

July 26, 2020

All Lives Matter

“The five marks of the American decaying culture:

1. Concern with displaying affluence instead of building wealth;
2. Obsession with sex and perversions of sex;
3. Art becomes freakish and sensationalistic instead of creative and original;
4. Widening disparity between very rich and very poor;
5. Increased demand to live off the state.”

That pretty well sums up the condition of America today. I put them in quotation marks, because I borrowed them from one of my grandkids' homeschooling ninth grade books, but the copyright has run out, because they are quoted from “Edward Gibbon's History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire.” It's in six volumes, finished in 1788. I changed the word “Roman” to “American” in the first line.

In addition to the “five marks of the decaying culture,” Rome had the Barbarians to worry about. We've got radical Islam, China, Russia, and Iran ... and Turkey, and Pakistan, and a host of others to worry about.

I composed the three paragraphs above the day before George Floyd was murdered in Minneapolis, and I spent the next six weeks writing the rest. The events were moving so fast, that I couldn't keep up. I started blogging/venting 12 years ago. I called them vents, because it made me feel better to “let off steam.” I have spent much of the last 12 years spending time recuperating from multiple surgeries, during which time I read a lot, and grieved a lot about the state of our country.

During the last 12 years I've attempted to do two things: share how grateful I am to God for keeping me alive, and secondarily, share my conservative political views. This is

going to be my last blog, because I've always had a short attention span, but after my first brain surgery, I forgot how to spell and punctuate, and I'm having more trouble organizing my thoughts and concentrating now. As per usual, I'm not going to be politically correct.

Right after the murder of Floyd, I received the following text from my younger daughter, about how hard my 14-year-old granddaughter was taking this killing:

_____ was intently working on something this morning. She has shed tears over this story.

My granddaughter has not had any art training, but she's obviously got talent, and she was working on free-handing this copy of the photo of George Floyd.



I sent the following text back:

That's great art, but tell _____ that there were 7,000 African Americans murdered in 2019 in the US -- mostly by other blacks. Only two were killed by cops. I'm writing what is going to be my last blog, and it's going to be about "black lives matter."

Her answer:

Black lives don't simply 'matter.' Each and every black life bears the image of God. And when we don't value black life, we are profaning that image. It's an internal, spiritual problem, not one that can be solved with an external fix.

So we agree that the Black Lives Matter movement isn't the answer. BLM vastly underestimates the depths of the sin problem, the value of all human life, and the utter sufficiency of Jesus as the only answer to every situation of life.

According to that answer she gave me, the Left would say she is obviously a racist. In fact anytime you disagree with the Left, you will be called a racist. I first discovered that was a tactic of the Left 30 years ago. Church of the Apostles had not yet separated from the Episcopal Denomination, but we were clearly not "adhering to the party line." The Bishop called Michael Youssef, our pastor, in, and told him, "You are just a bunch of rich, racist Northside people, and you are an embarrassment to the Episcopal Church." Michael thought it was very curious that his Church was labeled "racist" because he was born in Egypt, and his assistant was the Reverend Quinn Gordon. The Reverend Gordon was African American, and as a retired Episcopal Priest, he was well known to the Bishop. The Bishop was a classic left wing progressive, and what embarrassed him was Dr. Youssef's preaching the truth of the Gospel. Michael's vision, before we started the Church, was that it was going to have an international influence and a congregation of all colors.

In recent times, calling individuals racist has become a very effective tool in silencing opposition to the Left's views. We are not a racist nation, and all lives matter. I repeat ... we are not a racist nation, and all lives matter. If I were employed, that statement alone could make me unemployed. We are more divided, as a nation, than at any time since the Civil War, but race is certainly not the top reason for this.

We demonstrated that we were not a racist nation by electing Barack Obama President. One of my retired lawyer friends, who was a prosecutor and professor, cried with tears of happiness when Obama was elected, and he cried again when he was re-elected -- out of sadness. Race relations were set back at least a generation under the Presidency of Obama.

