

Fulton County Gospel News

Good News About Christ And His Church For All Of The World

"...Christ is the head of the church: and He is the Savior of the body." - Ephesians 5:23

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The Death Of Respect For Life

(Twenty-One Years of Slaughter, and Counting...)
January 22, 1973 - January 22, 1994

by Ted J. Clarke

On January 22, 1973 the United States Supreme Court legalized abortion on demand, almost without restriction. In the twenty-one years since that day over 1-1/2 million babies have been reported aborted each year. Those are reported cases. Who knows how many are unreported? That totals over 31-1/2 million babies, five times the number of Jews destroyed by Hitler's Nazis in WW II. How can we put faces on 31-1/2 million babies in order to make the slaughter seem real to us? It has happened so much in twenty-one years that many are not even bothered by it any more. Others don't want to hear about it. When the subject comes up, they would rather flip on by it quickly, much like we do with our TV remote controls when we see starving third world children. We cannot ignore the problem. We must love life, children, and our country too much to ignore it. Plus, we have to stand for the sanctity of life as set out in God's word. Brethren and friends, if God's people will not take a stand against the slaughter of the innocents, **who will?**

Think of it this way - the population of Arkansas is 2,286,357; Missouri, 4,916,766; Texas, 14,225,513; Tennessee, 4,591,023; Kansas, 2,364,236; and Oklahoma, 3,025,487. That is a combined population of 31,409,382, a hundred thousand short of the abortion totals of the past twenty-one years. You or some of your family may live in one or more of those states. What if someone began killing off the people in those states at the rate of 1-1/2 million a year? Would you work to try to put a stop to such atrocities? Would you support the people who did such things? To consider the magnitude of such carnage, look at the list below of the top 26 cities in the U.S. population wise. The population of these metropolitan centers is slightly over 31-1/2 million. Imagine no one living in New York, Los Angeles or Chicago (or the 23 other cities

listed). If you can do that, you begin to see the terrible extent of this sin in our society.

Population of U.S. Cities		
Rank	City	1988
1	New York, N.Y.	7,352,700
2	Los Angeles, Cal.	3,352,710
3	Chicago, Ill.	2,977,520
4	Houston, Tex.	1,698,090
5	Philadelphia, Pa.	1,647,000
6	San Diego, Cal.	1,070,310
7	Detroit, Mich.	1,035,920
8	Dallas, Tex.	987,360
9	San Antonio, Tex.	941,150
10	Phoenix, Ariz.	923,750
11	Baltimore, Md.	751,400
12	San Jose, Cal.	738,420
13	San Francisco, Cal.	731,600
14	Indianapolis, Ind.	727,130
15	Memphis, Tenn.	645,190
16	Jacksonville, Fla.	635,430
17	Washington, D.C.	617,000
18	Milwaukee, Wis.	599,380
19	Boston, Mass.	577,830
20	Columbus, Oh.	569,570
21	New Orleans, La.	531,700
22	Cleveland, Oh.	521,370
23	El Paso, Tex.	510,970
24	Seattle, Wash.	502,200
25	Denver, Col.	492,200
26	Nashville-Davidson, Tn.	481,400
	TOTAL	31,619,300

Abortion is murder, the taking of innocent life. It is a sin (Genesis 9:6; Romans 1:29; Galatians 5:21 et al). The consequences do not seem so great because the baby has not experienced life outside the mother's womb. It has not been held and nursed. The baby is relatively unknown, but is it less of a murder to kill an innocent unknown? Neither you nor I **know** most people who are murdered. Is the murder less important because the victim was "a nobody"? Surely not!

Not all of the consequences of abortion are seen in the death of innocent babies. We are seeing **the death of respect for life** in this country. The mindset of our time is, "If anything gets in the way of your happiness, get rid of

it, even if you have to blow it away (kill)." Abortion started out by being demanded in the cases of rape or incest. The child so conceived is still innocent and to destroy it is still murder. We pity the woman so abused, but abortion is a more horrible crime than the woman suffered. How can that be right? There would be far fewer cases of rape and incest if men were swiftly tried and executed for the shameful sin and crime. The truth is that fewer than 5% of abortions are on rape and incest victims. This is only an emotional smokescreen to stir up support for abortion. **Most abortions are performed as a method of birth control**, all because people want to fornicate (or married couples have sex) without taking precautions to prevent conception. Abortion is mainly sought because of selfish irresponsibility.

