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## Morality and The Future of America

Morality is not optional. The future of an individual, the future of a family, the future of a nation hinges on the character of those entities. The very existence of our country, or any other, rests on the moral fiber of that nation.

This may not be a very popular discussion in our current culture. The individual's response to the very enjoining of the debate will indicate that one's attitude to morality. But no matter what your reaction is, history declares that a nation's hope for continued existence depends on the character of the nation. As Proverbs 14:34 declares, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people." And as Proverbs 16:12 says, "Kings detest wrongdoing, for a throne is established through righteousness."

### What is Morality?

First, let's define what is meant by morality. Morality is not just related to sexual matters. Morality speaks to our concept of right and wrong in all the areas of life. Certainly, sexual morality is part of the package, but morality is a far larger construct than sexuality. Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language lists in its definition of morality: "1. moral quality or character; rightness or wrongness, as of an action 2. the character of *being in accord with the principles or standards of right conduct*; right conduct; sometimes, specif., virtue in sexual conduct 3. principles of right and wrong in conduct 4. a particular system of such principles."

So, morality is a matter of right and wrong. To be sure, right and wrong is understood differently in

various cultures. Nonetheless, it is my position that right and wrong is not a matter of strictly cultural definition, but is defined by a higher authority, namely, God. While it is true that the validity of God's revelation of moral truth will be debated fiercely by many, I believe we can show that much of the debate is not based on truly sincere disagreement as to moral definitions, but often simply an unwillingness to accept what is morally plain.

While some confusion or debate might be honestly engendered by the blurred lines of the present age, for anyone to be unclear on these issues and at the same time profess to be a Christian is unacceptable. This I intend to show, both Scripturally and logically.

### Principles of Right and Wrong

As mentioned earlier, morality is a matter of right and wrong. Some of these principles of right and wrong are easier to see and understand when we apply "archaic" axioms like, "Whatever you would have others do to you, do the same to them." How many questions and situations would be resolved if we just applied this rule!

### Stealing

For instance, suppose we are using the restroom in someone's home, and we notice that the previous guest has left behind a necklace or a ring. We see that the article is very attractive and really compliments the tone of our skin. We are tempted to just drop this article in our pocket and claim it as our own. How easy it would be to rationalize

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this and take the article. But the simple truth is: That would be stealing. The ring, or necklace, does not belong to us.

Something to consider to help put this in perspective is this: If someone, perhaps the owner of this home, were watching me at this moment, would I pick this up and take it? If the answer is no, then we know we should not take it. Perhaps someone will beg the question by saying, "What if the homeowner is a crook, and you know he wouldn't care?" That is an example of someone trying to reach for excuses. A sincere person will simply accept the obvious truth. Insincere persons manufacture alternate scenarios to try and convince themselves and others of a lie.

Do you think this is too simplistic? Are the realities of life more complicated, shades of gray rather than black and white? I submit that they are not gray, but the culture we have produced has rendered them opaque, blurred. Our confusion is the product of our own greed and the society we live in, which has told us that possession is to be preferred to propriety.

## Gossip and Slander

The Golden Rule comes to our rescue again when we consider the words we speak. As James says, "The tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire." (James 3:5, 6) Proverbs 18:21 says, "The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit." When we are about to speak in a derogatory manner about someone, do we consider how we would feel if people were to talk about us in the same way? Are we going to speak

death to this person's reputation, or life? Are we going to speak death to a relationship, or life? Will we help someone build a good name, or burn it down with our words?

How about what we speak TO that person? Do our words speak life to them, affirming their value and giving them strength to make the effort to live rightly, or does their resolve die a little because we wound their sense of worth? Does our speech call them into doubt, cause them to question their motives and character, without reason? Is the tone and attitude of what we speak the same as how we would have others approach us? Even if there is a need for correction, do we take pains to speak to others as we would have them speak to us?

How about revealing secrets that might cast someone's character in a bad light? Proverbs 11:12,13 says, "A man who lacks judgment derides his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his tongue. A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret." Proverbs 17:9 sheds more light on this subject: "He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends."

