

# Freddy's 2013



# Book

In the course 2013, I have written a number of blogs which are commentaries on what is going on in the world based on a worldview perspective and seen through a Christian worldview lens. To make it easy to access these blogs, I have put together my 2013 blog book. Hope you enjoy.

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## Should State Decrees Trump People's Consciences?

January 2013

Because of the way Congress and the President are conducting business these days, there is a lot of piece-meal legislation being done. This is true of everything from budget resolutions to debt ceiling decisions. What Congress has done every year, for the last several years, is to wait until the very last minute to pass many of these bills in order to try and gain political advantage. By waiting until the last minute, people are forced to choose between accepting things they don't like and creating havoc by shutting down the government.

One of the bills that is getting this treatment is the National Defense Authorization Act. This is the budget item that has to be passed every year in order to fund the military. As with most of these last minute bills, things are attached to it by members of congress in order to use the emergency to get things for their constituents. Most congressmen go ahead and vote for these bills because of the need to fund defense, even though they contain many things they don't like.

In this most recent National Defense Authorization Act, there was a actually a good clause added which was designed to protect military chaplains. The clause was made necessary because of the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy related to gays in the military.

Section 533 in the National Defense Authorization Act reads: No member of the Armed Forces may require a chaplain to perform any rite, ritual, or ceremony that is contrary to the conscience, moral principles, or religious beliefs of the chaplain; or discriminate or take any adverse personnel action against a chaplain.

Now, who in their right mind could object to that, right? After all, how in the world can any American, especially military chaplains, be compelled by the government to violate their consciences in the performance of their work. The really sad thing is that this clause was made necessary because there truly are those who want to force military chaplains to perform gay marriages. What is even more troubling is that President Obama, while signing the legislation, specifically objected to the clause. He wrote, "Section 533 is an unnecessary and ill-advised provision."

Of course, the current attempt by the federal government to infringe conscience rights is not limited to chaplains in the military. There have been numerous attempts (which continue to this day) to force people to conduct business in a ways which go against their sincerely held religious beliefs. We have seen attempts to force Christian pharmacists to dispense abortion inducing drugs, Christian nurses to assist in performing abortions and, of course the latest offense, forcing Christian employers to offer insurance coverage which includes abortion and contraception coverage, against their religious beliefs.

So, what is a Christian to do? In a word, push back. We should not, of course, resort to violence, but we should be vigorous. We should let our representative know our feelings. We should

support politicians who also respect conscious rights. We should make ourselves heard in the public arena. But most of all, we need to share Christ. The change that is most needed is a change of heart by those who would force anti-Christian policies on our nation. Until the change of heart happens, nothing will change. And until Christians become faithful in bringing people to Christ, the beliefs of non-believers will dominate.

### [Atheism Is Now America's Favored Religion](#)

January 2013

Did you read the recent story about the longtime substitute teacher in Phillipsburg, NJ who was fired after he shared a Bible verse with a student and gave him a Bible? This is a true story. The teacher, Walter Tutka, was standing by a door at a middle school when one of his students straggled in slightly late. Tutka quoted the Bible verse to him, "The first shall be last but the last shall be first."

The kid didn't know it was from the Bible, but was curious about the quote, so a few days later, he went up to Tutka and asked about it. At that point, the teacher shared that it came out of the Bible.

Over the next few weeks, the student kept coming up to him to ask more about it. Finally, he approached the teacher in the cafeteria during lunchtime and asked where to find it in the Bible. So, Tutka took a New Testament out of his pocket and showed it to him. At that the child mentioned that he didn't have a Bible, so Tutka gave him his. For that, the school board voted to terminate Tutka's employment, accusing him of breaking two board policies – distributing religious literature on school grounds and not being neutral when discussing religious material.

Of course, both of these accusations are absurd on their face. First, he was not distributing religious material. He gave the kid a Bible during lunchtime when the child asked for it. Secondly, America does have the first amendment to the Constitution which allows anyone to talk about whatever they want in a school building, or any other place, during non-instructional time.

If this attack against religion applied equally to every faith, that would be one thing, though that is actually impossible. Some belief system will be the default in every circumstance. In the case of our public schools, that default is atheistic Secular Humanism. Many who adhere to the beliefs of this system squawk mightily when this point is made, insisting that Secular Humanism is not a religion. And, in fact, they contend that they want to keep all religious expression out of the public square. These people really don't get it.

Secular Humanism is not the absence of religion, it is a religious philosophy all its own. It must be believed by faith and there is nothing to support it as the truth about how reality is structured.

The truth is, the entire concept of schools being “secular” is a joke. They begin their instruction with the religious belief that God does not exist, and insist that everything taught must be done with that presupposition in place. We must teach science as if God doesn’t exist. We must teach psychology and sociology and economics and philosophy and history and everything else as if God does not exist – and there is, literally no evidence that this assumption is true.

Wake up, Christians! It is only going to get worse.

So, what can we do about it? There is strength in numbers. And how do we get numbers? We must massively share the truth about Jesus Christ to those who don’t know him. Without that, we will increasingly to see the Walter Tutkas of the world drummed out of the public square.

### Legal Murder for Any Reason

January 2013

Of course, they don’t call it murder – it is mercy killing. But not really even mercy killing. In fact, now, doctor-assisted suicide has moved to a place that is a bit hard to categorize.

We have all heard the arguments of those who think terminally ill patients who are in pain should have the right to commit doctor-assisted suicide. But as horrible as that is, Belgium has gone one better. That country allows any person who is over the age of 18 and wishes to die, to be put to death legally by a doctor.

In fact, last month (December) two deaf twin brothers, 45 years of age, who were otherwise completely healthy, decided to end their lives. They had a cup of coffee together, said goodbye to family members, and walked away to their deaths at the hands of their doctors. Their reason for doing so ...? They were diagnosed with some kind of eye issue and were going blind. When they realized that they would be unable to visually see each other ever again, they decided to just end their lives.

Do you think Belgium is an anomaly? Not so much. Doctor-assisted suicide is also legal in the Netherlands and Luxembourg. But that kind of thing could never happen in the U.S., right? Wrong again. While it has not yet moved to suicide for any reason, doctor-assisted suicide is already legal in Washington, Oregon and Montana. Somebody needs to wake up and smell the coffee.

Does anyone else here see the slippery slope? If it can be justified for one reason you can bet it will be extended to other reasons. It started with killing people in pain and moved to killing anyone who wants to die. And if you think it could not go any further, Belgium is now considering a law that would extend euthanasia to dementia patients and children whose families and doctors consented.

The naturalistic worldview has already become the foundation for much of American society. Naturalism includes such belief systems as Atheism, Secular Humanism and Postmodernism. It doesn't accept the existence of God and thus acknowledges no objective moral framework. In Naturalism, morality becomes what society wants it to be. So, even human life has no special value other than what the society deems it to have. With this belief foundation, doctor-assisted suicide for any reason becomes a logical possibility. And logical possibilities easily become legal realities.

We are headed down a very dark road. The only hope is a revival of massive proportions where the nation turns back to belief in the God of the Bible. We, as Christians, have our work cut out for us.

### Who Should be in the Game?

February 2013

There are so many issues emerging in our culture today which directly challenge our Christian beliefs. Every day these challenges are becoming more blatant.

Take for instance Massachusetts' "Bathroom Bill." Last June a new state law went into effect called the "Transgender Rights Law." This was a law designed specifically to promote rights for those who identify with a gender other than their biological one. The law itself originally specified that all public bathrooms would be open to those who self-identify as transgenders. Because of safety, privacy and modesty concerns, this clause was specifically removed from the law.

Fast forward to today. In order to clarify the law for the purpose of implementation, Massachusetts Commissioner of Education, Mitchell Chester, informed grade K-12 principals that they must allow boys and girls of any age who self-identify as transgenders to use the public school bathroom and locker room of their choosing.