We were a racist nation until the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was signed into law. Shelby Steele, Senior Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution is a black man and a distinguished scholar. He says, "In the 60s, America did one of the bravest things ever done by any nation -- it admitted to oppressing blacks and other minorities for centuries." He went on to say, "The black community has to heal itself, starting with the family. 75% of black babies are born out of wedlock." The black children are growing up without fathers. Dr. Steele was born in 1946 in Chicago. His father was a truck driver, but he bought ramshackle houses, and remodeled them in his spare time. Dr. Steele explains that the America he grew up in was racist. His neighborhood had two schools, one white and one black, but he had a father who worked hard. The families were still together. He explained "there always will be a few racists," but he can detect no systemic racism in the US now. He asserts that we are still the land of opportunity, and challenges the opinion that we are still racist by questioning why many millions of people would want to come here if we were a racist nation.

Since the Lyndon Johnson administration, there have been hundreds of programs: The great society, public housing, set asides, affirmative actions, etc. Our nation has spent over 22 trillion dollars on social programs, and no amount of money is going to solve our major social problem.

The breakup of the family is a problem in both the white and black communities. The African American economist Walter Williams has analyzed the statistics of the breakup of the family. In 1938, 4% of white children and 11% of blacks grew up without a father's influence. By 2019 the number had grown to 35% white and 72% black children who grew up in single parent households.

The brutal murder of George Floyd was broadcast on televisions worldwide. There were over 7,000 murders of African Americans last year -- mostly by other African Americans -- but none of them were so widely seen.

I had my 85th birthday last month, so I have had more time than most folks to live and observe history. I was approaching my 13th birthday in the spring of 1948, when I saved the admission price, and crawled through fence at McCormick Field in Asheville, North Carolina to see Jackie Robinson play baseball. The Brooklyn Dodgers were heading north after spring training, and they were playing an exhibition game against the Asheville Tourists. In my opinion, Jackie Robinson did more for desegregation than anybody until Dr. Martin Luther King. And he surely paid the price, by taking all manner of abuse from the fans and players.

Now, a bunch of multi-millionaire athletes, led by Colin Kaepernick, are telling us that taking a knee during the National Anthem will spotlight police racism. None of them have been alive long enough to know what real racism looks like. They are disrespecting the flag that millions gave their lives for, so that they could be free to disrespect that very flag.

First, Nike backed Kaepernick, and now a host of others have joined the parade, led by the Commissioner of the NFL, Roger Goodell. Personally, I'm not going to boycott the National Football League, but I've lost interest in it. I don't think I will ever watch another game.

Heather MacDonald wrote an op-ed in the June 2, 2020, Wall Street Journal, entitled "The Myth of Systemic Police Racism." She referenced the Washington Post database, which notes that 19 unarmed whites were killed by police in 2019, and nine unarmed blacks were killed. Furthermore, police officers are 18.5 times more likely to be killed by a black male, than an unarmed black male is likely to be killed by a police officer.

Black Lives Matter (BLM) and Antifa are both admitted Marxist organizations that want nothing less than to overthrow our government. Antifa was started in Germany in the 1920's. The German people chose Hitler over communism. The Lord only knows whether Hitler or Stalin would have killed more.

BLM is much like the Weather Underground of the 1960s, except the Weather Underground never had the acceptance of the American public as BLM does now.

They were formed in 2013 after the death of Trayvon Martin, and they became nationally recognized after the death of Michael Brown, and the Ferguson riots of 2014. BLM is a very rich organization. It has been widely reported that they have received over 400 million dollars in donations in the last two months.

From Wikipedia:

In 2016, Black Lives Matter and a coalition of 60 organizations affiliated with BLM called for decarceration in the United States, reparations for slavery in the United States, an end to mass surveillance, investment in public education, not incarceration, and community control of the police: empowering residents in communities of color to hire and fire police officers and issue subpoenas, decide disciplinary consequences, and exercise control over city funding of police.

George Soros was listed on Wikipedia 30 days ago as having given BLM 100 million dollars, but it's been taken down now. BLM doesn't care about black lives, nor any other lives for that matter. They are a revolutionary organization that wants to overthrow the government of the United States. You just have to Google them to see the truth.

