

SATAN'S ATTACKS ON MORALITY IN AMERICA

Sean Hochdorf



Sean Hochdorf was born in Houston, Texas. He is married to the former Anita McGuffin. They are the parents of one son and one daughter. Hochdorf graduated from the Memphis School of Preaching in 1996, and their graduate program in 2001. He holds a B.A. degree from Southern University. He has been on mission trips to Russia, Singapore, India, Indonesia, and the Philippines. Hochdorf recently moved from the West Visalia Church of Christ in California, and will be going to Arusha, Tanzania, to preach.

INTRODUCTION¹

Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people (Pro. 14:34).

Admittedly, the subject assigned is an unpleasant one. That our nation has plummeted to an all time low concerning morality is an issue about which all of God's children should be concerned. At only 14%, our nation's congress has its lowest approval rating ever. Our self-seeking, self-indulgent societal environment provides the child of God with numerous temptations to forsake the God Who has penned his name in the book of life. "Politics" and "morality" seem to be mutually exclusive terms in our day. Indeed, Satan has attacked every facet of life in America. It is with these "cheery words" in mind that we take note of the demise of morality in the United States.

MORALITY ON THE DECREASE

Generally speaking, our nation has enjoyed a lengthy span of time in which politicians have been honest and moral. Yes, there has always been immorality. Certainly, not all presidents have been upstanding moral leaders. However, a marked change in the way our country functions and looks upon her leaders occurred in the twentieth century. Prior to this time our nation enjoyed a moral fabric that was strong and tightly woven together. However, in the 1960s, with the onset of the Vietnam War and the "make love not war movement" a more rapid decline began which has continued to spiral downward even to this day. Along with the "free-love" movement came the onslaught of the

women's liberation movement. Traditional views, such as the marriage of one man and one woman for life, became laughable at universities across the country. The attitude expressed in the Crosby, Stills and Nash song lyric, "if you can't be with the one you love, love the one you're with," was accepted as the mantra among many. While the nation's youth were experimenting with LSD and other hallucinogens, the moral fabric was getting weaker day-by-day.

It became acceptable for women to have children out of wedlock. Common law marriage was adopted by many who wanted to have a quick "way out" if a relationship turned sour. The divorce rate in the country surpassed the number of marriages taking place. Besides these and other attacks upon the home, in 1973 the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision began a torrential murdering of the nations unborn which has yet to be stopped. Homosexuality is no longer a disgrace to many. In fact, homosexual "marriage" is now openly and proudly promoted and it is among the major battles which are being fought in our nation's courtrooms. Our nation's leaders have certainly contributed their part to the decline of morality in America.

Politicians And Immorality

When thinking of politicians and immorality, former President Clinton quickly comes to mind. Even though it has been seven years since he was president, his blatant acts of immorality while in office are still a disgrace to those who consider the United States of America to be a "Christian" nation. Having traveled to more than twenty-five foreign countries, it is the opinion of this writer that while America is not a "Christian" nation, in the Biblical sense of that word, it *is* the most moral country on the planet.

President Clinton's contributions to the moral decline of the United States include: 1) His own acts of adultery (throughout his career as a politician), 2) The lifting of the ban on gays in the military, which was settled by the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, 3) His efforts through government programs to promote abortion, and 4) His ending of "the restrictions instituted in the Bush administration on federal funding of transplanted research using fetal tissue from induced abortions."² While President Clinton was undergoing the investigation into his adulterous affair with Monica Lewinski, the writer was in Russia. On more than one occasion, Russians expressed that President Clinton's actions were nobody's business as long as he did his job. The fact that

he lied under oath was also looked upon as a normal action. This was a prevalent attitude throughout ultra-liberal Europe as well. Unfortunately, many in the United States also adopted this sentiment. Is this truly the way we desire our nation's leaders to be?

President Clinton is not the only President or politician who has frequented the streets of immorality. John F. Kennedy was another. The term "Camelot," used to describe the Kennedys and their associates, was a misnomer if ever there was one. Kennedy was known for his numerous adulterous affairs. He was addicted to amphetamines, which alter a person's judgment. Kennedy was known to have ties with a number of mafia henchmen and would do anything, right or wrong. To what degree the mafia was involved in Kennedy's "victory" over Richard Nixon is still being debated.

