

Immorality, not guns, are causing America's problems

January 17, 2013
by [Randy Bright](#)



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In the aftermath of the Sandy Hook killings of twenty children and six adults, the nation is anxiously awaiting the Obama Administration's next movement for more gun control. We all know where it will eventually lead – more restrictions now to confiscation and illegalization of guns later.

No one on the left is asking the correct questions about why someone goes on a killing spree – they simply vilify the gun, not what motivates someone to kill.

The obvious reason, at least to me and other conservatives and Christians, is that people choose to commit acts as evil as these. In my opinion, to blame it on the mentally ill is erroneous and unfair to the millions in this country who suffer from mental illness but who still exercise restraint against committing heinous crimes.

It seems to me that what is actually happening in this country is that morals are being rejected on a systemic and administrative level, and that has dulled, or dumbed down, the conscience of individuals who commit these kinds of murderous acts. In other words, when people have no morals, they have nothing to restrain them from doing anything wrong, and do so without any regrets.

Recently I heard that violent crime had actually dropped fifty percent over the last decade in the United States.

Some attribute that to the fact that all but one state has enacted concealed carry laws, and that has caused people to refrain from crime.

If that is true, what would happen if guns were suddenly illegal and were confiscated from law abiding citizens? Probably the same thing that has happened in England and other countries that have made guns illegal – the violent crime rate has grown many times higher than here in the United States.

Well, if there are no guns to discourage crime, then perhaps we could fall back on morals. Americans are good people by nature, right?

But Americans have committed tens of millions of murders in the form of abortion over the past four decades and many of those who have done so consider themselves to be moral people.

Euthanasia is on the horizon and rationing of health care will lead to the deaths of many others, yet this will be considered good medicine and fiscally responsible.

In addition, we are systematically rejecting God, more specifically by rejecting our churches. A simple Google search will reveal dozens of cases of churches that are being denied building permits because churches no longer fit into a city's plans for economic development, or simply because churches aren't wanted for other various reasons. And it has been going on for a long time. Here are just a few examples.

A church in Yuma, Arizona, was denied a permit to convert an old J.C. Penney department store into a church. After the U.S. Department of Justice began investigating the city's actions, The Alliance Defense Fund helped them sue the city, eventually winning a \$400,000 settlement. Unfortunately, during the process they lost the building and had to locate elsewhere.

In 2012, Teton County, Idaho, denied a permit to an LDS church because it wanted to build its 19,000-square-foot facility in a rural location. Planners wanted it located in the city where there was a question whether enough land was available.

On 2011, Macon-Bibb County in Georgia denied a permit for an Assembly of God to operate from an existing building due to nearby businesses that sell alcohol.

In 2001, Forest Park, a suburb of Atlanta, was sued by a church denied a permit because its property was in a commercial district.

In 2011, Prince George County, Maryland, denied a permit to Reaching Hearts International Ministries by denying it a water permit, even after a federal judge ruled in the church's favor in a lawsuit. Their legal battle to build began in 2002.

In Vacaville, Calif., a Seventh-Day Adventist Church was denied a permit in 2002. One of the county planners reportedly said that the county had a "long history of antireligious bias."

In 1999, Rolling Hills Estates, Calif., denied a permit for a nondenominational church to occupy a newly purchased building because the property needed to produce tax revenue.

In 2008, Celebration Community Church was denied a permit by the city of Muskegon, Mich., due to concerns about nearby businesses selling alcohol and a desire to keep the property on the tax rolls.

How quickly we have forgotten that moral compass, created by faith in God and the presence of churches in our nation, and without which we blame all others but the guilty.

As society rejects both God and the church, we should not be at all surprised when more horrific crimes are committed. After all, what will be left to restrain the perpetrators but more of the same useless laws we already have?

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