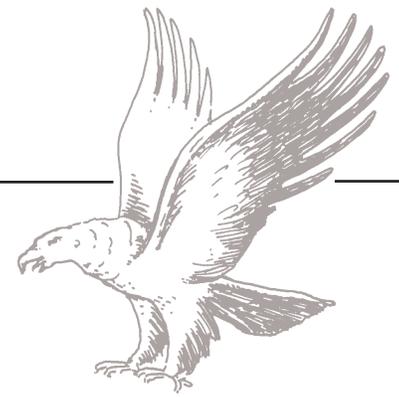


Wings

*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”
Isaiah 40:31*



February 22, 2015

Our Senseless Culture

When God is tossed out the window, a lot of common sense goes out with Him. The result is tragically predictable, as people flail about, trying to reconcile irreconcilable behaviors.

“Ephraim also is like a silly dove, without sense—they call to Egypt, they go to Assyria. Wherever they go, I will spread My net on them; I will bring them down like birds of the air . . .” (Hos. 7:11-12).



In the eighth-century B.C., Egypt and Assyria represented polar opposites on the Middle Eastern political scene. Israel could ally herself with one or the other, but not both. Of course, choosing one side would automatically incur the wrath of the opposing power. So what did Israel do? She tried to split the difference, naturally. Like a silly dove with no idea where to go, she flitted first to one power, then to the other, then back again. It was a crazy and senseless foreign policy that could only have one outcome. God eventually brought Israel down “like birds of the air” in His net, at the hands of an Assyrian army.

This ancient attempt at trying to have it both ways has its counterpart in our own culture today. A certain degree of contradiction is unavoidable when trying to define the aggregate character

of a large group of people; but modern Western culture, particularly in America, embraces incongruent beliefs that border on schizophrenia.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in how our culture deals with the subject of *sex*. On one hand, our culture glorifies sexual license as a natural right—the more the better, with a minimum of rules or restrictions. Premarital sex is no big deal now. Graphic sexual behavior routinely appears in television shows, movies, and even in classrooms. Pornography is rapidly going mainstream, including among women (for example, the wildly popular *Fifty Shades of Grey*).

Yet at the same time, our culture is in the grip of a hysteria over what it calls an “epidemic” of rape. I won’t argue the merits of the sloppy statistics that are circulated (although they deserve closer scrutiny). What is astounding is the draconian steps that are being implemented, particularly on college campuses, to ensure that any and all sex is verifiably “consensual.” Ironically, these measures are so oppressive that the feminists who are driving this campaign so furiously

are doing more to resurrect old-fashioned standards of sexual decorum than the Christians with all their preaching could have ever achieved.

So what’s going on here? How can a culture—especially the media—promote a free-wheeling sexual liberty, while simultaneously pushing a campaign to eradicate a form of sexual expression *that is inevitably spawned in that very climate of sexual decadence?*

The problem is the same one identified by Hosea over 2,700 years ago: Our culture has become “a silly dove, without sense.” Like a classic schizophrenic, large chunks of our population move freely from one personality to another, in full denial of the contradictions they are living out in their lives. They create their own bizarre version of reality, then can’t understand why it doesn’t work out like they thought it would.

The underlying cause, of course, is spiritual. When people abandon God, they also jettison the common sense that God gave us to guide our decision making. The end result is always disastrous—and so predictable.

– David King