Here is a case where we can see the right or wrong of a thing by its effect. When we gossip or slander, a reputation suffers. The victim of our gossip is viewed with less respect, and thus deprived in some degree of the benefits which stem from respect. As a result of the slander, perhaps one who was a friend no longer wishes to spend time with the slandered one. Perhaps a business deal which would have taken place does not because a doubt has been placed in the mind of another. Because some mistake which should have been covered over is spread around, loss is caused to

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the person, which is beyond justice for the offense. Harm is done when it need not have been so.

In American law, it is necessary to prove intent to cause harm in order to hold somebody legally liable in matters of libel and slander. But think! If we are so casual in our speech that we cause harm to another's reputation, not thinking ahead about the possible consequences to that person we malign, is that not the opposite of love? Since love seeks the benefit of the other person, is not such carelessness, such indifference, of the same value and effect as hate and evil intent?

Love will find a way to guard the name of others and give them a good reputation to live up to. This is the moral thing to do. True morality is based on a high standard, the standard of love. Love will hold others in high regard unless their behavior establishes the need to warn others legitimately of their criminal character. In that case, one had better have the ability to back up the claim, for no one should needlessly destroy another's name.

## Sexual Morality

There are many countries in this world today that hear of the attitude of American society toward questions of sexual morality and scratch their head in total confusion and dismay. This country, which was founded on a moral base that found its source in the Holy Bible, has for the most part lost all sense of propriety and moral relevance. This has happened rapidly over the last several decades. Our legal system, from the lower courts all the way up to the Supreme Court of the United States, has lost its moorings, and is adrift in a sea of conflicting opinions, precedents and humanist confusion.

Yet, when we are personally wronged in this area, we often see clearly how wrong certain conduct can be. When the woman we love and have committed our lives to; when the woman we have agreed to be monogamous with is found to have given herself sexually to another man; when the man who has promised to reserve himself only for his wife is discovered to be using the services of a prostitute, the betrayed person sees clearly that a wrong has been committed.

Nowadays, when we go to the movies and two people are portrayed as falling in love, it is only expected that they will soon go to bed together, and the spouse of one or the other is shown to be an obstacle to true love, someone to be rid of, to be divorced or deceived. We worship at the altar of "True Love" and the rest be damned! If the parties to the romance are not yet married, then we view their liaison as just a simple "affair."

But the realities of this behavior are clear to those who care to see: Sexual activity with one other than one's spouse not only violates the commitment that has been made, it unfairly exposes the innocent partner to the risk of disease and death. Since the fall of man, sex has never been safe. The act of making love, having sex, by its very nature promotes the exchange of viral and bacterial life which can and does kill, maim and torment. For a person to commit adultery and then return to one's mate for more intimacy is the height of treachery and the very opposite of love.

Do you say, "Well, adultery is wrong, but I don't see a problem with single adults being intimate, since they are not responsible to a mate." Oh, really? Will that single woman or single man one day marry? If in the course of their actions

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they pick up the Herpes virus, or syphilis, or Chlamydia, or gonorrhea, or AIDS, will they not affect their mate then? Yes, it would be the honest thing to inform the other person before becoming intimate, and that person can then decide if they want to assume the risk of intimacy. Still, the simple act of coitus without the commitment of marriage is a breach of trust in advance.

## Safe Sex?

“Well then, they need to practice safe sex.” This is the lie the promiscuous croak. Safe sex is supposed to mean latex condoms. The hawkers of “safe sex” don’t inform you that condoms fail in 30% of cases when subjected to the rigors of sexual intercourse. Some sources claim 95% success in protection, but that is misinformation. There may be that success rate in preventing pregnancy, but not in preventing VD. The averages here mean that if you have sex four times with someone who has the AIDS virus, using a latex condom, the virus will be transmitted from the other person to you during one of those encounters. Do you like those odds?

The only way sex can be called “safe” is when two individuals who have never had sexual intercourse commit themselves in marriage to each other and never share their sexuality with anyone else, for life. As a matter of fact, that was God’s original intention. Genesis 2:24 says, “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.” Jesus Himself quoted this verse on the matter of marriage as recorded at Matthew 19:4-6: “‘Haven’t you read,’ he replied, ‘that at the beginning the Creator made them male and female and said, “For this reason a man will leave

his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?’” So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore, what God has joined together, let man not separate.’”

