

Silent No More – Quick Review May 29, 2016

This week we are embarking on a 2 part study of the Book: Silent No More, by Wayne Edwards. There is no way we can do justice to this book or the ideas Wayne brings out in 2 short sessions, so we are going to go about it this way.

Today we are going to talk about why this book needed to be written. I sent you an email earlier this week with some thoughts from the Introduction of the book that captures the essence of the book and the key items we will cover today. There are 10 things Pastor Wayne feels strongly that God's people need to be vocal about. You may agree with these, or have a few of your own items that God has told you to be vocal about.

My hope today is to discuss the first 5 of the items in the book, and give you opportunity to comment on the premise of the book, and any item you feel strongly about.

1. Inerrancy and sufficiency of Holy Scripture
2. The existence of God in three persons – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit
3. The Biblical account of Creation (*Is the Bible really true or not?*)
4. The Sanctity of Human Life
5. The Biblical institution/definition of **marriage** as one man and one woman, united in Christ, until death.

As you know, the second session is Thursday night, at our house, and Pastor Wayne will be there. We will address the final 5 items he thinks need to be addressed, and then he will talk to us about how and why he wrote the book, answer any of your questions. He is a valuable resource because he is not only a Godly man and Pastor, but he has a God honoring pastoral ministry at **Heritage Baptist Church** in Perry, Georgia. Also he and Linda have an evangelistic ministry called Mature Ministries, where they are discipling and preparing local ministers to spread the Word in Nicaragua. This ministry supports them in recruitment, training, helping support their needs, and working with them directly in their communities.

As we talked about last week there are many **Signs of the Times** converging on us from everywhere. I won't rehash them today but we are living in chaotic times, with natural calamities, manmade disasters, pandemic diseases, and a wholesale falling away from God all across society. You see it in the news, in the paper, and in our community. At the same time, the predictions of the future in the Bible (Prophecy), are becoming visible everywhere. Lawlessness, moral freefall, good being called bad, and bad being called good. Glorification of Sin and wanton disregard for God, His people, and His Word is all around us.

This week I received an email from George Barna ministries. Barna is a resource that measures and reports items relating to God, His Word, Peoples actions, and thinking processes that provide food for those interested in Evangelizing for the Lord.

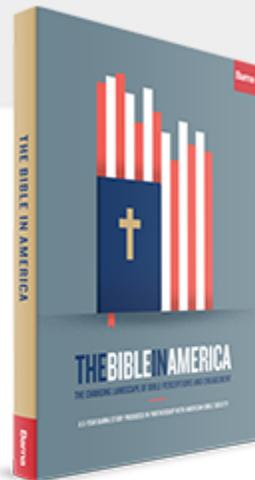
The End of Absolutes: America's New Moral Code

As traditional Christian morality continues to lose ground in American culture, there is growing concern about the moral condition of the nation even though many American adults admit they are uncertain about how to determine right from wrong. Barna probes the moral landscape in America, revealing some unique tensions.

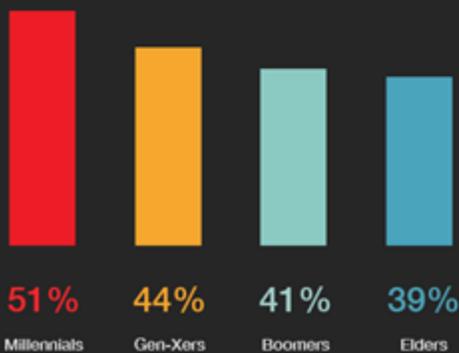
The Bible in America

Analysis, insights and encouragement for leaders who want to understand how people engage with the Scriptures.

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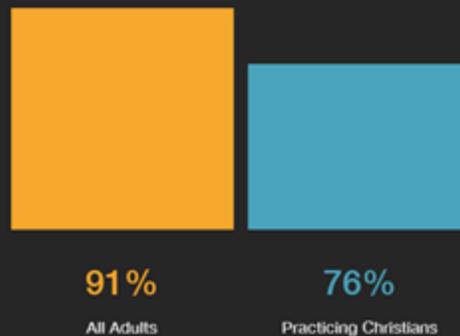
Believe moral truth is relative.



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Agree the best way to find yourself is by looking within yourself.



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In “Silent No More” the first topic is the Bible. What is it to you? Is it the Word of God? Is it absolute Truth or is it something else. The critical watershed issue of the whole discussion about God hinges on two points

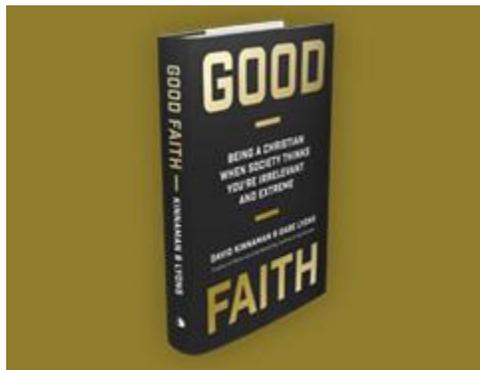
Do you believe there is a God? And “Do you believe the Bible is the way He speaks to us today”. In other words, is the Bible God’s Truth without any mixture of error?

