

From Our Pastor

January 6, 2018

Sabbath Greetings to everyone!

A Senate report, "Love, Marriage, and the Baby Carriage: The Rise in Unwed Childbearing," was released last month. It was prepared by the vice chairman's staff of the Joint Economic Committee at the request of Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah). Surprising almost no one, the report showed that currently 40 percent of births in the United States happen out of wedlock.

The health and vitality of the nuclear family is the best barometer of a nation. No nation in history has survived the decimation of the family unit, but in many Western nations today naively think we will be the exception. The skyrocketing percentage of unwed births began in the 1970's when legalized birth control and infanticide (labeled "choice" to make it sound acceptable) removed one barrier to promiscuity and immorality, but the real barrier required more than a court ruling.

In 1996, the Brookings Institution published this warning, "In 1965, 24 percent of black infants and 3.1 percent of white infants were born to single mothers. By 1990 the rates had risen to 64 percent for black infants, 18 percent for whites. Every year about one million more children are born into fatherless families. If we have learned any policy lesson well over the past 25 years, it is that for children living in single-parent homes, the odds of living in poverty are great. The policy implications of the increase in out-of-wedlock births are staggering." That was twenty-two years ago, and things have only gotten worse. The result has been an increase in crime, poverty, welfare programs, teen suicide, and a host of other social ills. There is no end in sight.

Sociologists and many others have been trying to find reasons or explanations for the rise in immorality (although they hesitate to call it what it is) over the past fifty years. Some have pointed the finger at employment or economic issues, but that is simply wrong as proven by the 1930's when poverty and moral behavior were both widespread. Some blame welfare programs where the government replaces the father as the responsible party to provide for the family. There may be some truth in this since it is human nature to do what you get paid for doing, but that is not the real cause.

Robert VerBruggen, deputy managing editor at the National Review, recently stated, "The hike in non-marital births is likely a result of "moral, behavioral, and social changes" since the "Sexual Revolution overhauled the American landscape." He is correct, but falls short of stating the underlying cause for the changes.

The true reason is that the Western nations have forgotten God, in fact there has been a concerted effort to remove the influence of the Bible across our land. Our Creator who gave us life and incredible blessings over the past 2500 years has been cast aside and replaced by the idol of "self." From 1800 until about 1970 most people in Western society attended a church, or at least claimed to be Christian and acknowledged the

authority of the moral code defined by the seventh commandment, "You shall not commit adultery." The last six of the commandments define how an orderly people and nation should behave. When they were the basis of laws and society the result was strong families, responsible children, and a people of courage and energy.

As Thomas Paine penned words that described the nation after independence was won: "The cause of America is in a great measure the cause of all mankind. Where, say some, is the king of America? I'll tell you friend, He reigns from above." That was the understood authority and norm for many generations. Jennifer Roback Morse, president of the Ruth Institute, recently wrote: "We ridicule this norm, because we forget that it had the benefit of protecting the interests of children in having relationships with both parents. The most just solution for the child, is for the parents to marry each other, and work together for a lifetime for the good of the child, and their whole family. We accept injustice to children as the price we are willing to pay for adult sexual freedom and 'gender equality.'

The injustice to children is a price we are willing to pay? Incredibly sad and tragic. For what benefit? Just to do ignore God's commandments and do whatever we please? In addition to the large percentage of children born to single mothers, we can add to that the number of divorces where children are left growing up without a loving father and mother is staggering. Western nations are already paying a heavy toll, and the future looks even more ominous.

On the bright side, the understanding of God's Laws and a desire to live a moral life is on the rise among many teens and young adults today. They see and reject the constant pressure they are under from society, the entertainment industry, and social media to conform to an immoral world. They are coming to understand that benefits of freedom from guilt, peace of mind, and lifelong rewarding relationships far outweigh the temporary allure of pretending there is no God and that there are no consequences for immorality.

We are seeing that God's word is proving true again and again. Proverbs 14:34 tell us, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

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