## The Purpose of Sexuality

Now the purpose of the sexual organs is plain. It is a beautifully fitted pair of members which was created to do what? To pass life on to a new generation...To make BABIES! Yes, it is a means of completing the union of the bodies of a man and woman, and they can be their closest in that moment. In the case of two who love each other, it is a wonderful moment of blissful intimacy, but it has an obvious purpose, and that is: PROCREATION. The sexual organs are not toys, not playthings, given to just be fun. Assuredly, it can be fun, and that is an added blessing, but it is a joy reserved for those who will accept the responsibility which goes with it.

## The Fruit of Hedonism: Infanticide

Throughout the ages, people have ignored this simple truth and become enflamed in their passions, indulging in sexual activities for the solely selfish purpose of feeling good. Before long, there is a crop of babies which were not expected and not wanted. Responsible people would then accept the reality of life and care for those children. But what do these hedonistic people do when unwanted babies arrive? In the time of the prophet Jeremiah, they were sacrificing them to false gods. Jeremiah 32:35 says, “They built high places for Baal in the valley of Ben Hinnom to sacrifice their sons and daughters to Molech, though I never commanded, nor did it enter my mind, that they should do such a detestable thing

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and so make Judah sin.”

Today, when this false view of sexuality produces the same result of unwanted babies, a more high-tech solution is invoked: Abortion. Since the Supreme Court decision of 1973 in *Roe v. Wade*, the people of the United States alone have put to death over 43,000,000 babies in the womb. In sanitized clinic rooms, child after child is killed so as to “protect the life (read: comfort) of the mother.” Almost without exception, the motive of the woman in getting an abortion is the same as that of the child-sacrifices in Judah mentioned above: It is the worship of a false god, the god of self. Self-interest is placed above all other concerns, and the child is not able to defend itself against such a malevolent parent.

The argument of the abortionists, the baby-killers, is hollow and transparent. When they cry for the “rights of women to say what happens to their bodies,” they are really saying, “Women want to do what they want, when they want it, with no repercussions.” The hard, cold truth is there will always be repercussions. The woman who resorts to abortion, and the man who is complicit in this murder, are left with a burden of guilt that is never muted, only sublimated. There is either the guilt manifested as sorrow, or the guilt revealed in a hardness, an anger against men, or self. Why would that be?

That is because an abortion strikes at the very root of existence. The deepest, unconscious drive in a woman is to reproduce. She has a tremendous need to bear a child or children. When she succumbs to her selfishness and kills her child, she has violated the very foundation of her existence and will pay a heavy price in her own emotional

state. Even though the man seems to get off scott-free by the elimination of the child, he too has a basic need to contribute to the giving of life and will bear a similar guilt.

## Homosexuality

We live in a world which has rapidly changed when it comes to public acceptance of homosexual behavior. In the 1950’s, anyone openly declaring himself or herself to be a homosexual in most areas of the United States was subject to immediate scorn and rejection, if not possible arrest when such a person tried to act on that tendency. In the 1960’s laws began to change and the homosexual “lifestyle” began to be more accepted. Today the homosexual agenda is in full tilt and has almost elevated such people to the status of “superhuman” as far as rights and privileges go. Newspapers today refer to the “gay” lifestyle as if it were an especially blessed segment of society, with blissful superiority to poor, deprived heterosexuals. Anyone who would disagree with that observation has not been paying attention.

As mentioned above, the purpose of the sexual organs is obvious. Humans are the only ones who are confused on this issue. The male and female members are marvelous provisions for the preservation of life. They are designed to pass life on in the form of babies. While it is a pleasant act, it is clearly designed for that purpose, not for entertainment. Using the sex organs for recreational deviation is fraught with great danger.

Leviticus Chapter 18 is full of prohibitions regarding sexual behavior. This is part of the Law of Moses, as led by the Spirit of God. It all

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boils down to the point again that a man is to have relations with his wife, a male with a female, and not anything other than that. In this list of things not to do sexually, verse 22 says, "Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable."

In Chapter 20 of Exodus, we have the position restated in terms of "if" a person does thus and so. In verse 13 Moses teaches, "If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads." There are other situations of deviant sexual behavior mentioned in this chapter, but for now we are focusing on the subject of homosexuality.

