

Christian individuals must step up to rescue America

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By [Randy W. Bright](#)

Anyone who has read my column for any length of time knows that I believe that America was founded as a Christian nation, and not only it has been the most blessed nation in history, it has been a nation that has blessed the rest of the world like no nation ever has.

But to say that Americans aren't changing for the worse would be naive and inaccurate. Not all of us, of course, but certainly a significant number.

The Barna Group recently released a finding, entitled 'What do Americans Believe About Jesus? 5 Popular Beliefs', that exemplifies how some of us are changing. In summary, it stated that while most Americans believe Jesus was a real person, younger generations were less likely to believe that "Jesus was God, whether or not Jesus had sinned or not or whether it took Jesus or good deeds to go to Heaven. Despite those results, however, it found that "Most Americans say they have made a commitment to Jesus Christ".

It is very easy to become discouraged at hearing the news coverage this past week as gay activists attacked Indiana Governor Mike Pence over his stance on the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) and anyone who publicly agreed with him. No one wants to face a lawsuit or even criminal prosecution for standing upon their beliefs, whether conservative or liberal, but the left discovered long ago that the loudest and most threatening voices are the ones that get the most attention.

The first question is, are we as Christians or as Americans (even those that don't believe in God) willing to stand on the principle that no one should be forced to act against their religious beliefs?

The second question is, will our churches stand upon what they know is scriptural truth or not? Specifically, you know that I am referring to the issue of same-sex marriage, but you also know that decades ago the issue of abortion created the same conflict.

To answer both questions, I draw your attention to a recent National Review article by David French entitled "Sorry to Disappoint the Social-Justice Warriors, but the Faithful Won't Yield on Religious Liberty."

In that article, French explains churches won't give in simply to get along, stating (about the abortion issue), "It turns out Christians generally want to be Christians, not spiritualized political liberals, so the mainline (churches) continued its slow-motion collapse while the SBC (Southern Baptist Convention) became bigger than all the major mainline churches combined. The churches that maintained orthodoxy did more that survive, they thrived - and as one consequence, the pro-life movement has only gained political and cultural strength."

Is he correct? For the most part, yes. For example, this week the National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) "a faith-based coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denomination and 15.7 million African-Americans" broke ranks with the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) because the PCUSA had voted to approve same-sex marriage.

NBCI's actions are admirable and it should encourage all other denominations to take a similar stand. But there is safety in numbers - they are not likely to be assaulted by gay activists. It is the individual who the gay activists are trying to intimidate (which effectively intimidates all) and the time is ripe for them to do so.

Why? Because so many Americans are falling away from the leadership of God, including the leaders of our country. If it were not so, we would not see the pizza restaurant, the baker and the photographer being sued because they would not act against their own consciences. As any predator in nature, they were attacked because they were the least capable of defending themselves.

As former U.S. Attorney Edwin Meese III recently wrote in support of RFRA in a Washington Post opinion article, "These groups would have the government force citizens to help celebrate a same-sex wedding and penalize them if they try to lead their lives in accordance with their reasonable belief that marriage is a union of husband and wife".

The problem, however, remains that America is still slipping away from God and its original Christian principles. We were all encouraged at the financial support that the pizza restaurant owners received after they were attacked by gay activists, but if trends continue, someday there will be no one to come to the rescue.

The answer has to start with Christian individuals and the churches of America, who will stand only on what the Word of God says. Otherwise, we will become as the conclusion of the book of Judges described, "In those days Israel had no king, so the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes." That will destroy us as a nation.



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