

“Well, He's Only Human”
By Paul R. Blake

He sat in the chair of the highest office in the land. He was a very popular leader, quite charismatic, and loved by the common folk. In his position, he had access to enormous sums of money, he wielded great power and influence among political and economic leaders of many nations, and he was the object of desire of many young, attractive women. On one occasion, he saw a particularly alluring female, and secretly ordered his security guards to procure her for him. After a brief, sordid affair, he found himself on the verge of being exposed. He ordered his staffers to conspire to cover up for him by creating misleading documents. When he thought others were evil, he made loud, histrionic reproaches against them; but, he does not believe he himself ever did anything wrong. Who was this man? King David of Israel! (2Sam. 11-12)

Former President Clinton was accused of the same activity as King David. There was one significant difference between those two men. David was described by God in the following manner: “I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will” (Acts 13:22). When David was rebuked, he freely acknowledged his sins without equivocating, he genuinely repented in sorrow for his sins, and he showed repentance by means of a changed life. This stands in stark contrast to what was reported regarding our former President.

Of greater concern to us as citizens in the kingdom of God and of the United States of America is that his behavior was of very little concern to the general population. According to polls, the President's job approval ratings remained high. In one survey taken at that time, 70% of American women forgave him for his misdeeds without him having to ask for pardon. While eagerly reporting the lurid details, the press downplayed his immorality with the old, tired excuse “everybody does it.” The older generation overlooked his sins the same way doting parents ignore the bad behavior of unruly children; all the while, the younger generation said, “so what?!”

Herein was the real tragedy. Our nation lost the ability to blush in shame at such sin, felt no scruple to speak out in rebuke of those abominations, and rejected responsibility for punishing evildoers. Our children will suffer in the world of tomorrow that we damaged yesterday. The lessons this country should have remembered from eight years ago during the Clinton Administration were not learned, and therefore as a nation we are destined, not just to repeat the mistakes of the past, but to do so egregiously.

And now, on Tuesday, we will witness the inauguration of yet another President who has vocally defended immoral behavior and plans to legitimize it by governmental fiat. The new regime speaks favorably of late term abortions, homosexual marriages, and various other abominations that will be eagerly engaged in by one segment of the population, while much of the rest of the nation will brush moral objections aside with, “Well, they're only human.”

I make no apology for the fact that taking the life of an unborn child is inhuman and against God's design for human beings. Homosexuality is not the kind of behavior God designed for human beings to engage in. Shame on citizens of this nation who say of civil leaders who engage in sin, “Well, he is only human.” Shame on citizens who say of mothers who kill their pre-born children, “Well, they're only human.” Shame on the

citizens who say of homosexuals, "Well, they are only human." These things, both the sins and the defense of the sins, are of the Devil and not of God.

This "one nation, under God" has forgotten its accountability before the Lord. What does the Bible say?

"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34). This country needs to be ashamed of sin. There can be no real repentance without shame generated by the guilt of sin. "Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, says the LORD" (Jer. 6:15).

"For the nation and kingdom that will not serve You shall perish; yes, those nations shall be utterly wasted" (Isa. 60:12). Our fellow Americans need to return to moral conduct; they need to begin reading the Bible; they need to begin obeying the Lord. Sadly, most live in denial of the temporal and eternal consequences of sinful thinking and ungodly behavior. "For they are a nation void of counsel, neither is there any understanding in them. O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!" (Deut. 32:28).

However, instead of sorrow, repentance, and restoration, we are getting phony excuses and fraudulent defenses for sin. "He that justifies the wicked, and he that condemns the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD" (Prov. 17:15). "He's only human" has become the mantra of our times.

The news media industry says of public sinners, "They're only human." Is this excuse a reflection of their own character? Is a condemnation of another's wickedness viewed by the press as self-condemnation? If this is true, how can we trust them to do the job of reporting the news objectively? Ironically, in the land of "freedom of the press," we have censorship, and the Devil is the censor.

Some of the seniors say, "He's only human." Is this excuse a reflection of their awareness of the kind of job they've done in raising their own offspring? The old and wise are supposed to correct the young and foolish. What happens to a nation in which the wise endorse the foolish?

Many women said of Clinton, "I forgive him; he's only human." This was especially troubling. It indicates that the moral corruption of this nation spread from amoral men and immoral women to a large number of mothers and grandmothers. We have an old saying that states: "The hand that rocks the cradle, rules the world." It is based on both sound reasoning and the scriptures. "Behold, every one that uses proverbs shall use this proverb against thee, saying, As is the mother, so is her daughter" (Ez. 16:44). Mothers are responsible for the care of small children in the early formative years of their lives; and, many of these mothers are raising their children to believe that it is acceptable to fornicate and lie. How will the next generation behave? What will the next generation teach their children?

We have seen the fruit of this kind of upbringing. Young people go on MTV to discuss their underwear and bathroom habits. They go on Jerry Springer to shock folks with tales of sexual aberrations. They watch cartoons that "entertain" with nasal discharge, bladder control problems, flatulence, and sexual self-gratification. We thank God daily for the few righteous young souls that labor diligently to fight off this deluge of sick effluent.

As a nation, we need to start being ashamed of sin and stop passing it off as being “human.” We must start rebuking sin and stop excusing it with, “Well, at least the sinner is doing a good job.” I was stunned to hear professed Christians defend Clinton and his sins by claiming he was an effective leader. So was King Ahab. Should we defend his excesses, too? Will Christians defend the incoming President as he initiates wholesale abortions and homosexual marriages, by saying, “Well, he sure is good for the economy.”

As a nation, we need start punishing sin and stop feeling sorry for the hardened, habitual sinners. As Christians, we should set the example in these matters, leading our friends and neighbors, co-workers and classmates toward the truth. Otherwise, what God did to Israel when they would not change, He will also do to the United States of America if we do not change. “He turns rivers into wilderness, and the watersprings into dry ground, and a fruitful land into barrenness, because of the wickedness of them that dwell therein” (Psalm 107:33).

One last question... Would King David have been as inclined to repent and bring forth the fruits of repentance, if the people of Israel had said to Nathan the prophet, “Shut up and leave him alone; he's only human!”?