

EVOLUTION, CREATION AND THE CULTURE WARS

By **Ken Ham, AiG-US President**

There's a culture war raging in America. It has been heating up for many years, and it seems to have finally awakened a sleeping church. Until recently, the church had, by and large, just stood by as the once-pervasive Christian fabric of this nation has been torn to tatters over the decades.

Even though many dedicated Christians (and others) have tried to do something about America's moral decay, and millions of dollars have been spent fighting issues like "gay" marriage, abortion and other social ills, American society as a whole is becoming less Christian in its worldview each day.

Who would have thought even forty years ago that the following would be happening in 21st-century America:

- Abortion legalized
- “Gay” marriage accepted
- Nativity scenes, crosses and Ten Commandments tablets removed from public places



- Creation, prayer and the Bible basically eliminated from public schools
- Attempts to remove the name of God from the Pledge of Allegiance, and also to stop prayer at a presidential inauguration
- Attempts to eliminate the name Christ

from Christmas, and then use terms like “happy holidays” instead

What has happened?

Just two generations ago, the majority of Americans supported prayer, Scripture readings and Bible instruction in public schools. They also supported nativity scenes, crosses and the Ten Commandments in public places. Gay marriage and abortion were outlawed. So what's gone on? Why the dramatic change? Why is it that the moral position of previous generations is being outlawed more and more by this generation? And what has driven this moral collapse?

There's no doubt America was founded on Christian principles based on the Bible. Today, however, it's very obvious that the population as a whole does not see the Bible as the absolute authority as it once did.

For instance, pollster George Barna found that in the US, “A minority of born again adults (44%) and an even smaller proportion

of born again teenagers (9%) are certain of the existence of absolute moral truth.”¹

Notice something dramatic: the drop in percentage of “born again” teens who are certain of the existence of absolute moral truth. Something has been happening in the culture to cause this change. But what?

At the time of the 2004 US presidential election, as George W. Bush was being voted in for a second term, the gay marriage issue had already arisen in many states. Because the majority of the Christian population and many others adhere to a belief that marriage is between one man and one woman, the gay marriage controversy seemed to be the last straw. Many people finally took a stand after standing by for many years while Christian morality had eroded in the culture.

What the media have noticed

In observing the US elections, secular newspapers and TV around the world reported that the main reason President Bush won

re-election is that the majority of people voted in response to moral issues.

Consider the following media reports:

New Zealand Herald: “[American] voters everywhere found themselves guided by moral issues first.”²

The *New York Times*: “... conservative Christians and ‘value voters’ won this election.”³

The Sydney Morning Herald in my homeland of Australia added: “[Many people] told exit-pollsters that moral values were their top priority.”⁴

Similar statements appeared in many other world newspapers.

The *Guardian* newspaper in England made a comment that really summed up what has happened to America: “... their country is now in fact two nations that loathe and fear each other—Godly and Worldly America.”⁵

This particular secular news source was commenting on what many are calling a

“culture war” in America—the widening chasm between those who adhere to Christian morality (i.e., absolutes that are actually founded in the Bible) and those who adhere to moral relativism (i.e., everyone has a right to determine his or her rules for life).

Genesis and the culture wars

While not all those adhering to Christian morality are Christians themselves, ultimately, they cannot insist on such morality without an absolute authority. Christian morality is based in Christianity. Christianity is based on the Bible, and the Bible is based on the history in Genesis chapters 1-11.

For example, many people may believe that marriage between a man and a woman is important for the “good” of the culture. However, even though they may give their opinions as to why this sort of marriage is best (even if it’s based on statistical analysis), people cannot ultimately insist that they are right without a basis in an absolute authority.

The only way we can effectively insist that marriage should never be anything other than between a man and a woman is if we know that the Bible actually is the Word of our Creator, and that the account of history in Genesis concerning the first marriage (Adam and Eve) is true.



Generations ago in the US, the majority of the population overwhelmingly accepted the belief that marriage is defined as a man and a woman. That view was common because the Bible was believed to be the absolute authority.