What we have here is a classic clash of worldviews. Christians get their moral compass from the teachings of the Bible where this kind of thing is a definite moral offense. Those who are making these kinds of laws and rulings (Naturalists) do not use the Bible as their authority for moral guidance. They do not believe in the God of the Bible and rely on their own "wisdom" to determine what is right and wrong. To them, keeping transgenders from living out their feelings is immoral.

This is not merely a matter of conflicting opinions. It is a conflict based on how different people actually view reality. There is no deeper level of belief.

I hate to be so blunt, but there is only one way to resolve this conflict – that is to obliterate the other side. Naturalists and Christians have different ways of dealing with their opposition on this front. Naturalists seek to use power to dominate their opponents and force their view on the public. That is what we see happening in Massachusetts (where most people truly don't want this to happen). Christians, on the other hand, look to take out the opposition in a different way – to lead them to Christ so that they will have a change of heart.

While making right law based on biblical concepts is a necessary element of creating a moral and orderly society, the only way the real problems will be fixed is for the majority have a change of heart. This can't be done if only the "religious professionals" are doing the work. Every believer must get in the game. We have a lot of work to do.

### [You Are Being Rollinsed](#)

March 2013

There was Vanderbilt, then the University of Michigan, the University of Montana, Yale, Tufts, Hastings, the University of Buffalo and now a new one. Rollins College, in Winter Haven, Florida is the latest college to begin discriminating against Christian groups on campus which will not permit non-Christians into their leadership structure. This policy has led to a one-two punch in the face of Christians who attend the school.

First, InterVarsity Fellowship was de-recognized as an official campus organization after they refused to comply with the college's non-discrimination policy. This Christian organization welcomes all comers to participate in its programs, but only allows followers of Christ to be in leadership. That is not acceptable to the leaders at Rollins College who insist that this kind of "discrimination" is not acceptable.

The second punch was an outgrowth of the first. A resident hall assistant at the college went up to a group of four students who were having an informal Bible study in the lobby of a dorm and told them they had to leave. It seems that the logical outworking of the policy was to not allow any Christians to meet together in any public place on campus.

Interestingly, Rollins College was opened in 1885 by New England Congregationalists who wanted to bring their style of liberal arts education to the Florida frontier. Much like Vanderbilt, Tufts, Hastings and Yale, Rollins began as an institution founded by Christian churches. How sad that they have drifted so far from their Christian roots that they now persecute Christians.

But there are two bigger points that believers in Christ need to be aware of. First, American culture is changing. What these colleges are doing is not causing this cultural shift but is a symptom of America's move away from Christian beliefs toward naturalistic ones. Secondly, persecution is increasing. As the shift away from Christian beliefs accelerates, the hatred of

Christian morality, and of Christians, will intensify. The bad news is, what has happened at Rollins is still the very front end of the anti-Christian tsunami that is approaching.

The good news is, Christians are not defenseless. We do have a case to make. The message of the gospel is the truth about reality and, ultimately, truth will win out. But it will be very painful for those who do not prepare themselves to deal with the opposition.

For now, it is “those people over there” who are being pushed. But what are you going to do when it is you? Do you know why the Christian faith is the truth and Naturalism is not? Do you know how to share the Christian message with a Naturalist? Do you know why the actions of the Rollinses of the world are evil and how to express the truth in love? Unless you, and a large number of other Christians wake up and prepare yourself, you and your children will be swamped.

### [Let Them All Die!](#)

March 2013

There are already two states in the union, Washington and Oregon, which have legalized assisted suicide. A third one is looking to join the club.

Sen. Ed Meyer, in Connecticut, has introduced a bill to legalize assisted suicide in his state. It is unclear, at this point, whether or not it will pass. But the issue has moved further along this time than it ever has before. This matter has been raised in Connecticut in the past, but this is the first time lawmakers have actually convened a hearing on the topic.

Proponents, of course, tout this kind of law as being the compassionate way forward. After all, no one should have to endure any suffering at the end of life. If it was as simple as that, though, there would be assisted suicide laws all over the place.

The brutal truth of the matter is, when these kinds of laws are put in place, the elderly are inevitably pressured to go ahead and end their lives for the “convenience of society.” After all, if they weren’t around, they wouldn’t be a drain on family or state coffers. And if you think this concern is just blowing smoke, all you have to do is check out what has happened in all of the places where these kinds of laws have been passed – ALL of the places.

The truth is, the very idea of even entertaining this kind of practice is utterly immoral. This concept does not come out of a Christian worldview which values human life because humans are created in the image of God. Rather, it reflects a value system which is rooted in Naturalism. It comes from the belief that the “good of the collective” is of higher value than the life of the individual.



Christians have a responsibility to stand against these kind of immoral efforts by government. The actions of a governmental body are NEVER neutral. They always reflect the beliefs and values of some worldview system. We have already allowed godless values to dominate in so many areas and are trending that way in others. As a result, we are already on a slippery slope which will turn us into a truly immoral nation. So, what are you going to do about it?

### [To Boycott or Not to Boycott?](#)

March 2013

Let me just state up front, I don't consider myself a boycotter. But maybe that is just a matter of semantics. I like to put the emphasis on the positive rather than on the negative. So the end result is that I try to support those businesses which uphold my beliefs which means I do way less business with the ones which work against them. If I need a product or service, I actually consider my alternatives as it relates to this matter and try to select companies which have a biblical worldview. But honestly, the way things are going, it is getting more and more difficult to find businesses which support biblical morality.

Just recently, Starbucks CEO, Howard Schultz, made a statement at their annual shareholders meeting which definitely gives me pause. It seems that one of the shareholders made a complaint about Starbucks' active support of gay marriage. Schultz then told him, "If you feel, respectfully, that you can get a higher return than the 38% you got last year, it's a free country. You can sell your shares in Starbucks and buy shares in another company. Thank you very much." In other words, we are not changing our support and we don't care about your opinion.

Now, certainly, Starbucks is not the only company which actively supports what I believe is an immoral cause. They are right in there with Wells Fargo, Budwiser, Target, J.C. Penneys, Home Depot, Levi's, Microsoft, Abercrombie & Fitch, Amazon, Allstate, Chili's, Applebees, Ben & Jerry's, Coca-Cola, Gap, IBM, Kraft Foods, Marriott Hotels, McDonalds, Morgan Stanley, Nationwide Insurance, PepsiCo, Proctor and Gamble, Red Lobster, Sears, State Farm, Verizon, T-Mobile, Wallgreens, Walt Disney Co., Xerox and many others. And the list is growing.

I don't even know if it is possible to totally avoid doing business with companies which support immoral causes. But I do know this. As Christians we can be salt and light in the world. The reason for the proliferation of immorality is because the number of people choosing to live by a secular faith is greater than the number choosing Christ. This puts an even greater urgency on us to share Christ.

This task is not an easy one in our modern world. The non-Christian forces governing contemporary society are bigger, stronger and more confident than ever before. Without a deliberate effort by large numbers of Christians to get up to speed in how to share a witness

across the worldview barriers which exist today, we do not have a chance. It is truly time for Christians to begin getting serious about this task.

The tide will not turn until the number of people who choose Christ radically increases. We cannot expect non-believers to act like believers. I wonder how we will respond.

### [The Rise of the “None of the Aboves”](#)

April 2013

America has become such a contradictory place. We are becoming more secular in some ways but continue to be as spiritual as we were in the past. How can that be?

Recently, the Pew Research Center did some polling to get a handle on this. Basically what we see is that Americans have not become less religious, but have become more separated from religious institutions. In the past, when doing polling, most Americans identified themselves culturally as either Protestants, Catholics or Jews. Now the fastest growing group check the box which reads “none of the above.” This group now constitutes nearly 20 % of the population.