Loss of respect for life is also seen in other areas. Dr. Jack Kevorkian has been promoting doctor assisted suicide (self-murder) with relative impunity. He has helped several seriously ill people kill themselves, rather than deal with the problems of life. Death, sickness and pain are real consequences of sin which God placed upon mankind (Genesis 3). These things are meant to remind us of sin, our need for God's strength and grace, and to make heaven our goal, because there is no pain nor death there (Romans 8:18; Revelation 21:1-5; 22:1-5). God is the Creator of life and He alone has the right to determine the time and manner of our death. In some parts of the medical profession there are those who believe that society should be allowed to "put to sleep" (like a dog) all those who become a burden on society. Their definition of "a burden on society" often means anyone who has to be cared for in major ways by others. In other words, if you are old and cannot contribute to the welfare of the rest of the population in some meaningful way, or if you are sick or in a nursing home and require the care of others, then society ought to have the right to make the decision to exterminate you. Of course,

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those in favor of such action call it "euthanasia," meaning "good death." These same people are the ones who like to call abortion "birth control."

Brethren and friends, opposing abortion is not a political matter. It is a matter of upholding righteousness and God's word. Pray about these things. Speak out against it; write letters to your congressmen, senators, and President. Talk to your children, grandchildren and any whom you can influence about the preciousness of life and the sin of shedding innocent blood. Many of us will be gone twenty years from now. What kind of society will we leave for our descendants? One in which God is honored as Creator, or one worse than our present one?

(The source of population figures - World Almanac, 1991.)

WHAT DOES GOD COUNT?

I counted dollars while God counted crosses.

I counted gains while He counted losses.

I counted my worth by the things held in store,

But He sized me up by the scars that I bore.

*I coveted honors and sought for degrees,
He wept as He counted the time on my knees.*

*And I never knew 'til one day at a grave,
how vain are the things that we spend
life to save.*

(Author Unknown)

POLITICAL CORRECTNESS

by Burt Jones

The latest darling of the left wing, neurotic, intolerant, pseudo-intellectual is something termed "political correctness." This newly-coined expression is simply an attempt by some with nothing better to do than attempt to discourage folks from expressing ideas or phrases that are offensive to them. The other side of this debate is an effort to prevent individuals or groups from phrasing their ideas in ways that are gratuitously hurtful. Now, the first is censorship; the second, common courtesy. The framers of our Constitution ignored these differences as well. The First Amendment makes no mention of either. That is probably for the best. Our government, heavily endowed with Biblical principles, has no more business telling us to speak courteously than it does telling us not to speak at all. But that does not make courtesy unimportant. Nor does it render illegitimate the efforts of certain brethren to encourage people to treat each other with the courtesy, respect and dignity they deserve.

Can we not see that changing what a person or a group may be called does not change what we may feel? Respect for one's actions must be earned, not demanded. We may refer to shoplifters as "non-traditional shoppers," serial killers as "persons with a dysfunctional tendency toward socio-economic maladjustment," or to the dead as "terminally inconvenienced," but the nature of what they are does not change.

As someone said, "If today you want to be praised as a hero, simply speak out for the rights of sodomites... (forgive me - "gays"), and for the liberties of the infant murderer... (sorry - "pro-choice advocate"), or for the freedom of adulterers and fornicators... (whoops - "open relationships") and you will be viewed as a great liberator." Ethical and spiritual authority are tucked away in a dank and dark cellar as were mentally deranged relatives in another time.

Let your twentieth century imagination run wild as you envision just how the "let's agree to disagree" bunch might interpret, "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell" (Matthew 23:33) to be politically correct. Or, "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost; as your

fathers did, so do ye" (Acts 7:51). Or, "So then because thou art lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth" (Revelations 3:16). To even hazard to guess how these two thousand year old scriptures inspired by the ink of inspiration might sound after some present day "ear ticklers" finished with them, borders on blasphemous.

Brethren, as Christians we do not do the world justice by remaining silent about ethical and spiritual correctness. You see, great civilizations average only about two hundred years. These nations progress through the following sequence: from bondage to spirituality, from spirituality to great courage, from great courage to liberty, from liberty to abundance, from abundance to selfishness, from selfishness to complacency, from complacency to apathy, from apathy to dependency, and from dependency back to bondage.

This great country appears to be in the complacency to apathy stage moving toward dependency. "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God" (Psalms 9:17), and verse 14, "The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken."

