

Chaplain's Corner, Hughes Camp Chaplain Richard W Rudd



With increasing frequency, the question is being asked, "Why do they hate the South and its symbols?" The identity of who "they" are and the motivation for their hate has changed over time. During the years preceding the WBTS, most Yankees regarded the South with a haughty, arrogant indifference.

But, radical Republicans hated the South for two reasons. Politically, they viewed the South as a competitor for control of the US and its expansion in the West. Economically, the federal government was dependent on the South for revenue from tariffs and the North wanted the South to support its industrial development. It was after the war began that the fiery emotion of hate was stoked among the general populace of the North by the radical Republicans, using slavery as the pseudo-reason for the war and the match to ignite the North's anti-southern passion.

All actions begin with an idea, no matter how spontaneous or carefully calculated. It is emotion that gives impetus to those actions. Why people hate the South today can be understood from psychological and sociological perspectives. Regardless of the issue, human behavior usually follows the same pattern.

Psychology is the study of the human mind and personal behavior. Recently, I visited an office to conduct some business. Leaving, I noticed one of the employees standing outside of the building smoking a cigarette. As I approached them, we both anticipated the brief conversation we were about to have. I told them about a friend's wife who was so committed to smoking that she was willing to jeopardize her marriage to her non-smoking husband. She died as a result of esophageal cancer; it wrapped around her esophagus and choked her to death. The employee told me that they had two close relatives who also died as a result of smoking. Yet, this individual was adamant in their decision to continue smoking. "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death." (Prov. 14:12, 16:25) No matter how much effort we expend trying to educate people about the South, its true history, culture, and

symbols, we must not be disillusioned by the fact that there will still be those who will stubbornly ignore the facts, reject rationality, disregard adverse consequences and continue to believe and do as they wish. While God will forgive our violations of His moral laws, it is at our own peril that we violate His laws of nature, for the consequences of our errant actions must be endured by the perpetrator or their victim, for which the perpetrator bears the responsibility. It is because of the fatalistic attitude of a citizen and a nation, that knowing in advance the adverse consequences of their actions and accepting them, that they remain radically committed to their political, economic, and social agendas and refuse to exercise their freedom of choice to change their fate.

Sociology is the study of human interaction among individuals and groups and the influence they have on each other. June has been designated by the homosexual lobby, representing approximately 2% of the population, and their political allies as the month they celebrate their perversion. This year, for the first time, I noticed the Starbucks in my hometown was profusely and profanely decorated outside and inside with the homosexual banner. While I am aware of corporate business practices, it was because of this in-your-face display of militancy and because I have known numerous otherwise good people ensnared in this proclivity and endangering their souls that I felt obliged as a Christian to express my objection. After entering the business and asking for the manager, I explained that the sin of sodomy was offensive to Christian customers and that it was a poor business practice to cater to one segment of their clientele to the extreme point of offending another. "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil..." (Isa. 5:20) Regardless of the banner waved, whether it be gender identity confusion, race and miscegenation, religious syncretism, global warming, or abortion, promoters of these and other contemporary issues reject biblical truth, natural law, historic and scientific fact, and common sense to inflame the emotion of hate through the news media, entertainment industry, and academia as the only defense for their agenda. They try to put their opponents on the defensive by charging that if we do not agree with them, we are hateful. It is our obligation, no matter how futile and intimidating it might seem, to speak up in opposition

to these purveyors of slander against our ancestors, our heritage, our faith and values, and ourselves.

Poet Maya Angelou is famous for saying, "When you know better, you do better." Every day the observation of human behavior demonstrates the fallacy of this statement. That is why all of us are continually in need of the sacramental benefits of confession, repentance, and reconciliation with each other and God. Never before in the history of our nation has this need been more pronounced than in our time. A recent study reported that there has been a marked decline in orthodox Christianity in young families over the last 25 years. While 67% of parents with pre-teen children claim to be Christian, only 2% of them actually hold orthodox Christian beliefs. Southern culture has always been based on Christianity. To this day, the South is known as the Bible Belt of the nation. As the rest of the US moves toward a secular society, regardless of the multitude of other issues, this is the fundamental reason why they, secular liberals, so vehemently hate the South and its symbols. They know that a Christian's moral standards will affect their positions on all other issues. That is also why it can be said of the radical, militant, liberal, secular left's attitude towards the South, "They lay crafty plans..., they consult together... They say, 'Come let us wipe them out...'" (Ps. 83:3-4) The same study estimates that there are 15 million orthodox Christians in the US. If, beginning with 12 apostles, the pagan Roman Empire could be challenged and revolutionized, what could 15 million Americans accomplish? Christ said, "...I will build My church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." (Matt. 16:18) That is a description of crusading Christians on the offensive, not defensive. Let us heed the call of St. Paul who proclaimed the exhortation, "Fight the good fight of the faith..." (I Tim. 6:12)

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