

Palisades Community Bible Church

Online Sunday School

What Divides Us? Part One

November 22, 2020

It's a troubling thing; watching our nation being divided, and the two sides pitted against one another. What's the source? Why is this happening in the greatest nation in human history? You and I are not doing this! Yet, we are watching in horror as it gains momentum and intensity.

WHAT IS GOING ON??!!

My grandfather passed in the late 80s. He told me that this world has “got too rotten and it can't keep going.” Now, in my 60s, I not only have the context for his observations, I am watching the trends which concerned him exploding in exponential proportions today. It's like a dam that developed a crack. The water flowing through the crack eventually eroded and widened. Soon it became a torrent and the dam collapsed, wiping out, the towns that had been enjoying the electricity and drinking water. It didn't stop there; the surge moved downstream and overwhelmed other dams, destroying other towns. America is now in this deadly and destructive surge!

Oh, had we ONLY fixed that crack!

As our infant nation was coming together, our forefathers knew we could ONLY be a strong nation if we were unified. They knew that separate colonies, separate states, could NOT be strong enough to resist enemies and become free and prosperous. How did they know this? Remember, they came from Europe! About the same geographical size of north America, those countries were, and are still, divided. America's fathers were well experienced in the consequences of division – separated by politics, separated by languages, separated by currencies, separated by cultures, separated by values!!

Our founders emphasized “UNITED” in everything they did in order to form this great nation:

- Printed on our money and most every major public building: **“E pluribus Unum.” Out of many, ONE.**
- **“United we stand. Divided we fall. Let us not split into factions which must destroy that union on which our existence hangs.” Patrick Henry**
- **“The name of ‘American’, which belongs to you in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of patriotism more than any appellation derived from local discriminations. With slight shades of difference, you have the same religion, manners, habits, and political principles. You have in a common cause fought and triumphed together; the independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint counsels, and joint efforts of common dangers, sufferings, and successes.” George Washington**

These are the core values that knit together the most successful human experiment in liberty in all recorded history. And, we are witnessing what seems to be 50% of our citizenry actively pulling apart every bond that makes us Americans. Why? What is dividing the UNITED States of America? Why are so many set on destroying our society?

The answer is but one word long: SIN.

It is sin that divides us. It is sin that is destroying America. It is sin that will ultimately cause our once great nation to fade into the pages of history books that, as with today, no children or elected officials will read. The biblical definition of ‘sin’ is; **anything that separates man from God**. It is this kind of sin that divides our nation.

If you cannot honor God with what you are saying, or doing, you are separating yourself from Him, and following an **idol**. There are Americans who follow these idols, and there are those who Honor God. We are on opposite sides. As the side made up of the idolators grows in numbers and public acceptance, they also grow in their aggression against those who disagree with them. Sin upon sin upon sin!!

Psalm 10:4-11 The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek Him. All his thoughts are, “There is no God.”

Psalm 36:1-4 ...Transgression speaks to the ungodly within his heart; There is no fear of God before his eyes. For it flatters him in his own eyes Concerning the

discovery of his iniquity and the hatred of it. The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; He has ceased to be wise and to do good.

I remember a pastor using the illustration of the camel getting his nose under the tent flap. Sooner or later, the whole camel is inside....and good luck getting him out!

“Oh, NO! It’s intolerance. It’s systemic racism. It’s homophobia. It’s white supremacy. It’s the rich and corporations. It’s oppression of women. It’s political parties, it’s It’s....” so say the sages and elites of our day. Those who foment this sin are simply calling the RESULTS of sin by different names.

Hey, professor; IT’S SIN!

How about an illustration: Let’s have a thousand citizens walk onto a football field. We’ll ask the group to respond to ONE question by moving to one side of the 50-yard line. If you agree with it, stand to the left side, if you disagree, stand to the right. What ONE question would that be? What ONE question most divides our nation? Think on this.....one question.

“**Where do you stand on abortion?**” It’s our ‘national sin.’ Abortion is the one “tell” that draws the line. It’s the flagship sin, the rallying sin. It’s the tip of the spear. On that football field will be those who stand on the right side, and those who stand on the left side, of the 50. Each group is 100% convinced that they are equally justified in their position.

In a survey released by the pregnancy center support organization Care Net, researchers from the Christian research group LifeWay found that about 70 percent of women who had an abortion self-identified as Christians, while 43 percent say they attended a Christian church at least once per month or more at the time they aborted their child. www.christianpost.com

Half our nation is for Godly morality and the other half is for humanism and relativism. If you’ve been around the block more than once, you don’t have to listen to a person talk for very long to know exactly where they stand. If they are FOR abortion, they are FOR every other personal and social sin that shreds our nation’s fundamentals. They idolize the ideals that allow their sin to be ‘approved’ in society. No matter what perversion, no matter what sin, no matter

what 'special situation' they identify with, each and every one also favors abortion as a fundamental right.

