being in rebellion. Furthermore, our cry that “Jesus is Lord” was rightly seen as a direct challenge to Caesar’s claim to ultimate authority. However, just like today, the Empire assumed that this would mean rebellion and political revolution; something Peter goes out of his way to address. The nations are transformed, not by political activism, but by evangelism and discipleship. Christians do NOT believe in revolution, but in Reformation.

A regenerated heart, submission to God’s Law, and a full-orbed faith would transform the Roman Empire, not political activism. True freedom comes through being freed from the wages of sin, so that we might then live a life of love and service to God. Hence, the world was rightly concerned that the Christian commitment to freedom might lead to anarchy in the home and state. They feared those who were outside the established order. Christians needed to demonstrate to fathers, masters and yes, even those pointy headed civil bureaucrats that we were responsible citizens; that we lived sober, self-disciplined lives. Therefore we were not a danger to them (at least in the way they thought of danger).

Hence we need to keep a low profile while we disarm the enemy’s fears. Our victory will not come about by rebellion, revolution or violence and we must constantly stress this aspect to whoever is in power. Our victory will come over time, gradually, as Christians love and serve

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those around them (Mark 10:45ff). Submissive wives, obedient children, respectful workers, diligent citizens who render “honor to whom honor and custom to whom custom” lessens the likelihood of persecution. Why do you think Paul commands Christians to pay their taxes, (illegal taxes, ungodly taxes!), to a pagan and idolatrous state (Romans 13:5)? Because though Caesar is often destructive, he is not stupid. He wants people to pay their taxes and will often turn a blind eye to a great many things as long as those revenues keep rolling in.

“... it is better, if God would will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.”

Let's get something straight; suffering will happen, bad things do happen to good people, and sometimes for no reason that we can see. God is sovereign; He knows what He is doing and why He is doing it. If He allows us some pain in this life, He will remember us in the life to come. Therefore, we need to make sure we are suffering for doing what is right, rather than suffering for being rebellious, sinful, etc. This is something that some well-intended brothers do not seem to understand. If the FBI is outside your home threatening to burn out your family, it is too late. Granted, there may be times when that will happen and there is nothing we can do (right now) except trust in the sovereignty of God. Sometimes there is no recourse for injustice until the life to come. But sadly, sometimes, perhaps even often, the FBI is there because you did something stupid.

You aroused their fears when you could have just laid low. You got involved in some sort of shady monetary deal, you hid money from the taxman (as did Gideon), you wrote to newspapers advocating violent over-throw of the government. In short you made yourself a target (that's not always the case, but it has happened too many times to be ignored).

Look, sometimes you have to have an Alamo to give General Houston time to gather and train the troops. But the men at the Alamo sacrificed themselves for a greater good. Sometimes, we get sacrificed because we are too stubborn and too stupid to shut our mouths. This is no longer the land of the free and the home of the brave. We are living in a post-Christian nation that is already under God's judgment. Our goal ought to be to live our lives in submission to King Jesus despite the circumstances we find around us (2 Thess. 3:12, Romans 12:18, etc.). We don't run in fear of the bad guys, we just bide our time until God gives us the victory. We don't have to launch suicidal frontal assaults against the citadels of the enemy; we can just work quietly and steadily, knowing that eventually, God will destroy His enemies and we will inherit the earth.

CONCLUSIONS AND APPLICATIONS

Suffering is an opportunity to glorify God, witness to men, and demonstrate that our faith is more than empty sentiment and pious platitudes. Suffering sharpens our focus and helps us keep our priorities straight. To get through it, we must constantly remember the sovereignty of God. There is always a reason, even if it is beyond human understanding. Our God is not vicious, arbitrary, etc. If we only trust Him when things go the way we want them to, how are we any different from pagans in the world? Let's just make sure we are suffering for the right things, and doing so in the right way.

Courtesy Highlands Reformed Presbyterian, Box 279, Colbert WA 99005

We are advised to **NOT JUDGE** all Muslims by the

actions of a few lunatics, **but** we are encouraged to **JUDGE ALL gun owners** by the actions of a few lunatics!

(A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways. James 1:8).

DOES RUSSIA (AND HUMANITY) HAVE A FUTURE?

Europe is complicit in its own demise
by Paul Craig Roberts

The Russian government has finally realized that it has no Western “partners,” and is complaining bitterly about the propagandistic lies and disinformation issued without any evidence whatsoever against the Russian government by Washington, its European vassals, and prostitute media. Perhaps the Russian government thought that only Iraq, Libya, Syria, China and Edward Snowden would be subjected to Washington's lies and demonization. It was obvious enough that Russia would be next.

The Russian government and Europe need to look beyond Washington's propaganda, because the reality is much worse. NATO commander General Breedlove and Senate bill 2277 clearly indicate that Washington is organizing itself and Europe for war against Russia. Europe is reluctant to agree with Washington to put Ukraine in NATO. Europeans understand that if Washington or its stooges in Kiev cause a war with Russia, Europe

will be the first casualty. Washington finds its vassals' non-compliance tiresome. Remember Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland's “f... the EU” and that is just what Washington is about to do.

The US Senate's Russian Aggression Prevention Act, about which I reported in my previous column, does even more mischief than I reported. If the bill passes, which it likely will, Washington becomes empowered to bypass NATO and to grant the status of “allied nation” to Ukraine independently of NATO membership. By so doing, Washington can send troops to Ukraine and thereby commit NATO to a war with Russia. Notice how quickly Washington escalated the orchestrated Ukrainian “crisis” without any evidence into “Russian aggression.” Overnight we have the NATO commander and US senators taking actions against “Russian aggression” of which no one has seen any evidence.

With Iraq, Libya, and Syria, Washington learned that Washington could act on the basis of boldfaced lies. No one, not Great Britain, not France, not Germany, not Italy, not the Netherlands, not Canada, not Australia, not Mexico, not New Zealand, not Israel, nor Japan, nor S. Korea, nor Taiwan, nor (substitute your selection) stepped forward to hold Washington accountable for its blatant lies and war crimes. The UN even accepted the package of blatant and obviously transparent lies that Colin Powell delivered to the UN. Everything Powell said had already been refuted by the UN's own weapons inspectors. Yet the UN pussies gave the go-ahead for a devastating war.

The only conclusion is that all the whores were paid off. Whores can always count on Washington paying them off. For money the whores are selling out civilization to Washington's war, which likely will be nuclear and terminate life on earth. The whore's money will incinerate them.

It is hardly surprising that Washington now targets Russia. The world has given Washington a carte blanche to do



as it pleases. We have now had three administrations of US war criminals welcomed and honored wherever the war criminals go. The other governments in the world continue to desire invitations to the White House as indications of their worth. To be received by war criminals has become the highest honor. Even the president of China comes to Washington to receive acceptance by the Evil Empire.

The world did not notice Washington's war crimes against Serbia and didn't puke when Washington then put the Serbian president, who had tried to prevent his country from being torn apart by Washington, on trial as a war criminal. The world has made no effort to hold Washington responsible for its destruction of Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, and now Syria and Gaza. The world has not demanded that Washington stop murdering people in Pakistan and Yemen, countries with which Washington is not at war. The world looks the other way as Washington creates the US Africa Command. The world looks the other way as Washington sends deadly weapons to Israel with which to murder women and children in the Gaza Ghetto. Washington passes Senate and House Resolutions cheering on the Israeli murder of Palestinians. Washington is accustomed to its free pass, granted by the world, to murder and to lie, and now is using it against Russia.

