

New Bethel Christian Life Report – January 2016

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Quote of the Day

Fact of life—If you want God's people, you must generally look for them in the furnace.

Spurgeon, from my book, *Ocean Devotions: from the Hold of C. H. Spurgeon, Master of Mariner Metaphors* (AuthorHouse, 2008), pg. 20, Jan. 18 of 266 daily devotions – see www.PreciousHeart.net/Ocean



Review of “Uprooting EVIL—Why the Pro-Life Movement Must Grow Deeper Roots to See Lasting Fruits”

by Melissa Deming (*Southern Baptist Texan* [January 2016], 1 & 8-9)

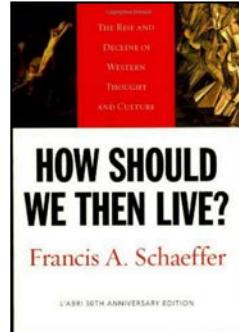
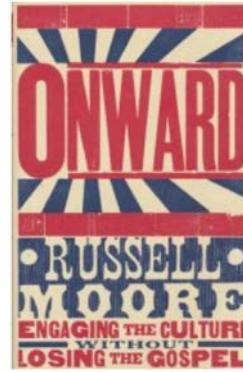
by Michael G. Maness

This article's second part covered two full pages with a timeline of “worldviews” divided into eight categories, ostensibly from SBC Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) President Dr. Russell D. Moore’s new book, *Onward: Engaging the Culture Without Losing the Gospel* (B & H, 2015; 226p.). The article’s main charge is to support the ongoing fight for human dignity with the challenge to especially the American Pro-Life Christian juggernaut to more forcefully urge people to respond to how “Christian leaders are urging the church to cultivate a broader understanding of what it means to be pro-life and how the culture grew to be anti-life in the first place.”

Deming interviewed Moore who anchored his book upon the Titanic Christian philosophical work of Francis Schaeffer, especially his tour de force, *How Shall We Then Live: The Rise and Decline of Western Thought and Culture* (1st 1976; Crossway, 2005; 288p.; 10-film series, 1977) and the book co-authored with C. Everett Koop, *Whatever Happened to the Human Race?*

The ERLC has been the SBC’s (and to a large extent Christianity’s) most powerful advocate in Washington D.C. for defending the Baptist and Christian worldview. So Moore’s potent platform needs to be heard as he recalls the “prophetic” voice of Schaeffer, who is not read as much these days (but ought to be), and Moore plows forward to reinterpret the significance of how our culture is moving further away and becoming increasingly hostile to Christianity at all levels. Deming said, “Moore builds on Schaeffer’s call for social action by outlining a framework for cultural engagement called ‘engaged alienation’—a type of Christianity that ‘preserves the distinctiveness of our gospel’ without retreating from loving neighbors.” Quoting Moore, the church must fight with “voices shaped by the gospel, with a convictional kindness that recognizes that winning arguments is not enough if one is in cosmic struggle with unseen principalities and powers.... If we do no surrender to the spirit of the age, ... we will be thought culture-warriors. So be it. Let’s be Christ-shaped, kingdom-first culture warriors.”

In sum, if you want to understand *how* we got here philosophically—and you should—then one must read Schaeffer’s unprecedented, seminal work *How Shall We Then Live*; nothing truly compares with Schaeffer’s depth of coverage and unique presentation of the philosophical shift of Christian values. Moore brings this into the 21st century as the SBC’s General on the frontlines. We *are* at war with our culture.



PSEUDO MODERNISM/
POST-POSTMODERNISM
(PRESENT)

WORLDVIEWS

Cultural Nihilism;
Pragmatic Idealism

- There is neither truth nor meaning (cultural nihilism) save one value—the personal autonomy of the individual.
- Man is free to do and live as he likes except when it infringes on the freedoms of another (pragmatic idealism) or disrupts the status quo.
- Hyper-individualism and moral chaos in our day echoes the declining days of earlier pagan cultures.

Impact on human dignity:

- With no accepted and objective moral foundation, personal freedom for one quickly imposes on basic human rights for another.
- If personal happiness is a priority goal of our culture and yet individuals have no inherent value, “good” and “compassionate” become terms broad enough to encompass monstrous practices like late-term abortion and assisted suicide.
- The loss of a moral center by which cultural mores are made consistent and predictable have made biblical Christianity an increasingly strange, unpopular understanding of truth and meaning.

Glass Church Made Like Giant High-heeled Shoe

article from Fox News, Asia, 1-14-16

This church in Taiwan is more “Devil Wears Prada” than divine.

But in an effort to lure in more fashionable female churchgoers – and a curious public – local officials at Ocean View Park in Budai town, on the east coast of Taiwan, have created a high-heeled shaped house of worship made almost entirely out of glass. The dazzling blue building stands 55 feet tall and 36 feet wide and is made out of 320 pieces of tinted glass reports Huanqiu.com, part of the China’s People’s Daily Online.

It's not clear what type of church it is. But according to a video released by China Central Television Station, Zheng Rongfeng, spokesman of the Southwest Coast National Scenic Area, said the church is expected to open before the Chinese New Year, which falls on February 8.... There will be a total of 100 female-oriented features in the church for romantic photo-ops, which include chairs for “lovers,” maple leaves, biscuits and cakes.

Article www.FoxNews.com/travel/2016/01/14/this-glass-church-is-made-to-look-like-high-heeled-shoe/ – See video http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=709_1452705907



Maness—what's next? FFBC, First Female Baptist Church. High-Heel Fellowship. Glass Slipper Worship. High-Heel Healing. “Holy Heel, Batman!” *Strange*. “Shoe” theme dominates instead of theme of “Christ.” Too extreme? *Okay*? What “*themes*” can you think of? Boats? Cars? If the shoe fits. Put your best foot forward.

I Did *NOT* Like Seeing Our Sailors Kneeling to Iran

“Mistake” the sailors made, yes, but Iran *could* have asked where they were going instead of arresting them, scaring their *families*. Iran *knew* the sailors were on way base in Bahrain. Iran just shot a *unguided* missile 1,500 yards near the USS Harry S. Truman. We just released **\$1.5 Billion** to Iran, terror sponsor. Truth—Iran humiliated us! *Wake up America!*



See this report with active links here: www.PreciousHeart.net/CLC-2016-01-21.pdf