So, what is at work? Not the decline of religion, per se. Rather, it is the decline of institutional religion.

For Christians, this is somewhat bittersweet. It is bitter because we see a decrease in those who want to be affiliated with a church and an increase in the number of those who openly pursue immoral lifestyles as defined by Christian morality. It is sweet because it becomes easier to identify those we need to reach with the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

But in the sweetness there is a catch. Simply identifying those who truly need Christ is not enough. We actually have to reach them. And to do that, we have to be personally authentic AND we have to equip ourselves to speak their language.

People who operate off of non-Christian worldview foundations literally perceive reality differently than we do. This means, when they hear our explanation of Christianity, they may be hearing something entirely different than what we are trying to say.

As Christians, the only way we are going to be able to penetrate this divide is to train ourselves regarding worldview. We have to learn to share the unchanging gospel message in terms that make sense to those we want to reach. Until we can begin to do that on a massive scale, we will not see the Christian faith make any kind of significant inroads in our increasingly anti-Christian culture.

## Human Cloning Front and Center

May 2013

Well, they have done it. Scientists at Oregon Health & Science University claim to have overcome the barriers for creating human embryonic stem cells. It seems that these scientists have been able to create an embryo in the lab that is capable of developing into a human being.

These scientists have not, however, attempted to clone a human. Their purpose was to create the embryos in order to harvest their stem cells. Unfortunately, in the course of harvesting the stem cells, they must destroy the embryo. Of course, the question all along has not been whether or not it is possible for scientists to do this. The question, rather, relates to the morality of such science.

In Nazi Germany, scientists were seeking to promote the evolutionary advancement of humanity, in order to create a super race, by doing human experimentation. The process of doing this research resulted in all kinds of repulsive experimentation on living human beings. What is happening in the lab with these embryos is, literally, no different than what the Nazis did. The only difference is that it is being done on human beings who are at a different stage of development. If human experimentation is immoral on human adults, it must also be wrong on preborn humans at any stage of development.

But the researchers don't see it that way. That is because they have an entirely different standard by which they measure morality. What is going on in Oregon is the logical result of a naturalistic worldview. Naturalists don't see human beings as special creations of God. They don't see human life as particularly sacred. Rather, they see all of life as nothing more than the result of a natural evolutionary process, with human beings simply one expression of it. To them, a human embryo is no more sacred than an amoeba or some variety of bacteria. With that kind of belief, human experimentation is a logical, and legitimate, path to take.

While these particular scientists are not attempting to clone a human being, it is only a matter of time. With the technology now available and with a large number of scientists around the world adhering to a naturalistic worldview, it is inevitable that humans will be cloned at some point. And, if another Hitleresque leader comes along, there will be attempts, once again, to create that super race.

We are living in a day when the forces of evil have great influence. The only real counter to this is a massive number of committed, informed Christians who are willing to do the work of God to win the world. It is, certainly, important to fight against this kind of evil in the political arena. But the only true cure is for the world to know Christ. Until individual Christians begin to share the Good News like they believe it, nothing will change.

## The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Managers Is Not What You Think

May 2013

In 1989, Stephen Covey published what came to be his blockbuster book, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*. Well, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has taken this idea and created their own version to help managers become more effective. This list was sent out to all DOJ employees and is specifically written to make sure managers are “inclusive” of LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) employees. Here is a summary of the list (see the actual document at: [http://www.lc.org/media/9980/images/pr\\_doj\\_lgbt\\_directive\\_052113.pdf](http://www.lc.org/media/9980/images/pr_doj_lgbt_directive_052113.pdf)).

1. Make the right assumptions and avoid making the wrong ones – Make sure the language you use is accepting and respectful to LGBT employees.
2. Use inclusive language – Use the kind of language that shows approval.
3. Speak up when appropriate – Act as the office police if you hear any references which don't show approval of LGBT lifestyles.
4. Acknowledge and engage with LGBT employees – Make LGBT employees your friends.
5. Come out – Openly support and advocate for LGBT issues.
6. Ensure that advancement, development and mentoring opportunities are fair and effective – Encourage LGBT employees to advance up the ranks and provide them opportunities.
7. Know how to respond if an employee “comes out” to you – Respond with affirmation, interest and curiosity.

The bottom line is, it is not good enough to “live and let live.” Rather, DOJ employees are being required to affirm and encourage not only LGBT employees, but their lifestyle, as well. And those who don't are being threatened with sanctions.

Those who agree with the LGBT lifestyle see these seven elements to be very good things. But those who don't agree are being forced to outwardly accept and affirm something they see as immoral. This creates a particularly hostile work environment for Christians. It is interesting that those who are so seeking the “tolerance” of others are, themselves, so absolutely intolerant of dissent against their beliefs.

Recently, Gallup released a national poll which asked people their views of the state of moral values in America. The not so surprising result was that 72% responded that they believe it is getting worse. In the same poll, 68% believe divorce, 63% believe premarital sex, 60% believe out-of-wedlock births, and 59% believe homosexual behavior is morally acceptable. In fact, more Americans have a problem with wearing fur than with aborting a human life.

All of this adds up to a moral climate that is completely messed up. But it is not at all surprising. We elect local and national leadership who passes laws and makes rules which promote immorality and we don't hold them accountable when they do it. We pay entertainers mega-millions to entertain us with immoral acts. Frankly, we are getting what we pay for.

And where does all this come from? It comes from a naturalistic worldview perspective that is becoming increasingly prominent in the culture. And this worldview is violently anti-Christian.

Frankly, I expect things to get even worse. For the most part, Christians who are now being suppressed are just allowing it to happen. Beyond that, many who claim to be Christians actually agree with the naturalistic presuppositions which are the root of these attacks and which are responsible for the degradation of the culture. There is only one cure. Genuine Christians are going to have to stand up and be counted in a way they have not been willing to do up until now. What about you?

### [Help for Young Girls from HHS](#)

June 2013

These days, it seem that there is no end to the scandals in our government. We are literally seeing assaults on the press, on private citizens, on conscience rights, on the legal system, and the list gets bigger by the day.

But that is not all. There is also an all out assault on moral decency. We have already seen that in the way the current government has literally promoted immorality in the military. And the outward results of that are beginning to be seen with the sudden spike in sexual assaults now making headlines. But truthfully, it is not just the military, it is the culture at large. And just when you thought it couldn't get much lower, we now find out that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is reaching out to "help" 10 to 16 year old girls.

HHS has a website called [girlshealth.gov](http://girlshealth.gov). This website includes tips on fitness, nutrition, and environmental health. All good, right? But wait! There is more. There is also a section on sex. In particular, it gives information about birth control (how to get access to condoms and emergency contraceptives), mutual masturbation, and anal sex. There is also a section called "Could I be Gay?" which helps the girls ask the right questions to determine their sexual orientation. And what is contained on the website is not just generic information. It is quite graphic, how-to explanations. All of this is the U.S. federal government's way of helping our 10~16 year old girls.

The truly tragic part of all this is that the people who are putting this up truly believe they are doing a good thing. They honestly believe they are helping these girls work through the difficult tween years.

Where does this kind of moral standard come from? Quite simple, actually. The people at the helm of the good ship U.S. government hold a naturalistic worldview. Based on this worldview, God does not exist. Thus, there is no one available to give moral direction to these young girls except other human beings. And our dedicated federal workers are happy to step up to the plate

and help out. Based on this worldview, the highest value is the survival of the species. An important part of that, in their minds, is to provide information about how to act like the animals we are and produce offspring, while staying free of venereal diseases and other health problems, all the while enjoying the pleasures of animalhood.

What we are seeing is the natural result of a naturalistic worldview taking over the land. The only counterweight to it is for a Christian worldview to sweep the nation. That will only happen when Christians, en masse, begin to get serious about taking the gospel to those who don't know him. Seriously, I don't see a lot of that happening these days.