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Genesis starts with the words...***“In the beginning God”***. Do you believe that before all things, there was God? Before “matter”, space, before air, before earth, before stars and planets, before Angels, before animals and plants...***even before time itself?***

“Silent No More” spends a whole chapter on why we must believe the Bible is God’s Holy Word. It is both sufficient and necessary for us to understand and live God honoring fruitful lives. It is God’s absolute truth. What is your feeling about that? Do you believe it, really? What about the Bible Stories about the Creation, the Flood, Jonah, Sampson, Elijah, King David and Goliath...are they real of just simple stories to teach us about morality. What you say here is important. (See scripture reading list)

Barna is also publishing a book



Begin the hard conversations about truth and morality

Stop being afraid to talk about what you believe and start having meaningful conversations.

Okay, let’s say you believe in God. How do you see Him? Because you believe in God, does that automatically mean you believe in Jesus Christ? Or the Holy Spirit? What Q’s come to mind when you think of the Jews, the Muslims, the Hindus, the Mormons or the JW’s?

The second item we are to speak out on is: **The existence of God in three persons – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit**

Some of this should be familiar to you if you have either read the book, or listened to the sermons recently on the Apostles Creed BUT being familiar with it is not the real point of interest. The better Q is if you believe it, are you willing to stand up and speak out about it.

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What questions do you have that Pastor Wayne could answer or that I can answer? Think about them and make notes. Perhaps there is a reason you do not stand up on any one of these items. What is it, and can you overcome it to begin the discipling work God has challenged you with?

I taught a 7 lesson study on **The Holy Spirit: The Forgotten God**. It was a powerful set of lessons from the Francis Chan book by the same name, and we learned that if we Believed in God, His Son, and His Spirit and understood the Word of God to be absolute truth, that we should have Faith, and with that faith, have Trust, and with that Faith and Trust, we need to Obey Him. **Faith -> Trust -> Obedience**

I trust the Bible is the Word of God, and He speaks to me directly through its Words. I also believe that it is God-breathed and inerrant. I believe it is **literal** except where it is obvious that a parable or metaphor is being used. It follows that I believe the Creation Story then because it sets both the stage for how we came to be, but also provides the story of the Fall of Man, requiring a Savior to save and redeem us. Sometime if you are interested I can repeat my study of Genesis Chapters 1-12 that recounts the story of creation through the Flood, to the calling of Abraham. I can talk through the issues with Creation versus evolution, and hopefully explain how the Bible makes perfect sense. The theory of Evolution is taught everywhere in schools, but it is just a theory that does not stand up well to a fact review.

This would be a controversial conversation with Educators or academics because they have swallowed the Kool- Aid and will fight discussing the problems with the Theory, but you should teach your children and grandchildren and speak out where God's word is diminished.

In the Creation Story, we know that God created Man and Woman from the dust of the earth, and breathed the breath of life into him, and we were made in the "Image of God" unlike any other animal. When we are conceived, God mates a Soul with a physical body, and a human being is formed and grows to become a baby human. For all Christians, we must believe we are made in the image of God, and that He created us for a purpose. It is heartbreaking to think in America alone, we have aborted 57 million babies. We have allowed, and even protected the "right" of one human to destroy another human being in the image of God. Believe this is a problem for God? Do you think He does not care?

Aborted babies, what happens to them? I believe they are "in Christ" and the Bible tells us they will be in Heaven. What will a mother say to her aborted child on that Day when they meet, assuming the mother is a Christian. Hard to imagine...

What do you think about abortion? Doctors pulling apart baby humans to kill them? Taking care not to damage parts that can be harvested and sold ...is it worth your voice to speak out? I know it is the law of the land, but it is not the law of God. Which is pre-eminent in your mind? Do you pray for this to end, Does our church pray for it to end. What about Right to Life day...do we even mention it? What about the National Day of Prayer? Do you know it just passed? Did we do anything???

We become complacent and the things of God become common place instead of being sacred and important.

In Genesis 5:1-2 NASB)

In the day when God created man, He made him **in the likeness of God.**² **He created them male and female**, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created.

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The last of the 5 items for today is the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman. God created them, male and female, blessed them and told them to join and become “one flesh”. They were to help each other do what God had made them to do, AND to procreate (have babies) and fill the earth. He did not tell Man to marry multiple women, or many men, or tell women to marry multiple men or other women. The perversion of multiple wives was allowed by God and Moses but not God’s command to man.

This is front and center today in our society with the law even sanctifying non Biblical marriages. Is this a new phenomenon...of course not but God calls it an abomination, and was one of the chief reasons for the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. To reiterate that it is not a blessed union, there is no natural way for these types of unions to procreate. However men and women, who are bent on defying God, will find ways to try and normalize and gain acceptance of these types of relationships. These may be legal in America, but we are citizens of God’s Kingdom and only Sojourners in this country. As much as love, and want to protect this nation and her people, we must recognize that people and countries have personal and national will that will be expressed. We can and must pray for God to awaken the sleeping church to begin to reach out to those we love and try to disciple them, or bring them to the Lord, all the while knowing not all will be saved.

Reminder: We will finish these items on Thursday, and I ask you to think about any item we have covered this week or will cover Thursday and write down questions or discussion points for Wayne. If you have any testimonies of times when you have or have not spoken out, and they weigh on you, let’s talk about them.

Prayer and close

Scripture to read

Isaiah 59 – A lament of Separation from God and wickedness

Psalms 12:6 - Bible/Scripture

Psalms 19: 7-14 - Bible/Scripture

Psalms 119:105 - Bible/Scripture

Psalms 119:160 - Bible/Scripture

2 Tim 3:15-16 - Bible/Scripture