

Of Seeds and Flowers

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America 250 years old!!! George Washington, The Father of our nation, A NAME WE SHOULD ALL REVERE - Would he be embarrassed at the present condition of his country? Some wisdom from him that most politicians would never be caught saying or even thinking. This is from his Farewell Address on September 19, 1796.

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity religion and

morality are indispensable supports. In vain would man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness—these firmest props of the duties of people and citizens. The mere politician, equally with the pious person, ought to respect and cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked, Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation deserts the oaths,

which are the instruments of investigations in courts of justice? And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded of the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle." Freedom is easier to lose than to reclaim.

People who have paid the price for freedom and liberty know what matters most. Most of today's politicians are only interested in personal power, control and gain."



EDUCATION IN AMERICA: "If an unfriendly power had attempted to impose on America the mediocre educational performance that exists today, we might well have viewed it as an act of war." From the

congressional document a "A Nation at Risk" This document was released very quietly on the Fourth of July weekend, 1983. In 1994 Congress grandly decreed that by 2000 the high school graduation rate would be at least 90% and that American students would be "first in the world in math and science achievement." This did not happen.

For decades, schools have been treated as laboratories for various equity experiments. However, no kind of school reform is able to cope with the number of children born out of wedlock, which provides a continually renewed cohort of unruly adolescent males.

Fads incubated in schools gave us "Open" classrooms, teachers as "facilitators of education", equity standards, "new math", and the obviously destined for failure classic that was "Ebonics". Our education system now produces students who need remedial reading and math IN COLLEGE, YES COLLEGE!! Thomas Dewey, the Father of Public Schools, wanted schools to also become social agencies. He got his wish. Too many Principals, Superintendents and teachers are now social workers.

The American experiment will not survive if the next generation is taught to hate their own country.

Schools are simply not capable of filling the void that has been created by disintegrating families and the continued collapse of the very moral fabric of society. This country was founded on Christian principles and a strong family centric core, our very existence as a nation can't be sustained by anything less. **ALL... ALL** high school and college students should be required to have courses in MARRIAGE, PARENTING AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION – and a basic financial management course. There is still **"No right way to do the wrong thing!** WE keep putting round pegs in square holes. **"Ready, Shoot, Aim".** "It's not the things you know that hurt you but the things you *"know"* that ain't so".

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY= A SIMPLE SOLUTION TO A COMPLEX PROBLEM!!!

Only TRANSFORMED PEOPLE(TEACHERS), TRANSFORM PEOPLE (students)! Virtue, goodness, love is never easy; and rarely fashionable. RARELY!! But it is the ONLY THING that works. The downward tug of NON-TRUTH (theologically called SIN) is killing us!!!

Ken Wilbur says that most of us are only willing to call 5% of our present knowledge and information into question at any one point- and that is on a very good day. And so we DO and SAY the same things over and over. I suppose that prophets are those who don't care whether you are ready to hear their message. They say it because it must be said and because it is TRUE, JUST LIKE Ezekial said in 12:7. **"I DID AS I WAS TOLD."** Most prophets are "EARLY ADOPTERS" and are almost always torn to pieces. Their wisdom sounds like dangerous foolishness like the Sermon of the Mount, Ghandi to Great Britain or MLK to white America.

Got a very TELLING letter from a student at Thomas Aquinas College in California. He wrote: *"My Catholic high school left me deeply unsatisfied. It tried and failed to balance its Catholicism trying to keep up with nearby secular schools. Ultimately it couldn't teach or tell me what it means to be Catholic or what education is for. Teachers poked fun at me for practicing my faith. The school mourned when Roe v. Wade was overturned. Education was just a means to get ahead, make money, live comfortably, Just like the FAILING Public School systems."*

And this on education from the President's letter from the same Thomas Aquinas College:

"Fifteen students around a heavy wooden table. There are no lecture slides, no textbooks, no screens, no A.I... (All of which have their proper place and NON-PLACE in good education) Before each student lies a copy of Plato's "Republic" and a burning question. What is JUSTICE? - for the next two hours the students will grapple with this great work and this timeless question. THIS IS WHAT EDUCATION LOOKS LIKE. - a far cry from the today "digitally integrated" and ideologically driven classes offered at most universities in America. Hard work leading to personally owning TRUTH, WISDOM, THE GOOD. -AND GOD, without which everything else in the culture falls apart. Just look around!!"

ON May 11, Pope Leo told the members of the Vatican Observatory that **NOTHING IS A BIGGER THREAT TO BOTH SCIENCE AND RELIGION THAN THE DENIAL OF THE EXISTENCE OF OBJECTIVE TRUTH.** We have been saying and writing this for 45 years. This made a frontal assault on the reigning doctrine of postmodernism, prevalent in higher education.



The Connecticut Democratic Party have just given Planned UN-Parenthood CT 200 million dollars to kill little hearts. When does killing babies in the womb become wrong? America's largest abortion provider now provides BOTOX to try to justify its dying existence. In California and Pennsylvania, states which have gone off the moral meter, Planned Un-parenthood provides **LIVE BABIES** for experimentation. The evil part of the National Democratic party and its voters support and pay for this.

AMERICA TURNS 250--- PRE-BORN CHILDREN STILL WAIT FOR THEIR RIGHT TO LIFE.