What do we have to do to turn the tide? We have to become strong enough in our faith to be able to speak the truth to power, even in the face of persecution. The day is gone when the average Christian can just sit down and "leave it to the professionals." God has called EVERY believer to be a witness. God has called EVERY believer to be salt and light in the world. It is about time we took God seriously.

### **[So, Is President Obama Really a Christian?](#)**

June 2013

Many people get upset when President Obama's faith is questioned. Some people are disturbed because he claims he is a Christian and they don't think anyone has the right to question a person's faith. Others don't like it because they believe it is obvious that his actions demonstrate Christian principles. Still others get upset because they consider themselves Christians and follow the same basic theology he does.

But all of these defenses ignore the real core of the Christian faith. The definition of what constitutes a Christian is not based on a person's personal claim. Likewise, it is not based on outward acts nor by one's personal theology. The Bible, and it alone, define what it means to be a Christian. And that definition requires that an individual enter into a personal relationship with God based on his grace by faith in what Christ accomplished by his death and resurrection.

At this point, it is not up to me to determine whether or not the president knows this personal relationship with God. However, the Bible is very clear that those who know Christ have changed lives which cause them to act in ways which correspond with what God has revealed. While we cannot be the president's judge, we can inspect the fruit of his life.

For example, on his most recent overseas trip, he went to Northern Ireland. While there he gave a speech where he made the claim that Christian education divides people and blocks peace. He specifically pointed out Catholic and Protestant education as a cause of division and a hindrance to peace. Honestly, this is quite alarming on so many levels. We never hear him saying such

things about Muslim education or secular education – which quite often really does teach people to hate and destroy. His only objection is to Christian education.

In fact, as we look at the policies being implemented by the president, virtually everything he is advocating is contrary to Christian teachings – abortion, homosexual marriage, dependance on government, restriction of conscience rights, illegal behavior regarding immigration, and the list could go on.

I cannot be the judge of whether or not President Obama has a personal relationship with God. I can observe, however, that virtually all of the policies he promotes not only run contrary to Christian teachings, but he does all he can to directly suppress Christians who disagree with him. His actions do not seem to support his claim.

### [Atheist Church](#)

June 2013

The very concept of an Atheist church seems like an oxymoron. After all, Atheists don't believe in God and church is an institution based on belief in God. But like so much else in modern culture, what used to be considered abnormal has somehow become the new normal.

Jerry DeWitt is a former pastor from Louisiana who has thrown out his Christian faith and become an Atheist. That said, he missed the community he experienced in church life. He figured that if he did, other Atheists may feel the same thing. So he decided to begin a secular church complete with singing, a sermon, passing the offering plate, and ministry opportunities. His new church is called Community Mission Chapel of Lake Charles. He wants it to feature everything that any religious community might have minus any reference to the supernatural.

Now this concept is not original with Mr. DeWitt. A few months ago a group in London made big headlines when they did this. Recently in the U.S., we have seen Atheists church services pop up in New York, Massachusetts, Texas and other places.

But why “church?” There have been all kinds of Secular Humanist/Rationalist/Atheist organizations around for a long time. The Unitarian Universalist Church has essentially been this kind of organization for years. In fact, many mainline Protestant churches have long since thrown off biblical teachings and followed after naturalistic beliefs. While this last group still likes to use Christian vocabulary and formal church forms, their theology is essentially atheistic.

Here is the deal. Human beings are persons created in the image of God whether they want to acknowledge it or not. Denying reality does not change reality, it only creates a fantasy land framework to help individuals who wish to deny God. The reason people want to gather together and create a “spiritual” environment for fellowship is because the reality of our objective spiritual

personhood exists even when it is denied. People are simply compelled to seek after spirituality. Those who don't want to be accountable to God still have the tug, but have to create an alternative mental framework in order to try and deny the reality within.

Crazy as it may seem, according to research by the Pew Research Center, 18% of Atheists say religion has some importance in their lives, 26% say they are spiritual or religious, 14% believe in "God or a universal spirit," and 12% say they pray.

The reality is, God exists and he can be known in a personal relationship. The reality is, there are many who claim to know God but deny him by the life they lead. The reality is, there are many who claim God does not exist but cannot get away from his influence on their thinking.

It is a truly messed up world we live in. And the only way to straighten things out is for individual Christians to begin to take seriously the call of God in their lives. We have to begin to apply ourselves and learn how to effectively share the message of Christ, then become bold in our witness. Until that happens, the number of Atheist churches will only increase.

### [Is God Really a Racist?](#)

July 2013

Anthea Butler Anthea Butler is an associate professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Religious Studies. She holds Ph. D and M.A. degrees in Religion from Vanderbilt University, as well as an M.A. in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary. As such, the average person would probably expect her to say things which correspond with what the Bible teaches.

Well, if that is what you think, you simply do not understand liberal theology. In the aftermath of the Trayvon Martin verdict, here are some of the comments she wrote in a recent blog.

"God ain't good all of the time. In fact, sometimes, God is not for us."

"I know that this American god ain't my god. As a matter of fact, I think he's a white racist god with a problem. More importantly, he is carrying a gun and stalking young black men."

"As a historian of American and African-American religion, I know that the Trayvon Martin moment is just one moment in a history of racism in America that, in large part, has its underpinnings in Christianity and its history."

Beyond the overtly racist nature of her statements, her assertions about the nature of God are simply not based on biblical Christianity. In spite of the fact that she has graduate degrees in



theology and religious studies, she has chosen to adhere to a religious form which has a veneer of Christianity, but which is anything but.

And that is the nature of so called liberal Christian theology. It begins with a premise which comes from outside the Bible, then tries to baptize it using Christian vocabulary. This non-Christian theology, then, is taken into churches as a Trojan Horse and spread to unsuspecting people who believe their leaders are teaching them the Bible, when what they are really getting is training which leads them away from God. It is a horrible tragedy, but the teaching of this kind of theology is not that uncommon in many American institutions of higher learning, including many theological schools. This is the reason it is so important for genuine biblical Christians to be knowledgeable of their faith and about the principles of worldview.

Unfortunately, it is this kind of travesty that is leading our nation in a direction which is, literally, ripping us from the moorings of freedom and justice. It is biblical theology which holds the only key to getting us back on track. The ones who hold the key to this are ordinary Christians who, up until now, have refrained from entering the fray. The time for sitting back and letting others do the work is past. Every believer must now actively stand up and be counted. That means speaking the truth out loud to friends and co-workers, as well as our elected representatives. If not, we are headed down a road where true freedom and justice will become a distant memory.

### **Sterilizations Shouldn't Be a Surprise**

July 2013

California Prisons Dateline California. Doctors, under contract with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation have sterilized nearly 150 female inmates in four years without required state approval. Some of the women were strongly pressured or even tricked into signing off on the procedure.

As gross as this is, and in spite of the fact that California authorities seem to be horrified, it is hard for me to be in the least bit surprised that this has happened. It is so logically an expression of the naturalistic worldview that is so prevalent in the governmental institutions of California.

When we consider the topic of worldview, the first things we generally think of are the religious implications of the beliefs. That is because a worldview system is a belief (faith) system. Those Atheists who strongly assert that they are not religious simply do not understand the nature of their worldview beliefs.

But beyond the expression of faith comes the way it is expressed in daily life. Naturalism is the belief that no supernatural reality exists. As such, human beings are nothing more than animal creatures with a highly evolved brain, and there exists no such thing as an objective, transcendent ground for moral behavior. Thus, it is not surprising when some in positions of power look at a

particular group of these human animals who have behaved in a way which requires that they be put in cages, and decide that they should not be allowed to breed anymore because the state will have to spend more in welfare payments.

