



THE GREAT AMERICAN HERD SYNDROME



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And The Decline of Male Initiative

by Ben Williams

You shall not follow a multitude to evil; neither shall you testify in a cause to turn aside after the multitude and pervert judgment.

– Ex. 23:1-2

What in the world has happened to the American Male's ability to address a problem and come to a simple solution? Somewhere in the past century he lost it!

I'm not talking about deciding which dish you prefer from a menu, or figuring out which pump to use at the gas station. I'm talking about making moral decisions and plans.

Never in my lifetime have I seen as much indecision and frustration as I see today. Men seem to be incapable of making common sense decisions for even the smallest problems. Standards have lost their meanings. It seems that lies and deception have become the criteria for making decisions. Everyone lies about everything. Truthfulness is no longer expected – and people have gotten comfortable with it.

How did American men get in this predicament?

Frustration, confusion, and general dishonesty are accepted as normal ... resulting in *Male-helplessness*. This is partly caused by central government's usurpation of the Male initiative.

The Male's natural role as leader, protector, and provider was taken over by central government. In doing so, government displaced and emasculated the American Male. Men took a hit broadside ... and they've been sinking ever since.

The disease has been developing for centuries ... infecting some areas worse than others. Until the last few decades it was bred in the cities ... leaving country men still somewhat intact.

But, with the advent of modern technology, and the government's ability to be omnipresent, the emasculation process has spread outside the cities to just about every corner of the nation. Now, it is a rare thing to find a natural, normal, male personality among our men.

And it is not the Males only that have suffered from the results. Women and children, young and old alike, all have suffered the effect ... even if they can't define it. It has affected everyone! Cripple the male and the whole family suffers.

The loss of the male factor has ripped a gaping hole in the fabric of society. American ingenuity has been replaced with the "let the experts do it" mentality. The "experts" make all the decisions and form all opinions for us today. And, of course, the "experts" are government-inspected, government-licensed, government-authorized, and government-sponsored.

Government officials have become the last word in everything from courts to media. Their opinions are the only ones safe to quote in public.

The American Male, today, never needs to exercise his own reasoning to solve problems. He just consults a sanctioned data bank and retrieves the approved answer that's on file.

Oh, for the days when a man was expected to be able to make decisions and be responsible for them! In another place and time men actually made their own decisions based upon ethics and common sense – and they had faith that God would lead them correctly. But today, men defer all decision making to manuals or to the "experts" who write them ... or they sit back and make their wives and children make the decisions. That way men have no need to analyze or question anything. Just leave their judgment stowed away ... where it has

been retired for years.

It is mighty convenient for the criminal politicians ... knowing that the American Male is no longer motivated to critically analyze them. American men are no longer shepherds of their homes or communities!

The TV, the churches, and the public schools have produced a generation of wind-up Males programmed to march in predictable, predetermined patterns. They have lost their God-given ability to face problems and arrive at sensible conclusions. Congress, the Justice Department, and Hollywood are the new sources of inspiration.

Case closed. Crank up the stereo and break out the beer!

The whole American problem is largely equated with the American Male problem. Therefore, in order to cure the national problem, we must first cure the problem with the American Male. He must be restored to his natural and normal place in life. His initiative and spirit must return to him. He must, again, become the decision maker – rather than a herd follower.

THE NEW AMERICAN IMAGE

Americans, in general, lack moral fortitude or faith in right answers. Men have lost some important traits they once had. This first happened to the men, but now it is infecting everyone. Initiative has given way to compliance (we'd rather switch than fight). The noble spirit was traded for situation ethics. Rugged individuality was modernized into self-indulgence. Now Americans celebrate personal weaknesses and eccentricities. And, independence was redefined as indulgence of the godless self.

The change in the American Male is still in progress. He has already gone

through the stage of vacating his position as shepherd. He spent the last few decades transferring his accountability to family over to the area of his business or job. Thus, making money has been the “end” for which the “means” was justified. As he lost his authority over his family and his personal way of life, he re-asserted himself in the business arena. But, obviously, this was no solution.

Now, the American Male is losing his position in the workplace as well. He is nearing the next stage where he will lose another piece of himself to the beast. This time, as his initiative to make a living is stripped from him, there won't be enough of him left to recognize. He will just roll over and find a way to conform to complete obsolescence. And, as he has always done, he will salve his own conscience and tell himself it is OK.

