

1/17/93

A Prescription For Sure Death
Leviticus 18 - 19

Last year, (1990) a commission of educational, political, medical and business leaders met to examine the problems of American children. They issued a report called Code Blue, which came to a disturbing and unprecedented conclusion: "Never before has one generation of American teenagers been less healthy, less cared for, or less prepared for life than their parents were at the same age." The evidence is only hidden from the blind. I sit on the Senate committee that deals with children and families. I sat on a similar committee in the House of Representatives, and I've seen the parade of pathologies they are unending and increasing:

- Suicide is now the second leading cause of death among adolescents, increasing 300 percent since 1950.
- Teen pregnancy has risen 621 percent since 1940. More than a million teenage girls get pregnant each year
- Eighty-five percent of teenage boys who impregnate teenage girls eventually abandon them.
- The teen homicide rate has increased 232 percent since 1950. Homicide is now the leading cause of death among 15 to 19 year old minority youth.
- One in four young black males in America is either in prison or under court supervision.
- Every year substance abuse claims younger victims with harder drugs. A third of high school seniors get drunk once a week. The average age for first time drug use is now 13 years old.

The Code Blue report made an essential point: the challenges to the health and well-being of America's youth are not primarily rooted in illness or economics. Unlike the past, the problem is not childhood disease or unsanitary slums. The most basic cause of suffering, the report concluded, is profoundly self-destructive behavior and belief. A crisis of character.

Like a lot of well-intentioned panels, Code Blue had no idea what to do with its findings. They diagnosed a cultural crisis. The solutions they eventually offered mainly centered on better health care. Former Education Secretary William Bennett commented, "In other words, Code Blue identifies a crisis of the spirit, a sickness of the soul, and it recommends aspirin, band-aids and a hall pass to the nurse."

This is not a problem that will be solved with money or clinics or medicine. It has deeper roots in hearts and souls. In the mainstream of youth culture, it is deeply disturbing. It leaves a legacy of broken lives. But at the extremes, it is frightening, with children who seem drained of conscience. (Nov./Dec. AFA Journal 1991)

This is what has happened to the land of the free and the home of the brave!

- Why?
- What went wrong?
- How did it happen?

I would like to give you three reasons for the debilitating condition of our country from Leviticus 18-20.

- I.** Americans are defiant to authority.
- II.** Americans are dedicated to selfishness.
- III.** Americans are destructive to family love.

- Ch.1-17 were given by God that Israel might know how to worship God.
- Ch.18-27 were given by God that Israel might know how to walk with God.
- Ch.17-26 have been called "The Holiness Code" since the late 19th century which deal with ethics and moral standards for living.

Our nations has turned from clear cut ethics and absolute moral standard that made our nation strong for close to 200 years to

embrace relativism, situational ethics, value clarification, existentialism and humanism. And just in 25 years or so, we have destroyed this great nation from within.

They have made it illegal to teach about God and the bible in our schools yet they teach our teen-ages how to use a condom by having them put it on a banana.

- The law requires parental consent for a girl to have her ears pierced under 18 years old yet she can be taken out of school to have an abortion without her parents consent.

Something is desperately wrong with our nation, we are a society without a moral conscience no longer able to distinguish between right and wrong.

I. Americans are defiant to authority.

- A. Defy the authority of God who requires an absolute standard of holiness 19:1-2.
 - 1. Declaring there is no God and that we are a mere product of chance and evolution.
 - 2. Declaring that truth must be experienced and determined to be truth by each person themselves, it's all relative.
- B. Defy the honor of God He deserves 19:4.
 - 1. Idolatry is to worship and honor something in the place of God.
 - 2. Representing God by an image is misrepresenting God who is spirit and created all things.
- C. Defy the authority and honor of parents 19:3a, 32, 20:9.
 - 1. Revere father and mother for they gave you life 19:3a.

