



The Conifer church of Christ is currently meeting at the Mountain Resource Center in Conifer.

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MOUNTAIN RAMBLIN'

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Number 3

Teen Violence by Andrew Lemus

A high school Girl is taken prisoner in a home and beaten. If you have watched the news this past year you have probably heard about this sad situation. The rage, hatred, and inconsiderate actions can be seen in the video the girls made of their abduction. What caused these girls to end up in such a sinful scenario? In our generation we have seen school shootings, young people posting their fights on the internet, and many other rebellious activities. Why are so many children in this generation taking such a sinful and immoral path? In this issue of Mountain Ramblin' we are going to look at three possible causes that might have caused the effects we see playing out on our television sets.

One possible cause is the breakdown of the family in America. Since the beginning the design has been one man and one woman for life (Matthew 19:5). It is within this marriage union that God has blessed us with the opportunity to have children (1 Timothy 2:15; 5:14). The family model is so blessed that God commands the members of his body to treat each other like a family. Young men are to treat older men as fathers and younger woman are to treat the older woman like mothers (1 Timothy 5:1-2).

Sadly, for some of us who have come out of broken homes we have to now learn at a grown age how we are to treat fathers, and mothers. Without a father's godly guidance and a mother's tender, loving care children are left to seek care and guidance elsewhere (even from other children!). As children continue to be born out of wedlock, as the divorce rate continues to rise, and as homosexuals begin to adopt and bear children, we as a nation should expect to see some consequences or effects from our nation's sinful actions.

A second possible cause for the rebellious activities of our youth could be the lack of a moral compass. Paul commands the Corinthian church to "flee immorality" (1 Corinthians 6:18). Such a command infers that we can know the immorality that we are called to flee from. From studying the scriptures and following our own consciences we can know that there is an objective moral standard (Philippians 3:16).

Unfortunately the American educational system states just the opposite. I remember having a discussion with my step sister about morality. At the end of our discussion she concluded that what the Nazis did was morally ok because it was morally ok to them!

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Teen Violence continued

In the opinion of our post modern society we as individuals are the authors of morality. We are the source in which right and wrong is determined. After all, aren't we just animals that evolved into humans? What effects do we as a nation expect to see when we are telling children they evolved from a monkey and that there is no standard of right and wrong? We as a nation should not be surprised to see the fruits that our destructive doctrines are bearing. If we keep telling a child that he is an animal then we should not be surprised when he acts like one.

A third possible cause for our rebellious youth could be the church of Christ. Huh? The church of Christ could have caused these girls to beat this other girl? Unfortunately the body of Christ could be at fault. In 1 Timothy 3:15 Paul states that the church of Christ is "the pillar and support of the truth." The responsibility of proclaiming the truth to a lost and dying world lies on the shoulders of the church of Christ. Christians have been given the great commission to preach the gospel (Mark 16:15). It could be that our youth of today are walking down a sinful path because the church hasn't offered them any alternative.

America is on a downward spiral of sin and the church has a responsibility to try and stop it. If the church does not uphold the truth in America nobody will because the church is the pillar of the truth. Imagine an America without the church of Christ. Imagine an America with a church of Christ that does not proclaim the truth. It is a possibility that the youth in America is in the shape it is in because of the churches reluctance to proclaim God's word.

Five high school girls trap and beat up a peer. Two boys go into a school and shoot many. Girls gain publicity by putting their fight on *You Tube*. The news is out and many children of this generation are out of control. It could be because of the breakdown of the American family, the lack of a moral compass, or because the church is not proclaiming the truth. Whatever the cause of these actions, the youth in our nation need now more than ever God's word. Let us encourage one another to guide the children of today in the admonition of the Lord.

The Christian Hypocrite by Andrew Lemus

One common thread that is heard from among non-Christians is that Christians are hypocrites. Sadly this observation rings true in many circumstances. Maybe it is the family member who attends church on Sunday morning only to be seen drunk later that day. It could be the cursing that comes from the same mouth of a friend who proclaims Christ. It could be a spouse that asks their husband or wife to come to church with them while they, outside of the fellowship of Christians partake in sinful activities. Hypocrisy is rampant among those who profess Christ.

The hypocrisy seen among Christians is not an excuse to do wrong. God, knowing all things knew that there would be many who would proclaim His name while at the same time disobey his will. Jesus said that it is not those who merely call Him Lord that will inherit the kingdom of heaven but rather those who do what he says will receive an eternal dwelling place with God (Matthew 7:21). James wrote that those who hear God's word yet do not do what it says are deceiving themselves (James 1:22). It is not those who read the Bible and hear the word that will be blessed, but those who do what it says (James 1:25).

Are there hypocrites that wear the name Christian? Yes there are. To try and cover up such an obvious truth would be to become a hypocrite yourself. What is important is to know that another's hypocrisy is not an excuse for us not to obey God. We should not allow the deception and foolishness of others to cause us to partake in sin. We can know God and we can obey God's will. It is in doing these things that we can know we truly are obedient children of God.