

FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lessons Learned from a Catholic Problem

Pat McIntosh

Last week, a Pennsylvania grand jury reported a problem extending from the membership to the hierarchal system of the Catholic church in that state. The report indicated that there are at least one thousand victims of sexual abuse involving at least 300 priests and has spanned the last 80 years. The report indicates that more than \$3 billion has been paid out to cover this up.

Character assassination is not my intent. Rather, we want to look at these problems to help understand how they happened and to consider how to resolve such issues in the future. We want to examine what the Bible has to say about anyone's sexual and moral framework. What can we learn from this situation?

First, we must understand that we have all been created with a sexual drive. To deny all sexual activity is to create the propensity to place one in such a situation where one may well be tempted beyond what they are able to control. Shake up a coke bottle and drop it on the floor. It will explode as the inner pressure simply becomes too great. The godly fulfillment and enjoyment of the natural sex drive is limited by Scripture to the marriage bed (Heb. 13:4). There, and only there, do we find an authorized means of fulfilling that with which we all have been created.

Second, the hierarchal system of religious leadership is not God's plan for man. God determined that each congregation is to be autonomous, with qualified elders providing the leadership (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9). There is no authority for one man to "oversee" the church, nor for a regional structure conceived by man. In this fashion each congregation is overseen in the way that God intended.

Third, sin cannot merely be "covered up." The soul-destroying nature of sin is such that it simply cannot be ignored. It will not just "go away." Money that is paid to do so will not remove the sin, guilt, or internal damage resulting from such sexual sins. Sin must be dealt with in just as public a manner as the sin itself. A powerful example is provided in 1 Corinthians 5:1-12. In that text, it was reported that a young man was sleeping with his step-mother. The congregation was reprimanded for not dealing with this public sexual sin. They were condemned as being proud or arrogant in their failure to deal with that situation. The "cure" for this situation was to mark and withdraw from this young man, hoping that such would motivate him to repent of his sins. That did occur as Paul, in his second letter, told those in Corinth to accept this man back into their fold, implying his repentance. None of us like to hear of news reports such as those coming out of Pennsylvania. They should motivate us to stop, consider our own situation, and seek God's revealed will to deal with any and all sin.

Shepherds

Sid Carruth
Jeff Day
Kenneth Helm
Clark Lehtinen
Tim Norman

Deacons

Gary Barger
Ryan Cowan
Vince Grinnell
Justin Hewlett
Bill Hughes

Minister

Kevin Rhodes

Associate

Pat McIntosh

Sunday

Bible Study
9:00 am
AM Worship
10:00 am
PM Worship
5:00 pm

Wednesday

Ladies Class
10:00 am
Bible Study
7:00 pm

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Texas

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Back to Basics

Kevin W. Rhodes

The pursuit of happiness. Those words—inscribed in the founding document of the United States—describe so much of people’s focus in life. Of course, those were also not the original words. The committee of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson originally borrowed John Locke’s group of three: life, liberty, and property. However, due to political and economic considerations, they changed it. This itself has some interesting historical implications, but what I find most interesting is how people usually connect these two without even thinking about it. For most, the pursuit of happiness is the pursuit of property—the accumulation of things. Today, some have become so disenchanted with this—usually because they do not have many things—that they have come to celebrate living without things. While this has much to recommend it, the fact remains that property of some sort does enter much of life in some way, and therefore it becomes an argument about degree. However, we need not lose our possessions to learn this lesson because God has shown it throughout the scriptures.

Following the Jews return from Babylonian captivity, they began to show greater respect for keeping the Law of Moses, especially in regard to some of the ceremonial aspects clearly laid out in scripture. This included the requirement to journey to Jerusalem for various feast days, such as the Feast of Harvest and Feast of Ingathering (Ex. 32:16), both associated with God’s blessing them with sufficient food to sustain them and maintain their health. As they traveled, they would sing songs written with this in mind, and Psalm 128 was one such song that served that function. Upon their return to the land, they had little wealth but found themselves dependent in practically every way. While certainly a difficult time, somewhat analogous to America’s Great Depression, it helped them focus on what truly mattered, and in the process they discovered that possessions stood much lower on the list than they previously assumed.