- 2. Respect the elderly and honor them 19:32.
- 3. Restrain your dishonorable words to your parents 20:9.
 - * Violent crimes on parents and the elderly are a major problem today!
- D. Defy the authority of capital punishment 20:9-21.
 - * All these sins were to incur a death punishment.
 - 1. Today it would be impossible, for the United States is not a theocracy.
 - 2. The refusal to execute capital punishment when life is taken has severe consequences Gen.9:5-6, Num.35:31-34.
 - 3. The civil authorities are to exercise capital punishment Rom.14:14, 1 Pet.2:13-14.
 - * Criminals on the street know that authority has been destroyed because there are not consequences, especially in proportion to the crime.

Americans are defiant to authority!

II. Americans are dedicated to selfishness.

- A. Dedicated to being uncompassionate 19:9-10.
 - * God cares for the poor and needy throughout Scripture therefore throughout history it has been the Christian community who has led the way regarding the needy.
 - 1. God expected those who had provisions to be compassionate.
 - 2. God expected the needy to work for it and not just be supported.

- B.** Dedicated to abandon social and work ethics 19:11-18, 36.
1. Our society has lost it's ethical fiber regarding commitment to his fellowman but is manipulative, self-seeking and self-loving 19:11-18.
 2. Our work force from the laborer to the corporate office is permeated with dishonesty and self-gain 19:36.
- C.** Dedicated to accomplishing our goals regardless of the source 19:31, 20:6a, 20:27.
1. The New Age movement which is revived Hinduism has won the hearts of the American public, from blue collar to professional.
- Channeling and spirit guides are a common practice.
 2. Astrology, tara cards and prognosticator are advertised on the television.
* Saul sought the witch at En Dor 1Sam.28:7-8.

Americans are dedicated to selfishness!

III. Americans are destructive to family love.

- A.** Destructive by incestuous relationships 18:6-17.
1. The boundaries have been blurred!
 2. The conscience has been seared!
* Incest is a major problem in our society today!
- B.** Destructive by adulterous relationships 18, 20, 20:10.
1. No fault divorces has removed the stigma of adultery.
 2. Adultery robs a person of their wife or husband and kills a family for the most selfish reasons.

- * Television, movies etc. glorify it, encourage it and parade it as normal.
* Fornication is an epidemic!
- C.** Destructive by murdering babies 18:21, 20:1-5.
1. Molech was the god of fertility and pleasure.
 2. Americans have killed 1.5 million babies in abortions per year since the 1973 Superior Court ruling of Roe versus Wade, a total of 30 million children in the name of pleasure and personal choice.
- D.** Destructive by perverting sexual roles 18:22, 20:13.
1. Homosexuality and lesbianism is a perversion of the natural not an alternate life style.
 2. Homosexuality as an excepted norm in society has always marked the last stages of a society. Rom.1:20-25, 29-31.
* 2 Tim.3:3 unloving, the King James Version without natural affection or family love.

An anthropologist, J.D. Unwin, conducted a study on eighty-eight civilizations that have come and gone in world history. In every one of these eighty-eight civilizations, the morals and strict sexual conduct started off the same, but then things became lax giving the people more and more freedom to express sexual desires whenever they pleased. That freedom began the destruction of the civilization. First came venereal disease, then breaking up of homes. Children were brought up in unstable environments and patterned their behavior after their parents' behavior, making each succeeding generation more degenerate than the last. Thus those civilizations eventually were destroyed. (McDowell: Why Wait - pp 261-62)

- A study of 5,000 civilizations revealed that 50 were characterized as sexually free and confusing the sex roles without distinction or boundaries bringing about the decay and death of all 50 civilizations.

* God warned Israel 18:24-25, 27-28.

Americans are destructive to family love.

CONCLUSION

Can you see this prescription for sure death written on America's society?

- I.** Defiant to authority
- II.** Dedicated to selfishness
- III.** Destructive to family love

We need to pray for America and live out God's Word!