

Wednesday, October 29, 2014

SWITCHING SCANDALS

"You can tell a lot about a society by its taboos. Several weeks ago, America reeled when Adrian Peterson—the great NFL running back of his generation—was indicted on charges of “reckless or negligent injury to a child.” Peterson is alleged to have disciplined his son by “whooping” him—these are Peterson’s words, not mine—with a “switch.” The child, a 4-year-old boy, suffered cuts on his backside and thighs. For this act, which 50 years ago was commonplace, Peterson was arrested, suspended by his employer (the Minnesota Vikings), and publicly castigated by all and sundry. Unremarked upon was the fact that the 29-year-old Peterson does not live with this boy and reportedly has seven children—that we currently know about—with five different women. Which illustrates nicely the changing mores in America: Corporal punishment is a scandal, or even a crime, but there is no judgment about men who father children out of wedlock and then abandon the vulnerable mothers and children. Yet only one of these pathologies poses an existential threat to our society."

http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/our-endangered-species_816382.html

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 13:13

WITCHES, VAMPIRES AND ZOMBIES, TOO

Halloween is second only to Christmas in popularity and money spent. What does that and the choice of costume tell us about Americans?

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2014/10/27/359324848/witches-vampires-and-pirates-5-years-of-americas-most-popular-costumes>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 09:40

Saturday, October 25, 2014

MEDIA COVERAGE EXAGGERATES EBOLA RISK

"Transmission of Ebola requires direct contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person that is showing symptoms. It requires extremely close contact. It's not that easy to transmit at all, which is one of the reasons it doesn't spread quickly and can be contained through modern medicine and precautionary techniques. This is why there's not as great of a risk of an outbreak in a developed country"

<http://www.stratfor.com/video/conversation-us-media-coverage-ebola-exceeds-transmission-risk#axzz3HACKcaee>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:51

Wednesday, October 22, 2014

VIRULENT MULTICULTURALISM

"Multiculturalism" is not only appreciating and preserving cultural diversity on both essential and non-essential levels. It is also the perspective that each Culture is to be respected as of equal value, none "better" than the other. However, many advocates of Multiculturalism seem determined to denigrate in the most severe terms the essential Christian Culture of which I am writing.

Whereas Multiculturalism is so highly valued by many in America and this virulent form of it is increasing daily and whereas Christians in America are becoming a cultural minority, it is very important that we understand exactly what core Biblical Culture is and unashamedly commit to develop and maintain its essentials. The admonition of Romans 12:2 is that Christians not conform to the majority cultures of the world

The commands of 1 Peter 2:11-12 remain needed more than ever: 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light... 11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, ... 12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. [NIV]

And also the commands of 3:13-21

15 For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. 16 Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. 17 Show proper respect to everyone ... 20 But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his steps.

Rather than assimilate pagan culture, we should walk in the Light and stand firm in the essential Values of our Christian and Biblical Culture.

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 11:29

ESSENTIAL CHRISTIAN CULTURE

Christians may and do enjoy and value a diversity of peripheral cultural matters, but we are joined together, wherever we live, as a recognizable social group by core beliefs, morals and values which are Biblical. These are the essential core of Christian (not American) Culture-

The following values are 7 ideal marks of that essential Biblical Culture (regardless of how well we practice it)

Life- Core Christian Culture is very pro-life in every sense.

Marriage- Defined as a life-long, committed relationship between a man and a woman, Marriage is very highly valued.

Divorce is disapproved. Virginity before Marriage and Marital Fidelity in Marriage is greatly valued.

Family- Parenthood and children are desired and valued; abortion is strongly disapproved; extended, cross generational families are the norm; children honor (respect) their parents and the elderly are respected by all.

Individual Responsibility- individual persons are accountable and responsible to God, themselves, their family and church for their decisions and actions

Work- everyone who is able works throughout life for the welfare of the family and community. Social, Economic and Political Freedom to work is highly valued.

Biblical Welfare- People who become destitute due to circumstances beyond their control are the responsibility- first, of their extended family and then, of the Church and then, of the local community

Biblical Religion- Christian Culture, above all, is Christian. It is centered on the worship and service of the God who has revealed Himself in Creation, Scripture and, particularly, in Jesus Christ. People who share Christian Culture see themselves as the Covenant People of God. This is their primary identity, no matter what their ethnicity, first language or country of origin may be.

