

Trends

"Approximately one in 100 American women and two in 100 American men identify, with another four percent of Americans identifying as bisexual. Homosexuality is still a controversial topic in the United States, but polls and surveys regarding its moral acceptability or the legalization of same sex marriage show an obvious trend towards acceptance and tolerance of the LGBT community among the American population."

—via Statista: The Statistics Portal

1 Corinthians 6:9-10: "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God."

Sentence Sermons

"Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

—John Adams

1 Peter 1:16: "Be ye holy; for I am holy."

News & Notes

Please pray for those mentioned in the announcements after services and others listed on the bulletin board in the foyer of the church building.

Pray for all the members at Westside! Please pray for Susan Ferrell and her family as she continues to recover from a brain tumor. She had another successful round of chemo. Please pray for her and her family.

Please pray for me. My recent surgery on my lower back (spinal stenosis) did not resolve my back and leg issues.

Another big "thank you" to sister Jan Worthy. She has already stepped up and donated money to the needy saints affected by the typhoon in the Philippines. Thanks!

Pray for the all of our students. Schools are back in session and bring many temptations to our young people.

Please keep sister Wilma in your prayers! She gives all of us so much encouragement! God bless her and Virginia! Remember both of them in your prayers.

There are many needy saints! Can you help?! Let me know.

If you know of any in need of our prayers please let us know!

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"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68



The Reflection of a King

Chuck Hooten

Israel wanted a king. For years God had acted as their provider, protector, and sovereign but in the face of mounting pressure from rival nations and the innate human desire to look and sound like everyone around them Israel wanted a change. They wanted a king that was made of flesh and blood. The prophet Samuel begged them to reconsider. He told them that a king would tax them, oppress them, force them to work for his pleasure, and take their sons off to war. The people were unwayed. It was a king of flesh that they wanted and so it was a king of flesh that God would provide.

When we meet Saul in the the book of 1 Samuel he is everything and more that the people wanted. He was tall, athletic, and handsome. If a group of people were in the market for a king and Saul walked in the room the search would always be over. Saul was king material...or so they thought. Saul proves to be a reflection of the people themselves. Just like Israel he was brash, prideful, arrogant, and quick to make hasty decisions that would have lasting consequences. In looking for a human king what the people really wanted to see themselves on the throne. God would be rejected, Saul would be raised. Human kings would ultimately be the undoing of Israel.

It is a phenomenon of human history that a people's ruler tend to be a mirror of the people themselves. Post World War I Germany saw a people licking their wounds from a rousing defeat and simmering with anger over perceived slights on the world stage. This sense of pride and a deep desire for nationalism gave birth to Adolf Hitler. On the flip side a fledgling nation in the late 1700s

found in George Washington a leader full of humility and grace, but the society that he found his position in had been shaped and molded by the *Great Awakening*, an awakening that had led an entire populous to repentance and gospel. Leaders do not define the morality of a people, they are a reflection of it.

And so we find ourselves in America today scratching our heads over this particular time in our history. I have heard it said over and over, "How did we end up with these two as our choice for president?" On the outside looking in it is an absurd thought that out of the hundreds of millions of qualified people in our country we are days away from throwing the keys to one of the two of the most unqualified for the job. But if one looks deeper it actually makes so much sense. They are a reflection of who we have become. Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are a reflecting pool into the state of our nation's soul.

When a video was released revealing a man to us that has no respect for women, a man whose speech was filled with obscenity and vulgarity, a man who does not see the beauty in God's creation of a daughter who is a reflection of his image, we see ourselves. We who are in the church will cry foul at this but the reality is that our churches are filled with those who flock to the movies for a glimpse of *50 Shades* or DVR the vulgarity of *Game of Thrones*. We are unfazed by the fact that everything from toothpaste to car insurance is sold on the backs and bodies of our sisters and daughters sexuality. To stand on a perceived moral high ground and throw rocks at Donald Trump is laughable. We are him and he is us.

On the flip side we are now learning more concretely that Hillary Clinton is a liar and a cheat. She is a woman who will say and do anything to get ahead and feed her need for position and power. Welcome to the current definition of the American dream. We live by the idea that one should do whatever it takes to get ahead. The poor continue to suffer all around us, the American inner city is on fire with oppression and need, there are countless children who are locked in a social services system that is understaffed and underserved. The church is positioned to change the narrative and the reality of the story. We find in Hillary Clinton our doppelganger. Say and do anything to pad the pocket and climb the next rung on the ladder. We are throwing parties while our cities burn.

If a people's leaders are a reflection of the people then the solution cannot be found in new leadership, it must be found in a new people. God knew that this would be the case. After ages of flesh and blood kings leading his people toward destruction God would do the unthinkable. John 1 tells us that the

Word became flesh and dwelt among us. The king of heaven became a king of flesh and blood. Jesus was not a reflection of the people he was a reflection of the Father. To look on him is to see the perfection of the Kingdom of Heaven. We have beheld his glory, the glory as the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. To look upon him is to be changed into his image. To pledge allegiance to his kingdom is to find security and hope. To walk in his footsteps is to see the world set on fire with the hope of his promises. If we want the landscape of our country and our leadership to change, the formula is right before us. Look to Jesus. Hope in Jesus. Seek the Kingdom of Jesus.

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are not the problem, they are the wake up call. We see in them ourselves. We see in them a call to repentance and prayer. A new president cannot save us....Jesus can.

Editor's note: I don't agree with the author on every exact thing he says. But, overall he has summed up the situation in our country pretty accurately.

Needs

Last week central and northern Luzon were hit hard by super typhoon "Lawin." The storm killed some of the brethren and injured many more. Many homes were severely damaged and some were totally destroyed.



Much of the crops which these folks depend on for jobs and food were severely damaged or destroyed. Brethren are in desperate need for food, water, building materials, etc., etc. Our church budget is not able to handle this need.

Thus, I plan to send some of my personal funds to aid the stricken Filipino brethren. If you would like to donate and pool your funds with mine, I will send them as a unit to my dear "abalayan" Rody Gumpad and trust his good judgment that the funds are used to meet the most important and immediate needs. If you wish to donate, please see me before or after services. Remember I John 3:17: "But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?"