Richard Nixon has never been accused of being sexually immoral, but he was morally corrupt in other ways. He followed in Kennedy's steps in that he would go to any lengths to see his agenda carried out. Nixon believed that since he held the Office of the President, a position of law, that he could lie and obstruct justice to protect that which he believed. In other words, since he *was* the law, he was not amenable to law. Since Joseph Fletcher's book, *Situation Ethics: The New Morality*, was released just a few years earlier, Nixon's position was hardly a surprise. Having to resign and leave his office in disgrace, Nixon's involvement in the Watergate scandal will override all else history has to say about him.

Other politicians who have not made the presidency their aim have nevertheless exhibited such immoral behavior that they are a disgrace. Ted Kennedy is not only known for the Chappaquiddick incident but also for his severe marriage to alcohol. Barney Frank, Massachusetts congressman, is an admitted homosexual and for a while his "partner" was running what amounted to a homosexual brothel out of their shared Washington apartment. How is it that he remains in office? Republican congressman Mark Foley was discovered to be sending sexually explicit messages to his congressional pages. The list of such immoral behavior by our nation's politicians is seemingly unending. Tragically, the modern perception most citizens have is that politicians, in some way, shape, form or fashion are corrupt and immoral.

What is our point in saying these things? Simply this—when a nation's leaders are corrupt, history tells us that its citizenry will follow suit. While America remains the moral leader in the world, it is certain

that we are following a path that can only lead to our utter destruction. Unfortunately, the church has not been left unaffected by society's lax attitude toward morality and objective standards of authority.

Preachers And Immorality

"My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment" (Jas. 3:1). Sadly, if this passage has not been forgotten by some preachers, it has at least been pushed to the back of their minds. We shall not belabor the point as we did with our nation's politicians, but suffice it to say that God's objective standard of morality has escaped a number of men who fill pulpits. How sad it is that men who dedicated themselves to proclaiming God's Word in order to lead people in the paths of righteousness have abandoned that path themselves. The number of men who preach that have been caught in adulterous affairs is overwhelming. While a student in preaching school, I remember it being mentioned that there were two common pitfalls for preachers: money and sex. In the fifteen years since that time, I have seen it happen over and over again. While there is great damage to the preacher and his family, it almost pales in comparison to the effect it has on the body of Christ. Those who look to the preacher for spiritual guidance and expect him to "be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim. 4:12) are devastated when such immorality is revealed. The number of brethren who have "quit the church" because of their preacher's actions is innumerable. Yes, they will be held accountable for themselves (2 Cor. 5:10). Yet, for the one who is guilty of casting a stumbling block before the sheep of God's pasture, his judgment will be to spend an unbearable eternity with Satan and his angels. May preachers live their lives in keeping with God's objective moral standard and be the upright moral spokesmen and citizens in the kingdom that He expects them to be.

Philosophies Behind America's Increased Immorality

When contemplating the philosophies that have contributed to the demise of morality in America, one does not need to look very far. While it is true that numerous technical terms are used to describe the many and various philosophies regarding morality, almost all of them can be filed under one of three categories: Humanism, Atheism, or Evolution. In B.J. Clarke's excellent lecture on the subject, he states:

As much as we deplore the tragic crimes perpetrated by such nations [Iraq, Syria and North Korea] we must point out that another “axis of evil” has done even more damage to the human race. The damage done involves much more than the loss of physical life. It involves something much, much more serious—the loss of multiplied millions of souls! Satan has many devices, and he is the influence behind the most deadly “axis of evil” the world has ever known: Atheism, Darwinism, and Humanism! These three philosophies are closely related and highly destructive.³

Is there any wonder why morality in the United States is continuing to spiral downward when these philosophies rule the day? While technically only a hypothesis, evolution is nonetheless boldly proclaimed as a fact by a majority in the scientific community. Our public and private schools are inundated with the false doctrine of evolution. If one among those in the academic community adheres to creationism, he is treated with contempt, looked upon as an imbecile, and shunned. After all, no “credible scholar” would ever believe in a Supreme Designer of our magnificently engineered universe. For those who objectively view the evidence, however, there can be no other answer than the Genesis account of creation. Indeed: “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork” (Ps. 19:1).

