

A WORD ON WORSHIP

MAY 12, 2013

BY PASTOR ANDREW KICKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Matthew 12:48-50

"But Jesus answered the one who was telling Him and said, 'Who is My mother and who are My brothers?' And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, 'Behold My mother and My brothers! 'For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother.'"



Every news story we read or see on television seems to hinge on morality. Whether the issue is over homosexual marriage, immigration reform, health care, or even taxation (even sugary drinks and obesity are now issues of morality in our state), there are denomination and special interest groups which have become very visible and very vocal in promoting their agendas. Even evangelicals have become active in proclaiming morality, patriotism, and fidelity to traditional American values. And so everyone, from the left to the right, is trying to grab the ear of a legislator to turn the morality of the nation in a direction they approve.

As Christians, we must be concerned about moral and ethical issues. God's Word is unequivocal in its standards of righteous living, justice and social responsibility and we should reflect that same standard. But morality cannot be separated from a right relationship to God. In fact the Scriptures give us many examples of the dangers of morality separated from right relationship from God such as the Pharisees. They were committed to the highest human standard of religion and ethics and were so convinced of their self-righteousness that when God Himself lived amongst them they rejected Him and crucified Him. Their acts of morality only cleaned the outside of the cup, but never brought regeneration or redemption of the soul.

Being rightly related to Christ, however, requires more than self righteousness or a verbal promise of loyalty to God. Jesus warned the disciples in the Sermon on the Mount that *"not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven."* (Matthew 7:21) In fact many of these same people will point to incredible deeds and miracles they may even attribute to God. But these works of righteousness were not accompanied with a right relationship to the Lord. A saving relationship with Jesus Christ only comes from a submitting to Him and receiving the gift of salvation He offers.

Morality changes the outside of a person, in its best sense, but in some cases, it is barrier to the changes required of the heart. A right relationship with Jesus Christ brings about new life, both inside and outside. The central truth of the Scriptures is that Jesus Christ came to the earth to save sinners, which requires transformation not merely reformation. The message of the gospel, and also of the church, is not a call to clean living for the sake of morality, but a call to deliverance from sin through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sunrise Community Church
Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst
EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.

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SEE YOU SUNDAY AT SUNRISE

What's Happening at Sunrise

May 2013

Hymn of the Week

I Know He Is Mine

Words Philip P. Bliss, in Gospel Songs, 1874

Music Ira D. Sankey
www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/i/k/h/ikhimine.htm

A long time I wandered in darkness and sin,
And wondered if ever the light would shine in;
I heard Christian friends speak of raptures divine,
And I wished – how I wished – that their Savior were mine.

I wished He were mine, yes, I wished He were mine;
I wished – how I wished – that their Savior were mine.

I heard the glad Gospel of "good will to men"
I read "whosoever" again and again;
I said to my soul, "Can that promise be thine?"
And then began hoping that Jesus was mine.

I hoped He was mine, yes, I hoped He was mine,
And then began hoping that Jesus was mine.

Oh, mercy surprising! He saves even me!
"Thy portion forever," He says, "will I be";
On His Word I am resting – assurance divine:
I am "hoping" no longer, I know He is mine.

I know He is mine, yes, I know He is mine,
I'm hoping no longer – I know He is mine.

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| May 12 | 8:45 a.m. | Mother's Day – Pastor Andy teaching <i>Matthew 12:46-50 – Et Tu Mommy?</i> |
| | 10:30 a.m. | No Second Hour – Celebrate Your Mother |
| May 14 | 7:00 p.m. | Bible Study in Ephesians |
| May 17 | 7:00 p.m. | Game Night |
| May 19 | 8:45 a.m. | Elder Thom Rachford Teaching |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Adult Sunday School |
| May 21 | 7:00 p.m. | Bible Study in Ephesians |
| May 24 | 6:30 p.m. | Friday Night Fellowship |
| May 26 | 8:45 a.m. | Mark 14:26-42 The Essence of Hell |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Pastor Andy teaching
Adult Sunday School |
| May 27 | | Memorial Day |
| May 28 | 7:00 p.m. | Bible Study in Ephesians |
| May 31 | | 5th Friday Night – Church is Dark |

MAY 2013						
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Good news for Christians in India's most persecuting state

By CHRISTIANITY TODAY MAY 10, 2013

After nearly a decade, Hindu nationalist party finally loses power in Karnataka. Indian Christians are celebrating the result of recent elections in Karnataka, a southwestern state known for having the highest rates of violence against Christians. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a Hindu nationalist party which supports extremist groups, has finally lost power "after nine years of unchallenged rule."

"The BJP is decimated," reports AsiaNews. "Its defeat is good news especially for social and religious minorities of Karnataka, victims in these years of violence and persecution of the Hindu ultranationalist groups, openly supported by the BJP."

There were more anti-Christian attacks in Karnataka in 2012 than in any other Indian state. (It surpassed notorious Orissa in 2010.) And in the days leading up to the May 5 election, Christian leaders had warned that allowing the BJP to remain in power would only lead to increased violence.

But now Sajan K. George, president of the Global Council of Indian Christians (GCIC), says Karnataka is sending "a great message to all parties, in view of the general elections of 2014: We must stop the political use of religion, protect minorities

and work for the common good."

An election in 2001 rattled the BJP somewhat, and CT reported that a subsequent defeat in 2004 "sent shock waves across the nation." That significant defeat came after the BJP introduced an anti-conversion law to prevent conversion among Dalits, the lowest members of Indian society, without the approval of India's parliament.

But even as the BJP consolidated its state-level power in 2005, CT reported that increased violence and repression wasn't stopping church growth.

Violence against Indian Christians reached its worst point in 2008 in the southeastern state of Orissa, following the assassination of Hindu leader Laxmanananda. However, Christians were encouraged when the BJP lost control of Orissa in elections the following year.

Meanwhile, seven Christians in Orissa remain in prison after a judge postponed their trials—again. They are accused of assassinating Laxmanananda in 2008, even though Maoists already claimed responsibility for the attack.