THE DISPLACED MALE

The Christian Male is supposed to be aggressive; a pioneer, a way-maker, the head of the family unit, protector and judge. When he accepted central government in our society, it naturally replaced him in all those roles. As a result, the Male has become a misfit -unneded and superfluous. There is no place for him in today's society ... except as a eunuch.

Is there no end to the American Male's cowardice? His ability to acquiesce and conform – to degrade, and demean himself – is astounding.

What is it that has done this to him? Why can't he identify his problem and correct it? Although the Beast (the government) and its demons (government men) have conspired to control and exploit him, still it could not have been accomplished without his cooperation. So, what makes the American Male cooperate in his own destruction? That is the question! What is the factor that inexorably

changes a man – who was once an accountable leader – into a herd follower?

The answer is found in one word: IDOLATRY. Idolatry is the development of the idea that you can replace God and abdicate your own personal responsibility by installing a central government. The American Male has succumbed to idolatry. He has rejected his true God and adopted the false god of PUBLIC SENTIMENT. The “majority” has become his god. If the “majority” sanctions it, then it must be right. If the “majority” rejects it, then it must be wrong. Never mind what your own conscience tells you. Central government didn't create this

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tendency in man, but it has learned how to take advantage of it and expand upon it.

Thus, public sentiment, rather than the law of God, directs his life. Public sentiment – rather than the true God -is his security. And, of course, public sentiment is controlled by central government.

That is not to say that public opinion is always wrong. To form your opinions by first rejecting all the opinions of those around you is vain and obtuse. But, on the other hand, it is idolatrous to limit the formation of your own opinions by just choosing from those already on display and deemed acceptable by the mind-controlled public. To do this is to stymie

the operation of God in your own personal decision making.

HERDS ➡ MAJORITIES ➡ DEMOCRACY

Herds are in. Everyone is looking for a herd that suits him - whether it be a church herd, a political herd, a “natural health” herd, a tax protest herd, etc.. Making your own decisions and steering your own ship is not popular. Thus, one of the appealing aspects of “the herd” is that decisions made by it are safe: less subject to critical scrutiny.

About the only resistance to the inexorable decline of society has been a pathetic form of Conservatism (defending Grandpa's ways). This, too, has failed. If Grandpa's ways had been good they would have impeded the Beast and taught us how to stay free. If Grandpa knew something, why wasn't it passed on to the next generation? The answer is that Grandpa's ways were flawed. He may have had it a little better than we, due to the fact that the Beast was not as fully developed as it is in our day. But, Grandpa helped cultivate the seeds of our destruction.

He was a herd follower too. He didn't hate the Beast! He didn't teach us to hate it! He left us unarmed for the battle that came.

One of the marks of a true leader is the ability to keep his people forewarned of REAL danger. Repeating every rumor and shouting “Wolf” all the time is NOT the mark of a leader. Anyone can do that – and it produces only chaos. But, when men are unwarned, they are often vulnerable.

On the other hand, the “Don't worry! Be happy!” motto is good for dairies with contented cows, but it is extremely dangerous for men who are supposed to stay alert and be responsible for the well-being of family and community. Unfortunately, man is

generally more eager to avoid rejection and humiliation than he is to accomplish anything or arrive at valid solutions. It is easier for him to just think along accepted lines, and leave the decision making to “the herd.”

The problem is that the majority can never do anything right. It has been said that a camel was the result of a majority’s attempt to design a horse. When people acquiesce to the will of the majority, no good decisions are made. The will of the majority (i.e., public sentiment) is always diluted and neutralized. It is also usually perverted.

GOVERNMENTS & MAJORITIES: WHO CONTROLS WHO?

The power of government is in its ability to control public sentiment. This is done through propaganda, economic and military pressures, and the appeal to man’s natural tendency to follow the herd. Thus, government ostensibly promotes public voting, but covertly controls public sentiment. The vote goes as government plans it, and the people think it was their own idea.

Scripture describes us as “sheep” because of our natural tendency to herd-up. The need to “fit in” is natural with man. It is not necessarily a bad thing, as it helps make us sociable and friendly. However, that tendency must be tempered with enough good sense to not sell out God’s laws and our higher critical reasoning – the ability to discriminate. I am sick to death of seeing intelligent men acquiesce to concepts and principles they have not even attempted to understand. They’ve been convinced that they are mentally inferior to the government’s “experts,” and cannot attain to those elite realms

of intelligence. This is infuriating! It doesn’t take a genius to know right from wrong. Skills (technology, etc.) require training – without which, we cannot perform those particular specialized skills. But, anyone with a normal I.Q. can make moral decisions about right and wrong – without consulting an “expert.”

