

Who Do We Blame?

From Ronald L. Dart's Program Notes

Do we need a divorce tax? Say \$2000 to be paid by the partner at fault in the divorce or by both in a "no fault" divorce? The very idea of no fault divorce is absurd. If two people agree that neither is at fault, why are they getting a divorce?

Someone once wisely said, that if you want more of something, subsidize it. If you want less, tax it. Somewhere in our past we made divorce entirely too easy. And we made another mistake at the same time. We subsidized mothers for having babies out of wedlock.

So we got more divorce and an explosion of little babies with no dads, with all the negative social consequences that entails.

Divorce costs this country a lot of money, and it seems that people getting a divorce ought to have to pay all or at least some of it.

At least they will have to think about how badly they want it. If some married man wants to leave his wife and go after a new cutie, perhaps he would rethink that if it was going to cost him a few thousand dollars.

Now, you understand that all of this is said "tongue in cheek." Because there is really not much the government can do about social problems except make them worse.

One of the greatest examples of this is the welfare program that subsidized unwed mothers. Result? We got more of them.

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And on the divorce front, no fault divorce made breaking up a lot easier, right? Well, if it is so easy, why are more people shacking up than ever before? The difficulty in getting a divorce was not the

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Arm Yourself for 2014? . . .

Yes, that was the advice on tonight's news. This newsperson was saying that if there is a collapse in our economy, you would be wise to be armed. But does your protection lie in guns and ammunition? I've never shot a gun in my life, so I'd hate like everything to rely on my marksmanship skills to protect Ron and me. So where should I go and what should I do? Let's try Deuteronomy 28:1-3 (NIV): "Now it shall be, if you will diligently obey the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all of these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you will obey the LORD your God. Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country." Then verse 15, outlines what will happen to those who do not observe to do all his commandments and his statutes. Do you want God to shower his blessing on you in 2014? Please read the list that follows starting in verse 16. These things come with obedience to God. May God richly bless you in the New Year is our prayer.

Becoming Deceived

by C. Roderick Martin

It has long troubled me how deception occurs. How can a sound mind come to believe a lie? Over the years, most have witnessed this process. People lead righteous, upright lives, seemingly filled with the Holy Spirit, then without warning, become seduced by society's never-ending quest to disprove the existence of God and the authenticity of God's Word, the Bible. Sadly, over time, they just fade away like the man walking into a London fog. Perhaps, you have known someone to whom this has happened. Invariably, the underlying cause is sin, and more times than not, it is completely hidden—known only to the sinner and God. If one continues to want and desire this sin, quenching God's Holy Spirit, God will eventually let him have it (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12).

Jesus Christ gave us the Law found in the Torah (first five books of the Old Testament), but keeping the Law is not enough. Christ said, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already

in his heart" (Matthew 5:27-28). Christ introduces us to a new concept. It is not merely enough to "do and don't do," it is how we think. Oh, it is really not new—it has been there all along, but we just didn't see it. As a man thinks, so is he. It begins with a thought. But where do evil thoughts come from? God gave us five senses: taste, smell, touch, sight, and hearing. We have all experienced how a smell can recall a past event buried deep in the recesses of our minds. Thoughts form by triggering one or more of these senses. However, thoughts may also come from the spiritual realm. "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (James 1:13-15).

Make no mistake, the sole purpose of sin is to destroy. The process by which one becomes deceived is gradual, insidious. This is why the "hidden" sin is such furtive ground for delusion. There is

no counsel, it is hidden. In time it affects all aspects of one's life—the moral compass is lost, delusion is complete and what remains is a diseased, confused mind.

So what can one do? Just as an athlete must train rigorously and develop discipline, so one must train and learn to discipline one's mind; exercising the Holy Spirit so we may rightly judge between good and evil. If I said to you, "Don't think about the white elephant in the room," you would immediately think of the white elephant in the room. Try as you may, you cannot not think of the white elephant. It is the same with evil thoughts. The trick is to replace the thought with a good thought. This we can do. We read in Philippians: ". . . whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (4:8) "And the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (4:7 NIV).

NEWSFLASH!

Christian Educational Ministries is resuming Sabbath Service January 11, 2014, 12:00 p.m. at their office on 312 W. Main St., in Whitehouse, TX. A potluck and celebration of Mr. Dart's 80th birthday will follow the service. (Ron's birthday is January 7.) Mr. Dart is planning to participate in special music. Mr. John Reedy is giving the sermon and Mr. Wesley White is leading songs. Service will be live-streamed for those who cannot physically attend. If you have any questions, please contact us at 1-888-BIBLE-44 (1-888-242-5344). We hope, and pray, to see you there. . . either in person, or virtually. Please share this information to help us spread the Word. Please note that beginning January 18 services will start at 2 p.m.