Russian President Putin's bet that by responding to Washington's aggression in Ukraine in an unprovocative and reasonable manner would demonstrate to Europe that Russia was not the source of the problem has not paid off. European countries are captive nations. They are incapable of thinking and acting for themselves. They bend to Washington's evil will. Essentially, Europe is a non-entity that follows Washington's orders. If the Russian government hopes to prevent war with Washington, which is likely to be the final war for the earth, the Russian government needs to act now and end the problem in Ukraine by accepting the separatist provinces' request to be reunited with Russia. Once S2277 passes, Russia cannot retrieve the situation without confronting militarily the US, because Ukraine will have been declared an American ally.

Putin's bet was reasonable and responsible, but Europe has failed him. If Putin does not use Russian power to bring an end to the problem with which Washington has presented him in Ukraine while he still can, Washington's next step will be to unleash its hundreds of NGOs inside Russia to denounce Putin as a traitor for abandoning the Russian populations in the former Russian provinces that Soviet leaders thoughtlessly attached to Ukraine.

The problem with being a leader is that you inherit festering problems left by previous leaders. Putin has the problems bequeathed by Yeltsin. Yeltsin was a disaster for Russia. Yeltsin was Washington's puppet. It is not certain that Russia will survive Yeltsin's mistakes. If Washington has its way, Russia will survive only as an American puppet state.

In a previous column I described the article in Foreign Affairs, the journal of the Washington foreign policy community, that makes a case that the US has such strategic advantage over Russia at this time that a "window of

opportunity" exists for the US to remove Russia as a restraint on US hegemony with a preemptive nuclear attack. It is almost certain that Obama is being told that President John F. Kennedy had this window of opportunity and did not use it, and that Obama must not let the opportunity pass a second time.

As Steven Starr explained in a guest column, there are no winners of nuclear war. Even if the US escapes retaliatory strikes, everyone will die regardless.

The view in Washington of neo-conservatives, who control the Obama regime, is that nuclear war is winnable. No expert opinion supports their assumption, but the neo-cons, not the experts, are in power. The American people are out to lunch. They have no comprehension of their likely fate. Americans are an uninformed people distracted by their mounting personal and financial problems. If Europeans are aware, they have decided to live for the moment on Washington's money.

What life is faced with is a drive for hegemony on the part of Washington and ignorant unconcern on the part of the rest of the world. Americans, worked into a lather about Washington's un-funded liabilities and the viability of their future Social Security pension, won't be alive to collect it.

(Dr. Paul Craig Roberts was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy and associate editor of the Wall Street Journal. He was columnist for Business Week, Scripps Howard News Service, and Creators Syndicate. He has had many university appointments. His internet columns have attracted a worldwide following. Roberts' latest books are The Failure of Laissez Faire Capitalism and Economic Dissolution of the West and How America Was Lost.)

**"SELL ALL THOU HAST"
 AN EXPLANATION
 br Mr. J.W. Parker**

A question once put to me concerns the young lawyer who came to Jesus on one occasion with the anxious enquiry as to how he might inherit eternal life. You will find the passages in Luke 10, beginning at vs 25.

Firstly, let us consider the lawyer. Moses was the chief lawyer in Israel, he was a Levite; the Levites were a peculiar tribe in Israel. According to God's Law no Levite, either Mosaic or Aaronic could legally possess property (real estate) - they collectively were allotted by Joshua - forty-two acres throughout the land, together with six cities of refuge, likewise scattered. These cities seemed to have been on communal interest, in that while they belonged to the Levites as a community, no Levite as an individual would hold a deed in his own right; in other words, no Levite could say this property is mine—but he could say—this city is ours.

The young Levite (lawyer) who came to Jesus was wealthy and Jesus knew it. The young man, knowing the Law was well aware that he had no individual right to his property riches. This we know from the analysis of the incident, to his enquiry Jesus replied: "What saith the Law?" (This is a legal transaction as you will see).

The young man quoted the law and declared he had kept it from his youth. Then Jesus replied: "This do and thou shalt live." In other words there was no restriction in the Mosaic code to property possession that had anything to

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do with eternal life inheritance.

The young man, as a lawyer, was not satisfied, and followed with another question— “*What lack I yet?*” Jesus, knowing the young man’s position, sympathised with him deeply and applied the said text of Levitical possessions, “*Go sell all that thou hast and thou shalt have possessions in heaven.*” The young man went away sorrowful for he has great possessions. The whole transaction was one of Law, and had the young man been any other than a Levite, Jesus would never have asked to sell his property and become an object of poverty. God does not ask Christians to dispose of all their possessions in order to make them inheritors of eternal life.

Peter’s sermon to the 3000 converts, who sold all they had, seemed to have been chiefly Levites for in the 44th verse, in Acts 2, the statement is made they had all things in common, which can mean only that they lived under Levitical law in communal interests. It would appear, however, that like the young lawyer, these Levites had private possessions. Being Levites, Peter’s sermon struck them along the same lines, as our Lord’s admonition to the young man.

Consider Ananias and Sapphira, these two souls under conviction of possessing property, turned in a proportion only; making out it was their all. This would have been bad enough for any individual of any tribe to have done. But for a Levite, who was God’s chosen portion in Israel, to do such a deceitful act was a diabolical procedure in the sight of God. The importance of this understanding is, that it was purely a legal procedure throughout and applied to Levites only

[Although at the time of Peter’s sermon, and Ananias and Sapphira, people may have been selling their properties off and preparing for their flight from Jerusalem; CIM]

(Jacob Parker was born in Ontario in the year of Canadian Confederation (1867) and he became one of the earliest workers and founders of the Association (ACP). He travelled many times across Canada and the Western United States delivering the message and as he was oft to say, “no audience is too small.” Yet, great numbers turned out for most of his lectures, because of his knowledge, sincerity and ability to express. He appealed to all classes of people. He was a prolific author and made a special study of the symbolism of the Great Pyramid. He became President of the Association when Professor Odium closed his life and remained so until he too passed on in 1947)

Courtesy, TKC, PO Box 1478, Ferndale WA 98248

the following comes from America’s Promise Newsletter:

ASTUTE LETTER FROM READER

Dear America’s Promise,

I have been reading with great interest this past year, your calling to account of a certain Spiritual Israel teacher in our midst. Many of us are aware you are writing about Stephen Jones. I have been a reader of his material for years. Note, I did not say I am one of his followers.

I’ve written down some thoughts about something I’ve not seen in print, or heard anyone talk about, concerning Stephen Jones’s puzzling, major switch in the direction of his ministry around the years of 2003-4. This piece is an open letter to Stephen Jones.

If you decide to publish my submission (below), I thank you in advance. A. Robinson.

AAAAAAH, ISRAEL—ABOUT, FOR,

AND TO WHOM THE BIBLE WAS PRIMARILY WRITTEN

Pesky things, the nation of Israel and Israelites—at least to Stephen Jones. No matter what he does, and all the gyrations he goes through, he just can’t get away from the concrete, and enduring, fact of Israel. Jones obviously despises this literal, national Israel who God sovereignly chose to be His wife for all of eternity.

Why does Jones have such a hatred for a nation and a people? It seems inexplicable. However, his hatred for the nation and the genetic people of Israel comes through, loud and clear, in his material from the last decade, if one will take the time and effort to study it out.

