



Cultural Apologetics

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Cultural Apologetics

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Cultural Apologetics

- Asserts that countries, communities, societies, families, and marriages are healthiest when they adhere to biblical principles.
- The further away a society , culture or family is from biblical principles, the more broken, unhealthy and dysfunctional it becomes.
- The Bible says this would happen. Since this is really what happens, then it shows Christianity it true.
- It becomes a type of Christian apologetic.



Biblical Examples

Biblical Example: Israel

- The Bible demonstrates the detrimental effects on these social structures when they deviate from a biblical worldview.
- Obedience and Prosperity
 - When Israel obeyed God's commandments and walked in His ways, they experienced prosperity, protection, and favor. This is laid out explicitly in the blessings outlined in Deuteronomy 28:1-14. For example, they were promised victory over their enemies (Deut. 28:7) and abundant crops (Deut. 28:11).
- Disobedience and Consequences
 - However, turning away from God led to a host of negative consequences. According to Deuteronomy 28:15-68, disobedience would result in curses affecting various aspects of life, from agriculture (Deut. 28:16-18) to health (Deut. 28:21-22) and even social stability (Deut. 28:32-34).
- Moral and Spiritual Decay
 - The prophets, like Isaiah and Jeremiah, repeatedly warned Israel about the consequences of abandoning God and pursuing idols (Isa. 1:4; Jer. 2:13). This moral and spiritual decay led to societal problems, including injustice and exploitation of the poor (Amos 5:11-12).
- Exile as a Consequence
 - The ultimate result of Israel's continued disobedience was exile. The people of Israel were taken into captivity by foreign nations, as seen in the Babylonian exile (2 Kings 24:14-16; Jer. 29:4-7). This drastic action was a fulfillment of the curses outlined in Deuteronomy 28:36-37, 49-50.
- New Testament Affirmation
 - The New Testament continues this theme, highlighting the consequences of a

society that rejects God. Romans 1:18-32 explains that when people suppress the truth about God and engage in idolatry, they become subject to futile thinking and immoral behavior, leading to societal decay.



Modern Examples

Modern Examples

Today, we are seeing a breakdown in various aspects of American society, which can be attributed to a departure from biblical principles.

- **Family Structure:** The biblical model for families (Eph. 5:22-6:4) emphasizes the importance of a stable family environment. The current increase in divorce rates and single-parent households can be seen as a deviation from this model, leading to negative societal effects like higher rates of poverty and crime.
- **Ethical and Moral Decay:** The Ten Commandments (Exod. 20:1-17) and the teachings of Jesus (Matt. 5-7) offer a moral framework that has historically influenced American law and society. Moving away from these principles can be correlated with the rise in unethical behavior, corruption, and social discord.
- **Sanctity of Life:** The Bible emphasizes the sanctity of human life (Gen. 9:6, Ps. 139:13-16). Societal shifts towards a more casual view of life, as seen in debates over issues like abortion and euthanasia, reflect a departure from this principle, with implications for the moral fabric of the nation.
- **Sexual Ethics:** The Bible clearly outlines sexual ethics (1 Cor. 6:18-20, Heb. 13:4). The modern trend toward sexual permissiveness has contributed to various societal issues such as the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and the degradation of the institution of marriage.

There is broad agreement that the United States is undergoing a unique crisis, underscored by systemic racism, social inequality, fractured homes, educational shortcomings, mounting depression rates, escalating drug abuse, growing incidence of sex trafficking, corporate malfeasance, and corruption among politicians.



Alerting Society

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Some famous apologists who engaged in cultural apologetics:

- Tim Keller - Known for his reasoned approach to apologetics, Keller also addresses how Christianity interacts with and informs culture.
- Os Guinness - An author and social critic, Guinness has written extensively about the need for Christians to engage intelligently with culture.
- Andy Crouch - Author of "Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling," Crouch discusses how Christians can and should interact with culture.



Comparison with Psychological Apologetics

Comparison with Psychological Apologetics

While Psychological Apologetics focuses on the individual's well-being in relation to biblical principles, Cultural Apologetics expands this focus to include groups of people, ranging from families to entire societies.