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A Heart for Restoration

“As Christians we are tempted to make unnecessary concessions to those outside the Faith. We give in too much... We must show our Christian colours, if we are to be true to Jesus Christ. We cannot remain silent and concede everything away.” --C.S. Lewis, *Letters*, 1948

The domestic wars for the soul of America heated up during 2003. Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore was removed from office for publicly displaying the Ten Commandments. The Supreme Court put asunder all anti-sodomy laws. A long-awaited federal ban on partial birth abortion was stopped in its tracks by a single San Francisco area judge. And the Massachusetts Supreme Court endorsed gay marriage.

Unfortunately, too many Christians remain unaware, or worse, unconcerned with these unconstitutional court decisions and sickening cultural trends. Some outspoken leaders blame pastors for anesthetizing their flocks with “affirming messages of personal peace and affluence.” But whether pastors aren’t “preaching” or parishioners aren’t listening, it appears Government is assuming the role of the Church.

Noted author and commentator Francis Frangipane¹ believes the Church has learned to quietly accommodate the multi-leveled invasion of immorality into our society. He says that we have so adjusted to living in the midst of sin—we barely hear the whisper of what once was the voice of outrage in our hearts. Frangipane cautions Christians not to use the anticipation of a soon rapture as an excuse to stop caring for our nation.

The prophet Ezekiel was commanded, says Frangipane, “to walk through sinful Jerusalem and take note not only of its perversity, but those who were affected adversely by it.” *And the Lord said to him, Go through the midst of the city and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations which are being committed in its midst.* The Lord continued, *strike...and do not spare* (those who do not mourn). *And you shall start from my sanctuary. So they began with the elders who were in front of the temple.* (Ezekiel 9:1-6).

Frangipane argues that God is searching for a people who love what He loves, and hate what He hates. Rick Joyner,² another Christian writer, agrees. He says that God’s passions must be our passions—including His heart for restoration. We must never allow ourselves to think that our culture and our nation are beyond help.

Joyner greatly admires the courage and character of the generation that endured the most devastating and costly conflict in human history—World War II. As many as one hundred million people died³ in what Winston Churchill called “a fight for the survival of civilisation against barbarism...” One of the greatest stories of both courage and character in the entire war, says Joyner, comes from a very unlikely source—the women of Berlin.

Rick Joyner tells the story of the rebuilding of Berlin through the experiences of his friend Col. Eugene Bird, one of the first American soldiers to enter Berlin after its fall. Col. Bird had seen much devastation as the Allied armies fought their way across Europe.

However, the devastation he witnessed in Berlin exceeded it all. Says Joyner:

“...he could smell the stench of death more than thirty miles away. Not only had Berlin suffered Allied bombing almost daily for years, but two of the most powerful armies on earth fought through almost every street and neighborhood until the German army was completely destroyed. The Russians, who captured Berlin, lost more men taking that one city than the United States lost in all of World War II, including both its war in Europe and the Pacific.

As a reward to the Russian [soldiers] that captured Berlin, Stalin gave them three days to do whatever they wanted to the German people. Because there were hardly any men left, the women and children were at the mercy of a very angry army. Most ... had certainly lost their husbands, fathers, brothers, and sons. They were almost all wounded and had been on near starvation diets for months. They were then subject to repeated rapes, some even dozens of times a day, as well as beatings and many other cruel abuses. Many were shot just for sport.

Then after three days the Russian officers could not get their men back under control. The plundering, raping, and killing went on for more than two weeks until finally officers started shooting their own men to get them to stop ... it is hard to comprehend how terrible this hell was after years of hell from the war itself.

As the Allied commanders surveyed the devastation of Berlin, it was decided that it would be impossible to rebuild it. One estimate was that it would take a hundred boxcars a day for thirty years just to remove the rubble so that they could start to rebuild it. They determined to just remove the few survivors to another location where they could start over. The survivors, the women who had endured so much, refused to leave. They said that they were not going to abandon their city, and would rebuild their city by themselves if they had to. The next day they were all out in the streets with buckets doing what they could to start cleaning up the rubble.

Col. Bird watched as the officers of the other Allied nations did, in shocked disbelief. He confided in me a couple of years ago that he had come to hate Germans so much because of what he had experienced in fighting them across Europe that he, and many others, were determined to survive the battles they were in so that they could kill more Germans. . . [A]s he watched these tortured and wounded women begin their work on such an overwhelming task, his hatred for the German people was changed to awe, then respect, and then such love that he determined that as soon as he was discharged he would move back to Berlin to help these great people rebuild their nation.

The Allied leaders were also moved by the incredible spectacle of these courageous women, and they too decided to help them. Finally it was determined that at whatever the cost, Berlin would be rebuilt. It was not only rebuilt, it became one of the greatest cities in the world, as well as one of the most beautiful. They did not remove the rubble; they just pushed it together and made the beautiful hills that the city is now built upon.”

The remarkable restoration of Berlin illustrates a resolve that the Church should emulate. We need to be saltier—not because of the denigration of the Ten Commandments, life in the womb or the sanctity of marriage—but in spite of it.

That is—if we have love as the women of Berlin had love for their city and their people.

Rick Forcier

Executive Director

¹ Frangipane, Francis, *Shaking Off the Intoxication of Compromise*, 11/4/2003, www.elijahlist.com

² Joyner, Rick, *The Birth Pangs Before Restoration*, 11/28/2003, www.elijahlist.com

³ Figures include the war in China.