Strangely enough, Jones hasn’t always been “out to get” Israel, the Israel as identified in, and by, God’s Word. Up until about 2003-4, he pretty much taught the Kingdom message. For example, in his *The Laws Of The Second Coming (2001) [#765 @ \$42.55]*, chapter 11, Jones stays very close to accurate and truthful reporting, and interpretation, of scripture when he rightly identifies literal, physical Israel as the House of Israel. Jones even praises God for His plan for the forgiveness and restoration of physical Israelites, and the nation of Israel, to her proper place as God’s bride and wife, as prophesied in His Word.

Thus, a quote from Jones on page 125 after his citing of Hosea 2;19-23:

“In other words, Hosea says that even though God had divorced the *House of Israel* and sent her out of His house into the land of Assyria, God would at some time in the future begin to court *her again*, betroth her, and remarry Israel. Hosea says that God did not cast out the House of Israel forever, but would restore her in the future.”

(emphasis mine, AR).

Jones goes on to say in the next paragraph: “Israel died as a nation in order that she might be hidden in the field (‘the world’) until the time of the end. Only then would lost Israel be found, even as Joseph was found after being hidden in Egypt.”

Therefore, Jones clearly teaches, in chapter 11, that Israel as a nation—the lost House of Israel, the literal, physical nation of Israel—will be restored by God to her rightful status as His wife. (Remember, *The Laws of the Second Coming* was written in 2001) Jones then discusses Jesus’ earthly mission on page 126. He quotes Jesus in Matthew 15:24, “*I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.*” Jones continues telling us of Jesus in his own words:

“He sold all that He had—that is, He set aside His glory ... and came ... as a humble man, and finally gave His very life to save His people from their sins.”

Further down on page 126, Jones joyfully exclaims, “God’s plan was truly marvellous. He foreordained that Israel would stumble in order that the world might be saved in their regathering.”

Here, Jones recognizes there has to be a *gathering* of the Israel people, first, before there can be a *regathering* of what? The same people, of course.

Who is this Israel Jones is speaking of? He identifies the dispersed House of Israel, on pages 127-128, as the Celts, Saxons, and Welsh—the Caucasian peoples. We all know, of course, who these people are and how they became the founders of Western Civilization, and later, the people of Western Christian culture.

We see this man, Stephen Jones, fully trusting and



praising his heavenly Father, rejoicing in his Father's marvellous plan for the restoration of the literal, genetic House of Israel. One can almost picture Jones standing with the congregation, his hands raised, swaying from side to side singing "Our God is an awesome God, He reigns from heaven and earth..." I find Jones' delight in God, and His truth, wonderfully infectious as I read his chapter 11, making me want to sing along with him.

Then, in 2005, comes along Jones' book *Who Is An Israelite?** [#420 @ \$10.55] Anyone familiar with Jones' prior writings would immediately have run up a **red flag**, or should have, at that title because who is an Israelite is not up for debate, Biblically speaking. Jones' public vendetta against true Biblical Israel begins with this book, and he starts with Jacob in chapter 1. *[Note: I am not ignoring Jones' *Who Is A Jew?* Don't get me started on that one! Jones really did a number on Romans 2:28-29 in that study].

In order to kick-off his vendetta, Jones deliberately changes and distorts Biblical truth, takes scriptures out of context then orders them in a different way than written; redefines terms, and also develops character traits for Jacob, Isaac, and Esau; of which the Word does not speak. In the book, he even comes up with a different label for Israel—Natural Israel—which is nowhere in the Bible.

Coming up with his new label, Natural Israel, is part of Jones' vendetta against Biblical Israel. Do your own study of chapter 1 where Jones' vendetta is launched, and compare it to what is written in your Bible. Just wait until you read the whole book. His hatefulness is shocking.

WHAT'S WITH THIS?

By the time the reader gets to chapter 6, page 54 of *Who Is An Israelite?* Jones smugly concludes:

"Thus, Israel as a nation is composed of people of all races and nationalities who have transferred their citizenship to the Kingdom of God. To be specific, every Christian believer by definition is a "Jew" and every true "Jew" who continues on into full Sonship is an Israelite. Keep in mind that there are no more natural Israelites in the world. There are only ex-Israelites of the dispersion. Many people today have ancestors that *used to be Israelites*, but that does not make them Israelites in the sight of God today. Their Israelite status ended with the great divorce."

???????? Jones continues:

"To become part of the Bride of Christ, one must become an Israelite citizen. God will only marry a nation composed of Israelite citizens. Yet *citizenship is a legal issue, not a genealogical issue.*"

Whoa! Hold the phone! Slam on the brakes!

How does Jones go from delighting in God for His plan to restore the literal, genetic, national House of Israel as the Bride of Christ, to his creating his own Israel, composed of all races and nationalities—in just a few short years???

I have searched all over Jones' website looking for first, acknowledgement of, and second, an explanation to his readers of this major switch. Surely a change of this magnitude, this change of direction in midstream, deserves a prominent, lengthy and thorough explanation, wouldn't you think? If such an acknowledgement and explanation exists on his website, or in his books or tapes, I haven't

found it.

What happened to Jones, between the years of 2001 and 2003-4, that would cause him to abandon his trust in God and His Word? What in the world happened which caused him to start re-writing God's precious Word into teachings which have no basis in scripture?

The reason is unknown, but this change created a hardened heart in Jones, resulting in a departure from his lifting up God as Ultimate Truth, to lifting up himself and his frequently conflicting new material, denying the trustworthiness and veracity of God and His Word.

Adding Jones' shocking, and sudden hatefulness, to his clear departure from God's truth, we witness a glaring contradiction of his mission statement, "*Truth in Love*", embedded in the blue, yellow, and red shield prominently displayed at the top of his homepage. Obviously, no "truth in love" here. It's been more like a prolonged temper tantrum lasting many years.

How about the phrase "*Serious Bible Study*" tucked close to the shield? How can Jones claim he does serious Bible study when he routinely ignores, takes out of context, re-arranges scriptures, and simply makes things up, to suit himself? One must question everything he has written, or spoken, in the last 10 years.

Jones claims to be a Bible scholar, but evidence demonstrates he is no scholar, Biblical or otherwise.

Even though he acknowledges, in *The Law of the Second Coming*, God would not cast out the House of Israel forever but would restore national, Celtic/Saxon/Welsh Israel as His wife, Jones after 2003-4, banishes the true, literal, national House of Israel, to a hell of his own making—a place far, far away from God's mercy, forgiveness, and restoration.

WHAT'S WITH THIS?????

Having created a hell for the *to be restored* national Israel, Jones then begins to fashion and construct a new

and improved Israel—a replacement Israel—an Israel he designates as a "**legal**" Israel, which is not to be confused with the Biblical House of Israel. Anyone can become part of this new "**legal**" Israel by going through several so-called legal steps, and poof!—they are now an Israelite. Jones continued to shape and perfect, through the years, his new replacement wife for God, and now has her really down pat.

Trouble is, God's new wife, this "**legal**" Israel, and the implications thereof, has no basis in scripture. None! **Jones made it all up**. The literal Israel who went into exile must, according to God's Word, be the same, literal Israel He remarries. Not to Jones. Not anymore. It is clear, after his heart change around 2003-4, instead of trusting in God and having Him define truth, Jones decided to create his own truth and market it as God's truth. He continues, to this day, in doing something many of us find horrifying.

Jones began to correct his God

As perverted as this whole "**legal**" Israel thing is, what concerns me the most, right now, is what happened to Stephen Jones in the first part of the new century. What happened to his contagious delight in God and His Truth?