GOVERNMENT EXPERTS: TOOLS OF OPPRESSION

There is a place for experts. But, their place is NOT in the moralities. Morality is an individual judgment, and should be addressed by individuals per-

in one area, and typically average in most other areas. Training gives us skills to perform special tasks. But, experience and morality produce wisdom. Wisdom is essentially the ability to properly use one’s skills and abilities in a way that pleases God and benefits society.

Turning the important decisions in life over to herd-approved “experts” (or professional herd monitors - i.e., polls) is a sure path to failure. Allowing “experts” to set the parameters of your life is idolatry.

HERD THEORY

What is the draw of “the herd”? Let’s examine the theory behind it. The epitome of herd idolatry, is found in the phenomenon of central legislation.

In America, Government makes laws. No one else can. Certainly, no man is allowed to make laws! Why? “Well, because man is Inherently a sinner, and one man cannot be trusted to make laws to rule other people. It is necessary that the power to legislate be given to a higher body of men in a system of checks and balances ...to insure that one man’s interests are not protected at the expense of the majority’s interests.”

To this, churchgoers heartily agree. “Man is inherently flawed in character. Therefore, no one man can rightly rule.”

The answer was found when a system for “majority rule” was invented. It seemed fair. Following the will of the majority prevented any one man from forcing society to follow HIS interests alone. Some religious writers have even claimed that the Bible contains an ordered, God-sanctioned, model for the three-branched central government of the United States of

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sonally. When “experts” interpret morality, we end up with a central Legislature and Justice Department.

By the same token, “experts” should NOT be allowed to plan people’s lives, or set the norms for society. Their place is in the area of specialty training for technical skills. We need experts in those skills. But, remember that the expertise of “experts” is narrow in scope - specialized. “Experts” are generally very adequate

America. Likewise, these folks usually assume that the Constitution – the charter of this government – was God-inspired.

Scripture records several models of government. And all but one are ungodly. Israel, too, tried different models. All of the governments in Israel, with the exception of one, were off the mark. Most were terrible, patterned after the Babylonian model like the neighboring nations.

Israel often had governments with kings as rulers. Some folks assume that since these governments were recorded in the Bible it meant that God approved them. But, this is not the case! God disapproved central government, and stated it plainly at the outset. In I Samuel 8, He warns Israel against following the patterns of government of the nations around them. He told Israel what would happen if they rejected Him and put a human king over them. Nonetheless, Israel ignored God's warnings and chose to set up a central government – which, in one form or another, prevailed from that time on. Central government still prevails over Israelite nations today.

So, Government alone is allowed to make laws in America. Why? Because government is a disease that infects the minds of men. Politicians contract the disease which causes them to think that they are great men of great intelligence, and that they are called to rule the multitudes.

The majority consensus of 535 men is bound to be right. Right? If not, what good is the Legislature?

And, in the unlikely event that the Legislature somehow errs, their actions can be “checked” and “balanced” by the great men in the Executive and Judicial branches. Right?

“Gosh! How could those ‘experts’ all be wrong? And, even if they were wrong, how could we peons understand it?”

The wisdom of man is what got us in the mess we are in today. In fact, the “wisdom” of man is often pretty silly.

Let's see. The theory of Central republics goes something like this:

The character of Man is inherently flawed so one man cannot be trusted to make law for everyone.

However, put a mob of these flawed souls together and suddenly they become flawless and inerrant.

(Does that make sense to you? It doesn't to me!)

In reference to man's government, a wise man once said: “*Power corrupts; and absolute power corrupts absolutely.*” This is a truism,



and it applies to one man, two men, a thousand men, or even “the majority” of a nation.

God does not want man ruling over man! This, then, is the principle we must bear in mind at all times. This is the principle that makes sense. This is the principle that has proven true in practical application. This, also, is the principle that conforms to God's law – an important factor.

If one man is unfit to rule because power corrupts him, then by what stretch of logic does it become permissible for a body of 535 power-corrupted men to rule? What imbecile would believe that by multiplying the factor of corruptibility by 535 we could somehow improve the situation? Since when is it preferable to trust a large mob of corrupt men rather than just one corrupt man? What checks and balances can we count on when it is crooks who are checking and balancing each other?

WHO CAN RULE?

So, where does that leave us? To whom, if not man (or men), can we look for law?”

