

WHY ALL THIS NERVOUSNESS?

INTRODUCTION:

In a sermon he preached at the White House the first Sunday of this year Mr. Norman Vincent Peale said:

1. That the appropriate patron saint for the United States right now would be St. Vitus. Who was St. Vitus?
 1. He was supposedly a child martyr of the third century. Later he became venerated especially among the Germans and Slavs.
 2. St. Vitus Dance is a nervous condition among small children known as Chorea.
 3. It is characterized by irregular jerking movements of the muscles of the limbs and trunk.
 4. The person thus afflicted seems very restless often moving with quick and unseemly jerks of the entire body.
2. So Mr. Peale said, "We are now so nervous you can hardly put any one to sleep with a sermon."

WHY ALL THIS NERVOUSNESS?

1. The war in Vietnam is not altogether the cause of it.
2. The fact that the past ten years was a decade of death on our highways with more than 4,600 per month slaughtered for a 1969 total of some 55,000 deaths did not seem to startle any one.
 1. Statistics remain and ever will be that ONE OUT OF ONE MUST DIE.
3. In 1967 there were 534,000 divorces which means that over a million people were involved not counting children.
 1. Think about the children involved the parents on both sides of the marriage. Many grandparents live to see the homes of grandchildren broken up by divorce.
 2. What do those involved care about the feelings of others...even the children in the home.
4. The past decade has been a period in which religion has been preached with out the preaching of the gospel of Christ. The religion thus preached has resulted in:
 1. A religionless Christianity: the "in today, out tomorrow" tag dance with the world type religion.
 2. Such preaching has produced an anemic religion made up of many who would like to be what Christ wants them to be if they could be what Christ wants them to be without doing what Christ wants them to do.
5. The past decade saw riots in such places as Watts, Detroit, Washington, D. C. and other places with millions of dollars in property destroyed by some people openingly in broad daylight setting fire to buildings.
 1. Looting in which people carried off millions of dollars in merchandise out of places of business and in most instances to go unpunished for their looting.
 2. At the same time if some hungry man with hungry children at home crying for bread would have undertaken to carry off four or five loaves of bread from some store it is entirely possible that the man would have found himself facing a prison sentence: 3 to 5 years.

WHY ALL THIS NERVOUSNESS, Continued;

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6. The past decade saw a general rise in rebellion against authority.
 1. There has been continual assault against biblical authority.
 2. People generally will not bow to biblical authority any more than they will bow to any other authority that seems to get in their way.

THE CHURCH AND THE YOUNG PEOPLE

1. In recent years many books have been written concerning young people, Young People and Their Parents; Parent-Child Relationship and on and on we could go.
 1. A question usually asked of preachers especially; "How do you explain the fact that young people are no longer accepting institutional religion?"
 1. Young people came to get their eyes open to the realization that "institutional religion" is not worth accepting for such religion is far from being New Testament Christianity.
2. When Paul came to Troas he continued his speech until midnight. Acts 20:7
 1. Acts 20:9; "And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead." NOTE:
 1. You would not find any sincerely religious parents who would write Paul off just because his preaching happened to put one of the young people to sleep.
 2. Yet you will find many of these same parents who slam and bang the church round and make great pronouncements that the church is in mortal danger because it does not have the same appeal to all the young as do such things as bubble gum and The Beatles. ETC.
2. At this point many denominations have done foolishly in their effort to challenge the interest of the young people only to lose their interest:in such things as:
 1. Some have provided such bizarre liturgical spectacles as jazzy Lord's Supper.
 2. Rock and Roll bands playing such songs as Rock of Ages in Rock and Roll style.
 3. Some denominations have provided dance halls within the church building so they say, "To hold our young people."
 4. Did they hold them? Of course not? Adults should give young people credit for having more sense and good judgement.
 5. Young people know that such things are "of the world, worldly," and will have no part of such things in connection with the church. **THEY HAVE BETTER SENSE THAN TO TRY TO BRING THE WORLD INTO THE CHURCH.**
3. THE GENERATION GAP IN AMERICA.
 1. There really is not any ~~any~~ generation gap in the United States.
 2. One man (Lester Kinsolving in reporting Andrew Greeley, a Chicago sociologist) said: "the so-called gap is largely a fiction created by journalists and TV commentators so they will have some thing to worry the parents with."

3. The Generation Gap in America, Continued:
 1. He further described these men as making their nightly descent from Mt. Sinai with their frightening comments and frightening editorials in the daily press generally using some no good young person as representative of all young people.
 2. The fact is:
 1. There are those who fall far short of the ideal both among parents as well as among children.
 2. These are the type that you always see on the great pronouncements of TV news casters and always read about in the news paper editorial.
 3. The further truth is that most young people of today share... for weal or woe - - Good or bad, the values of their parents
4. A solution to some problems by a Canadian churchman Mr. Maurice Sutter.
 1. Mr. Sutter received a letter from an anxious mother in which she charged:

"I have done every thing I can to help my 19-year-old into the adult world. He has rejected his family, will not go back to school, and won't work. What next?"
 2. The answer came back from Mr. Sutter:
 1. "It is time for the ultimatum:
 - (1) Choice: He goes to school, lives at home and accepts the discipline of the household.
 - (2) Choice: He goes to work, lives at home and accepts a financial obligation to the support of the home.
 - (3) Choice: He gets out altogether. Often by the latter do boys become men.
5. Scriptures offered in closing:

Ephesians 6:1-4; "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2-Honour thy father and thy mother; which is the first commandment with promise; 3- That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. 4-And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."