Humanism’s view of man’s lot in life is intimately tied to atheism and evolution. Providing a good working definition of “Humanism,” Wikipedia explains:

Humanism is a broad category of ethical philosophies that affirm the dignity and worth of all people, based on the ability to determine right and wrong by appeal to universal human qualities—particularly rationality. Humanism is a component of a variety of more specific philosophical systems, and is incorporated into several religious schools of thought. Humanism entails a commitment to the search for truth and morality through human means in support of human interests. In focusing on the capacity for self-determination, humanism rejects the validity of transcendental justifications, such as a dependence on faith, the supernatural, or divinely revealed texts. Humanists endorse universal morality based on the commonality of the human condition, suggesting that solutions to human social and cultural problems cannot be parochial.⁴

Simply stated, humanism allows a person to do whatever he wants, whenever he wants, as long as the humanists think it does not hurt anyone. When one rejects an objective standard of authority, however, chaos always ensues. Our nation's classrooms (preschool through postgraduate), media (newspapers, radio, and television), entertainment (movies), and government (the executive, legislative, and judicial branches) have been affected by materialistic humanism.

With these three philosophies being the "norm" in our society, is it any wonder that we have school shootings like the one at Columbine? Why be shocked at millions of abortions or homosexual "marriages" if we have no standard by which to live? If man is nothing more than the product of chance, an accident that evolved from a primordial soup, which has no objective standard of morality or authority, how can there be anything but immorality? In fact, "morality" has become such a subjective term that most people think it is up to the individual to define for himself what his morality is (as long as he does not bind his morality on others). When people do not know from whence they came, why they are here, and where they are going when this life comes to a close, the end result is Humanism, Atheism and Evolution.

The Bible: Man's Only Objective Source For Judgment

"He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day" (Jn. 12:48). For those who believe in the verbal inspiration of the Scriptures, these words are a constant reminder of that which we shall one day face—Judgment before the eternal throne of the Almighty. Yes, but what about those who simply look at the Bible as an influential book in the history of man, a book that is no more powerful than any other great literary work? How can one be convinced that the Bible is the final authority concerning all things religious and eternal? How can one know without any doubt that the Bible should be his only guide for that which he practices in life? Volumes have been written that give detailed answers to questions like these. However, our purpose here is to give some brief answers to these ever important questions.

About what other book can it be said that it was compiled over a 1600 year period, by some forty men who lived in different countries, spoke different languages and yet managed, without seeing the writings of many of their predecessors, to maintain one central theme with not

a single contradiction. Such an accomplishment utterly boggles the mind. Even the casual reader glancing through *The Koran*, *The Book of Mormon*, *The Vedas*, etc., can quickly see their numerous contradictions and their great emphasis upon carnal, worldly things.

One can search the world for the remainder of his days and he will never find a book comparable to the Bible. There is no other single volume in the history of the world, nor will there ever be, which carries the Bible's weight of divine inspiration. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

CONCLUSION

What is presented here is just a brief glimpse of the immorality in America. While brief, it is discouraging nonetheless. As the children of God, however, we cannot afford to be ignorant of our surroundings. By that same token, we cannot afford to dwell on our surroundings to the point that we become discouraged. Let us never fail to look to Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. Our hope is in Him. One day He will take us away from the wickedness of this world to a place where we will bask in His glory forever.

ENDNOTES

¹ All Scripture references are taken from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted.

² Charles W. Dunn, *The Scarlet Thread of Scandal: Morality and the American Presidency* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, Inc., 2001), n.p.

³ B.J. Clarke, "The Axis of Evil: Humanism, Atheism and Darwinism" *Darwin's Damnable Doctrine*, ed. Sean Hochdorf (Visalia, CA: West Visalia Church of Christ Publications, 2004), 455-483.

⁴ Wikipedia "humanism," <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/humanism>