

## Our Nation Is In Trouble - Our Problems

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by Bill Crews

America is a nation in trouble -- deep, accelerating trouble. We have a problem with crime -- violent crime continues to rise as perpetrators are becoming more numerous and younger in age and victims are ever increasing in number. We have a problem with drugs -- both the legal drugs of alcoholic beverages and the illegal drugs that promise easy wealth and instant pleasure are claiming more and younger participants and victims. We have a problem with dishonesty -- more and more people are deliberately breaking traffic laws and other laws, and lying, cheating, deceiving to gain any sort of advantage or material increase. We have a problem in education -- with standards being lowered year after year, with the drop-out rate growing, with many being passed to higher grades who by no means are ready or graduated who have not at all met the requirements. Most who enter college are not prepared and must be given "remedial" courses. Illiteracy and ignorance are growing in a land of freedoms and opportunities. We have a sexual immorality problem -- as indicated by the character and content of our movies, our television programs, our "adult" entertainment night-spots, and our "adult" magazines; as indicated by the increase of sexually-transmitted disease; as indicated by the traffic in pornography; as indicated by the high percentage who indulge in fornication and adultery; as indicated by the voice and influence of homosexuals; as indicated by the A.I.D.S. epidemic; as indicated by the "band-aid" approach of dealing with the symptoms and not the causes. We have an economic problem -- with legislators and leaders pushing our astronomical national debt toward national bankruptcy. Never in the history of the world has a nation taken in so much money, squandered so much money, continually borrowed so much money for so long a time -- all the while only paying the interest on a ever-burgeoning debt. We have a real problem with priorities -- that becomes obvious when we cannot bring ourselves to endorse the execution of criminals who viciously assault, rob, and murder, but we have no compunction of conscience to pronounce the death sentence upon untold millions of innocent, unborn babies, while calling it somebody else's "freedom" and "right." And we also have a real problem with priorities when we elevate such things as money, material possessions, physical appearance, and physical pleasures above character, morality, spiritual values, God, the Bible, and eternity. We have a problem choosing our heroes -- especially if they turn out to be actors and actresses, singers and musical groups, or over-paid athletes.

But our greatest problem, the source of our deepest trouble, is found in the break-up of marriages and the dissolution of families. Someone long ago sagely observed: "As goes the family, so goes the nation." A great nation cannot be built with broken families or no families. So few of our children are growing up as part of a family under the guidance and care of a father and mother who are husband and wife -- as God intended and requires. When we consider the high percentage (up to 60% among some classes of people) of babies being born out of wedlock; when we note how many children are growing up under a single parent (either because never married or divorced), or under a parent and a step-parent, or part of the time under a father and part of the time under a mother -- shuttled back and forth, or in an institution, or in various foster homes; when we ponder how many children are living with a single parent who has a live-in boyfriend or girlfriend; when we learn how many children are placed, soon after birth and until they are enrolled in school, in day-care centers or in the care of baby-sitters, or how many children are home alone for several hours daily; when we realize how many children have become wards of the state, or how many are in detention centers, waiting to be released; then we know that our nation is in deep, deep trouble. For all of these children, along with all other children, will be the adults of tomorrow in America. Those who grow up without moral instructions, enforced by good adult role models are only going to contribute to the other problems America already has.

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