

# The Virtue of Honorable Living 021818AM

## 1 Peter 2:11-17

- Psa. 11 - Things long held sacred and precious are being intentionally destroyed & account must be given to God.
- God is sovereign (Isa. 40:15) "Behold the nations are as a drop in the bucket."
- Dan. 5:21 "The Most High God rules in the kingdoms of men and He appoints over it whoever He wills."
- Pro. 14:34 "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."
- In light of these passages, what can the righteous do?

## Offset societal shortcomings.

- 1 Pet. 2:15 – Righteous living is God's will, cf Pro. 22:6; Lk. 2:52.
- "The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of the government in the next."~Abraham Lincoln.
- Today's "Values Clarification" sounds good, but is dangerous.
  - It teaches pluralism – "one man's sin is another man's salvation," or "Its my truth versus your truth."
  - It uses situational ethics – right and wrong are not constant, but are determined by the situation.
  - Asking children to make values judgments on difficult ethical questions, while affirming that there are no wrong answers, is a dead end.
- Evolutionary thought is being taught in our schools as fact.
  - Will children grow up to respect human life when they are taught that they are accidents of evolution?
  - People who have a distorted view of their origin will also have distorted view of self-worth, the right to life, the reason for living, and eternal destiny.

## Resist moral decline to the extent of our abilities.

- Jer. 6:13-16 – Prominent areas of moral degeneration:
  - Abortion – more babies have been killed in their mother's wombs than all the soldiers killed in all the American wars combined – MORE THAN 60 MILLION SINCE 1973.
  - Sexual perversions of all kinds are being normalized and idealized.
  - Dishonesty masquerades as shrewdness and honesty is seen as weakness.
  - Problem resolution skills have given way to denying that there are problems. Cf. Phi. 2:12; Mat. 7:13-15.
  - Marriage and family as God would have them and bless it. *See Endnote 1 & Graph*

## Resist religious degeneration.

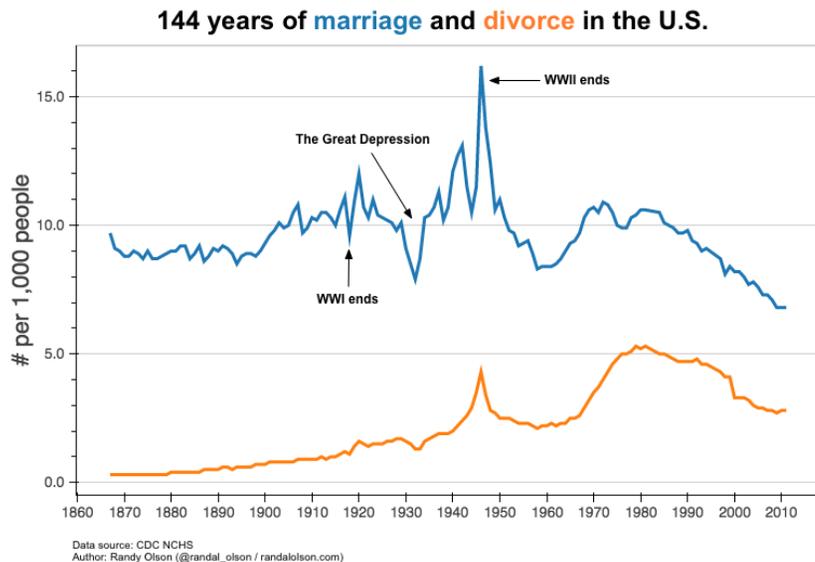
- Jer. 5:30-31 – happens because people love to have it so.
- Religious organizations that profess to be "Christian" have weak, culturally influenced views the inspiration and authority of the Bible.
- Situational ethics = populist preaching – getting people to join a religious organization has replaced preparing them for eternity. Cf. 2 Tim. 4:3-4.
- Division is ignored or accepted in religion. Cf. 1 Cor. 1:10. *See Endnote 2 & 3.*

## Decision... What can the righteous do?

- The word translated "honorable" in 2 Pet. 2:12 is translated once each as "good" and as "honest" in Lk. 8:15.
- Return to and stay with the Bible – 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
- Sound and relevant preaching – Tit. 2:1; 2 Tim 4:1-4.
- Plain teaching about sin – Gal. 5:19-21; I Cor. 6:9-11.
- Self discipline beginning in the home – 2 Cor. 13:5.
- Prayer for all people – 1 Tim. 2:1-5.
- Doing good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. – Gal. 6:10.
- Shine as lights in a world of sin – Phi. 2:15-16.

## Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Marriage and divorce are both common experiences. In Western cultures, more than 90 percent of people marry by age 50. Healthy marriages are good for couples' mental and physical health. They are also good for children; growing up in a happy home protects children from mental, physical, educational and social problems. However, about 40 to 50 percent of married couples in the United States divorce. The divorce rate for subsequent marriages is even higher. – Adapted from the Encyclopedia of Psychology (American Psychological Association / apa.org)



<sup>2</sup> "If there is anything in my thoughts or style to commend, the credit is due to my parents for instilling in me an early love of the Scriptures. If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity." – Attributed to Daniel Webster.

<sup>3</sup> "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." – John Adams, 2<sup>nd</sup> President of the US, 1798.