Over the years, however, generations of people have gone through a public education system that has progressively become more secular (that is, anti-Christian). Whereas

Christian thinking once permeated the public education system, today the Christian God, prayer, Bible study and biblical creation have all but been excluded from the system.

Now, generations (including the majority of students from even church homes) are being trained in a secular (anti-God) religion.⁶ They are being indoctrinated to believe that the universe—and all that exists within it—can be explained *without* God.

They are taught, with increasing intensity, a cosmology, geology, biology and anthropology that are all evolutionary. In essence, these



students are being educated *against* the truth of the Bible's history in Genesis.

Because all biblical doctrines are founded (directly or indirectly) in the history in Genesis 1-11, including marriage, the more that generations are trained to disbelieve the Bible's account of origins, the more they will reject the rest of the Bible.

We see the direct result of this secularization (primarily through the education system) in the culture war, and it is reflected in the increasing number of moral battles concerning gay marriage, abortion and so on.

To put it succinctly: the more people believe evolution and reject Genesis 1-11 as history, the more they will reject the rest of the



Bible—including the morality that is based in that history.

Actually, many secular news reporters already understand this point quite well. In reporting on the 2004 presidential election, they recognized that many Christians, who believe the Bible to be the Word of God, voted to influence the election.

The intriguing aspect was that many secular reporters linked the issues of the culture wars to the rejection of evolution.

Evolution and morality

In fact, both before and after the president's inauguration, many news reports and editorials were equating people who support Christian morality (e.g., by opposing “gay marriage”) with those who believe in creation instead of evolution.

For example, Garry Wills, a prolific author of American history and an anti-creationist (and a Pulitzer prize winner), wrote a guest column

for the *New York Times* right after the election entitled “The day the Enlightenment went out” (November 4, 2004).

In his polemic, Wills declared that the re-election of President Bush was due largely to a big turnout of theologically conservative Christian voters who were not, in his word, “enlightened.” As the primary example of this Christian bloc’s “unenlightenment,” a lamenting Wills cited the creation/evolution issue: “Many more Americans believe in the Virgin Birth than in Darwin’s theory of evolution.”⁷

In his attack against Bible believers, Wills continued his argument that there’s an “evolution connection” to the presidential election by declaring that the Bush victory “might be called Bryan’s revenge for the Scopes trial of 1925, in which William Jennings Bryan’s fundamentalist assault on the concept of evolution was discredited. Disillusionment with that decision led many evangelicals to withdraw from direct engagement in politics.”

That retreat, however, apparently changed this

past election year, Wills observed, as conservative Christians “came roaring back into the arena out of anger at other court decisions—on prayer in school, abortion, protection of the flag and, now, gay marriage.”



In a tired fashion reminiscent of many anti-Christian writers over the past two decades, Wills offered the old comparison between America’s “fundamentalist zeal” and the “rage at secularity, religious intolerance, fear of and hatred for modernity ... [that] we find in the Muslim world, in Al Qaeda, in Saddam Hussein’s Sunni loyalists.” Incredible!

This supposedly “enlightened” man—one who has preached a general tolerance towards others in his writings—has targeted a group

of people whose only crime was to reject the words of fallible men and to choose, instead, to accept the authority and accuracy of God's Word, a Book which most of the "enlightened" Founding Fathers also accepted (or, at the very least, respected)—from Genesis to Revelation.

Many other secular reporters around the world also equated the culture battles in the US to that of creation versus evolution.

Indeed, the secular world sees the creation/evolution controversy as an extremely important (and even emotional) issue. And personally, I believe from much of what has been written, the secular world understands (more than many in the church) that the Genesis/creation and evolution battle is the foundational issue in the "culture wars."

Many Americans have finally awakened to the fact that the secular humanists are taking over the culture. I believe that's why so many people voted in the last election: their concern over moral issues.

The secular humanists are now horrified that people are trying to reestablish what is in reality Christian morality in this country. And many see the creation/evolution issue as the foundation of this battle. After all, they realize if evolution is allowed to be questioned, the alternative (creation) implies there is a Creator who owns us and sets the rules. These humanists recognize it will open minds to the possibility that the Bible is true!

Has the church been asleep?