Blog Export: DUTCH TREAT- Cal Fox's Blog, <http://www.calvinfox.com/blog/>

The above seven Values are the essential marks of Christian Culture. An important task for the Church is to help Christians to be very flexible about peripheral non-essentials and to stand firm in these essentials.

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 11:26

Tuesday, October 21. 2014

51% OF AMERICA CHURCH MEMBERS ARE PROTESTANTS

The Landscape Survey confirms that the United States is on the verge of becoming a minority Protestant country; the number of Americans who report that they are members of Protestant denominations now stands at barely 51%. Moreover, the Protestant population is characterized by significant internal diversity and fragmentation, encompassing hundreds of different denominations loosely grouped around three fairly distinct religious traditions - evangelical Protestant churches (26.3% of the overall adult population), mainline Protestant churches (18.1%) and historically black Protestant churches (6.9%).

26.3% of adult Americans belong to Evangelical churches today. When I was born 76 years ago most Americans were Protestant and most of them were Evangelicals.

<http://religions.pewforum.org/reports#>

Posted by Cal in Church at 12:57

43% OF AMERICANS ARE UNCHURCHED

Since 1990, the percentage of unchurched adults in America has risen from 30% to 43% of the population. Even as this segment has grown, has their profile changed?

With the aid of more than two decades of tracking research—a sort of cultural time-lapse photography—Barna Group has discovered real and significant shifts in unchurched attitudes, assumptions, allegiances and behaviors. We've identified five trends in our research that are contributing to this increase in the churchless of America.

<https://www.barna.org/barna-update/culture/685-five-trends-among-the-unchurched#.VEaOTxY4KHH>

Posted by Cal in Church at 12:51

37% OF AMERICANS ARE "POST-CHRISTIAN"

"Based on Barna's aggregate metric, nearly two-fifths of the nation's adult population (37%) qualifies as post-Christian. This includes 9% of Americans who are highly post-Christian—lacking engagement in 80% or more of the measures of belief, practice or commitment. And another one-quarter is moderately post-Christian (28%), without engaging at least 60% of the factors.

Barna's study includes a ranking of the nation's largest 96 markets, from most to least post-Christian. The big picture is that the leading post-Christian markets are in the Northeast and in the West. The gap between the most post-Christian city (Albany, NY) and least (Shreveport, LA) is 63% to 12%, respectively. These city-by-city rankings can be found at the company's new website www.cities.barna.org."

<https://www.barna.org/barna-update/culture/608-hpca#.VEaL6BY4KHG>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 12:41

Friday, October 17, 2014

SERMONS SUBPOENAED

City seeks sermons to see if they were used for political purposes

<http://www.religionnews.com/2014/10/14/houston-subpoenas-pastors-sermons-equal-rights-ordinance-case-prompting-utcry/>

Update: Houston backs down from request [\[here\]](#)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:33

Thursday, October 16, 2014

WINNERS IN THE WAR AGAINST ISIS

"Let's paint a picture of the world right now," Epstein says. "You've got the Europeans worried about what the Russians are doing in their backyard; we've got our hands full right now in Iraq; you've got the Israelis with their hands full in their region; and then you have the Chinese and Japanese in the South China Sea. As an investor, with this much regional conflict in the world, ..., that can't be bad." [!]

The military-industrial complex is in overdrive, with Defense Contractors of all kinds reaping huge profits. As it has so often been in the past, War is profitable and good for the Country or at least for all the businesses and the workers employed in related industries. This article reports where millions of our tax dollars are going in the "war" against ISIS http://fortune.com/2014/09/13/defense-industry-winner-against-isis/?xid=ob_rss

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:28

TESTIMONY FROM A "CUTTER"

<http://www.churchandculture.org/blog.asp?id=7548>

How a young adult went from shedding her own blood when she came to know Jesus shed his for her. -a very touching testimony

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 08:58

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

HOW ARE WE TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS?

The Bible reveals very practical ways we are to love others. I have summarized them on my new post at <http://www.reformedliving.org/>

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 10:33

Monday, October 13, 2014

DOES YOUR CHURCH MINISTER TO THESE AMERICANS?

Americans are far more likely to kill themselves than each other. Homicides have fallen by half since 1991, but the U.S. suicide rate keeps climbing. The nearly 40,000 American lives lost each year make suicide the nation's 10th-leading cause of death, and the second-leading killer for those ages 15-34. Each suicide costs society about \$1 million in medical and lost-work expenses and emotionally victimizes an average of 10 other people.