One thing to remember in this context is that Israel was a nation governed by laws in a theocracy. God was the absolute ruler and His laws shaped the justice system. When Jesus came, he fulfilled that Law when He died on the cross, taking the punishment for all sins on Himself. It is not recorded that He mentioned homosexuality. One reason for no specific mention of it may be that no one dared to exhibit that behavior in Israel. They would have been executed.

Jesus did speak in broader terms, however, in the matter of sexual sin. When challenged on the subject of the hand-washing tradition of the Pharisees, Jesus said this: "But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, *sexual immorality*, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what *make a man 'unclean'*; but eating with unwashed hands does not make a man 'unclean.'" (Matthew 15:18-20)

An honest student of the Bible will admit that homosexual behavior is included in the term *porneia*, which is here translated "sexual immorality." So although Jesus is never recorded as using the term "homosexual," it is included in this general term. An important point to make at this point is in the matter of punishment for behavior. In the Mosaic system, matters of immorality were often punishable with death. The treatment Jesus gave to the woman caught in adultery is instructive in this regard.

## Dealing With Sexual Deviation

The record of this event is in John 8:3-11. A woman is brought to Jesus who has been caught in the act of adultery. The Law of Moses called for her to be stoned to death. Jesus was asked what they should do. Here is where the classic rebuttal occurs: "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." When no one takes Him up on it, he tells the woman, "Then neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more." In the Jesus-method, people are offered forgiveness and told to abandon sin, not stoned to death. This does not change the nature and repulsiveness of the sin, just the end result. Through repentance and turning from sin there is hope.

Now, back to our train of thought: Those who would persuade us that this deviant behavior is acceptable try to convince us by 1) rejecting the Mosaic proscription as part of the Old Covenant, along with its "bizarre" regulations about animal sacrifice and rules of diet. Then they try to make the case above that Jesus did not use the term "homosexual." When, however, we show them the writings of the Apostle Paul, they, as one writer in The Tennessean newspaper put it, call

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them the “rantings of the Apostle Paul.”

## The “Rantings” Of The Apostle Paul

Such a retreat to absurdity simply shows the desperate nature of these people. They refuse to acknowledge the clear expression of the Word of God and reject anything which would call them to account. Well, we are going to include the so-called “rantings” of the Apostle Paul, because he, along with the other writers of the Bible, was inspired by the Holy Spirit. In Romans Chapter One, Paul begins his treatise on the condition of man and God’s solution to the problem. He is establishing in Chapters One and Two that all mankind is guilty of sin and therefore deserving of judgment.

At Romans 1:24-27, after describing the progression of human degradation, Paul says, “Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the *degrading of their bodies with one another*. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

“Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were enflamed with lust for one another. *Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.*”

He goes on in verses 28-32, “Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be

done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God’s righteous decree that *those who do such things deserve death*, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.”

I can hear the retort already! “See! Homosexuality is just another sin like envy, murder, strife, etc.” Actually, Paul seems here to be saying that the other sins are consequential to the sin of homosexuality and compound it. To be sure, there are any number of sins to take into consideration, and all will send a man to hell if he does not repent of them and leave a life of sin behind. But if the above is your argument, you are still left with the harsh reality that homosexuality is “deserving of death,” according to Paul.

Again, if you accept the Bible as God’s Word, then you can’t discount Paul’s writings as “rantings” and discard their import. To do so is simply dishonest and hypocritical. If you don’t believe these words, you don’t believe in anything about the Christian Faith, for this is part and parcel with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are called to repent from these sins, accept the death of Jesus on the Cross as the penalty for our sins and commit our lives to His Lordship so that He can enable us to live holy lives, not carnal, fleshly lives.

That call to holiness is so strict that Paul also wrote in Ephesians 5:3, “But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or

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of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people." In verses 5 and 6 he says, "For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for *because of such things God's wrath comes* on those who are disobedient."