We are troubled today, as were the Israelites, in that "every man [does] that which [is] right in his own eyes" (Judges 17:6). Political correctness may temporarily suspend individuals from expressing ideas that may offend another individual or group, but we must be careful as members of the Body of Christ not to trade the power of the Word of God for the anemic platitudes of whatever is "in" at the moment. Our country and the world has never needed more to hear "thus saith the Lord." Now, do not misunderstand me. We must speak to the issues of the day. We cannot teach and preach the Word of God and ignore those issues. The uniqueness of the message of our Lord is its timeless application to the needs of man, but we ought not to confuse ourselves and others by being caught up in that which may be politically correct today and old news tomorrow. The danger in voicing opinion from the pulpit with the same authoritativeness used to state the clear commands of God should be obvious.

I am told that as Roman senators sat and listened to an orator telling them of a plan to stop the barbarians, the Van-

dals were, at that very moment, entering the outskirts of the "eternal city." One of the advance guard of the enemy walked directly into the senate chamber and, with the blunt end of his spear, poked the Roman senators to see if they were alive! Brethren, they sat there like statues listening to a message of warning against the enemy, while the enemy walked to and fro in their midst. Sound familiar?

If we are going to reduce the worship of our Lord into mere form — POLITICAL CORRECTNESS — a gospel of "feel good," then we may be too late. But, the word of God has teeth and sometimes it bites. Thank God that His love for us is so great that, rather than being politically correct for the moment, His word is consistent and clear in ethical and spiritual authority. I could not serve a God who was so concerned about worldly correctness that inconsistency flowed from every word written or spoken.

This is political correctness: "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty" (Revelation 1:8).

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A short prayer will reach the Throne — if you dont live too far away.



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"WITH CHILD"

by Douglas Hoff

Recently, I was asked how many children I have. I said, "Three. Their names are Rachel, Rebecca and the other doesn't have a name yet." The man was obviously perplexed by such a statement so I explained that the third child has not been born yet. He responded by saying, "So, then, you only have two children with one on the way." Though this remark is common, it does not accurately portray the matter as God sees it. From Genesis to Revelation the expression "with child" is used twenty-five times to describe a pregnant woman. Since my wife is "with child" we really have three children right now.

The language we use reveals the way we think about things and also affects how we think. When pro-abortionists wish to soften the harsh reality that abortion is truly murder, they often refer to the fetus (that is, child) as "pregnancy tissue." If the average person can be persuaded to think using language like this, it makes the abortionist's work less controversial. Imagine how much harder it would be for a woman to murder a precious soul if she had been told that she was "with child."

Because of changes in language we must be careful not to communicate ambiguous or incorrect messages. Certainly, we do not want to be guilty of promoting the "language of Ashdod" (Neh. 13:23, 24). Instead, we ought to speak using the language of the Bible (1 Pet. 4:11).

We should not be ignorant of the devices of Satan, for he has many with which to lure people into sin (2 Cor. 2:11). One that he has used to great advantage is language. Even though it is old fashioned, let us reaffirm the Biblical truth that a pregnant woman is "with child."

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Hourly Rage - One trouble may be that it took six days to create the world, and we try to run it on a five-day week. When civilization reaches it peak, maybe we'll work a no-hour week.

Sometimes a nation abolishes God, but fortunately God is more tolerant.

Drought - a period during which you can get the dresser drawers open.

PURITY IN SODOM

by Louis Mahaffey

"Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your own eyes. . ."
Genesis 19.8

As his society fell into utter corruption Lot struggled to keep his family pure. No sooner had strangers entered Sodom than the homosexuals of the city, obsessed with their perversions, surrounded Lot's house to gain access to the angelic visitors. Lot, in his effort to protect his guests, and knowing the intensity of perversion in Sodom, offered his two daughters instead. The morality of the city had fallen so low that Lot points out his daughters are virgins. Even this is not enough to pacify the mob and so the heavenly visitors strike the crowd with a fitting punishment, blindness.

It is in this story that we find a father who is fighting for the holiness of his family. Lot's daughters had kept themselves sinless concerning the fornication which was obviously running rampant in the city. Sadly, the men his daughters were engaged to marry did not have the wisdom to receive the angelic message to leave Sodom. They received the judgment of fire from heaven. Lot's wife had become weakened in the constant barrage of sin and decided she could bend the rules and look back at the home they were leaving. She didn't lose the battle on the road away from Sodom. No, she lost the battle when she started loving the sinful city. Had she not loved Sodom she would never have looked over her shoulder. The crisis was too much for his daughters as they later make their father drunk and lay with him. Lot reaped a terrible loss by deciding to pitch his tent towards Sodom.