Over the 2020 Father's Day weekend 104 people were shot in Chicago, and 15 died. The youngest victim was 3-year-old Mekhi James. He was shot early Saturday evening. He was in a car seat in his dad's car. Mekhi was pronounced dead at the hospital. 13-year-old Takemia Jones was watching television, on the couch in her apartment, when a bullet ripped through her neck. She was still alive when she arrived at the hospital, but they couldn't save her. The carnage has worsened in several major cities, including Chicago, in the last couple of weeks.

It's a little over three months until our elections, and I am pessimistic for the long run, regardless of who wins. The Carnegie Commission has done a study of the ratio of liberal-leaning college professors to conservative ones. They found that in 1969 there were three left of center professors to two right of center professors. Three to two was a healthy ratio to have a discussion then, but by 1999 the study showed five to one. By 2005 it was eight to one, and the current studies show 13 to one.

According to Professor John Ellis, the author of “The Breakdown of Higher Education,” one study currently says the hiring of junior people is now running about 48 to one. Goodbye free speech! In reality, free speech has been gone for a number of years on the college and university campuses. The college campus has become a one-party monoculture. The colleges and universities have brainwashed two generations, while the rest of us weren’t paying attention.

The colleges have also trained the secondary teachers, and the journalists. Donald Trump is the only thing standing between us and a Leftist takeover of our country.

The Left hates Trump so much, that they are ready to sacrifice almost anything to get rid of him. COVID-19 is not a major problem for the young. They don’t often contract it, and they don’t often transmit it to adults. Every country in the West, except the US, is opening schools normally this fall.

Old age, multiple brain surgeries, and years of radiation have caught me, and this is my last blog. I’ve been an optimist all my life, but our country is so divided now that only a spiritual revival can bring us together.

I don’t know what the future holds, but I know the One who holds the future.

EPILOGUE

I grew up in the days when racism was rampant. In the mountains of Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee there weren’t very many “Negroes” in those days. The first time I remember seeing a black person I was about 11 years old, and it was summer on the playground at Aycok School in Asheville. I was the organizer even then, and we were trying to play baseball without enough players even to make up one team. About 10 black kids suddenly appeared, as if by magic. It was baseball, and there weren’t any adults around to tell us which fountain we could drink out of. Incidentally, when I went through the fence to watch Jackie Robinson play baseball, I ripped a hole in my new wool jacket, and for the next year I had a piece of masking tape inside, but I saved the 25-cent admission fee.

I had very little contact with African Americans anymore until my sophomore year in college. I had already attended two colleges in the South, before crossing the Mason Dixon Line. I was attending Ohio State University, and I had an airport job. A girlfriend made fun of my Appalachian Mountain accent, and I immediately changed my major to speech. My first speech instructor was a PhD student from Alabama. He was black, and we became friends. We spent many nights in the Old Heidelberg Bar “researching” my mountain accent.

Fast forward to the late 1960s. The Civil Rights Act had been in for a few years, and I was a DC-9 captain in 1968. I had a layover in downtown Jackson, Mississippi, and we had two stewardesses on our crew. (I think that was before they evolved into “flight attendants”.) One was white, and one was black. I told the copilot I would like for us to take the girls out to dinner, and I would pay for it. He agreed, and we went to the nicest restaurant near the motel. Our stewardess was the only black person in the restaurant, except the help. I am sure the other diners speculated on which of us was the interracial couple.

I knew racism still existed, especially in my generation, but I knew it didn’t exist, or it almost didn’t in my children’s generation. It certainly didn’t exist in me...did it? I had a “happening” in the late 80s that made me realize how easy it is to fool yourself. I was leaving a performance by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. My two daughters were with us, and I was in my usual hurry to get home. MARTA (the rail line) was under construction to the north side of town, and my usual route was blocked. So I tried another, and it was blocked too. I was so frustrated that I yelled out, “MARTA is just so n_____ can get to Buckhead to rob us.”

You would have thought my three women were frozen. Nobody was moving. I finally broke the silence. I said, “I was just kidding girls.” There was more silence, and my wife broke the silence by asking me, “If Ben were in the car would you have said that?” That was dirty pool, because Ben was the late Ben Kinchlow. Ben was the African American co-host of the 700 Club on the Christian Broadcasting Network, and I was on the Board of Regents for what was then CBN University, and is now called Regents University. He was a great friend of mine, and I told my women that I would never say that ugly word again. And I haven’t!