Here is the problem. While state authorities are expressing outrage at this situation, they are the ones who have established Naturalism as the primary worldview stance of the state. Their “moral outrage” is completely arbitrary. The promotion of naturalistic beliefs is prominently found in all three branches of the government. The executive branch refuses to defend duly enacted law in court and, in fact, encourage the states various political units to ignore it as well (see the California marriage amendment). The legislative branch continues to pass more and more laws which encourage abortion, expand the influence of homosexual activists, and which run up debt in order to further an ideological agenda. Those in the judicial branch ignore the law and even their own rules to promote personal moral beliefs. All of these things are based on the beliefs of Naturalism.

As I said before, how can anyone be surprised when a practice like what happened in the California prisons occurs. The fruit of naturalistic worldview beliefs is futility and human destruction. Naturalism ignores the existence of God and the objective moral absolutes which he has revealed. When the ultimate goal in life is to advance personal pleasure and the survival of the species based on the perceptions of the ruling class, this is what you get.

### **The Drive to Compel Diversity**

August 2013

The U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) secretary, Shaun Donovan, recently unveiled a new federal rule HUD that he is putting forth in order to compel diversity in America’s neighborhoods. This new policy is called, “Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing.” The purpose of this directive will be to require HUD to gather data on segregation and discrimination in every single neighborhood in America and try to remedy it.

To carry this out, HUD will create a “discrimination database” which they will use to target zoning laws, housing finance policy, infrastructure planning and transportation in local communities. They will develop federal standards and guidelines which identify discrimination and segregation, then create policies and rules which communities will have to follow based on HUD’s directives.

At a gut level, for most Americans, this very concept just reeks of injustice as those who control the federal bureaucracy impose their own beliefs and values about how local communities must be structured. But the present administration sees it differently. They believe that this is what is necessary to bring about justice in America. They believe that the current situation is unjust

because some people cannot afford to live in certain neighborhoods. So, what is the source of these opposing views of what is right and wrong?

The traditional American approach for dealing with this topic is to allow local towns and cities to decide for themselves how to structure their communities. Individuals decide what neighborhoods they want to live in based on their personal preferences and their ability to purchase in particular places. This approach is founded on worldview beliefs which come out of Christian Theism. It is based on the concepts of the priority of the individual, personal stewardship of property and individual free will.

The approach of HUD is established on an entirely different worldview foundation. It is based on naturalistic beliefs which put a priority on the collective rather than on the individual. Using this approach, the leaders of society (in this case the federal government) get to decide what is good, right and fair, and impose it on local communities.

In the case of this particular housing policy, HUD has deemed that it is not fair for people who can't afford certain neighborhoods to be excluded from them. To remedy this situation, they are proposing to implement policies which force local communities to provide advantages for those who want to get into certain housing units but cannot afford them. This is done by forcing changes in zoning laws, in how home financing is made available, and in the kind of infrastructure and transportation that is available.

Essentially, the difference in worldview approaches dictates the policies which the government goes by. When the focus is on individual freedom (as in the traditional American model), individuals have the ability to make their own decisions and go for their own goals. When the focus is on "the good of the collective," governmental leaders decide everything based on their personal values and impose it on society.

A worldview is much more than an individual point of view. As a majority of individuals express particular worldview beliefs in society, it ultimately affects every part of every person's life. The naturalistic point of view destroys individual freedom. Christians cannot just sit back and allow non-Christian worldview beliefs to take over and expect that their freedom to live and worship will not be affected. We have to take our biblical principles and express them in every part of life.

Of course, the ultimate purpose is to bring the world into relationship with God through Jesus Christ. But to even have the possibility of living out that purpose, promoting an environment which allows it is critical. We are stewards not just of our individual souls, but of the world God has placed us in. We need to put forth effort like we believe that to be true.

## America's New Faith Based Office

August 2013

Shaun Casey Just recently, Secretary of State John Kerry announced the formation of a new office. This one is called the Office of Faith-Based Community Initiatives. The purpose of the office, as described by the State Department, is to act as a “portal for engagement with religious leaders and organizations around the world.”

Now, this must be a good thing, right? Well, not so much! Appointed to head this office is Shaun Casey, a former religion advisor to the president's 2008 campaign. Casey is a professor of Christian ethics at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. He is known as a liberal professor who has expressed his opinion that he is, frankly, glad that American civil religion is dying. In other words, he advocates for a national moral and spiritual foundation which is not based on Christian values. Casey's goal is not to make sure America's traditional values remain strong and effective in the lives of Americans, but to seek “common ground” between all religions.

So, what do we really have here? We have another person who claims to be a Christian, works in an institution which claims to be Christian, and serves in a position which is supposed to promote the values of religious faith. The problem is, it is all a front. His real agenda is decidedly not Christian. He has a naturalistic agenda which is clothed in a Christian veneer.

In the PC speak of today's culture, the concept of “faith based” does not mean Christian. This is merely another attempt of the wolf to mingle with the sheep by putting on sheep's clothing. The goal is not to promote anything Christian. In fact, just the opposite. The goal is to destroy what is overtly Christian and turn it into a meaningless religious mush pot.

This is simply one more example of how those in political power are seeking to undermine the worldview principles which are the foundation stones of American culture. The antidote to this is for true Christians to understand the truth and exert energy to push back by expressing the truth. We do it by walking the walk personally, by voting into office people who hold biblical values, and by actively sharing the gospel with those who don't know Christ. Anything less will allow the push to fundamentally change American culture to succeed.

## Third Gender? Seriously?

August 2013

I just came across an article with the headline: ‘Third Gender’ Official in Germany from November. The article Third Gender indicates that Germany is set to become the first country in Europe to introduce a third “indeterminate” gender designation on birth certificates. In addition

to the standard choices of “male” or “female,” parents may also opt out of determining their baby’s gender so the child can make his or her own choice later in life.

This is so absurd that it borders on insanity. But here we are anyway – allowing people to choose what gender they are based on how they feel. This kind of madness is already making its way to America where certain states, like California, are implementing laws which allow school children to choose what sex they want to be and use restrooms, gym facilities, and even choose sports teams based on their “feelings” about their sexuality.

The truth is, people are born either male or female. There is not a third sex. And those who “feel” like a different sex either have some kind of chemical imbalance in their bodies or a psychological problem. But none of that changes the reality of their actual sexual identity. The solution to this is medical or psychological help, not imposing their actual sexuality on members of the opposite sex in private settings.

And yes, all of this has a worldview basis. Christian Theism is based a belief in the existence of an objective reality. A person’s sex is what it is and there is an objective moral standard which governs how sexuality should be expressed. Naturalism, on the other hand, claims that material reality is objectively real, but bases its moral beliefs in subjectivity – acknowledging alternative sexual possibilities based on feelings.

Third gender? It’s a fantasy! And by trying to impose the fantasy on society, as if it were actual reality, will put the entire culture in a fantasy world. It cannot, and will not, end well.

### **[The Intolerance of Modern-day Tolerance](#)**

August 2013

Donnie McClurkin Are you familiar with Donnie McClurkin? He is a Grammy Award winning gospel recording artist, and pastor of Perfecting Faith Church in Freeport, N.Y. As a well known African American recording artist, McClurkin was invited to headline the “Reflections on Peace: from Gandhi to King” MLK Memorial Concert on August 10.

Well, he was uninvited. You see, Pastor McClurkin used to be homosexual, but God got hold of his life and changed him. He believes God delivered him from the “sin of homosexuality,” and that people with unwanted same-sex attractions can change.

Unfortunately, Washington, D. C. Mayor Vincent Gray, along with the Arts and Humanities Commission, got wind of McClurkin’s beliefs when pro-gay activists began complaining. It seems that the mayor didn’t want McClurkin’s “highly controversial” statements about homosexuality to become a distraction from an event focused on peace, love, justice and equal rights for all.