Blessedness, notes the psalmist, has roots in characteristics far more important and enduring than the fleeting trappings of opulence—or even

comfort. The best life is the blessed life, and that life is grounded in reverence for God and living according to His precepts (Psa. 128:1). More than that, the psalmist notes the joy and satisfaction of working and thus being able to provide for yourself and, by what follows, others (Psa. 128:2), a practice begun in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:15) and enjoined in every covenant (2 Thess. 3:10). God makes happiness available to man through what He commands man to do. Thus, in calling on people to marry, be monogamous, and have children, He did not create some oppressive situation for the wife and children but rather the very best environment for all involved, for everyone’s provision, joy, and well-being (Psa. 128:3). So many people today reject God’s plan for the home and only later discover His wisdom after much self-inflicted pain. But those who respect God will respect His wisdom for their lives as well and reap the benefits and blessings of a happy home for many years (Psa. 128:4). However, God did not create families for isolation but for society too—more specifically, spiritual society. Therefore, when families together embraced the spiritual in returning to Jerusalem to honor God and to follow His will, they brought blessings upon themselves far greater than they probably could have imagined (Psa. 128:5). By coming before God they joined in the greater chorus of families determined to do His will and formed a bond of fellowship extended to heaven and thus provided the foundation for a godly society that would bless their families and the nation for years to come (Psa. 128:6).

Society has wandered so far from God in seeking prosperity that it has lost sight of the foundation that makes society a pleasant environment in the first place. When we once more give attention to godliness and morality, build strong and committed marriages, and train our children to do the same, we will accomplish far more good for society than the greatest economic plan in history. The strength of any society lies not in its government or its economy but in the character and godliness of its people, beginning in the home. And that is why we need to get back to basics in America today.



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Debbie Boroughs went to the ER on Tuesday. She will need to see the heart specialist.
- Burnice Gentry, Wayne's father, is having several health problems. He is 92.
- Amy Hackler is in the Harris Hospital with a C diff infection in her stomach. Jason and kids are all sick with sinus infections.
- Bill Hughes had a stem cell treatment for his back on Wednesday, September 19th.
- Nan Oliver will have a cyst removed from her spine on Wednesday, September 26th.
- Pat Thompson has an infection in her leg. She will have a filter in her leg to keep blood clots from going to the lungs next Wednesday. She will be able to have the neck surgery in a week or so.

Remember in prayers...

Debbie Boroughs, Deanie Denning, Burnice Gentry, Wayne's father, Amy Hackler, Henry Homan, Doug Kilcrease, Mike Lehrman (Gwen Martin's son-in-law), T. J. Moxon (J. C.'s twin brother), Mary Reynolds, Don Walker.

Please note...

- The Cherokee Home for Children Auction will be Saturday, September 29th. Please bring anything you would like to donate to the building by September 23rd. This is also when we cook and sell hamburgers for lunch. If you would like to give money to buy the meat and fixings, please give it to Clark or Deborah Lehtinen. If you can help with preparing the hamburgers, let Clark and Deborah know.
- Sunday, September 30th, is our next 5th Sunday. We will have a pot-luck meal after the morning worship service. 1:00 PM we will have Question & Answer service.
- We will meet at 9:00 am on October 6th in the annex to go door knocking.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2018 (NKJV)

Philippians 3:13, 14

¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do forgetting, those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead.

¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 9/23

Front South

Larry McWilliams
Michael Mora
Clint Owens

Front North

Robert Pennay
Justin Hewlett
Paul Murphy

Back South

Royce Gorman
Joshua Haynes
Gene Threadgill

Back North

Dennis Lane
Steve Baze
Sid Carruth

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Bill Hughes

Sunday PM

Ryan Cowan

Wednesday PM

Bill Cashion

Clint Owens

Logan Frasier

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Will Cammack

Wednesday

Clark Lehtinen

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jeff Day

Sunday PM

Jeff Day

Wednesday PM

Jeff McPherson

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Tom Collins

DeWayne Henegar & Mike Hight

Collection Counting

Justin Hewlett /Wayne Gentry

Beacon of Truth, Pat McIntosh's internet radio program will be on Monday thru Friday at 7:00 AM.

Expositions, Kevin's television program, airs on GBN Monday nights at 7:30 pm, Thursday mornings at 10:30 am, Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm, and Saturday afternoons at 12:30 pm.



Sermons for Sunday

AM

How Spiritual Leaders Lead
Hebrews 13:17

PM

The Preacher in the Local Work
Exposition of Titus

Calendar of Events



10/7/18 Rohan Jones visits

10/14/18 Guest Speaker

10/21-24 Gospel Meeting
with Todd Clippard

12/9/18 Congregational Christmas Dinner
following evening services



Our Records

Bible Class.....100

AM Worship.....140

PM Worship.....105

Wednesday Bible Class..... N/S

Contribution.....\$6,390

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