**The “Nuclear Family” In Meltdown**

*by Kyle Campbell*

A recent article by Chuck Baldwin discusses Census results which reveal a virtual breakdown of traditional moral values within the United States. The nuclear family, consisting of a married father and mother with children, now comprises only 25% of the family units in this country. Moreover, couples cohabiting without marriage have escalated over 70% in just the last decade.

The Gallup organization found that the moral decline of America is now almost complete. According to Gallup, only 38% of the American people believe that sex before marriage is wrong. Even more disturbing is the fact that almost 70% of those under 30 think premarital sex is acceptable. These kinds of numbers are staggering! It appears America has lost its moral conscience. Is it a coincidence that almost 30% of couples who do get married reject any mention of God or religion in their ceremonies, according to a recent report? The same report states that nearly 50% refuse to use the words “forever” and “obey” in their vows. Dr. William Doherty, director of University of Minnesota’s Marriage and Family Therapy Program, denounces what he calls today’s “consumer marriage.” He laments that traditional vows like, “As long as we both shall ‘live’” have been replaced with, “As long as we both shall ‘love.’”

The question is how long can this nihilistic, hedonistic culture keep itself from total ruination? How long before the longsuffering of a holy, righteous God wears out? Yes, how much longer will America hate her heritage, sully her soul, and violate her virtue? Perhaps a better question is can America be great without being good?

**Avoiding the Truth**

*by H. E. Phillips*

*Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth* (John 9:31).

The above statement from John 9 was made by a man who had received his sight by a miracle of Christ. The man was born blind and seems to have been known by all of that community as a blind beggar. When the neighbors first recognized him as the blind man, now having his sight, they did the very natural thing of asking how his sight had been restored. He told about the man “called Jesus” who had anointed his eyes with clay and then told him to wash in the pool of Siloam. He said, “I went and washed, and I received sight.” Now the matter comes before the religious leaders who must do something to discredit the powerful miracle that confirmed the truth that Christ was the Son of God.

The procedure of the Pharisees to avoid the truth demonstrated by this miracle is being followed in principle by religious leaders today. Every conceivable plan has been used by denominationalism to avoid the truth of the gospel. Some of these plans follow the same line as that of the Pharisees on this occasion.

**1. Claim contradiction.** The Pharisees ignored the fact of healing and its infallible proof, and tried to prove that Christ was a sinner because he healed on the sabbath day. It was their own rules of the sabbath keeping that were being violated by the works of Christ, but this made no difference to them; their sabbath was more sacred than the truth demonstrated in the miracle. Those religious leaders today who do not want their laws in religion violated use the same method of showing truth to be contradictory. The man who teaches “faith only” salvation seeks to show that obedience in baptism is a contradiction of verses that attribute salvation to faith: setting one verse against another such as John 3:16 against Acts 2:38.

**2. Refuse facts.** The Pharisees refused to believe that this man had been blind and was now seeing. They called his parents to try to prove their point. Today one can read a clear, complete, and plain statement from the word of God and it will be refused by the one who does not want to believe the truth. This can also be proved by the “salvation by faith only” advocates. Watch them reject the facts clearly stated in Mark 16:15-16 and 1 Peter 3:21.

**3. Intimidate and threaten.** The Pharisees had put fear in the hearts of the people by threatening to cast out all who confessed Jesus. The Jews did not want to be cast out of the synagogues so they would seek to please the religious leaders. This fear caused the parents of the blind man to refuse to answer their questions about how their son had received his sight. There is no doubt but that multitudes of people close their eyes to the truth because of intimidation from their religious leaders. This has become true even among members of the church in some sections. Will you be denied a true search for the truth and accepting of the truth by the intimidation of preachers and other religious leaders and teachers?

**4. “The Big Lie.”** One of the methods of promoting totalitarianism is to continually repeat a lie until the people accept it as truth. The Pharisees simply said Jesus was a sinner. To say this long enough and loud enough is to convince some people. The miracle was ignored. Jesus was a sinner because the Pharisees said so. Today a certain thing is true or false just because the religious leaders say it. Catholicism demands that people receive what it says as the infallible truth regardless of what God’s word says. Lying is a great weapon in the hands of influential religious leaders to avoid the truth of the gospel. Sadly, it also a main tool of those promoting error among our brethren.

This man who had been blind refused to accept anything but the truth as he knew it. None of these plans worked with him. This should serve as an example to us today. Seek the truth of God and hold it.