Now, doesn't that just beat all? The organizers of an event focused on inclusiveness, equal rights, and tolerance are tolerant of everyone except those they disagree with. Their whole approach is to dominate others rather than allow everyone to hold sincere beliefs. If you don't fit their mold, they just kick you out.

Here is the insidious truth. These members of the belief police honestly think they are tolerant of others. This clearly shows the unconscious nature of worldview beliefs. Their unconscious assumptions are that anyone who is not openly accepting of homosexual behavior is automatically a hater of homosexuals. They see it as a discriminatory belief and are unable to understand the concept of hating the sin but loving the sinner. So, in their minds, they see discrimination and they attack.

The solution to this problem is not to back down. The problem is ignorance, and the solution is to shine a light on the truth. The Christian point of view must not be allowed to be turned on its head based on false worldview beliefs. And the only way this is going to happen is for Christians to know how to make the case for their beliefs, and face down the ones who are truly intolerant.

### **Christian Charity to State of Florida – “Stuff it!”**

September 2013

Christian Service Center If you were running a Christian charity and an official of the government told you to eliminate anything indicating you were Christian or they would not allow you to be a part of their food network, what would you do? This is exactly what happened to the Christian Service Center in Lake City, Florida.

The Christian Service Center is a Christian social service ministry that runs a food pantry to provide food for the hungry in Lake City. The Center receives its food through local donations and also receives cheese through a contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) which is administered through the State of Florida's Department of Agriculture.

Recently, it was time to renew the contract and a state employee came calling. The Center was informed that there had been a slight change to the contract provisions, and in order to receive the cheese in the future they would have to remove all signs and posters which made reference to their faith, remove any Christian art and Scriptures, refrain from giving out any Christian literature, make no references to the ministry's chapel, and do no Christian counseling with clients. Of course, this only applied in the presence of the cheese. They could put their Christian stuff elsewhere on the property and that would be okay.

It seems that the USDA now has rules in place which state that organizations which receive USDA nutrition assistance can distribute the food so long as it is in a place on the property away

from anything that could be considered religious. The Christian Service Center, therefore, was forced to choose between God or government cheese.

Well, to make a long story short, the leaders of the ministry politely told the USDA what they could do with their cheese. They are very committed to their ministry which is to help people in need and to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. They are determined to pray with them, offer them a Bible, and give Christian counsel in general.

As unfortunate as it is, this is the direction the country is headed. As Naturalists take over more and more of our nation's institutions, they are doing all they can to push out those who hold Christian beliefs.

Actually, it can hardly be any other way. Naturalism and Christian Theism are based on different worldviews which contradict one another. The conflict in the culture is, literally, a religious war. The main problem for Christians is that too few have made any effort to get up to speed on the issues and be willing to stand up and share a witness to those who are trying to take us down the road to destruction.

The war is a war of beliefs. The only way to win is to demonstrate that faith in Christ is true and faith in Naturalism is not true. Who is ready to get their hands dirty?

### **[Should You Watch an R Rated Movie?](#)**

September 2013

MPAAThe Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) is the organization which gives films their ratings. Of course the purpose of the ratings is to help parents give guidance to their children regarding what movies are appropriate for their age. Over the years the standards have changed, somewhat, so that movies which used to be thought of as containing adult material are now rated as acceptable for a younger audience. It is obvious that many movies which are now rated PG-13 would have, in past times, been rated R. But even with that, the ratings do give us a sense of the moral content of the movies.

Personally, I try to avoid R (restricted) rated movies. Typically, these are filled with gratuitous profanity, violence and sex or nudity. While occasionally an R rated movie comes along which is worth watching (such as *The Passion of the Christ*), for the most part, these movies promote values which conflict with my Christian values.

Well, there is a new R rated movie coming out soon called "My Son." This one is about a young man who falls in love with a young woman and stands by her side when her child is taken from her. The movie contains allusions to drugs and also has a rather scary hostage standoff in a church. But even with that, there is nothing graphic which would normally merit the R rating.

And did I mention, the movie has been produced by a church – Retta Baptist Church in Burleson, Texas.

So we have a movie which is produced by a church, with a faith based message, no sex, no foul language, no nudity, and even the violence and drugs are handled lightly, but still an R rating? What's going on here?

Well, it seems that now the MPAA has another category that they want to warn parents about – Christianity. You read that right. They want to try and limit the audience for an evangelical film. They are offended and believe that a message which indicates that there is only one way to heaven and promotes traditional moral values is bigoted.

Of course, the MPAA would never say that out loud. They say the R rating is for some violence and drug use. But considering that many of the movies which they rate as much as two classifications lower have less offensive material than what is contained in this one, the rating is a crock. There are definitely other motives at play.

Almost everywhere you turn these days, the Christian faith, and Christians, are being abused – and much of it already rises to a level that it can be called persecution. We see it in government policy, the military, businesses, schools and the list could go on. It is not too late to turn this around, but the only way it is going to happen is for Christians to begin exposing the hypocrisy of the attacks and pushing back in the appropriate forums. To effectively do this, we must grasp the worldview concepts which help us not only understand why our Christian faith is the truth and other beliefs are not, but also give us the tools to share our faith with those who don't know Christ. Ultimately, that is the key to changing the culture. Ultimately, that is what must be done to promote the values that we, as Christians, cherish so strongly.

### [Nancy/Nathan is Dead](#)

October 2013

Nathan VerhelstNathan Verhelst was euthanized in Belgium this past Monday afternoon (September 30) by lethal injection. Nathan was born Nancy. She didn't like being a girl, so decided to undergo a sex change. She began the process in 2009 with hormone therapy followed by a mastectomy then surgery to construct a penis. At that point, Nancy became Nathan.

Unfortunately, none of the operations worked as desired and Nancy/Nathan became distraught. Based on her/his assertion of “unbearable psychological suffering,” she/he got permission to have her/himself legally euthanized.

Euthanasia is legal in Belgium – and it is, seemingly, a booming business. In 2012, they had a 25% year to year increase in these legal killings up to a record 1,421 cases. That is nearly four a



day. There have been just about 4,200 cases in the ten years since it was legalized. The country's legislature is currently even debating whether they should extend "mercy killing" legislation to children. This would be for those who are born with various kinds of illnesses or deformities that the families think would cause problems for the child if allowed to live.

The doctor who carried out the euthanasia of Nancy/Nathan was a man by the name of Professor Distelmans. This is the same man who euthanized 45 year old twins Marc and Eddy Verbessem last year. They were both born deaf and asked to be euthanized after learning they might both go blind. This was another case of claiming "unbearable psychological suffering."

This is the kind of thing which easily happens when a naturalistic worldview becomes the dominant belief of a nation. Life, to Naturalists, is not sacred. Human beings are merely one natural animal among many. In America, the door has already been kicked open for this same thing to happen. "Doctor assisted suicide" is already legal in Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Vermont. I wonder how many years it will be before what we see in Belgium is also commonplace in America.

This is not just a tragedy for these individuals. It is a horrific indictment on Western culture which has stepped up to replace God with human representatives. It is right for Christians to fight against this, but we must not do it by merely passing new laws (though that is a part of the process). The real key is to bring Christ to the world. Only changed hearts bring forth a truly changed culture.

### [Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire!](#)

November 2013

Pants on Fire! I have been thinking a lot, lately, about what is going on in the U.S. these days, particularly as it relates to the actions of the president. Now, I certainly do have my issues with him related to his policy agenda. There is not really much I agree with him about on that front. But as bad as that is, there is something that disturbs me even more – his lying.

There is hardly a single one of the recent scandals about which he has not looked the American public in the eye and simply lied. For instance:

- \* He said he knew nothing about the Fast and Furious debacle.
- \* He said he knew nothing about the IRS scandal.
- \* He said he knew nothing about the NSA scandal.
- \* He said he was against homosexual marriage before his views "evolved."
- \* He said he didn't know about the problems with the Obamacare website.
- \* Concerning Obamacare, he said people could keep their insurance policies and doctors, and that insurance rates would go down.
- \* He said he doesn't know what went on in Benghazi.