## The Fruit Of Sexual Immorality

Among Paul's words above, we saw this: "Men committed indecent acts with other men, and *received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.*" In the early 1980's a new scourge raised its fiercesome face: HIV-AIDS. This 20th Century plague apparently had its human origins in Africa and migrated throughout the world primarily through sexual activity. Randy Shilts, in his book "And The Band Played On," demonstrates how it was brought to America in the 1970's. New York City was the destination of people from all over the world in 1976 when America celebrated her Bi-Centennial. The homosexual community in New York welcomed their visitors with careless abandon and revelry. Unknown to themselves, they acquired the virus which develop into AIDS.

Members of the homosexual community later traveled to the "Mecca" of homosexual devotees, San Francisco, to participate in the Gay Pride Parades. There, thousands of such men and women wantonly engaged in all sorts of vile sexual practices in parties, bath houses and such. With the aid of narcotics peculiar to the sexually deviant, men embraced multiple partners, engaging in activities which exponentially multiplied the exchange of blood and bodily fluids between them.

## Knowingly Risking All

Although they were well acquainted with numerous health risks in such insane behavior such as; Hepatitis B, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, Giardia and others, these men and women chose to ignore the consequences of their actions and engaged in orgy after orgy of uninhibited sexual acts. It is amazing how these men and women could knowingly risk their health for the sake of personal pleasure. They "receive in themselves the due penalty for their perversion," not so much as something God sends, but as something God tries to protect them from and they refuse His protection.

These are the kinds of things the Apostle Paul describes in Ephesians 4:17-19: "So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more." No attempt will be made here to give a detailed description of this behavior, for as Paul says in Ephesians 5:12, "It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret."

Even some of their fellow homosexuals were astounded at the riotous manner of their sexual escapades. In the book mentioned above, Shilts writes about a young man named Kico. "Where was the affection? he wondered. Where was the interaction of mind and body that creates a meaningful sexual experience? It was as if these people, who had been made so separate from

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society by virtue of their sexuality, were now making their sexuality utterly separate from themselves. Their bodies were tools through which they could experience physical sensation. The complete focus on the physical aspect of sex meant constantly devising new, more extreme sexual acts because the experience relied on heightened sensory rather than emotional stimulation. Kico thought it ironic that a community so entirely based on love should create institutions so entirely devoid of intimacy.”

As a result of all this Bacchanalian behavior, the HIV virus passed rapidly into hundreds, thousands of bodies; bodies of men who sought out multiple sexual encounters with multiple partners as a way of life. After the Gay Pride festivities were over, many returned to their cities of origin, thus spreading the virus all through the United States and subsequently through the world.

In the early 1980’s, when the disease was identified and its means of transmission discovered, the most bizarre scene imaginable played out. Blood drives were instituted in which it was politically incorrect to exclude homosexuals. California legally protected the disease rather than the public, by forbidding the quarantining of victims and precluding the identification of previous partners. It was as if Satan himself was in charge of medical practice. For the first time in human history, a fatal, highly communicable disease was legally protected. That was all because of the outrageous political clout of the militant homosexuals.

After totally innocent people began to contract AIDS from blood transfusions because of contamination of the blood supply, the red cross

finally began to screen out people who were engaging in practices which spread the virus: homosexuality and sharing of needles in drug use.

(I don’t use the word “gay.” Such are the opposite of gay. Using that term is their act of denial.) The homosexual subculture was anxious that their gains in public acceptance would be lost because of the disease, so they downplayed the threat of exposure, claiming heterosexuals had nothing to worry about. It wasn’t long till that lie was debunked, when women began transmitting the virus to male partners and their unborn children.

As the public became more aware of the threat, national sexual practices altered. We had just gone through the “sexual revolution” of the 60’s and 70’s and many people were of the persuasion that “if it feels good, do it.” Now, as more facts emerged about HIV, people began to discover on their own the wisdom of Biblical moral standards. Monogamy was suddenly seen as a great blessing, a protection against disease. Commitment before sexual union was seen as a true necessity.

