HOW CAN <u>YOU</u> ESCAPE THE CULTURE OF DEATH?

"Race baiting" seems to be a major tool used by a great portion of our society to shut up people who disagree with them. Constantly we are bombarded with accusations that we are "racists" no matter what the subject is that we are discussing. Trying to enforce the longstanding and sensible immigration laws of our country invokes shrill screams from the "left" that President Trump is a "racist." It is useless to try to have a reasonable debate about the situation since their minds are already programmed and set in concrete that he is a "racist." To further demonstrate the illogical mindset of people who have no understanding of God and Who He is one only needs to look rationally at the murderous abortion traffic in our country and indeed, around the world. No one could possible disagree that abortion is murder unless that person has been indoctrinated and immersed an ungodly environment for the most of their lives.

Most of our society is convinced that the color of one's skin determines that person's world view. I maintain that the color of one's skin has nothing to do whatsoever with a person's world view. I maintain that the culture in which people are raised is the main determining influence in forming their world view. By the word "culture" I mean the environment, education, religion, family, etc., that surrounds one from birth to adulthood. It is not the color of one's skin that determines how we think about our world. It is our "culture" in which we are raised. Has your religion made you a better person? Has being raised as a Democrat or Republican made you a better person? Obviously, these factor in to our world view. They are part and parcel of the factors that help shape how we think about the world in which we are surrounded. Does our culture help us to be a better person or is it dragging us down into the mire or evil? God



says that our "heart" controls how we think and act. Mark 7:21-23 (KJV) For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

Notice that the Lord Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, declared that our "heart" is the source of our thoughts and actions. What influences the heart of man? It is his environment, not the color of his skin. It is his "culture." It is how we have been raised. It is how we have been taught. It is the people that

have influenced us through religion, education, and many other factors.

Is our life marked by "...evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within:..."

Or is our life marked by the opposite of "evil", "... love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance:..." Obviously, all of these good traits come from within and have nothing to do with the color of one's skin. They are products of a changed "heart." The world's definition of "racism" is diametrically opposed to God's world view. How can one change their world view? It is impossible without some outside influence that changes the "heart" of man. It is impossible for man to change his heart without God intervening.

Jeremiah 17:9 (KJV) The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? Religion without God, education without God, families without God, etc., etc., cannot change the "heart' of man. Only God can do that, and He has predetermined that that can happen only by a "new birth." One of the greatest principles that I have learned over the many years of my life is this: "birth determines identity." You are a human being because you were born as a "human being." The color of your skin is part of that identity. We are all "human beings" because we were born that way and "human beings" just naturally do evil things. That is why we need the "new birth."

John 3:3 (**KJV**) Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:7 (KJV) Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

God's word teaches us that the "old man" with his wicked, evil heart must have a death and a new birth. That changes the heart of man permanently and is the only way for mankind to develop a world view that is Godly.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV) Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart;..." This in Salvation. This is the "new birth." After that you let God guide your life, "...and lean not unto thine own understanding.'

Bible salvation and Godly guidance will give you a world view that will be good and full of, "... love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance:..."

Do you have these wonderful traits in your life? If not, trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and be born again, then God will guide your life and give you peace. **John 5:24 (KJV)** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Romans 10:8-10 (KJV) But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

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