\* He said he would like abortion to be rare.

I also think he is lying about his intentions regarding what is going on in the Middle East, his agenda concerning global warming, the way he is dealing with fossil fuels ... and I could probably extend this list for another whole page.

Lying to cover for oneself is bad enough. Lying to promote a political agenda that would not be accepted if it were not lied about is inexcusable. And this president does this as a matter of course.

The reason he does it so easily is because he has a worldview which accepts the notion that the ends justify the means. In spite of the fact that he calls himself a Christian, he lives his life based on beliefs which come straight out of Naturalism. Lying is not a Christian value.

While the president is a high profile example of this problem, he is, unfortunately, not the only person who falls into this category. We have MANY politicians who are doing the exact same thing.

Sadly, America is getting what it deserves. Not that it makes me feel any better, it is just an observation. Enough people, it seems, are willing to accept this state of affairs. While there are a lot of people who are calling their members of congress and trying to support what is right, there is a much larger majority who either accept the lies because they agree with his policies, or who are just too complacent to register their displeasure.

As Christians, we have a duty to be good stewards of all the responsibility God has placed in our hands. This includes the stewardship of our oversight of the political process and of the culture. This means holding our politicians accountable for the words they speak. Until enough Christians take up the mantle, things are only going to get worse.

### [Those Pitiable Atheists](#)

December 2013

I've commented on this topic before, but this time there is a little different twist. Over the last several years, certain Atheist groups have put up billboards to promote their Atheist religion. Sadly, what they do most of the time is not to tout the merits of what they believe to be true. Rather, most of their efforts are aimed at trying to discredit and tear down belief in God.

This Christmas, the Freedom from Religion Foundation (FFRF) is rolling out a billboard campaign in Sacramento, California to encourage non-believers to "come out of the closet" by ignoring the religious undertones of the holiday. FFRF co-president, Annie Laurie Gaylor, told FoxNews.com, "The whole month of December is taken over in celebration of the religious

beliefs, in particular Christianity, and it's just as if the whole month turns non-believers into outsiders." So, FFRF's solution is to try to destroy the religious nature of the season to the highest degree possible.

Each of these billboards has the picture of a person (or persons) with a quote, along with the person's name and occupation. Some of the billboard captions include:

- \* believe in humanity, not god.
- \* I'm an atheist and never been happier.
- \* God free, happy, and inspired by wonder.
- \* Just follow the golden rule (Religion not required).
- \* A life of love. No gods required.
- \* Science is my sacred.

Of course, it's their constitutional right, in America, to express their belief – even if it is not true. What is really sad, though, is that they feel compelled to do it the way they have. They are so insecure about their faith that they feel they have to put down other people's faith during a time of special celebration.

Unfortunately, the commercialization of the Christmas season makes it easier for them to try and make the point that this is just a holiday season, not a religious celebration. The truth is, the real reason for the season is that God came to earth as a human being for the express purpose of providing a way for us to have the stain of sin removed from our lives. He did this in order to provide a way for us to know a personal relationship with him. When we truly apprehend this truth and make it the central part of our celebration, the spirit of Christmas will explode in the world in a way which brings glory to the one who has given us life – in spite of any attempt by nay sayers to dampen the spirit.

## **The Christmas Fight**

December 2013

Nativity Scene Over the last several years, there has begun a great fight in America's public square. In recent years, this fight has been very visible at Christmas. On one side are Christians who have, traditionally, expressed the joy of Christmas by placing Christian symbols in public places. On the other side are an emerging group of, primarily, Atheists who are committed to their faith and are trying to keep any kind of religious expression out of the public square.

The latest place this fight is taking place is in the rotunda of the Florida State Capital. American Nativity Scene, an organization started by Chicagoan Jim Finnegan, began an effort to encourage the placement of nativity scenes in the state capitals of all 50 states. A group was formed in Florida, the Florida Nativity Scene Committee, and the display was put up.

Since the display is legal, groups opposing it cannot stop it from happening. What they can do though, and have done, is to put up opposing displays. So, the Freedom From Religion Foundation put up a banner depicting Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and the Statue of Liberty adoring the Bill of Rights placed in a crib. Another display is a 6 foot tall homemade “Festivus” pole made from emptied Pabst Blue Ribbon beer cans.

So, what accounts for the vitriol of the opponents of the Christian faith? Where is the tolerance that allows Christians to openly celebrate this special event on their faith calendar? Well, the tolerance is nonexistent. The hatred of everything Christian is so strong with these opponents that they are determined to do all they can to crush every public expression of it that they can. It is really no different than the Atheist groups in California who are putting up billboards encouraging people not to celebrate Christmas.

But the source of the rancor is spiritual. The truth is, these people hate expressions of the Christian faith because they hate God and are running from him. In John 15, Jesus himself said, “If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.” And they certainly persecuted Jesus. It should be no surprise, then, that people would do such a thing.

The easy thing is to just sit back and bemoan the persecution. But we should not be content to do the easy thing. Based on American’s right to freedom of speech, the nativity scene has been permitted in the Florida Capitol building. And based on that same freedom of speech, things intended to express hatred toward Christians is also allowed. Instead of stewing about the expressions of hatred, what we ought to be doing is using this controversy to express God’s love. The people who put up the hateful symbols are separated from God. They need him. What a great opportunity to look them in the eye and tell them of the Savior who came and died so that they could know eternal life.

### **[The Religion of Nothing](#)**

December 2013

The religion of nothing? What is that?

Well, it is actually a real religion. The religion of nothing is any expression of Naturalism – Atheism, Postmodernism, Secular Humanism, Marxism, and the like. It is a very deceptive religion because nothing is really not nothing – it is something.

If you are confused, at this point, don’t feel alone. Not only is this belief confusing to Christians who are confronted with it, but even its adherents don’t usually understand its full implications. So, here is the explanation.

Naturalism is the belief that there is no such thing as a supernatural reality. All that exists is the material universe. Based on that belief, there is no God and everything in all of reality can ultimately be explained by experimental science. Of course everyone admits there is much about reality that is still not known. But adherents believe that given enough time, science will catch up and everything will be explained.

Based on this belief, they assert that any kind of religious expression is silly superstition. Now, most of these folks would say that if people want to follow their superstitious beliefs that is their own business. But if they do, it should be confined to the private arena. That kind of expression should not be allowed in the public square. So, there should be no prayer before public meetings, no religious expressions in public buildings, no crosses at public cemeteries, no religious expression in any school activity, and so on.

Here is the problem. In spite of their assertions to the contrary, Naturalism is a religion. There is no possible experimental science to back up its basic foundational presuppositions. In order to show that Naturalism is true, they would have to demonstrate four things using experimental science (which is what they demand of any other kind of religious expression).

1. They would have to prove that it is possible for the material that makes up the natural universe (matter and energy) to have either emerged out of absolute nothing or that it is eternal without a beginning. There is no experimental science to demonstrate that either of these are even possible.
2. They would have to prove that life can emerge out of inert chemicals. In spite of many years of trying, there is no experimental science which has ever demonstrated that this is a possibility.
3. They would have to prove that the variety of life forms on earth could possibly have evolved from lower life forms. In spite of the elaborate contortions of the Theory of Evolution, this has never been proven possible. Many biological processes have been speculated about to try and back-up the theory, but scientists are no closer now to actually demonstrating it to be possible than they were when Darwin first proposed it. They try to equate micro-evolution with macro-evolution by saying natural selection can be extended beyond what can be demonstrated by experimental science. Unfortunately for them, this is based on their ardent faith in Naturalism, not on science.
4. They would have to prove that consciousness can emerge from non-consciousness. There is a massive breach between plants and certain lower life forms which have no consciousness at all, and creatures which are conscious. There is a massive gap between lower animal forms which have no self-consciousness and human beings which do. Again, there is no science to show that it is even possible for naturalistic evolution to bridge these gaps.