## They Still Don’t ‘Get It’

Hollywood never got the message, not to the point they would show responsible behavior on the silver screen. Not to the point that the soap operas on TV would display responsible conduct. Today, one could almost imagine there is no problem with promiscuity, if the entertainment media were the touchstone of truth. That is one reason why we continue to have an increasing venereal disease rate, and the AIDS virus continues to be spread, because those who contract it are too often simply uncaring about their behavior. They are, as Paul

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prophesied, “lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.” (2 Timothy 3:4)

Today we know that millions are dying due to the AIDS virus. In spite of the fact that this plague was unleashed on the world almost entirely because of the wanton behavior of the homosexual community, those same people continue to try to persuade us of their legitimacy. Had they not been so brazen and out of control, much more time would have been available to understand and prevent this disease. As it is, the world can now see vividly why such actions are sins in the eyes of God. But for some, no lesson is clear enough. Those who are determined to live in sin will do so till they die an early death.

## What Can Christians Do?

So what do we do about such immorality and those who practice it? As a Christian there are several things we can and should do. We must pray that God will bring revelation of the truth to this nation and other nations, that they will see the glory of God’s Son, Jesus Christ, and put their faith in Him. A true spiritual awakening will lead the people to right conduct. It will restore sanity to American mores. We should pray that God will raise up men and women who can declare the gospel with convicting power under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

We must continue to reach out in love to all people, including homosexuals, and challenge them with the truth of the Gospel. Attitudes of hatred and acts of hatred are not compatible with the Christian ethic. Sinners of all persuasions are to be won with love to the grace of God. Even so, we cannot agree with some who propound a fantasy

theology, saying that the sin is O.K. and not an obstacle to peace with God. Sin stands between us and God, barring the way to fellowship. It is only when we repent of sin and commit ourselves to a loving Creator by means of Christ that we can be close to God. For someone to take the office of bishop in the Church and live in a homosexual relationship is a blatant rejection of God’s will and a huge blow to the witness of the Body of Christ. It sends confusion and delusion to those who are considering becoming Christians.

Christians can also make their influence known in the political arena. We have an obligation to do so. We need to find and support men in office who will insist on a moral fabric for this country. The slippery slope we are on now is the result of the homosexual community worming its way into places of political power, especially via the Democratic Party, and painting themselves as victims that need redress. It is time for Christians with the power to shape the political arena to step up to the plate.

It is time for Christians with power in the realms of entertainment and news to create media that reflects a moral perspective, a moral world view, a “Christian consensus” as Francis Schaeffer called it. It is time for Christians to call for intense prayer, to cry out to God for revival in this land and around the world. It is time for Christians to become aggressive in their sharing of the Gospel with the world, with our neighbors.

## What Does The Future Hold For America?

What the future holds for America depends on what America does. If America continues on this downward spiral of immorality, justifying and

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approving every sort of debauchery, pretending it is acceptable, America is going to fall. The greatest threat to the existence of this country is not Islam, Communism, or any other Ism, but rather its own corruption.

The Bible uses the figure of a tree quite often. The nation of Israel, the people of Israel, were to be called "Big Oaks of Righteousness." The man who meditates on the Law of the Lord is likened to a tree planted firmly by streams of water, that yields its fruit in season. Along the stream of water coming out of the New Jerusalem are trees which yield fruit year round, whose leaves are for the healing of the nations. (Revelation 22:2)

America has the opportunity, the responsibility to become like that tree. Jesus said, "by their fruit you will know them. A good tree does not produce bad fruit and a bad tree does not produce good fruit." What kind of tree will America be? If it continues down this path of immorality, treating sin with carelessness, it will rot from within and soon fall an easy prey to a weak foe. Of America the statement will become fulfilled, "How have the mighty fallen!" In many ways, America has already fallen, in a moral sense.

If however, America rallies, seeks the face of God and restores Christian morality to a place of ascendancy, America will survive and be the shining light that God desires for it to be. As God spoke to Solomon in 2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and *turn* from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

The future of America lies in the hands of America. If this country will return to being a land that honors God and gives free room to the recognition of Jesus Christ in public and private facilities; if this country rejects immorality and crime and violence; if this country adopts a culture of Christian ethical lifestyle, then this country has a future. If not, America will soon go the way of all the empires which were consumed by the same corruption America is now tolerating.

Only God knows what the future holds for America.

We invite your response to this message. If you have prayed to receive Christ, please let us know, and seek out a church where Jesus is the focus of attention. If you feel led to contribute to this effort, send correspondence to:

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