

The Restoration of Virtue in Society

It is essential for our nation's sake that we learn to live as Kingdom citizens and not Australians. We even have to stop living like Western Christians. Why?

We've been told by our King a large number of times that we need to align with him¹ – align with his mind, heart and plans. We can't do that if we live in the world system² and adopt some of its standards as our own standards. For example: The independent spirit of “Do your own thing” and “You can't tell me what to do” and “It's my life, I can do what I want with it” don't allow us to align with Heaven. When we adopt society's standards, it results in our nation increasingly coming under the domain of the enemy rather than the Kingdom. This is exactly what the aggression and hate of the #metoo movement is doing.

The *ekklesia* is meant to be the balancer of society, but the church has failed in this task by aligning (even unknowingly) with the world system. To counteract this we have to start speaking up for righteousness and living as sons of God ought to live.

One area we can make a difference to the spiritual atmosphere of Australia is by beginning to live a totally virtuous life. This may seem a strange thing to say, because Christians already see themselves as virtuous. However, this is far from the truth, from my interaction with them these days. I honestly can't tell the difference between most of them and the nice people I meet in society.

Living virtuously will cause an increase in national righteousness because it will ‘rub off’ on others, causing them to change their lives as we challenge them with our example. The nett result is a shift towards a virtuous society.

What is virtuous society?

*“It's a society in which individuals learn to value personal duty and selflessness over entitlement and self-indulgence. Unfortunately, as the latter mentality has ascended, this “all about me” or “you do you” mentality has infected our marriages, families, and even our churches, while celebrating the “free expression” of our personal appetites, resulting in broken marriages, fatherless children, and the weakening of those institutions that bring people together.”*³

What are the virtues we need to exhibit?

*“The first is **prudence**, which allows us to distinguish between right and wrong in situations we encounter daily. Prudence requires individuals to seek the counsel of others, as it is impossible for any one person to have perfect knowledge of every possible moral situation they may face. In many ways, prudence is the opposite of “pride”—a word that gets exalted in many aspects of our culture today—because prudence requires humility.*

*The second virtue is **justice**, which Aristotle defined as a “moral disposition which renders men apt to do just things and which causes them to act justly and to what is just.” The virtue of justice is not meant for us—it's meant to be for others. It's not justice when we claim that we have received injustice for some real or perceived wrong. Instead, it is justice when we stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. It was justice, for instance, that led people to march for civil rights of African Americans in the 1950s and '60s because true injustice had taken place.*

*The third virtue is **fortitude**, which is the strength to choose good even in the face of difficulty and danger. It allows us to overcome our fears and remain steadfast in our principles despite the obstacles we face. It is the backbone that upholds justice and strengthens prudence.*

*Finally, the fourth virtue is one that we are particularly short of in 2019: **temperance**. It is the virtue*

1 – e.g. “The Lack of Australia's Agricultural Prosperity”

canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/MESSAGE-Australias-Agricultural-Prosperity-25-10-2019.pdf

2 – “Breaking Free of the World System” canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Breaking-Free-of-the-World-System.pdf

3 – “How Virtue Leads to Restoration” (26-9-2019) www.theepochtimes.com/how-virtue-leads-to-restoration_3089472.html

that enables us to moderate our behavior. It's temperance that keeps us from responding in anger when we are wronged or feel we have been attacked. It's temperance that gives us the self-discipline to avoid those things that cause us to make bad personal decisions. It's temperance that allows us to remain focused on the needs of others rather than on our self-perceived needs.”⁴

These are the the points that Craig Osten & Timothy S. Goeglein make in their new book, “American Restoration: How Faith, Family, and Personal Sacrifice Can Heal Our Nation”⁵.

These virtues are Kingdom virtues, so there's no reason why each of us can't begin to make a difference in Australia by making a huge effort to be totally virtuous. Try doing less praying and fasting for Australia and doing more by demonstrating virtuous heart actions. This will have a greater effect on the spiritual atmosphere because others will catch on to it, especially the silent majority in society.

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4 – “How Virtue Leads to Restoration” (26-9-2019) www.theepochtimes.com/how-virtue-leads-to-restoration_3089472.html

5 – www.amazon.com.au/American-Restoration-Family-Personal-Sacrifice/dp/1621579115