

# THOUGHTS

By Douglas W. Schroeder

**SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY**

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## **A NATION DIVIDED**

The past presidential election shows just how divided we are, not only in matters pertaining to the economy, military, government spending on social programs, LGBT and education. The most telling thing I see is the growing divide between the Humanist and Christian citizens of this country. America is polarizing spiritually at an alarming rate.

The Christian church has suffered a rift between the secular Christian and the biblical Christian. Denominations mean little to the integrity of one's faith any longer; there are liberal and non-Biblical churches of all stripes now. One can no longer trust any denomination to have uniformity of doctrine in accord with the Word. You simply have to feel out the church you are visiting to see what they teach about the physical resurrection of Christ, whether they are pro-life or pro-choice, and if they support heterosexual marriage or have caved in to the societal pressure to accept alternative "marriages". You should not expect that any Christian you associate with now has a holistically Biblical worldview, and much of this is because mainstream seminaries, pastors and priests are endorsing anti-Biblical policies and societal practices.

The other shocking development – and it is shocking when one considers the statistics – is that people under 30 are as a generation turning away from faith. The numbers are sobering; on surveys indicating religious participation now *25% of all Americans select "none", and 39% of those aged 18-29 select "none"*. This has been referred to as the rise of the "Nones". In the past twenty years an entire generation has abandoned any commitment to practicing faith. I am reminded of the spiritual twists and turns of the Israelites in the Bible, where following a good king such as Hezekiah or Asa an evil one turned (or returned) the country to idolatry and wickedness in a single generation!

As the children of the 60's ushered in the sexual revolution, so it seems the youth of today have found their revolt, a rebellion against the Church, preferring to claim Atheism as their creed. In light of these facts I view the outcome of the election as less about turning the country around and more about determining how quickly or slowly we slide off the moral cliff! The abandonment by the Nones has already occurred, and our culture will feel the effect of that for decades.

I will discuss the consequences of this wholesale apostasy of a generation in future Thoughts articles as pertinent, but consider another statistically driven cultural phenomenon; STD's (sexually transmitted diseases) are exploding among this same group. This group considers itself very "spiritual," not religious, and they are not by and large sexually moral. Sex has become casual, as is seen in the expectation of many that if one goes out on a date a sexual tryst is often expected.

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How radically different is the dating scene now than when I dated? When my boys were younger they were concerned that I was perhaps sleazy in my youth because as I talked to them about the “facts of life” I told them I enjoyed dating! I repeatedly reinforced the necessity of retaining one’s virginity and being chaste. Yet, because the word “dating” now is suggestive of sexual intercourse they thought I had been immoral! My wife, Connie, and I had to do a lot of explaining to them that dating at the time for a Christian was entirely clean, honorable and a recommended way to learn how to relate to the opposite sex. Not any longer! Now “dating” means a pretext to illicit sex! Clean Christian teens and young adults now “hang out” in groups as a replacement for dating. Those who are “dating” are catching venereal diseases like a plague. Godliness and chastity go hand in hand, so it should be no surprise that a wholesale abandonment of God and practice of sexual perversion will reap, among other consequences, disease as a punishment.

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**“RELENTLESS SCIENTIFIC INNOVATION”**

The Bible teaches in Romans chapter 1, “For since the creation of the world Gods’ invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse (v.20).” It should be obvious looking at nature that God made it all.

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The drug company Pfizer recently in a magazine ad showed a father and son in a bathroom brushing their teeth. The medicine cabinet was swung open to reveal among other things a prescription bottle. The ad print stated, “Can you spot the RELENTLESS SCIENTIFIC INNOVATION? It’s there, on the top shelf, next to the minty mouthwash.” The prescription bottle is next to the minty mouthwash.

7

The next paragraph takes my minty breath away, “It takes an average of 1,600 scientists 12 years to bring one Pfizer medicine to life.” Whoa! *1,600 scientists working for twelve years* for one medicine? Imagine how much brainpower is harnessed to make a pill that can’t cure or even alter the genes, but only influences the symptoms of the disease! That’s deep research and phenomenal intellectual effort to scratch the surface of the biological operations of the body.

How much thought do you think it would take to make a cell, or design DNA? *It is beyond human capacity*, and the sensible conclusion is that God did it! It is scientific suicide to credit nothing, randomness and the mere forces of nature as the cause of life. There is a Creator who is infinitely smarter, but also infinitely loving and merciful toward us. Our culture needs some strong spiritual medicine such as Romans chapter 1 to address the illnesses of Humanism and Atheism which are in vogue.

Blessings!  
Douglas W. Schroeder