Where did it go? What caused Jones to begin to badmouth the national House of Israel, the apple of God's eye, to begin a vendetta against the literal, national House of Israel, and genetic Israelites, which he continues to this day? What happened to Jones which was so destructive it caused him to turn bitter and hateful toward God and His Word, so much that he has thrown God's Truth out of the window?

Enlighten us, Mr. Jones. Please. Perhaps we can help.
Courtesy AmProm Newsletter, Box 157, Sandpoint ID 83864

WARNING FROM PASTOR BARLEY

What you are about to read is not easy for me to say, but I am now convinced that I must confront a troubling situation. There is a problem, and it will not be corrected by sweeping it under the proverbial rug. May Jesus be glorified, and may He correct and restore. That being said, I will proceed.

We also know this minister (Stephen Jones) who was speaking at a conference in Dallas, the same weekend that Martha and I were in San Antonio, Texas, who teaches the un-Biblical doctrine of Spiritual Israel. He was also in the Philippines with his parents as a child, doing missionary work. In fact, Jones was just in the Philippines following that recent destructive Typhoon with over 200 mph winds.

Two ministers (Lawrence Blanchard and Stephen Jones) hold very different perspectives on the Filipino people. Jones now believes, from what people shared with me who attended the Dallas conference, that the Philippines represents a New Covenant Kingdom rebirth, to which I say **NON-SENSE!** Interestingly enough, while in Dallas, the people we were staying with asked us if we had been reading Jones' blogs. I said, "I try not to, but every now and then I do read some of his materials and that some of them do have value and merit. BUT, I added, most of his musings and predictions were nothing more than religious hype designed to attract those who like embellished, aggrandized, spiritual whoopla, thinking they are being fed "deep meat for the sons of God," when in fact, they are being fed spiritual twilight zone deception.

Jones always leads his followers from one fabricated sensationalized insight to another with some list of "Bible numerics" to seal the deal and cause his followers' eyes to glaze over with a sense of euphoria. In their mind, God must obviously speak to this man with special insights, and so, they must attach themselves to Jones and his gospel; a gospel, I might add, with "prophetic claims," which cannot be sustained with or without him.

MONDAY MORNING QUARTERBACK CHRISTIANITY

Now, I am not against true Bible numerics or true Bible prophecy. Bible numerics has numerous applications. However, when charlatans (and there are many of them, just as there are many antichrists) make up spiritual enemies or plots that, for the most part, only they can see, and then only they have the ability to lay out certain scenarios and pray them away, leading their followers to deeper forms of blind allegiance. Then it's time for some Biblical Watchmen on the Wall to come forth and expose this fallacious

nonsense. Much of what he does is nothing more than Monday Morning Quarterback Prophesying which has been packaged to build greater devotion of his followers.

Beware of those who teach that their own lives somehow mirror world events. When we follow these people and their scenario of events which are not found in the Bible, it is unwise and God warns us against such foolishness.

When Jones talks about his prayer campaigns, it is clear he is talking about himself and taking credit for the outcome. For instance, he recently wrote about Obama threatening to invade Syria, and that a "state of war against Syria was imminent." True enough, I think most people believed this was also a very possible outcome. Many people were praying that war might be averted, but, in typical form, Jones as he has done on numerous occasions, claimed the following:

"I believe that our prayer campaign against broken treaties is the spiritual reason why this attack was cancelled. In other words, our entire country benefitted from this prayer campaign and literally stopped a needless war. In fact, I believe it prevented WW3." (Emphasis DB) [Cover Letter October 2013]

Excuse me, he and his prayer campaign prayed away WW3?

Who gets credit for this miraculous deliverance? Jesus the Christ, or this Spiritual Israel Houdini and his prayer campaign? I can guarantee you that anyone could do this same process and claim victory, or whatever outcome may emerge. For instance, let's use the present DUCK DYNASTY homosexual controversy. I see the problem and a group of us pray about this situation. Then depending on how it progresses, claim victory, or that we prevent some further disaster from developing, and the fish bite.

Oh Pastor, are you mocking the prayers of this man and his prayer campaign? You can't prove that he didn't pray away this and other

threats to our nation, so, perhaps you had better just back off. **WRONG.** Because Jones' so-called prophecies, prophetic beast systems, and leviathans are 99% hot air. He puts forth these to entice his followers into thinking that he is the main answer to whatever forces (political, military, storms or earthquakes, etc.), may threaten America or other parts of the world. Oh, and please keep buying the Dinar he and his friends are promoting for financial security (another prophetic scenario gone awry). Have any of you ever counted his numerous false predictions (prophetic claims) on this Dinar? True, he has somewhat toned down his prophetic claims, but if you are closely following his writings, you'll know. I am not saying that the Dinar revaluation is false. I am saying, be careful with Dinar prophetic claims.

Back in the 80's I remember Pastor Emry exposing Jones because of his involvement with a charlatan, who claimed he was worth billions of dollars, but he needed Christian Israel believers to come up with huge sums of money. By doing that, they would be greatly rewarded with financial and business bonuses. Jones spearheaded this operation (for this fraudulent billionaire, Paul Bernay) with many secret meetings where only a chosen select portion of people were invited to participate. Bottom line, they were asked to put up large sums of money to be involved in this scheme, and those who did go along lost vast sums of money.

*from the late E. Raymond Capt comes
ISLE OF IONA
A Scottish Island so small - yet so rich in Christian history! Very few people are familiar with the name Iona, but once it was one of the best loved names in Christendom. It is a little island in the midst of the Innera Hebrides or Western Islands of Scotland. Its ancient name in Gaelic (or Pictish) was "Ious" and was also known by the name "Innis-nam-Druidbneach" or Island of the Druids. It is possible that the name Iona is derived from "Ee-hona" (L-shona) meaning Blessed or Sacred isle. We know the Norsemen called Iona the Holy Island. It was on Iona that Columba was crowned Aidan King of Scotland, upon the Stone, Lia Fail; Jacob's Pillar stone.*

#377 @ \$23.35



Pastor Emry was told of it after the fact and he warned people to have nothing to do with it (I remember Sheldon mentioning this on an old cassette tape, HR). However, some damage had already been done. This situation became so troubling, with a variety of many disturbing aspects to it, that Pastor Emry held a Body of Christ Court, where witnesses came forth and testified of all the back-handed, secret, behind-the-scene deals. All of us who were gathered at this hearing were amazed and shocked to say the least. After this hearing, Stephen Jones lost his New Mexico ministry and had to go find a secular job in Arkansas, and did not emerge into his present ministry for almost a decade.

I certainly believe in forgiveness and that people can be spiritually healed. But I also know that we can become spiritually blinded. So much so, that we cannot see the “forest for the trees.” I can no longer pretend that this man is teaching the Truth. Now certainly he knows much truth, and does still teach a variety of Biblical truths, and no doubt, he is brilliant, and yes, he does have some interesting tantalizing prophetic insights. But to not also be highly concerned with the seriousness of his false Spiritual Israel teachings, his disqualifying leadership character, and his numerous false prophetic predictions makes us part of the problem.

“I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed. How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? yea, they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart” (Jeremiah 23:25-26).

I know his devout followers will be outraged at what I am sharing, and to them, I will be the “bad guy” in this. So be it. I commit this matter to the Lord Jesus the Christ.

The New Testament refers many times to ‘false teachers’ and ‘false prophets,’ and it was obviously a problem during Jesus’ time as much as it is today. In Matthew 24:4, Jesus says “...take heed that no man deceive you.” 1 John 3:7 also talks about deceivers as those who “went out from us,” suggesting that these deceivers were once part of the Christian body of Christ. Also 2 Peter 2:1-3 says, “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you.”

