

THE SOWER
ARTHUR (IL) CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Our web site has been updated with January & February issues of The Sower (www.Arthurcoc.com)

A CULTURE OF DEATH

Has America embraced a culture of death? Step by step we are abandoning the moral standards that have under-girded our nation. When decadent standards are elevated to the status of equality with godly standards, the complete desecration of a nation cannot be far behind. The ultimate aim of a minority in our country is the abandonment of traditional Judeo-Christian-based culture. Meanwhile, the majority sit back, oblivious to what is happening under our noses, and are well-deserving the title “silent majority.” I believe it is true for a nation, even as it is true for individuals: “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).

One obvious evidence of the lateness of the hour is the increasing efforts to portray homosexuality as equally normal and acceptable as the marital union of a man and woman, being given by liberal judges equal status with God-ordained marriage. The youngest of school children are even being targeted with the message that there is no difference. Churches are even accepting those who practice homosexuality as ministers. Going beyond merely being accepted in a diverse society, the obvious goal of radicals in the LGBT movement is to increase their numbers while silencing any contrary voices. But those who do so have abandoned the authority of the Bible, in which God warned: **“God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature. And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman burned in their lust one toward another...”** (Rom. 4:26-27). To legitimize such is to trample into the dust that which is sacred. Those ensnared by this perverse lifestyle are not to be hated, but drawn to Christ who alone can provide deliverance from sin’s yoke of bondage, as with all who, in any manner, rebel against the Law of God. God’s Law (His word) is the “Law of Liberty” (James 1:25 & 2:12), liberating us to “walk in the Spirit” rather than in the “lust of the flesh” (Romans 8, in its entirety, but especially vs. 1, 4 and 12, and Galatians 5:23-24). The culture of death is also evident in the promotion of abortion—the taking of the lives of innocent children while in their mothers’ wombs, and now even after a botched abortion, when children are left to die without a mother’s love. About 60 million unborn children have been killed in the U.S. since the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision in February of 1973. Abortion is the leading cause of death in the United States. Has our national conscience died? Infanticide, not only of children yet in the womb, but also of children surviving abortion, is a reality—the purposeful killing of a human child, one made “in the image of God”. Recently the “Reproductive Health Act” was signed into law by New York’s Governor Cuomo, a law allowing the poisoning and crushing of a fully formed baby in a full-term pregnancy, and giving the choice of life or death to the parent(s) of surviving children. The governor celebrated the event by ordering that the

World Trade Center (“Freedom Tower”) and other landmarks to be lit at night in pink, declaring that this achievement would “shine a light forward for the rest of the nation to follow.” A movement that began with the popular motto to “make abortion safe, legal and rare” has sunk to even lower, satanically inspired depths. May God have mercy upon a nation that has lost its way and embraced a culture of death! --
Ron

A VOICE FROM THE PAST—
“Posterity, you will never know how much it cost the present generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it.”
--John Adams

STRENGTH AND RICHES IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

We serve an awesome God and Lord Jesus Christ! All three parts of the Godhead are present in our walk of faith. When we are in the presence of Deity, we “bow our knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 3:14). Throughout the Old and New Testaments, when godly people came into the presence of God, adoration was the order of the day.

Even when we are not physically bending our knees in praise of our Heavenly Father, we are to be in a spirit of adoration. Just like it says to “pray without ceasing,” this does not mean that we are constantly praying: rather it means that we are to be in a spirit of prayer, ready to pray when the need arises. I think it is the same here. Our hearts and minds must be bended in adoration to the Lord.

Christians are a part of a “family of faith” mentioned in Ephesians 3:15. We share a common faith with every Christian in the whole world. We share a common salvation (Jude 3).

As has been stressed many times in the Epistle of Ephesians, God has great things in place for His children. He wants us to live our lives with the might of God present through the work of the Holy Spirit who indwells us.

--Larry Miles, Philippine Newsletter

X-RAY INNOCENSE

A four-year-old girl was told she needed an X-ray after an accident. Her mother tried to calm her down, assuring her that they were just going to take a picture of her bones to see if any were broken., but she was still nervous when the time came for the X-ray. When she came out of the X-ray room, however, she seemed relaxed and just fine.

“They took a picture of my bones,” she told her mother.

“Yes, dear,” replied the mother. “Did everything go alright?”

“Yeah,” said the girl. “It was great! I didn’t have to take my skin off or anything!”

HOW TO SETTLE IT

When people disagree about how many ounces or pounds something weighs, they can settle the matter by using a scale, the standard of authority.

When people disagree about the length of a piece of lumber, they can resolve the disagreement by using a measuring tape, the standard of authority.

When people disagree about what is right and wrong in religious matters, they should settle the matter by using the Bible, the standard of authority. —*Dvid Sain, Heart to Heart/House to House*

“Sanctify them by Your truth, Your word is truth.” —John 17:17

THINK ABOUT IT—

“No farmer ever plowed a field by turning it over in his mind.” (George E. Woodbury)
“You can’t sink someone else’s end of the boat and still keep your own afloat.” (Charles Brower)

Prayer is the greatest wireless connection available to us. (Source unknown)

PRAYER CONCERNS: Sammie continues to do well following her surgery. *** Doris and I both seem to be doing well, keeping our appointments with our doctors. *** Pray for those in authority that they may have the wisdom and moral sense to uphold the godly principles upon which our nation was founded.