
The Real Battle

Radio Message by Dwight Porter, D.D.

I WONDER! Do we really know what is happening these days? The moral deterioration around us is sickening and almost mind-boggling. In our literature, I have mailed so many sad statistics that I am beginning to wonder at the impact of them. A spirit of lethargy and unconcern seems to be sweeping our nation, and it is reaching into our biblically-oriented circles. Not very many people seem to be aroused at the immorality and perversion surrounding us.

As you know,~ seldom promote the ministry of other people. For the most part, I am not impressed by many of them. But Rev. Don Wildmon is rendering us a tremendous service, exposing the filth on TV. You should secure his monthly newsletter and get prepared for a shock as he reveals the network programming upon which your neighbors and friends are feeding. Contact: Don Wildmon, American Family Association, P0 Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803.

Incest (mother and son in "Flesh and Blood") has already arrived on television. The exploiters talk about their bold, new departures from popular culture by introducing prime time incest. Television and movies are doing their best to exhaust the power of "normal" sex and violence to entertain by shocking action that attracts vicarious involvement in practices foreign to the standard of morality. Such standards fall immediately upon such viewing. Much of the debauchery is classified as "freedom." George Will said it, and I believe it: "The 20th century did not invent vulgarity, but it did invent sophisticated technologies, such as television, that is often used for the commercial exploitation of vulgarity. A wise man has wondered, "Is it progress if a cannibal uses a knife and fork?"

When will we awaken to the fact that television is geared to profits, not morals. The producers respond to moral pressure only when it becomes economic pressure. What other means do we have to fight blatant debauchery? I agree with Rev. Wildmon, that if we do not write the advertisers, we have no right to complain about the filth on television. (My letters are going forth regularly.) Turning off the set does not settle the issue. When we boycott the products advertised in connection with an immoral promotion, then the TV people will respond to the pressure of the advertiser who is losing money. These depraved people know no other kind of pressure.

TV's Distortion

Modern-day television gives a distorted view. No man in his right mind gives sex the importance that TV indicates. Playboy's Poll of American Men was conducted by the Harris organization. It involved 1,990 men (ages 18 to 49), representing the 46 million men in the U.S. in their so-called "prime years." What a surprise for Playboy! Health, love, peace of mind, and family life topped the list of eleven major values considered by American men under 50 as "very important personally." Health was chosen by 89 percent; love, 85 percent; peace and family life, both 84 percent; work, 65 percent; friends, 63 percent; respect from others, 58 percent; education, 57 percent; and here it is: *sex*, 49 percent; religion, 41 percent; and money, 39 percent. And here is another surprise! The section on religion and psychotherapy revealed that 82 percent of men believe in a Supreme Being and 68 percent believe in an afterlife, but only 30 percent regularly attend worship services. About 69 percent had positive feelings about religion, describing it as somewhat or very important to them.

Silence gives consent. Few fundamental and evangelical circles are being heard from about the destruction of the morals and family life. Why do we not speak out about such sins? The Bible is filled with demonstrations of such needed reaction. Why are we so reticent to speak against the filthy TV and Hollywood films? Is it because we are supporting them by our attendance? In the privacy of our living room are we securing a vicarious thrill, without anyone knowing? (God does.)

Explanation for Deterioration

In order to comprehend the present situation, we just face the facts. We need lose just one generation to have moral chaos. The greatest deterrent to deterioration are the absolutes of God. If I were to narrow the cause to two things, I would state the first as a failure to teach the Bible in a practical manner that calls for and motivates the fruit of the teaching in the personal lives of those taught. We have emphasized the action of men in order to please God rather than God's provision for both the sinner and the saint. Our message has been of the grace of God for man rather than for God's glory and the accomplishment of His purpose within men. We have made man the center of the universe instead of recognizing God in that exclusive position. The failure of the preaching of sound doctrine and purpose of God to the masses has brought on the present situation. The second reason is the inconsistency of people who bear the message. Is it any wonder that the "now" generation has bypassed organized religion of our day with all of its hypocrisy? Even in evangelical circles the lives of the church members differ little from their unsaved neighbors. Many sinners treat one another in a nicer manner than Christians in the same church. One of the greatest indictments against Christianity is the phony, pharisaical attitude of those thinking themselves superior and yet show less personal kindness and love toward others than those who claim nothing.

The Humanist Religion

Into this vacuum of nothingness comes a new position that has captured the minds of American high school teachers and college professors. They picked it up at universities years ago. Now it is being taught on the junior high level by indoctrinated teachers. This humanist philosophy has been officially recognized as a religion by the U.S. Supreme Court; and it is permeating most of our institutions, including our government.