Jesus tells us to judge the fruit of all who come our way. Make sure that you are a good fruit inspector and always compare anyone’s words—including mine—with God’s Word!

Courtesy AmProm Newsletter, Box 157, Sandpoint ID 83864.

“Our culture has accepted two huge lies. The first is that if you disagree with someone’s lifestyle, you must fear or hate them. The second is that to love someone means you agree with everything they believe or do. Both are nonsense. You don’t have to compromise convictions to be compassionate.” *Phil Robertson.*

THE KINGDOM-DRIVEN LIBRARY

by *Andrea Schwartz*

Among the fondest memories of my childhood were our

Saturday morning trips to the public library. I loved being around all those books stacked on beautiful shelves nested in mahogany-panelled walls. So it was not really surprising that, early on in my home schooling career, we made frequent trips to the library and I would allow the children to pick out books on subjects that interested them. However, the more I became a student of R.J. Rushdoony, the more I realized that the public library was by no means a “neutral” place. In fact, I discovered that it was a repository of humanistic views diametrically opposed to a true Christian world and life view, cloaked in an illusion of “neutrality.”

One of the key myths of humanism is the idea of neutrality. It is held that the mind of man can be neutral with regard to facts and ideas, and that the scientific method is the way of neutrality. Man can, we are told, calmly and objectively approach and analyze facts and arrive at the truth.

Such a view presupposes neutrality in *the knower* and *the known*. With respect to the knower, man, it assumes that man is not a fallen creature, at war with his Maker. Rather, man is held to be a being capable of approaching factuality objectively and impartially, so that the basic judgments about the nature of things depend upon the mind of man.¹

Upon closer examination, I realized that I needed to peruse a book in its entirety before I would allow my children to exercise their lending privileges. I would need to ascertain if the material was worth reading at all, and, additionally, would it serve my overall purpose in homeschooling—furthering the Kingdom of God? This didn’t mean I would automatically disqualify any non-Christian books from being borrowed. However, the value of a particular book (fiction or non-fiction) would be based on whether it would be useful for discussion and instruction.

For example, the library is full of books about nature; rock formations, marine animals, natural wonders, the insect world, and multitudinous number of plants on our planet. While it is true these books often include beautiful photos, in almost all cases, without fail, each book contains bald-faced lies. Any book that does not credit the Creator of the universe for His handiwork let alone attributes it to random chaotic processes, is the conveyor of an enormous deception, regardless of how well it is put together. In some cases, I would use these books to teach my children the fallacies of evolution and *Mother Nature*, instructing them about presuppositional thinking as I did.

Again Rushdoony was helpful in my coming to terms with this:

Man ... is falled in all his being; he is totally at war with God. Fallen man may manifest no hostility to God, but his indifference is equally an act of war, because he has ruled out God from all consideration in all things. He has in effect declared that God is dead for him, and therefore need not even be considered or thought about (If my children act as though I do not exist, nor am to be thought about, spoken about or referred to, then they, without a word said, are manifesting hatred of me, and are warring against me). Man is never neutral with respect to God, nor to anything that is of God. There is no neutrality in man.²

NEVER SAY NEVER

The need to build up our family library became obvious to me during one of our visits to the local library. We had been listening to a series of lectures on American history and the speaker referenced Blackstone’s *Commentaries* (actually *Commentaries on the Laws of England* by Sir William Blackstone) as often quoted by those in early America. I thought it would be a great exercise for my son to see what was contained in them.

When we could not find the entry in the catalogue of

books in a neighbourhood library, I suggested my son ask the librarian if these books might be in the reference section—able to be read but not borrowed. She agreed to look. She came back after about twenty minutes apologising that it had taken her so long. She put a book on the table and explained the delay was due to the fact that the book was in the children's section. We were presented with a small paperback book entitled *Blackstone's Magic Tricks for Children!* It would have been funny if it were not so tragic. She truly had no idea what we were asking for.

The last thing I ever imagine myself doing when I was in school was to become a librarian. My reasoning was due to the fact that I had a stereotypical idea of a quiet person sitting behind a desk admonishing noisy folks to “shhh,” only to be trapped into running errands for patrons to locate a book that they could not find. Little did I know that a librarian's role includes choosing which books should be in the library, having a very powerful position indeed. Despite my faulty predictions for my future, I became a librarian for my family and for our ministry.

EXTENDING OUR REACH

Over my twenty-eight years of active home-schooling, as I bought materials for my family, I realized that I was building a library that could have greater usefulness than just for us. It seemed wasteful not to share my collection after one of my children had used the material and it would be years before the next one needed it. It seemed wasteful to have it just sitting on the shelf. So I made a point of lending out certain curriculum materials to other homeschooling families who couldn't afford their own. This arrangement allowed them to use the materials for the entire school year, or, alternately, as a way to peruse a book or curriculum to see if it was something they wanted to purchase and, if so, they could use my copy until theirs arrived. I also began a collection of historical novels that were a huge hit with my children. Since reading was something that they loved, it became my mission to supply their appetites. Anytime I'd hear of someone “stalled” with their children in their home-schooling pursuits, I could highly recommend some of the fiction we had as a way to revitalize their interest.

To build this library, I spent a considerable amount of money at conferences at the book tables. I would often go to such places with book-buying as my major interest. Additionally, if I saw something advertised in a magazine or catalog that looked interesting, I would immediately order it, not being certain it ever would be advertised again. While a portion of my selections would include primary source materials, I kept an eye out for subjects that interested me in fulfilling my role as wife, mother, and home educator. After all, can anyone have too much knowledge?

YOUR LIBRARY SAYS A LOT ABOUT YOU

When I visit people, I often peruse the books they have on their shelves. It tells you a lot about their world and life view. I imagine I get the same treatment when others visit me. Although I've passed along many of the home-schooling materials I used when actively teaching, I still have quite an assortment of books on a variety of subjects: health, history, theology, music, art, biographies, novels, survival guides, video lectures, DVDs, most versions of the Bible, sports, exercise, anatomy, languages, catechisms, how-to books, counselling, physics, architecture, marriage, the Constitution, Christian Reconstruction, philosophy,

economics, the Federal Reserve, and more.³

Have I read all the books that fit on my many bookshelves? No. Have I looked through and read parts of most? Yes. Do I have favorites that I read over and over? Most certainly. And I am most delighted when during a conversation, a topic arises and I can recommend a book from my library.

I have a propensity for buying good material in all forms; hardbacks, paperbacks, Kindle books, etc. But I must admit that, while the digital format is convenient on so many levels,⁵ I like the feel of a book and the sense of accomplishment when I finish the last page and place it back on the shelf. One can easily share a book with another, something that is impractical when it is housed on your personal device.

BUILDING A LENDING LIBRARY

Over the years I have used a wide variety of curricula and audio/video resources to help me in the home education of my children. Some of these were used by all three

children; others were acquired to suit the particular need of one's individual learning style. In the process, I was building quite a good library and a body of knowledge of the various publishers. Then, I began to purchase resources (both new and used) that I felt would be helpful to me to further educate myself to be the best teacher possible for my kids. In time, I needed more and more book-

cases to house what would become useful tools for my own children, those I tutored or taught; and eventually to become part of my homeschool lending library. This has been a great outreach for my family as we're always lending our materials for review or a year's worth of use to new homeschoolers and veterans alike.