<http://www.usatoday.com/longform/news/nation/2014/10/09/suicide-mental-health-prevention-research/15276353/>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 09:11

Saturday, October 11. 2014

FLU: GREATER THREAT THAN EBOLA

The flu may not sound very scary, but it kills far more people every year than Ebola does. The exact number of people who die each year from seasonal flu virus is the subject of much debate, but the CDC puts the average number of annual deaths in the United States somewhere between 3,000 and 49,000.

The large variation in yearly deaths arises because many flu deaths are not reported as such, so the CDC relies on statistical methods to estimate the number. Another reason for this wide range is that annual flu seasons vary in severity and length, depending on what influenza viruses are most prominent. In years when influenza A (H3N2) viruses are prominent, death rates are typically more than double what they are in seasons when influenza A (H1N1) or influenza B viruses predominate, according to the CDC.

A highly contagious virus, influenza sickens far more people than it kills, with an estimated 3 million to 5 million people becoming seriously ill yearly from influenza viruses. Worldwide, the flu causes an estimated 250,000 to 500,000 deaths every year, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

<http://www.livescience.com/47340-viruses-scarier-than-ebola.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 20:05

GOD CREATED "GENDER"

The uni-sex society is not a good idea. Neither is the idea that "gender" is a social construct. In creating us, God created sexual gender and that is an essential part of what makes us human beings. We shall still be sexual beings when we are in Heaven. The following is an excerpt from an extensive Essay I wrote and posted on my website [HERE]

"There shall be sex (ie- gender) in heaven, but not physical intercourse. There is no need for physical sex in Heaven, no need for the physical union of a man and woman and no need for procreation. (Luke 20:27-36) These physical activities are not what we shall be about in Heaven.

[However] Gender and Sexuality is spiritual, mental and emotional, as well physical. It is these spiritual, mental and emotional qualities, derived from being male or female, that are essential to being a person, as well as to being individuals. And this is the definition I have in mind here for "Sexuality". This understanding of sexuality is known and demonstrated by everyone's experience. The resurrection involves the glorification of all that we are as individual persons, including these spiritual, mental and emotional aspects or dimensions of sexuality. In this sense, the Risen Jesus remains sexual (a male) and this explains how we, too, shall enjoy "sex" (gender and gender traits) in Heaven after our "bodily" resurrection.

[After his resurrection, Jesus said] "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have," (Luke 24:39).

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 10:15

Friday, October 10, 2014

NO MORE BOYS AND GIRLS IN SCHOOL

'Gender inclusive' school district says drop 'boys and girls,' call kids 'purple penguins'
gender-inclusive-school-district-says-drop-boys-and-girls-call-kids-purple/?Gen.1:27 So God created man ... male and female he created them. Gen. 2:7 then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. 21 [T]he LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs ... 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said "... she shall be called Woman"

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 13:42

Saturday, October 4, 2014

THIS RAPTURE MOVIE BOMBS

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2014/october-web-only/left-behind.html>

Why the public fascination with apocalyptic, disaster, end of the world stories?

The classic text for "The Rapture" was not intended to put fear into non-Believers but to encourage Believers- see 1 Thes. 4:13-18

Posted by Cal in Bible Topics at 10:46

Wednesday, October 1, 2014

ANSWERING THE PRO-CHOICE CANDIDATES

"Not long ago, it would have been unusual for a Democratic senatorial candidate in Iowa to run a powerful abortion-rights television ad like the one recently broadcast by Representative Bruce Braley. The ad lists in detail the anti-abortion positions taken by Mr. Braley's Republican opponent, Joni Ernst. In the State Senate, the ad says, she sponsored a "personhood" amendment (declaring a fertilized egg to be a person) that would have the effect of outlawing abortion even in cases of rape or incest, and would also ban many common forms of birth control. Ms. Ernst is even shown saying at a debate that she favors criminal punishment for doctors who perform abortions; the ad describes her position as "radical."

"Ms. Ernst's personhood ideas, shared by at least five other Republican candidates for United States Senate this year, have been radical for years. What's new is that Democrats are increasingly willing to say so. For years they were cowed by the religious right into changing the subject when abortion or birth control or same-sex marriage came up. But now, increasingly assured that public opinion supports their positions, Democrats have become more aggressive in challenging Republicans about their beliefs."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/29/opinion/the-tide-of-the-culture-war-shifts.html?>

These "personhood ideas" may be ridiculed by Liberal Democrats, but should the alleged public support describing the ideas as radical make any difference to a Bible Believing Christian? Can you cogently answer the Liberal challenge?

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 15:12