It was at that moment that I realized for future generations, racism would be history, and that my daughters were colorblind. Today, my grandchildren choose their friends based on mutual interest without any regard to skin color. Recently, one of my granddaughters hosted a multiracial weekend house party in the nearby mountains.

One of few remaining pleasures a crippled old man has is watching live sports on television. The athletes' disrespect for the greatest nation ever created in the history of the world has changed this sports fan's relationship with the games. Colin Kaepernick was joined by Nike in the beginning of "kneeling" instead of standing at attention for the playing of the Star-Spangled Banner. Nike took on police brutality against black Americans while ignoring the Communist Chinese, who are guilty with some of the most egregious violations of human rights in today's world -- including slave labor while producing some of Nike's products. Nike has 7,000 stores in China, and they take billions of dollars in revenue out of there. Nike doesn't dare to offend China, because they know they will be shut down. The US, on the other hand, is free, and they know they can say anything they want to here ... except blue lives matter, or all lives matter.

The NBA sold out to China years ago, when they decided that they were going to be an international brand. They were careful not to take the side of Hong Kong in the recent troubles. I have never been into the NBA anyway. Major League Baseball and Division 1 Football have long been my two favorite sports, and the San Francisco Giants Baseball Team Manager knelt while the National Anthem was being played before a game this week. ESPN is already setting us up for BLM to intrude into college football this fall.

My blogs/vents have usually been written in a maximum of one day, but I started this one on May 25, the day George Floyd was murdered in Minneapolis. I couldn't believe how fast major events were taking place. COVID-19 has kept me semi quarantined for four months, but I went out to lunch with two old friends last week. Both are slightly younger than I, and they've been super successful. Naturally, the conversation got around to BLM, Trump, Biden, riots, etc. We had lunch outdoors, the weather was delightful, the food was delicious, and we all three were in complete agreement politically, but I left the lunch depressed. The reason: both of them believe, as I do, that this election is the most important of our lifetimes. They told me that three good friends of theirs, acquaintances of mine, were voting for Biden.

Things are not making sense! I remember when the Republican Party had the reputation of being the “Country Club Party,” and the Democrats were for the working man. Capitalists are aligning themselves with Marxists -- example: dozens of corporate CEOs have contributed 100s of million dollars to BLM in the last two months, gold is nearing \$1900 an ounce, (which is not good news for the dollar) the debt is 26 trillion (which also is not good news for the dollar). The family and the mainline church are failing, or have already failed.

Before I was old enough to read, I was told the story of the little Dutch boy who saved his town in Holland by plugging a hole in the dike with his finger. When I think of Donald Trump, I am reminded of that story. He’s like a man who’s singlehandedly holding back the flood, and if the dike breaks, we’re going to be overwhelmed with the Marxist tide.

The aforementioned retired lawyer, who cried tears of happiness when Obama was elected, sent me this email which was apparently written by Ernie Meggisen, a Canadian living in British Columbia. I’ve searched the Internet and I can’t find him, but in my opinion, whoever the writer, he describes President Donald J Trump to perfection.

A CANADIAN'S VIEW OF PRESIDENT TRUMP

Ernie Meggisen, a BC Canadian, wrote the following last week on Donald J. Trump.

Make no mistake ... I'm not posting this for debate. I don't want your commentary. Unfollow or unfriend me if it makes you feel better.

Just consider this.... When you think that your President Trump is a jerk; HE IS....

He's a New Yorker. He's crude and can be downright rude. Some say he's a thin-skinned, arrogant, bombastic ass. No argument, even from most republicans if they're really honest.

He gets his feelings hurt and he's a hot head. He hits back; harder. And he probably should Tweet less.

But let me tell you what else he is. And if you disagree with this that's your privilege. But in that case my friend, you'd be DEAD WRONG!!! And here's why;

He's a guy who DEMANDS performance. And more importantly; RESULTS!! He spent his entire life in the private sector where you either produce or get your ass fired!

He's a guy who asks lots of questions. And the questions he asks aren't cloaked in fancy "political" phrases; they are "Why the hell...?" questions.