I suggest that homeschool co-ops and churches make a concerted effort to grow similar libraries in their own circles (communities). With the increasing number of families making the choice to provide a distinctively Christian education to their children, being ready to help is a very proactive endeavour. By way of example here are some general guidelines included in our library agreement:

- There is no fee to borrow materials. However, library materials undergo normal wear and tear, so we encourage donations to help us replace worn-out materials and to expand the library.
- Lending period is for two weeks (unless special arrangements are made).
- Books and other materials are to be returned in the condition they are received.
- In the event library materials are not returned in usable condition, we require that the borrower pay replacement costs in addition to a service fee of \$10.
- Any problem with library materials should be brought to our attention immediately.
- Materials are lent to you and your family and should not be on-lent to other individuals or families. If other families wish to borrow materials they need to fill out an agreement in order to borrow directly from us.
- It is the responsibility of the borrower to return library materials as agreed and not the responsibility of the library to call and pick them up. However, convenient arrangements can be made for pick-up and delivery.
- Lending privileges may be revoked at the discretion of the library staff.

for the ladies:
**IS VIRTUE A REFLECTION IN
YOUR MIRROR?**
late Cherie Peters
*gives an insightful talk for the ladies
at one of their gatherings. She had strong views
and was very outspoken on how women should
dress and behave. Timeless.*
DVD#CI-210 @ sug don \$17



• Since we are now expanding the lending privileges, other conditions may be added to this agreement as experience dictates. In that case, you will be notified in writing of such changes, if and when they occur.⁵

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Young people need to build a library of books that they will continue to refer to and have on hand as they mature and begin their own families. Books that have meant a lot to them but belong to their parents' library should be noted and acquired, either through purchase or entered on a "wish list" for family and friends for birthdays, etc. As C.S. Lewis noted, "No book is really worth reading at the age of ten which is not equally—and often far more—worth reading at the age of fifty and beyond."⁶

I make a point of giving books as presents to graduates. My top choice is R.J. Rushdoony's *Institutes of Biblical Law*. I've often commented that if for some reason I was told we were going to a deserted island and I could only take three books with me, *Institutes*, along with a Bible and a survival guide would make the cut. I usually let the gift recipient know why I've selected this volume. While I have given books as presents over the years, I prefer to lend books. That way, I can find out if the person actually reads it. Give a book as a gift, and it seems pushy to keep inquiring if it has been read. But, lend one out, and your inquiries and reminders are built-in ways of seeing if the book is available for the next person. I have found that the time limit on borrowing helps get the material read!

Chalcedon's Digital Library

R.J. Rushdoony left a legacy of books, essays, journal articles, and lectures. Chalcedon sells many of them and has as one of its primary missions keeping this material in print. Thus, there is little excuse for people not to have a good collection for their libraries. However, a number of years ago Chalcedon went one step further. By offering the entire Rushdoony collection accessible online at no charge, we made it possible for his profound insights to be shared with anyone with computer access. There are even some individuals who have categorized and organized the collection, making retrieval easy.⁷ Thus, there is no excuse for willing students of God's Word not to make use of this resource.

Truth as embodied in the Lord Jesus the Christ is what the focus of education should be all about. A library functions as a preserver of that truth by being a repository of information and learning that is deemed of value to us in our calling to serve God's Kingdom. Sometimes the information is of the "how to" variety. At other times, materials contained in a library might fall into the "learn what *not* to do" category, demonstrating the deleterious effects of doing so. Without a reliable and available library of information, we are at the deficit of only operating on those thoughts and ideas that are easily accessible and retrievable in our minds. Having a useful library gives us the tools to act in obedience to the Great Commission. But it must be self-consciously built to provide its users with the tools necessary for dominion. It must be founded in the truth of God's Word.

Truth is never abstract, nor is it some vague idea floating in the heavens. Truth is always relative to whatever is ultimate in our faith. If matter is ultimate for us, then truth is relative to matter, if mind, to mind. If man is ultimate, then truth is contingent and relative to man. For us however, all things have been created by the sovereign God, are relative to Him and to His Word. Because

the Lord is the ultimate and sovereign Creator, He is therefore the truth in all its fullness, and all else is true in terms of its relation to Him. The more we understand the relation of the physical world in relation to God and His order and purpose in creation, the more we know the truth about creation.....

Humanistic philosophies of education, and the state schools, are expressions of a religious faith, faith in man ... Our is another faith, and we must stand in terms of it, consistently and faithfully.⁸

Substitute the word "library" for "state schools" and Rushdoony is making the case for a Kingdom-driven library!

Notes:

1. R.J. Rushdoony, *The Philosophy of the Christian Curriculum* (Vallecito, CA: Ross House Books, [1981]2001), 165.

2. Ibid.

3. I once tried to computerize my library attempting to make a record of all my books. I planned to place them on the shelves according to subject matter. But after a major earthquake my husband insisted that paperbacks get placed on top shelves while bigger books remain on the lower ones. Such ended my ambitious project. I keep track of books "on the shelves" when I go looking for a book I want to reference. It does take time, but the process reminds me of what my library contains.

4. There's nothing quite like being able to carry an entire library on one device. For long plane flights, waiting at an appointment, or jury duty with long down times, I find I have a variety of reading options so rewarding, it almost feels like I'm cheating!

5. This section is taken from an essay that appeared in my second book, *The Home-school Life* (Vallecito, CA: Chalcedon/Ross House Books, 2008), 113-114.

6. <http://www.cslewis-quotes.webs.com/>

7. <http://www.pocketcollege.com/>

index.htm

8. Rushdoony, *The Philosophy of Christian Curriculum*, 168. Courtesy Faith for all of Life, Box 158, Vallecito CA 95251

TRACKING CHRISTIAN SEXUAL MORALITY IN A SAME-SEX MARRIAGE FUTURE

By Mark Regnerus

Churchgoing Christians who support same-sex marriage are more likely to think pornography, cohabitation, hook-ups, adultery, polyamory, and abortion are acceptable. And it's reasonable to expect continued change in more permissive directions.

As mainline Protestant denominations increasingly accept the ordination of gay clergy and publicly affirm same-sex unions, the sociologist in me wishes to understand what this development means for people in those denominations. I'm not talking about subtle linguistic shifts. While the difference between speaking marriage as a "civil contract between a man and a woman" and as "a unique commitment between two people" is obvious to those who pay attention to church documents, the impact of such changes on congregants' attitudes and internalized paradigms—their hearts, I suppose—is seldom considered.

What is the sexual and relational morality of Christians who accept the moral legitimacy of same-sex marriages? Some questions naturally arise. Does adultery mean the same thing for both same-sex and opposite-sex unions? Does it make sense to speak of premarital sex in such a context? Historically, the fear of pregnancy was enough to scare many love-struck Christians into taking things slow, but same-sex pregnancies are an accomplishment, not an accident, and most Christians use contraception now anyway [they shouldn't!, it displays the same mind-set as abortion].



Integrating homosexual relationships into Christian moral systems is not simple, and the process has ramifications for how heterosexual relationships are understood, too. What exactly do pro-same-sex-marriage Christians think about sex and relationships in general? I'm not asking what perspectives on sexual behaviour people *ought* to hold. Instead, I'm trying to discover what perspectives churchgoing Christians who disagree over same-sex marriage actually express.