The answer is obvious ... once you've followed the logic. It is true that man cannot be trusted to rule other men. God did not create man for that purpose. Therefore, ONLY YAHWEH has the ability to make good law. And He has declared His law to mankind. Furthermore, He has also designated His Son as present Administrator of His law – King of His creation.

He who makes law is god! Remember that! It is one of the most important keys to understanding the Bible.

It is the power to make law that identifies the god of any society. Find who makes law, and you've found that society's god.

In America, central government is not only god in respect to lawmaking ... it also is god in respect to ENFORCEMENT of the law. And, it is in this specific area that the American male began to meet his doom. Law enforcement, in a Christian society, is supposed to be the role of the male. But when American men agreed to relinquish their role as protector and enforcer (i.e., shepherd), they unwittingly traded off their main reason for living. The

pattern of life that God created for them – their instinct, if you will – was now dead. They became less than men – and their degeneration has continued to this day.

The pitiful ramifications of this tragedy is that our race, as a whole, has lost that vital part – the natural role man was created to fulfill. Central government usurped the position, but could not fulfill it. No one can properly fill that role except the Male. That role, thus abandoned, has left a void in society. That void brings hardship upon everyone – rendering society impotent and vulnerable. A vital building block is missing.

The symptoms are pathetic. The condescension of the men invites the abuses and excesses from the elite.

This fact has become glaringly obvious. The masses accept anything from the majority – no matter how perverted or distasteful it may be. The same is true in the field of religion – which is no surprise since most churches fall into the category of entertainment.

Who can deny that today's government and entertainment industries are corrupt beyond hope? And, in spite of the filthy, stupid, abominable products from these fields, American men generally accept it ... excusing themselves with "I just can't keep up with it all." Government and entertainment are given a free hand and a blank check – with no standards. People want it... even if it is BAD.

I've witnessed the lying of the politicians, over and over and over. And, I've seen the people conveniently ignore the lies to excuse themselves from the responsibility. Likewise, I've witnessed the irresponsibility and lying of preachers from their pulpits. And, likewise, I've seen their church members conveniently ignore the overwhelming error, ignorance, and spiritual damage those pulpits cause. In defending the ungodly they demonstrate their

desperate need to have a place in the church – at the expense of truth and God's blessings.

But, how can people continue to ignore the obvious in order to defend criminals and con men in these institutions. In my past positions as pastor of some influential churches, I've personally witnessed an abundance of ignorance and arrogance among the "clergy." I've watched the clergy abuse their offices and embarrass the churches. I've seen them mishandle Scripture with impunity. I've seen preachers, by their irresponsibility and ignorance, prove beyond all doubt that they were

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anything BUT leaders. But, they still glibly occupied the position of "leader" of the church. I've seen preachers publicly insult and browbeat individuals for no better reason than a spur-of-the-moment tantrum of the preacher. And this is still considered acceptable to church members.

On more than one occasion one particularly odious (former) colleague of mine in the church industry expressed to me his contempt for the people – the same people who supported him with their hard-earned donations. He saw the people as "unworthy," "undependable," and "too stupid" to trust in any church office capacity. Therefore, this preacher formulated a remedy for his dilemma. He began trying to form a mutually-protective brotherhood (a hierarchy) of preachers to hold power

over the members. At that point, I terminated my association with him and his co-conspirators.

That mentality is popish. In fact, that is the very essence of central government – politicians, bankers, and priests banding together to form a power structure to exploit the public.

That preacher and his cohorts are under God's judgment. But the church herd is still blind ... still excusing his abuses.

Unfortunately, the normal Male in America is becoming extinct. And with him, the family and Christian community lies passively defeated under the boot of Big Brother and the churches. As long as Americans continue to honor the dishonorable, follow the blind, and obey the wicked, our situation remains hopeless. As long as the American Male believes he is defeated, he is.

Salvation starts with a simple principle. That principle is the two edged sword of love and hate: love God, and hate those things that attempt to usurp His position or confuse the people's perception of it. Churches have proven to be full-time confusers, and central government blatantly usurps God's position.

The first step on our road back to civil health is to develop a love for God's ways. A virile HATRED for the institutions that create the herd syndrome (i.e., central government and the churches) will follow on its heels. One begets the other – which is also the test of genuineness. If one claims to love one without hating the other, he fails the test.

Choose who you will serve! The herd ... or Jesus!

24. *No one can serve two masters, for he will hate one and love the other...*

(Matt. 6:24)

13. *Stay awake, stand firm in the faith, and conduct yourselves as MEN, being strong.*

(1 Cor. 16:13)