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## WHY THE CHAOS AND CONFUSION?

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Judges 21:25

### **INTRODUCTION**

As Americans, we are living in the midst of a cultural and moral revolution. Biblical and natural-law principles of truth have been abandoned and replaced with shifting sand! Sadly, many Christians are experiencing spiritual, moral, ethical, and philosophical free fall. Far too many Americans have exchanged long-held Biblical values for secular humanism.

As we embark on this Biblical and educational journey, the foundational questions are: How did we arrive at this juncture? And, why all the chaos and confusion?

### **I. AN INTELLECTUAL AND EDUCATIONAL SHIFT**

- A. Absolute truth was replaced with \_\_\_\_\_ truth, beginning in about 1950:
1. Absolute truth = something that is \_\_\_\_\_ true and right.
    - Our \_\_\_\_\_ source for absolute truth is \_\_\_\_\_ and His Word – Psalm 31:5; 86:11; 119:151; John 17:17; I Thessalonians 2:13
  2. Relative truth = life is validated not by a set of \_\_\_\_\_ or objective data, but through personal \_\_\_\_\_ and opinion.
- B. This intellectual shift impacts, negatively, one's \_\_\_\_\_ understanding of "right and wrong."
1. Ethics = \_\_\_\_\_!
  2. Morality = \_\_\_\_\_!

### **II. A PHILOSOPHICAL REVOLUTION**

- A. Life's fundamental question changed from, "What is right and wrong?" to "What \_\_\_\_\_?" A pragmatic view of life:
1. Charles Darwin (1809 – 1882), Thomas Huxley (1825 – 1895), and John Dewey (1859 – 1952) were \_\_\_\_\_ in promoting this revolution.

2. Situational \_\_\_\_\_ (a belief that all morality is relative to the situation) was made popular in the 1960s and 1970s by Joseph Fletcher (1905 – 1991).

B. The result of moral relativism is culture \_\_\_\_\_:

1. Tolerance teaches the \_\_\_\_\_ of all lifestyles, making all religions equal in value and beliefs, and excusing all addictions as diseases, therefore nullifying the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Although tolerance was originally taught for the purpose of eliminating bigotry and in what we now call hate crimes, \_\_\_\_\_ politicians, educators, and jurists have increasingly broadened its jurisdiction.

Tolerance is the virtue of the man without convictions.

--G.K. Chesterton

### **III. A SPIRITUAL EROSION**

A. A worldly \_\_\_\_\_!

- Churches ceased practicing Biblical church \_\_\_\_\_ –  
Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 16:17; I Timothy 5:20

I looked for the church and found it in the world. I looked for the world and found it in the church.

--Andrew Bonar

B. Feckless \_\_\_\_\_!

In a strange twist, the preaching of the cross is now foolishness, not only to the world but also to the contemporary church.

--Steven J. Lawson

C. A confused \_\_\_\_\_!

1. We have exchanged \_\_\_\_\_ for worship!
2. We have traded Biblical standards for \_\_\_\_\_ correctness!

When the church is absolutely different from the world, she invariably attracts it. It is then that the world is made to listen to her message, though it may hate it at first.

--Martyn Lloyd-Jones

**IV. LEGAL DECISIONS**

A. School \_\_\_\_\_ – June 25, 1962

- Engle v. Vitale
- Issue: Whether school-sponsored, voluntary, nondenominational prayer in public schools violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment?
- Ruling: \_\_\_\_\_ (6-1)

B. Bible \_\_\_\_\_ – June 17, 1963

- Abington School District v. Schempp
- Issue: Whether school-sponsored Bible reading in public schools is unconstitutional?
- Ruling: \_\_\_\_\_ (8-1)

C. \_\_\_\_\_ – January 22, 1973

- Roe v. Wade
- Issue: Does the Constitution embrace the right of a woman to obtain an abortion?
- Ruling: \_\_\_\_\_ (7-2)

D. Ten \_\_\_\_\_ – November 19, 1980

- Stone v. Graham
- Issue: Whether a Kentucky statue requiring the posting of a copy of the Ten Commandments on the wall of each public-school classroom, purchased with private funding is unconstitutional.
- Ruling: \_\_\_\_\_ (5-4)

E. Same-Sex \_\_\_\_\_ – June 26, 2015

- Obergefell v. Hodges
- Issue: Whether bans on same-sex marriage (which many states had) are unconstitutional?
- Ruling: \_\_\_\_\_ (5-4)

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## Lesson 1: Why the Chaos and Confusion?

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- President Obama praised the decision and called it a “\_\_\_\_\_ for America.”
- Chief Justice John Roberts suggested the majority’s opinion will lead to consequences for \_\_\_\_\_. He also wrote:

“The Court...orders the \_\_\_\_\_ of a social institution that has formed a \_\_\_\_\_ for human society of millennia...Just who do we think we are?”

We are called to be the people of the truth, even when the truth is not popular and even when the truth is denied by the culture around us. Christians have found themselves in this position before, and we will again. God’s truth has not changed. The holy Scriptures have not changed. The gospel of Jesus Christ has not changed. The church’s mission has not changed. Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever.

*--Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr.*