To be sure, the sexual and relational standards of many Christians have already shifted. I'm not so naïve as to think that affirming same-sex marriage is the first significant change to take hold in their sexual and relational norms. More likely, the sexual morality of many churchgoing Christians shifted years ago, and the acceptance of same-sex marriage as licit Christian action follows significant change rather than prompting it. An ideal test would have been to have successfully interviewed congregants in "shifting" denominations (like the Presbyterian Church USA and the Episcopalians) over time, mapping what happens to their personal attitudes and opinions as social change occurred around them. So far as I'm aware, no one has done that. Indeed, it would have been difficult to do, involving the successful anticipation of future changes that were far from certain at the time.

What I do here is far more circumscribed. I assess a set of sexual and relational attitudes of Christians who support—and Christians who oppose—same-sex marriage.

Primarily, this exercise concerns the attitudes of all churchgoing Christians who express support for same-sex marriage. And since the LGBT population remains a small minority (and even smaller in organized religious communities), it's reasonable to conclude that the sexual morality that "welcoming" congregations of individual Christians profess will have largely been fashioned—and maintained—by sympathetic heterosexuals. These are and will remain the majority (and hence, the norm) in all congregations, save for the Metropolitan Community Church and perhaps scattered congregations of the United Church of Christ.

The Relationships in America Survey

To do this, I rely on the Relationships in America survey, a data collection project I oversaw that interviews 15,738 Americans, ages 18-60, in early 2014. It's a population-based sample, meaning that its results are nationally representative. The survey asked respondents to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement with these seven statements:

1. Viewing pornographic material is OK.
2. It is a good idea for couples considering marriage to live together in order to decide whether or not they get along well enough to be married to one another.
3. It is OK for two people to get together for sex and not necessarily expect anything further.
4. If a couple has children, they should stay married *unless* there is physical or emotional abuse.
5. It is sometimes permissible for a married person to have sex with someone other than his/her spouse.

6. It is OK for three or more consenting adults to live together in a sexual/romantic relationship.

7. I support abortion rights.

There is more to sexual and relationship morality than just these seven items to be sure, but they do offer us a glimpse into how people perceive various practices and relationships. In order to ensure this is not just an exercise in documenting the attitudes of Christians "in name only," I've restricted the analysis to churchgoing Christians—here defined as those who report they attend services at least three times a month and who self-identified with some sort of Christian affiliation. And I've restricted the analysis to those who report a position either for or against same-sex marriage (I've excluded the one-in-four who reported they are undecided).

For comparison purposes, however, I report the population average for each measure here, to use as a gauge of where the country is as a whole, as well as the attitudes professed by self-identified gays and lesbians who also report affiliation with a Christian tradition, and gays and lesbians who do *not* report a Christian affiliation. Because there is not a attendance proviso attached to these two groups, the minority of gay and lesbian Christians who are regular churchgoers may also appear in one of the first two columns.

So what do the numbers say? The table displays the share of each group who either "agree" or "strongly agree" with the seven statements above.

Percent who "agree" or "strongly agree" that:	Churchgoing Christians who oppose SSM	Churchgoing Christians who support SSM	Population Average	Gay and Lesbian Christians	Gay and Lesbian non-Christians
Viewing pornography is OK	4.6	33.4	31.4	57.0	78.1
Premarital cohabitation is good	10.9	37.2	43.0	49.7	74.1
No-strings-attached sex is OK	5.1	33.0	35.0	49.0	80.5
Couples with kids should stay married except if abused	52.2	33.5	26.9	22.9	18.5
Marital infidelity is sometimes OK	1.3	7.5	7.5	14.2	26.9
It is OK for 3+ adults to live in a sexual relationship	1.2	15.5	16.3	31.9	57.8
I support abortion rights	6.5	39.1	37.8	57.5	71.7
Sample Size:	2,659	990	15,738	191	233

At a glance, there is a pretty obvious fissure between Christians who do and do not oppose same-sex marriage. More than seven times as many of the latter think pornography is OK. Three times as many back cohabiting as a good idea, six times as many are OK with no-strings-attached sex, five times as many think adultery could be permissible, thirteen times as many have no issue with polyamorous relationships, and six times as many support abortion rights. The closest the two come together is over the wisdom of a married couple staying together at all costs (except in cases of abuse).

Churchgoing Christians who support same-sex marriage look very much like the country as a whole—the population average (in the third column). That answers my original question: What would a pro-SSM Christian sexual morality look like? The national average—the norm—that's what.

While the divisions here are notable, we should maintain some perspective. No more than four in ten Christians who support SSM agreed with any of the statements above (except the question about children and divorce). The same cannot be said for Christians who self-identify as gay or lesbian, as the fourth column demonstrates. And that group is clearly distinct from those gays and lesbians who do not affiliate with a Christian tradition (e.g., nonreligious, Jews, spiritual-but-not-religious, Buddhists, etc).

I'm not suggesting any "slippery slope" sort of argu-



ment here, implying that a shift in one attitude will prompt lock-step adjustments in others. In reality, our moral systems concerning sex and sexuality tend rather to resemble personalised “tool kits” reflecting distinctive visions of the purpose of sex and significant relationships (and their proper timing), the meaning of things like marriage and gender roles, and basic ideas about rights, goods, and privacy. People construct them in quite distinct combinations, often cafeteria-style. Instead, the results might be better interpreted as a simple story of social learning from quite *different reference groups*—those sets of people we use as a standard of comparison for ourselves, regardless whether we identify as a member of that group. Instead, attitude shifts in this domain are probably far more about reference groups than about any sort of individual “evolution” or rational construction of personal values. And it’s because of reference groups that *both* sets of Christians tend to perceive themselves as rather embattled, which is an inherently social sensation.

Christians Feel Embattled—Regardless of Their Views on Marriage

Churchgoers who oppose same-sex marriage sense that they are out of step with the rest of the nation about sex and relationships (The numbers above reinforce that). And Christians who favour legalizing SSM often remain embattled with those who oppose it, and yet sense that their own views on sexuality still lag behind those gay and lesbian Christians from whom they’ve become convinced of the legitimacy of SSM. That, too, is true. Gay and lesbian Christians, in turn, have much in common with gay and lesbian non-Christians—their social circles often overlap. The sexual norms of the former are not as permissive as those of the latter, but are still well above the national average in permissiveness. The latter likely constitutes a reference group for gay and lesbian Christians (together with heterosexual Christians with whom they are in fellowship).

Given the rather massive divide in attitudes about sexual and romantic relationships evidenced in the table above, reference group theory—if employed here—would suggest that the current division between these groups of churchgoing Christians will remain far into the future. Even if a share of Christians who presently oppose SSM track in more liberal directions—and it would be shrewd to presume that this will occur—those Christians who already support SSM are themselves still tracking in that same direction. And from the looks of it, they have plenty of territory to cover yet.

(Mark Regnerus is associate professor of sociology at the University of Texas at Austin, research associate at its Population Research Center, and a senior fellow at the Austin Institute for the Study of Family and Culture).

Courtesy www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2014/08/13667/

The fault obviously lies with the clergy because: “... *if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.*” Jer. 23:22. - CIM

The SEVEN SINS OF CANAAN, are practiced today and still include the same: Nudity, Incest, Profaning God’s Name, teaching Unscriptural Doctrine, Homosexuality (LGBT), Racial-Intermarriage (also known as Adultery), and Sacrificing children to Molech (Abortion), **The SEVEN SINS OF CANAAN, Emry #110 @ \$6.15**

TOUGH LOVE TOWARDS PARENTS

by Ben Gilmore

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6)

The subject on my heart is not “politically correct” in be-nice Christian circles. Today’s Christian appears anxious to avoid subjects that stress fellow Christians. Well, I’m more concerned with what causes disappointment for our Lord—and future stress for the nation He has placed in our hands.

