

Editor's Note for May

Brad & Jim

“When morality comes up against profit, it is seldom that profit loses.” Shirley Chisholm

“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” Matthew 16:26

Two hundred and fifty years ago we had not yet declared our independence. The United States had not yet established federal and state governments. Our own Civil War was still a century away. As a nation, we were struggling with our identity and struggling to survive. Today, America is a superpower. We consistently rank in the top five in gross national product (GNP)—an accepted index of achievement of nations. We have made great leaps in technological and scientific advances. We have are a progressive nation.

But our progression has come at a tremendous cost. Our nation has changed—in some ways not for the better. Our moral yardstick has been replaced with a financial barometer. We know longer question whether something “should” be done, but rather what will the bottom line be, financially speaking. We have traded in our moral footing for bigger houses, newer cars, and vacation homes. **In short, many have sold their souls and are content to try and purchase a clear conscience with the proceeds.**

Ironically, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, Charles Carroll, observed: “Without morals a republic cannot subsist any length of time; they therefore who are decrying the **Christian religion** whose morality is so sublime and pure...are undermining the solid foundation of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments.”

The root of the problem is that our nation has moved away from absolute morals and is now trying to apply situation ethics. **Consider the dilemma that occurs when the concept of right and wrong are left in the hands of man.** [“In those days there was no king in Israel: everyone did what was right in his own eyes” Judges 21:25.] We must realize that in order for something to be “right” or “wrong” demands that there is an absolute standard for morality. Many in our society have abandoned the absolute standards given by God.

Have we truly forgotten that God does not change? “For I am the Lord, I do not change” (Malachi 3:6). [See also Isaiah 46:9-11; Numbers 23:19] What He abhorred during the days of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, He abhors today. Since the creation of man, God has demonstrated the sanctity of human life, and held man accountable for death of individuals made in His image. The Bible continually emphasizes the high value of human life. His Word demonstrates repeatedly that God views life to begin before birth (see Jeremiah 1:5; Isaiah 49:1,5; Psalm 139:13-14; Job 3:13-16). In Proverbs 6 the inspired writer reminds us: “These six things the Lord hates, yes seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood...” **And yet, how much innocent blood is being shed in the name of profit, progress, and dare way say, *future potential*?** Can we not see the inconsistency of destroying human lives (lives that could be spent procuring *legitimate* cures for physical ills) because of the potential provided by their deaths?

William Penn observed, “Right is right, even if everyone is against it; and wrong is wrong, even if everyone is for it.” **In this issue of *Think* we want to investigate many of the ethical situations now facing our culture today.** Many technologies and advances are currently sitting on our doorstep, and faithful Christians must be prepared on how to respond and whether or not to use them. We hope to remind readers that God’s absolute standards have not changed. Thomas Jefferson observed, “The practice of morality being necessary for the well-being of society, He [God] has taken care to impress its precepts so indelibly on our hearts that they shall not be effaced by the subtleties of

our brain. We all agree in the obligation of the moral precepts of Jesus and nowhere will they be found delivered in greater purity than in His discourses.” We hope that you will think on these things.

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