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problem. The no fault divorce law was less an attempt at social legislation than it was a reflection of society in general. Politicians can rage back and forth about abortion, but the problem of abortion in this country is not with government, it is with the people.

But wait a minute. The people are the government, aren't they? This is a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, isn't it?

The problems with marriage, divorce, single moms, illegitimate children, and a whole host of other social ills is not with government. It is a clear reflection of the moral failings of the people. And if you want to do something about that, government is not the answer. The answer lies in the hearts of the people.

For a very long time now, social theorists have tried to patch things up. In academia, in government, in think tanks, they have tried to find ways to solve our problems, and they keep making things worse.

High school girls keep getting pregnant. They say, "Let's give them condoms." Result? Increased sexual activity and pregnancy among teens.

Then, they say, "They don't know how to use them." So they have science labs where girls learn how to put a condom on a banana.

Result, still more teen sexual activity and possibly more teen pregnancy. Maybe they should have told the girls that the banana was not the problem.

The problem is morality, and government is just not in a position to legislate morality.

The founding fathers made a

wise decision to separate church and state. Later generations have made hash out of that, but never mind. Banning Bibles and prayer in school is a reflection of what society wants or it wouldn't be happening. Abortion is a reflection of what society wants or it wouldn't be happening.

The moral filth on television is what society wants or it wouldn't be happening. As Pogo the possum once said, "We have met the enemy, and he is us." It isn't hard to figure out why we would not want God in our lives.

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Probably the primary reason is sex. God created man, male and female, with a sex drive. Sex is a wonderful, exciting, thrilling thing. And it is also terribly dangerous. Naturally, we want the excitement, the thrill, and none of the danger.

God tells us about the joy and the danger, but we don't want to hear the downside. The Bible warns us about the downside, because every good in life has a downside.

Do you remember the story from the Garden of Eden about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

Adam and Eve made a choice. They

chose to live in a world where there was good and bad.

And that is where we are today, living with that choice. Who is to blame for the collapse of morals in our world today? Besides Adam and Eve, I mean.

So, who is to blame? And more important, who is in a position to do something about it?

The answer? Well, we are. But more specifically than that. It is the three "Ps" who are in a position to do something about it—the parents, preachers, and politicians could make a major change for the good of our nations—and they are to blame.

Have you noticed how our own president is never at fault? After five years in office, he still finds it convenient to blame former President Bush for what goes wrong.

The United States has been blessed with God's Law to live by. In fact, God requires that we diligently teach this Law to our children. Oh, it's all too easy to allow our children to grow up like Topsy without diligently bending that "twig" in the way of the Lord. This is how the Book of the Law puts it:

"And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons; Specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together,

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and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children” (Deuteronomy 4:8-10).

“Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son’s son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey” (Deuteronomy 6:1-3).

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untold if they are obeyed. Keeping these commandments will make your life work. Teaching your children to keep these commandments will make their lives work as well.

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Christian Educational Ministries, like no other

organization in our tradition, has a curriculum of full-color Bible educational materials. Each lesson is an active form of learning designed to be fun, enjoyable, and long remembered. Our goal is to change behavior and to turn the hearts of our children to Christ. The Youth Educational Adventures (YEA) goal is to make your job as a parent easier and improve the quality of your child’s life. Send us the name, age and address of your child/children and we’ll mail them a free sample of our YEA lesson books. We’ll also send you a *FREE* catalog so you can continue to order YEA books for your children.

You will also want to ask for a CD of this month’s offer, *Who Do We Blame?* It’s *FREE*, but you have to ask for these exceptional, life changing materials.

Remember the Law of God can make the difference between a loser and a winner.

In Memory

Christian Educational Ministries gratefully acknowledges the very generous offering made in memory of Raymond R. Kalamaha of Minot, North Dakota. Ray was born July 22, 1933 in Minot, North Dakota and died September 21, 2013 at home in Minot, North Dakota surrounded by his family.

Ray and his loving wife, Evelyn, were the proud parents of seven children. He was a grain and livestock farmer for 21 years and involved in trucking, highway, pipeline, and power plant construction for 20 years.

Then he was involved in the Kalco family companies from 1994-2004, which were owned and operated by his sons. Ray was a very fine Christian example. He and his wife, Evelyn, always showed up at CEM’s Feast ready to serve. Our prayer are with Evelyn and her children. Ray will be missed very much.

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*That the man of God may be proficient
and equipped for every good work.*