I believe it is indisputable—parents have a vested interest in training up their children. After all, it is those very children who are going to decide how their parents will be treated in their senior years! That is the “human” (man-centered) viewpoint. More important is the “spiritual” (God-centered) viewpoint. This will determine the character of the child. In turn, the character of the child will determine the quality of the parents’ treatment in their senior years. Further the quality of one’s character determines what that child will contribute to the character of his society and, ultimately, his nation. The best operator’s manual for parenting is the Holy Bible. The book of Deuteronomy offers good counsel:

“Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up” (Deut 4:6-7).

Noah Webster, author of the **American Dictionary of the English Language** [1828] offered this: “EDUCATION, n. [*L.educatio*] The bringing up, as of a child; instruction; formation of manners. Education comprehends all that series of instruction and discipline which is

intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, and form the manners and habits of youth, and fit them for usefulness in their future stations. To give children a good education in manners, arts and science, is important; to give them a religious education is indispensable; and an immense responsibility rests on parents and guardians who neglect these duties.”

Here is the problem: A guy and a girl get together and make a baby. They become parents. They now have a responsibility to care for (“train up”) the child they brought into our world. That responsibility is to themselves (as above stated), their society, and their nation. That is, the character of the child will have a broad impact upon themselves and others.

“The fear [reverence] of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Psalm 111:10). It follows that an irreverent teacher will be unable to produce a wise student. Today, our public school system has been made irreverent by law! Students educated at home by Christian parents are, for the most part, trained at the knees of reverent teachers. From whence will God find wise leaders in the next generation?

Parents have a 12-15 year “window” to “train up” their child(ren). Those years fly past! **Don’t waste them.** I cannot, in good conscience, recommend placing a child in today’s public school system.

We have heard all the excuses: **“Neither of us are qualified to teach.”** Tonight when the house is quiet, peek into each room. If there are any kids in there—you are

qualified to teach!

“We can not afford private school.” We have found few private schools successfully training up the character of students (even “Christian” schools). Are you sure you want to turn that responsibility over to a stranger? Rubber-stamping “Jesus” and “Prayer” on the outside of education does not make it Christian!

“We simply can’t afford the time. Both of us work.” Consider your priorities! Look twenty years down the road and consider today’s priorities!

“I’m a single mom. I have no choice.” Believe me, ma’am, I understand your dilemma. I also know our loving Lord will not give you a responsibility you cannot fulfill. *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: But God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it”* (1 Cor. 10:13). Seek and find that way!

“Our particular public school is the exception. We know our teachers well.” Sorry friend—your public school teacher is employed and under the laws of the school district, the County, State, and National education bureaucracies. Ungodly, character degrading, dependency-producing curriculum mandates are laid upon the back of that wonderful teacher who must keep that job or resign.

Consider this: If education is in the hand of the state, the student will be trained to serve the State! If education is in the hands of the Church, the student will be trained to serve the doctrines of the Church. If education is in the hands of the parent, the student will be trained to serve the best set of principles the parents have discovered.

A personal testimony: We were homeschooling our youngest before homeschooling was common. The first thing folks asked, “Is it legal?” My wife was told, “If you can stay just one day ahead of her, you can teach!”

Is homeschooling easy? ABSOLUTELY NOT! Still, one homeschool parent told us, “The most fulfilling time I have as a parent is when I am teaching my child.”

Courtesy Home School Digest, Box 374 Covert MI49043

RELINQUISHING CONTROL

by Betty Daley

I am about to pour my heart out to you, please be kind if you comment! Over the past week, God has been dealing with me about relinquishing my control and allowing Him to take over full time. I think the hardest part of my life to surrender to God is my family. I want to be the one making sure they are safe, healthy and on their way to being productive adults. There is one problem with this, I AM NOT IN CONTROL! As much as I want to control these things, I know that really I can not do it, but God can.

During my times of prayer, God has been showing me where I fail Him on a daily basis. I sort of already knew, but when He speaks, I listen. He isn’t verbally speaking to me, but through His Word, I have been receiving what He wants me to understand. He wants me to let go of my control and allow Him to take the wheel. It has always been easy for me to give Him my life and things, but when it comes to my family, I just didn’t want to let go. These people are my world. I can’t imagine life without them. My husband is my greatest love next to Jesus Christ, yet I was not willing to put him in God’s all powerful hands. My kids are so precious to me, yet I was not capable of allowing God to be their protector. In my head, I know He is way more able to protect and keep my family safe and well, but my head wants to do it myself. I feel like a 2-year-old some days, when I tell God “I will do it myself.”

I have been praying very hard over the last few days

about this subject, and I feel even though it is going to be an on-going battle in my life, that my heart is willing to let God have full control of my family as well as my life. For me it was always easy to say “Here God I am here take me if you want, but please don’t take my family.” Today I sit here and I will tell you that I have made a new statement, “Here I am Lord. I surrender my life as well as my obsession to control what happens to my family. I put them in Your Almighty hands.”

Are you like I was? Do you find it hard to allow God to control every aspect of your life? I encourage you to let it go today. Give God every little piece of your life. Allow Him to be in the driver’s seat of your days and nights. Let Him be your All in All! Don’t hold on to one single thing or person. Put them all in His loving and merciful hands!

Courtesy Home School Digest, Box 374 Covert MI49043

MEMORY VERSES TO LEARN:

Years ago, we compiled a list of important verses for children to memorize, weekly. You might get your children to memorize these (over the next 4 weeks):

Ephesians 2:8 Psalm 42:3
Isaiah 45:7 Joel 2:17b

OUR READERS SAY:

Dear CIM, I know you said there were no more copies of *Planes Without Passengers*, but if you could get me one. I would appreciate it. Regards.— Who-ever it was that asked - it has now come in - an updated version @ \$25 ppd.

Dear CIM. I have known the truth of who we are since 1989. I have always spoken to my family about it. My sister could not understand what I was going on about. Well, it has been 3 years now since I have subscribed your Messenger for her, and the penny has dropped . . . eventually. Praise our Father for He opens eyes and ears! WA (*CIM: It pays to subscribe for others! Give it a go, and put your family on the list and pay for them for a few years.*)

Dear Hank and Wilhelmina, Thank you for supplying all the DVDs that you do. I would not know half as much as I do without the DVDs I have had from you over the years. May God bless you all and your great work. Tasmania.

Thanks to all who responded to my comments about my AF, and thank you for your prayers also. Regarding ‘natural blood thinners,’ I have been taking Vitamin E, fresh garlic, Cayenne Pepper (in capsules), as well as taking Magnesium Citrate (Swisse tablets, and Oxymin Cal-M), COQ10, Vitamin B, and fish oil capsules. (Oximin.com.au is also a good source for made-up colloidal silver, selenium, colloidal minerals, olive-leaf extract, as well as spirulina powder, wheatgrass powder, barleygrass powder and a number of other health products)

I had a echo-cardiogram done at the doctor’s recommendation, and that came back with good results (praise the Lord!). I also had to have another blood test, and a urine test, but won’t have the results of those for some days. A local friend of ours is also suffering from AF but has it much worse and at a younger age.

Thanks again for your letters, orders and support and for your prayers. We hope you’ll find this *Messenger* as enlightening as previous issues. We look forward to hearing from you all again soon, and remember to try and get your children and friends onto the mailing list.

May the God of our fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob bless you and keep you and make His face shine on you and be gracious to you and give you His peace in these difficult and trying times,