On the other side; sinners, saved by grace, who do all they can to honor the living God. We fail, we fall, but we keep our eyes on Christ as we move ahead. There is our division! **(2 Corinthians 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!)**

Proverbs 4:14 Do not enter the path of the wicked and do not proceed in the way of evil men.

2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

Exodus 23:2 You shall not follow the masses in doing evil, nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after a multitude in order to pervert justice;

Exodus 23:33 They shall not live in your land, because they will make you sin against Me; for if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you."

Exodus 34:12 Watch yourself that you make no covenant with the inhabitants of the land into which you are going, or it will become a snare in your midst.

Why would God's word so firmly warn HIS PEOPLE not to associate with the wicked?

Morality is fundamental to unity. This unity is not only horizontal (man to man), but also vertical (God to man). If we are to have both, there must be reverence for the true God and His laws. Our nation's founders KNEW this! That is why every document they created to form this nation has the intent of unifying man with man and man with God. The original intent of the founding of this nation was to honor God and not man. There have been forces at work, from that beginning, to destroy it.

Remember the law of non-contradiction? If there is disagreement between two parties, either one is right and the other is wrong, or both are wrong. You cannot have disagreement and unity. You can have agreement and unity in **truth**, or agreement and unity in **sin**. But, you cannot have disagreement and unity. Back to our football field; those unified in truth are on the opposite side of the 50 from

those unified in sin (and, as we see with the number of supposed Christians having abortions....labels don't mean that much).

You cannot have morality – righteousness – and disagreement. You cannot honor God in disunity. The only way to have unity in morality is to unify on the most excellent, highest, most unimpeachable set of moral standards. Our founders deemed such standards to be found only in the Holy Bible....authored by God, Himself.

1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Even the idolatrous will say that there are “rights and wrongs.” But, they devise their OWN sets of moral standards. Perhaps they feel rape, or polluting the environment, or abusing puppies, or capital punishment are wrong, but abortion is right. Their idol sits firmly in ensconced on their altar.

Mark 3:25 “If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.”

"A house divided against itself, cannot stand." I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved — I do not expect the house to fall — but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other.

Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction; or its advocates will push it forward, till it shall become lawful in all the States, old as well as new — North as well as South. Abraham Lincoln

The framers of our constitution KNEW the founding documents would never be ratified by all the states if it outright abolished slavery. So, they penned specific language that would force the moral decision to be made, once it became the law of the land. The constitution, in its original form, is 100% colorblind. It makes no distinctions between citizens based on genetics or gender. All people are 100% equated in this document. This forced a divided nation to deal with slavery as a national sin and we finally unified on the side of morality. The USA is the only nation in world history that fought a war within itself in order to abolish the issue of slavery. (a lot of thanks our ancestors get for it, these days!)

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal and endowed by their creator certain unalienable rights....” Where does slavery fit into that statement? Indeed, where does abortion fit into it?

Unfortunately, even though it’s 100% anti-constitutional AND 100% immoral, abortion on demand became the law of our land, and has been the “tell” between right and left since its passage in 1973. No matter what is painted on the sign one is holding, if you are FOR abortion, you are also for every single other social immorality on the list....and, vice versa. Any shades of gray in between are extremely faint.

Matthew 18:10 "Beware that you don't look down on any of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels are always in the presence of my heavenly Father."

Ecclesiastes 11:5 "Just as you cannot understand the path of the wind or the mystery of a tiny baby growing in its mother's womb, so you cannot understand the activity of God, who does all things."

So, what’s this doing to America? How is God dealing with our nation as a result of our sin?

Guess what? America, today, is only repeating history. In Part Two of our study, we’ll look at how Israel had done what our society has done and what God did to judge them, and bring them back to Himself. And, guess what, again? God is currently doing exactly the same thing to America!

I’ve heard a lot of my Christian brothers and sisters wondering if we are now experiencing God’s judgement. I believe we’ll get that answered next week. Until then, walk with Christ. Pray without ceasing.

Jesus, we, who are called by your name, lift you up as the light of our lives. We are grateful beyond words for your salvation. In our weakness, we strive to honor you with our lives. We choose, each day, to turn away from sin, wickedness, and idolatry, in order to follow you. When we fail, you are quick and loving to forgive. Thank you for your grace and mercy!

Amen