The lessons of Sodom are countless. We will notice four. First, even in a sin driven society it is possible to keep our families pure. Second, we bring many of our trials upon ourselves due to our lack of fearing God in making decisions. Lot would not have lost his family had he not pitched his tent towards Sodom! Third, constant exposure to a sinful culture can weaken us spiritually. The purity of Lot's family had become fragile. One crisis and they gave up! Last, as our culture heads towards Sodom it will make the straight and narrow seem

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even more straight and narrow! Beware of any doctrine in a wicked society that allows the road to be crooked and the gate gaping wide. How thankful we should be for our Lord allowing us to have this lesson. In His mercy and love we can find hope for the purity of our families in Sodom.

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HAVE YOU QUIT THE CHURCH?

Have YOU quit the church? Is your excuse any better than some of these?...

"The people were not very friendly."
(Perhaps we need to read and examine Prov. 18:24, "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly.")

"I was mistreated by some in the church." (Do you think Jesus was never mistreated? Did He quit? Jesus rather prayed, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" Lk. 23:34.)

"My parents made me go to church services when I was a child, and now that I am older, I am going to quit."
(Have you quit brushing your teeth—taking a bath—working, etc? No doubt your parents made you do all these things when you were younger.)

"I quit the church because there were too many hypocrites." (Ever stop to think that each person must give account of HIMSELF to God? Romans 14:12. You are not going to have to answer for the hypocrite, BUT FOR YOU!)

"The preacher said something I didn't like, so I quit." (What's he for—to tickle your ears?)

Want to know why people quit—because they want to!

Why I Stopped Attending Ball Games

1. Every time I went they asked for money.
2. The people with whom I had to sit didn't seem very friendly.
3. The seats were too hard and not at all comfortable.
4. I suspected that I was sitting with hypocrites. They came to see friends and what others were wearing rather than to see the game.
5. Some games went into overtime and I was late getting home.

SOUND FAMILIAR?

THE REPUTATION OF THE CHURCH

by James D. Burns

The local church exists in a community, and therefore has a reputation in the community. What kind of reputation should the church have? How should it be thought of?

Some say the church should have a good reputation, be well respected and highly esteemed. Others contend that if the church is really faithful, it will not have the favor of the community, but will be ridiculed, hated and persecuted.

Sometimes those who hold either of these views work to make the church have the image they believe it should have. Those who believe the church should be well respected may court the favor of the community and avoid all things that threaten a good image; this can lead to compromise in teaching and living. Those who believe the church must be hated to be faithful may do things that, sometimes unnecessarily antagonize the community.

When we examine the history of the church in Acts, we find that it was often persecuted; perhaps this is what we most remember. But there were those who thought well of the church (Acts 2:47; 5:11,13). The fact that an elder is to "have a good report of them which are without" (I Timothy 3:7) indicates a situation in which the church was not strongly opposed. Although opposition seemed to prevail, such usually came from leaders who aroused the people. As was said of Jesus, "And the common people heard him gladly" (Mark 12:37). It is significant that whether the church was persecuted or favored, it was not ignored.

What kind of reputation should the church seek to have in the community? Should the reputation of the church be our primary concern? Our primary concern should be to preach the truth and live it. In doing this, the reputation it has will depend on the community. Our purpose is to seek neither the approval nor opposition of men, but to please God (Galatians 1:10).

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The brook would lose its song if we removed the rocks.

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

1. Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).
2. Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).
3. Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).
4. Confession (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).
5. Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).
6. After the above five steps, faithful Christian Living (I Peter 2:11, 12; Revelation 2:10).

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

1. The Bible is its only guide (Romans 1:16; I Thess. 2:13).
2. Wears a Biblical Name (Romans 16:16).
3. Established at the right place (Isaiah 2:2,3; Acts 2).
4. Established at the right time (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2).
5. Established on the right person (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:36).
6. Saved are in it (Ephesians 5:23; Acts 2:47).
7. Its members are enrolled in heaven (Hebrews 12:23).
8. Membership in it is obtained by obedience to God's commands including baptism (Acts 2:41-47; I Corinthians 12:13).

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