Humanist Manifesto II

"We believe, however, that traditional dogmatic or authoritarian religions that place revelation, God, ritual, or creed above human needs and experience do a disservice to the human species. We find insufficient evidence for belief in the existence of a supernatural; it is either meaningless or irrelevant to the question of the survival and fulfillment of the human race. ...but we can discover no divine or providence for the human species. While there is much that we do not know, humans are responsible for what we are or will become. No deity will save us; we must save ourselves. ... Promises of immortal salvation or fear of eternal damnation are both illusory and harmful. ... We affirm that moral values derive their source from human experience. Ethics are autonomous and situational, needing no theological and ideological sanction. Ethics stem from human need and interest. To deny this distorts that whole basis of life.

... In the area of sexuality, we believe that intolerant attitudes, often cultivated by orthodox religions and puritanical cultures, unduly repress sexual conduct. The right to birth control, abortion, and divorce should be recognized. ... neither do we wish to prohibit, by law or social sanction, sexual behavior between consenting adults."

If you have talked with the supposedly educated intellectuals of our day, you have heard this philosophy. I call them pseudo-

intellectuals. Humanism accepts no outside authority over human behavior. Situation ethics is one of their strong essentials if they are to please themselves. It is the same old concept that teenagers have voiced, "Don't tell me what to do." Look around and see their production. Are they a happy lot? Many live a lifetime with the scars and memories of broken hearts in divorce for departure to live with another person (not their husband or wife). Their morals are abominable! They want no restraint, authority, or direction.

What Does God Say?

Is He still to be heard? Does He still have the right to give us directions? Is God to be reckoned with? Does a denial or a refusal of His authority change His declaration as to the end of all unbelievers? In order to land in hell, all we must do is to forget God. This is true of individuals as well as nations. "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God" (Psalm 9:17). The denial of hell removes not one flame. It is burning NOW and awaits those who spurn God's provision. Listen to Christ's classification and ultimate end of hypocrites: "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" (Matthew 23:33)

Who Is God?

Job knew Him and gives us an intimate glimpse of His power and authority: "I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause: Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvelous things without number: Who giveth rain upon the earth, and sends waters upon the fields: To set up high those that be low; and that those which mourn may be exalted to safety. He disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise. He taketh the wise in their own craftiness: and the counsel of the forward is carried headlong. They meet with darkness in the daytime, and grope in the noonday as in the night" (Job 5:14).

"I know it is so of a truth: but how should man be just with God? If he will contend with him, he cannot answer him one of a thousand. He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered? Which removeth the mountains, and they know not: Which overturneth them in his anger. Which shaketh the earth out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble. Which commandeth the sun, and it riseth not, and sealeth up the stars. Which alone spreadeth out the heavens, and treadeth upon the waves of the sea" (Job 9:2-8).

Imagine it, if you can. The finite trying to deify themselves. "The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet. He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the river: Ba' sham languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth. The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein. Who can stand before his indignation? And who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? His fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him" (Naham 1:3-6).

God created us for His purpose. His creation was a prominent part of the ministry of the Apostles in the Book of Acts. "And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is" (Acts 4:24). "And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth,

and the sea, and all things are therein" (Acts 14:15). "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that He is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is worshipped with men's hands; as though he needed anything seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation" (Acts 17:24-26).

When the scoffers lie yonder in their grave, God will remain in control. "Thou, O Lord, remainest for ever; thy throne from generation to generation" (Lamentations 5:19). We trifle with God only at tremendous cost, for God is faithful in both mercy and judgment. "And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth" (Exodus 35:6). "And behold, this day lam going the way of all the earth; and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof" (Joshua 23:14).

His love is real to those who have accepted His love-gift, Jesus Christ. We possess it. "And hope maketh not ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" (Romans 5:5). "Beloved let us love one another for love is of God, and every one that loveth is born of God and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we love God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (I John 4:7-10).

What kind of God do your children know? The one they have been taught and have seen demonstrated in the lives of their parents? Many a child has grown to adhere to the humanistic philosophy, because there was no other voice to be heard. There is a tremendous need of people who know God and possess the experiential reality of His life within them, being under His absolute control which produces a buoyant, relaxed individual who knows why he is here on earth, what to do, where he is going, and how to get there.

The answer to humanism is the Word of God demonstrated in a life. Will you be one who not only possesses the answer, but will share it with others in an attractive manner? God will equip you by His Spirit, through His Word, to join this needed crowd of faithful witnesses. Keep your knees bent in prayer. Keep your Bible open, studying it daily.

Remember, there is only one way to be satisfactory to God. You must depend upon the faithful work of Jesus Christ in your behalf. He is to be received into your heart and life. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12). "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

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The Hour of Grace & Power
PO Box 5900
Titusville, FL 32783-5900
www.thehourofgraceandpower.org