Sadly, many of those who have been awakened to the secular humanist takeover of the culture don't understand the real foundational nature of this battle. Because most Christian leaders and many in the church have allowed (i.e., compromised with) evolutionary ideas (either wittingly or unwittingly), they have in effect helped this takeover and fueled the culture war.

What has resulted is that these Christians have allowed recent generations to reject or

reinterpret the Bible's history in Genesis, thus opening a door to undermine biblical authority in general for the other 65 books of the Bible.

At the same time that all of this has been happening, creation ministries like *Answers in Genesis* have been raised up to engage the church and the culture on this foundational issue of creation and evolution.



Not surprisingly, there have been some vicious attacks on Christians/creationists in the media.

Consider the following from *Science Weekly* (which has as one of its main “target audiences” public school teachers who, of course, instruct our children!). In its January 23 editorial earlier this year entitled, “Creationism vs. sanity,” it stated: “... there will always be some who, because of ‘religious’ convictions, believe the Earth is as flat as a pancake, a few thousand years old, and resting on the backs of four giant elephants

“Religionists who accept the work of their God as revealed by science, and who understand that creationism is blasphemy, need to come out into the arena and be heard. ... Science teachers who find these creationist crusades obnoxious and potentially damaging to the children they teach also need to come out into the arena in droves and wage the battle of their intellectual lives”⁸

The ministry of *Answers in Genesis*, along with its future Creation Museum near Cincinnati, is being carefully watched by the secular world. To most of them, people who

believe the Bible's literal account of creation are viewed as the enemy of secular humanism (good!)—and as confronters of a “worldly America”—because they attack the very foundation of the anti-God, evolutionary philosophy of the world.

Yes—there is a culture war in America! The chasm is widening. The results of this foundational attack on the Bible's foundations in Genesis are now more obvious. “Worldly” and “godly” America are engaged in a battle for the culture and the minds of people.

Conclusion

What will be the outcome? Can America return to a Christian worldview that will once again permeate the culture? Yes it can, but only if there's a return to the authority of the Word of God ... beginning in Genesis.

Secularism, with its moral relativism, is in conflict with Christianity and its absolute morality. It's a battle between those who believe God's Word and those who follow

man's opinions—and foundationally, it's a battle of creation versus evolution (and its false history over “millions of years”).

Those fighting for Christian morality cannot hope to win the culture wars unless they understand the real foundational nature of the battle. They will only continue to see the erosion of this once-Christian culture until they understand that biblical authority, beginning with God's Word in Genesis, has to be upheld without compromise.

The secular world itself understands the battle—but the church by and large does not. Christian leaders need to be awakened by a battle cry and then attack the false foundation of evolution and millions of years ... and proclaim the true history of the world that is foundational to Christian morality and the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pass this booklet on to your pastor or other church leader so that they, too, can see how the authority of the Bible, beginning in Genesis, directly relates to today's culture wars. For additional multiple copies, call (800) 778-3390 for bulk price information.

To find out more about AiG's future Creation Museum (and to learn how to become a charter member of this national Bible-upholding center), go to www.CreationMuseum.org.



AiG's future Creation Museum, being built near the Cincinnati Airport.

- ¹ Barna Research Online, “The Year’s Most Intriguing Findings, From Barna Research Studies,” December 12, 2000.
- ² David Osborne, “Moral issues decide US election,” *The New Zealand Herald*, Nov. 5, 2004.
- ³ Roland Watson, “The revolution starts now, declares the Right as it seeks its rewards,” *The Times*, Nov. 5, 2004.
- ⁴ “I earned capital and I’ll spend it, says Bush,” *Sydney Morning Herald*, Nov. 6, 2004.
- ⁵ “Onward Christian Soldiers,” *Guardian Limited*, Nov. 5, 2004.
- ⁶ There is no such thing as neutrality. As the Bible states in Matthew 12:30: “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.”
- ⁷ Garry Wills, “The Day the Enlightenment Went Out,” *New York Times*, Nov. 4, 2004.
- ⁸ The Editors, “Creationism vs. sanity,” *Science Week*, January 23, 2005.