For decades the health industry has thrown away billions of face masks after one use. Trump asks, "Why are we throwing them away? Why not sterilize them and use them numerous times?" (Good question.)

He's the guy who gets hospital ships readied in one week when it would have taken a bureaucrat weeks or months or never to get it done.

He's the guy who gets temporary hospitals built in three days.

He's the guy who gets auto industries to restructure to build ventilators in a business that's highly regulated by agencies that move like sloths.

He's the guy who asks, "Why aren't we using drugs that might work on people who are dying; what the hell do we have to lose?" (Another good question.)

He's the guy who restricted travel from China when the democrats and liberal media were screaming "xenophobia" and "racist." Now they're wanting to know why he didn't react sooner? When he shut down the borders in the early days of the corona virus, the democrats screamed even LOUDER. Then the rest of the world, including the European Union, quickly restricted travel between their own member countries.

He's the guy who campaigned on securing the border -- protecting America -- in the face of screaming democrats and the liberal media. And these SAME leaders of your democrat party (both the Clintons, Chucky Schumer, Harry Reed, Barack Obama, Maxine Waters, Nancy Pelosi et al...) ALL were in FAVOR of constructing the wall 'UNTIL' Trump had the fortitude to actually do it!!!

Now your comeback might be: 'Oh, he said Mexico was going to pay for it'. Does that ring a bell? Well let me quickly set you straight on this one: Have you compared the old EXTREMELY one-sided NAFTA agreement (negotiated by none other than Jimmy 'peanuts' Carter) with the NEW U.S.M.C. agreement? Well I have. And let me tell you this: Mexico will now end up paying much MORE for your goods than you will for theirs. And why you might ask?? Because they're far more reliant on the U.S. than you are of them. Yes, it will take time but the bottom line is, They WILL end up paying for the wall just like Trump said all along! Admittedly as a Canadian, this new USMCA is certainly not as beneficial as NAFTA was for both my country and Mexico. Previously our farmers had a huge monopoly over your farmers but 'fair is fair'....

Has Trump made mistakes? Of course. You can't fault a person for being a human being. Only ONE perfect man walked this earth 2000 years ago, Jesus!

Everyone I know has made mistakes and continues to make them and LEARNS from them.

Trump is, and has, accomplished more than any U.S. President in my lifetime. (I'm 77 years old). He puts in 18 to 20 hour days. He isn't hiding in his office; he's out front -- Briefing -- ALL Americans almost every day.

According to democrats and liberal media, when he offers hope he's lying, and when he's straightforward he should be hopeful. It's a no-win situation for him every day with the haters and naysayers, but he is NOT deterred.

I'll take THIS kind of leadership 6 days a week and TWICE on Sunday over a "polished, nice guy" politician who has seldom or never held a real private sector job in his or her adult life, reads prepared and "written by a speech-writer" speeches from a teleprompter and ONLY answers pre-scripted questions selected for him/her prior to the open forum. (Sorry folks, but that's EXACTLY what your previous POTUS did.)

I am completely mystified as to why this man has been bombarded by the media and liberal electorate EVERY day since back in 2015 when he announced his run for the U.S. presidency.

And whether you want to believe it or not, Americans, let me tell you one more thing, if you REALLY think that Hillary would have accomplished even a fraction of the things for the betterment of the American public that POTUS Trump has, you've really got your head in the sand.

I can only wish he was MY President! -- For the good of America, you'd better hope he's re-elected this November.

I DO!!

Even though I can only type with one finger, I've still got a bad case of diarrhea of the keyboard, and I am obviously proud of my grandchildren. My 17-year-old granddaughter published the following on social media yesterday:

Hebrews 13:14, ESV: "For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come."

The state of the world should not cause us to be angry or afraid, after all, we are only pilgrims here, not citizens. This is not our home. Yet we find ourselves, God's people, raging with the world as if we are of the world; we are shouting what they shout. When will we realize that the brokenness we feel will not be healed by politics, social media posts, movements, and human morals? When will we remember that only Christ and his return can restore our fractured humanity?

We must stop trying to offer people our solutions and rather offer them Jesus. He is all we need to heal our pain. Our security and hope come not from this kingdom, but from the One to come.

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