Naturalists assert these beliefs because for them, since they believe there is no supernatural reality, a natural explanation is all that is possible. Their reasoning has no scientific basis whatsoever. They believe it by faith. In other words, Naturalism, in all its forms, is a religious

point of view, not a scientific one. They try to equate Naturalism with science, but it is simply not true.

So, now back to the religion of nothing. Based on what has been expressed above, what is the religious symbol of Naturalism? Well, that would be nothing. So when Naturalists insist that nothing be put in the public square which would represent some other religious point of view, they are, in fact, insisting that their religious symbol be there. We do need to make a distinction here. If nothing is in a particular place just because nothing is there, that is not any kind of expression at all. A religious expression requires intent by someone. But when a Naturalist insists that there be nothing in place of something else, that is an expression of intent and is thus a religious expression.

Frankly, I believe that the religion of nothing is a false religion. But beyond that, I believe that in no way should the religion of nothing take precedence over my faith in Jesus Christ in the public square. In spite of those who hate the Christian faith, the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right of every citizen to express their faith – not only in private, but also in the public square. It cannot be any other way. There will be some religious expression no matter what, whether it is Christianity or the religion of nothing. Why should the Christian faith be consigned to second class status behind the religion of nothing? It is very important for Christians to understand these distinctions and, based on their stewardship responsibilities before God, express their faith in every part of the public square.

### **[Why Phil Robertson is Wrong, and Right](#)**

December 2013

There has been a LOT of talk recently about Phil Robertson being suspended from the hit reality TV show, Duck Dynasty. As for me, I have been in conversations with and listened to conversations by people from all three sides of the controversy – those who back Phil, those who think Phil's words were pig headed or immoral, and those who think Christians need to stay out of discussions on this topic and focus on sharing a Christian witness.

As I listen to these various conversations, it is almost as if people are not even talking about the same event. The perspectives and conclusions are so different. Listening, though, the greatest problem I see is that very few, and I mean that literally, have any idea what the real issue is in this conversation. Those who back Phil are focusing on the wrong subject, those who are against Phil have no idea what he is even talking about, and those who want to avoid the subject don't realize that no witness can ever take place until one is able to express the gospel message in a way that can be understood by the ones who have no clue.

So, I want to make three points that will, hopefully, get to the heart of the matter. The three points deal with a basic understanding of the core of the Christian faith, how that gets expressed in culture, and the nature of people's understanding of what is real and not real.

### 1. We Are Sinners and We Sin.

While this statement may seem obvious to most Christians, there is a distinction that is too seldom made – being a sinner and sinning are two different things. One problem with Phil's statement is that he did not make this clear to those he was talking to – people who don't understand the basic beliefs of the Christian faith.

Sin, in its essence, is a corrupted state of human nature. Humanity exists in this state because of the Fall of Adam and Eve, and the result of this state in human individuals is that it separates us from God. Sins, on the other hand, are specific thoughts and acts which people commit. Sins are the outward evidence that we have a Sin problem.

So, when Phil spoke of homosexual behavior being a sin, he was right. At the same time, he did not explain enough to help those who don't understand the difference between Sin and Sins to get what he was talking about. They interpreted what he said to mean that those who identify themselves as homosexuals are evil people who are hated by God. The truth is, same sex attraction is not a sin – just like the temptation a heterosexual might experience toward someone of the opposite sex is not a sin. The sin occurs when the temptation becomes an actual coveted desire or action.

Sins are a problem, but Sin is THE problem. It is Sin that separates people from God and which must be forgiven if people are going to get right with God. To his credit, Phil did try to make this point by explaining that all Sins, not just homosexuality, are a problem. But this distinction must be made overtly and intentionally or the conversation about this controversy will never get anywhere.

### 2. Marriage Has a Definition.

One of the goals of gay rights advocates is “marriage equality” – they want marriage between homosexuals to be recognized as equal to marriage between a man and a woman. They consider it a matter of equal rights.

In truth, it is not a matter of equal rights at all. It is actually a blatant attempt to have a relationship which is considered to be immoral based on traditional Christian beliefs accepted as moral and normal. If it were simply a matter of rights, the push would be to make it possible for those in homosexual relationships to gain particular rights. But that is not what is happening. What is being pushed is acceptance of the relationship itself. We see this in the fact that when the rights are granted (as when civil unions are made legal), the gay-marriage advocates are not satisfied and continue to push for marriage. We see it in the fact that in the places where gay-marriage is legalized, there is virtually always a push to punish businesses (and even religious institutions) that do not want to participate in a gay-marriage.

The fact is, heterosexuals who live together outside of marriage sin in the exact same way as those in homosexual relationships. The real issue is, marriage has a specific definition. It is the formal union between one man and one woman. If you hyphenate the definition to add in something else, it is no longer marriage. The term gay-marriage simply is not marriage, and trying to force it to be so does not change the reality.

Beyond that, marriage has a particular place in God's economy. He created reality to exist in a particular way, and those who want to change the definition of what that means still don't change the reality. God created male and female with complementary physical and spiritual components. Based on the objective reality of this creation, the nuclear family is ideally designed to be the foundation of human culture. When people attempt to alter the design, it doesn't work out well. Homosexual relationships are not sins because God hates homosexuals. It is sin because it is a rejection of what God established as reality.

### 3. Worldview Matters.

There is a way that reality exists and it does not exist any other way. That, though, does not stop people from conceiving of and living life in ways which do not reflect reality. In modern American culture, there are a great number of people who live life by a different understanding of reality than the Christian beliefs upon which the nation was founded.

Here is the problem. When people come to an understanding of what they believe is real, everything else is understood to be not real. So, when a person makes a statement about reality that another thinks is not real, it literally doesn't make any sense to the one hearing it. The beliefs that support traditional marriage and those that support the concept of gay-marriage fall into this category. They are literally based on differing beliefs about how reality is structured. As such, most arguments about the topic don't make any sense to those who argue from the other side. It doesn't matter if one side represents actual reality or not, a person's understanding of reality is all they know.

Here is how that gets expressed in the culture. In order for a society to have order, there must be some commonly accepted standard of behavior. That standard is based on some set of beliefs that the people in the society believe represents reality (a worldview). The standard that is ultimately accepted determines what values are accepted and what laws will be made. When there is division in the land about how reality is structured, not only is there cultural clash, but people literally don't understand the arguments of the other side.

We see this in the Duck Dynasty controversy. Phil said homosexuality is a sin. He based his statement on a personal understanding of the distinction between Sin and sins discussed above. And because this is the way he understands reality, he didn't see the need to explain that to the interviewer. Virtually everyone assumes that those they are talking with, at the very least, understand reality they way they do. After all, another point of view cannot possibly be real and that should be obvious to the person hearing the explanation.



He was wrong. The ones who reacted negatively started with a different understanding of reality and interpreted his remarks as a personal attack on a particular group of people, not in the way he meant it, as a statement that all humans are sinners. Neither side understands the other, so the words they utter are totally misunderstood. This has happened on both sides because, for the most part, neither side understands the worldview beliefs of the other. They think they are hearing something different than what is truly being said and are, thus, making arguments which don't actually address what the other person is saying.

#### The Cure

There is only one cure for the problem – education. As long as people don't understand the differences in worldview beliefs, they will never effectively communicate. Christians who want to share their faith with those who have different worldview beliefs have to truly grasp the worldview beliefs of the person they want to share with. If they don't, what they say will be interpreted to mean things they don't really mean. It is as simple as that.