I've come to realize, along the way, that W.B. Yeats made an important observation: *"The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity."*



And who is promoting, and encouraging and voting and paying for this to continue? George Washington wrote to Tench Tilghman "I shall persevere...so as to make that peace and independence, which we have fought for and obtained, a blessing to the millions yet unborn." (April 24, 1783) The SUNDAY SERMON has become "PLEASE, JUST REPEAT WHAT I EXPECT TO HEAR AND MAYBE A JOKE OR TWO, so, we can keep on doing our own kind of survival dance." - and the truth is the clergy cannot speak of a different dance or further journey if they have not gone on it themselves. TRANSFORMED PEOPLE, TRANSFORM PEOPLE!!! -Even clergy! Being just SPIRITUAL NO LONGER WORKS. Everyone needs God and the truth that genuine, healthy religion provides.



Fighting for the soul of America: The Catholic League for religious and civil rights, will have a statement on a billboard in Times Square: It will read. HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY USA, RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IS OUR FOUNDATIONA FREEDOM.

DEFEND OUR JUDEO-CHIRSTIAN HERITAGE. -A digital billboard shown for 15 seconds every minute.

God is always revealing Himself; giving new pieces to people who listen and are open to His plan for renovation.

The first one to always die in a socialist society is GOD.



MAIN CHARACTER SYNDROME: when people believe everything revolves around them.

THE CRAB BUCKET SYNDROME

(FROM "Falling Upward" by Richard Rohr.)



One of the major blocks in the second half of life is what we would call the "collective", the crowd, our society, or our extended family. Some call it the "crab bucket syndrome". You try your darndest to get out, but the other crabs just keep pulling you back in. What

passes for morality or spirituality in the vast majority of people's lives is the WAY EVERYBODY THEY GREW UP WITH, THINKS. Some would call it conditioning or even imprinting. Without ANY VERY REAL SERIOUS INNER WORK, MOST FOLKS NEVER move beyond it. You might get beyond it in a negative sense, by reacting or rebelling against it, but it is much less common to get out of the crab

bucket IN A POSITIVE WAY.

It takes a huge push, much self-doubt and some degree of separation for people to find their own soul and their own destiny apart from what Mom and Dad always wanted them to be and to do. To move beyond family of origin stuff, local church stuff, cultural stuff, education stuff, racial stuff, flag and country stuff, is a path that few of us follow positively and with integrity. The pull is just too great, and the loyal soldier fill us with appropriate guilt, shame, and self-doubt, which, too often, sounds like the voice of God.

The further we get from CHURCH, MORALITY, GOD, GENUINE SPIRITUALITY, PRAYER, ETC. THE CLOSER WE COME TO ANARCHY. The D.S.A. the Democratic Socialists of America and other politicians are surely dragging us into a dying place.

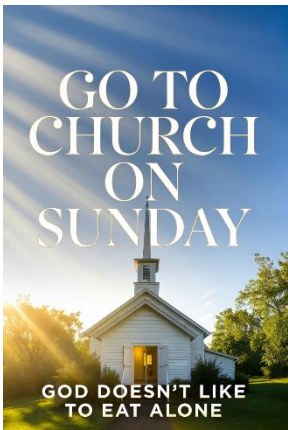
Chesterton once said there is only one unanswerable argument against Christianity – Christians themselves!! And he showed who he was thinking of first of all when he wrote the following to the London Times. The Times asked a number of writers for essays on the topic "What's Wrong with the World?" Chesterton's reply is the shortest and most to the point in history: "Dear Sirs: I AM. Sincerely Yours, G.K. Chesterton"

Will Durant, the famous historian, in his work "The Life of Greece", writes about the late stages of decay that took place in Greek society.

1. Orthodox, supernatural religion was disregarded by the elite, while cults from the East flourished among the lower classes in Athens.
2. Astrology gained widespread acceptance.
3. Patriotism declined.
4. Marriage and law became secularized.
5. Upper class adults were consumed with the pursuit of pleasure.
6. Education stressed knowledge more than character.
7. Dances by unclad women were an accepted custom.
8. Motherhood was devalued and children viewed as inconvenient - the death rate overtook the birth rate.
9. Abortion and infanticide were commonly practiced. Sound familiar? A true moral landslide! A moral wasteland!

sounds
familiar

Richard Rohr wisely writes: "The contemplative mind is the only mind big enough to see this, and the only seeing that is surrendered enough to trust it. The calculative mind will merely continue to create dualisms, win lose scenarios, imperial egos, and necessary victims. It cannot get out of its own illogical loop."



Peter Kreeft writes in his incredible book *"Making Sense out of Suffering"*, and it fits here: *"Even Theresa of Avila, when thrown off her carriage, slammed rudely to the ground, and deposited in a mud puddle, questioned God. He answered her, "This is how I treat all my friends." Her tart reply was, "Then, Lord, it is not surprising that you have so few." Even saints do not smile sweetly when God throws them into mud puddles. Only pigs do that.*

For husbands, wives, ACTUALLY EVERYONE!!! Words from the 14th century, unknown author of *"The Book of Privy Counsel"*, to a beginner in the spiritual life. Actually, spiritual advice for me and you! ***"I've mentioned this before but let me remind you again--- YOUR EFFORTS MUST BE UNPRETENTIOUS (No pretending). Only then can you avoid being DECEIVED Watch for this!"*** - a wise and holy monk!! -ARE YOU REALLY LOVING IN YOUR ACTIONS?

"Seek eagerly after love." 1Cor. 14: 1

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