



from Hal and Lisa

Grace to you!

I recently read an article by Jimmy Porter in the weekly paper of the Mississippi Baptist Convention that was titled "The Battle Still Rages". Dr. Porter is the director of the Christian Action Commission for Mississippi Baptists. In his article, he is writing about the cultural war over moral issues that the church is engaged in. He asks the question, "Have we lost the cultural war?" He goes on in the article to state that the "answer you get (to this question) is determined by whom you ask."

Well let me answer the question with regard to the moral issue of homosexuality. I don't think we have lost the cultural war but I am concerned that we are losing it. I don't base this on research I have done but I base it on my observation from what I am repeatedly hearing about the subject of homosexuality from those of the next generation.

Recently I have had a number of conversations with parents and teens about same sex issues. What I have learned from these conversations is that many of these of the next generation do not hold to a biblical Christian world view even though they are an active part of their local churches. They seem to be more impacted by the ideas and philosophies of the culture than by the moral standards of God as found in His Word. And I think in some way it is not because they have abandoned their biblical Christian heritage but because they are exposed to the ways of this world more than they are to the

ways of God. This may be in part because of their own neglect but it is also because of the church's failure to effectively disciple them.

It is because of this that I say we have not lost the cultural war but we are losing it. And what I mean is that while there may be many ways in which we are winning at the cultural war in our society, the real test in my opinion is not in what is happening in society but what is happening in the hearts and minds of the next generation. If we are not leading them to know God and His ways and leading them to live by God's standards then we will have lost the cultural war. This is the real test of how effectively we are engaged in this battle now.

And so, what is the answer. Well, it surely isn't to keep doing only what we are doing. I admire those who are on the front lines fighting the cultural war. And while what they do is necessary, it is only part of the battle. We must at the same time become more involved in the lives of our children and teens. We must help them have a better understanding of what healthy sexuality is all about. And we have to start earlier by equipping parents in how to talk with their children about sex, sexual purity and homosexuality. We cannot waste any more time.

In addition to this, we must pray and pray earnestly. I say this because this is as much a spiritual battle as it is a moral battle and prayer is a key component of spiritual battles.

Also, you and I must personally

hold to God's standard for sexual purity. We must model it for the next generation. Part of the reason we are not having an impact on our culture in the area of sexual purity is because of our own hypocrisy. We are involved in sexual immorality (pornography, premarital sex and adultery) and then we expect something different from our children. This has to change. We must personally hold to God's standard.

And finally we must publicly uphold God's standard. We must unashamedly hold high God's standard for sex and sexual purity. It is not about being against something, we must be for something and that is God's standard. We must not compromise when it comes to this!

Only time will tell if we have lost the cultural war. But while I am no prophet, I can guarantee we will lose if we do not do something to lead the next generation to hold to and uphold God's standard in many areas of their lives but especially in the area of sexual purity. We are already behind and there is no time to waste. Let us pray and pray earnestly! Let us personally and publicly hold to and uphold God's standard for sexual purity. May God have mercy on us and help us!

We need your prayers as we seek to help those impacted by homosexuality live free in Christ. Thank you for standing by our side.

Hal & Lisa Selby



Events

October 26 World Missions Conference, First Baptist Church, Richland, MS

This is our third opportunity to be a part of this event as we share with this wonderful church about the ministry of Refuge 461.

October 27 Mission Service Corps Meeting, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson, MS

We will be attending the annual meeting of MSC missionaries who are serving in Mississippi. This meeting will take place at the Mississippi Baptist Building in Jackson, MS.

October 28-29 Mississippi Baptist Convention, FBC, Jackson, MS

We will attend the Mississippi Baptist Convention and promote the ministry of Refuge 461 at the Mission Service Corps booth in the exhibit area.

November 4 East Mississippi Community College, Scooba, MS, Baptist Student Union Meeting, 7:00 pm

Hal will share his testimony with the students attending the BSU meeting at EMCC.

November 11 University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS, Baptist Student Union Meeting, 7:00 pm

Hal and Lisa have been invited to the weekly BSU meeting at Ole Miss. Hal will share his testimony with the students attending this meeting.

January 2015 Live Free...One Step At A Time Small Group Bible Study, Winter Session

April 29 - May 1 National Collegiate Summit, Nashville, TN

Praying With Us

"And we should always pray and never give up....." Luke 18:1

- Praise God for the individuals and parents that presently are going through the "Live Free" Bible study. Pray that God uses His Word greatly in their lives.
- Pray for the ministry opportunities the month of November.
- Pray that God will give us wisdom in how to lead the next generation to have a biblical Christian worldview regarding sexuality.
- Pray that God will give us wisdom in reaching those teens who are embracing a gay identity.
- Pray for God's leading as we now seek to publish the "Live Free" Bible study.
- Pray for the church to wake up and rise up to meet this moral challenge of our day and to do so in a way that is redemptive.
- Pray for our family as we seek to follow Him in the ministry of Refuge 461.
- Pray that in all things God is glorified.

Become a ministry partner

The ministry of Refuge 461 depends on the financial support of ministry partners. If you would like to become a ministry partner you may do so through the "Support Us" page at www.refuge461.org. You may also mail your tax deductible donation to:

North American Mission Board
Attn: Accounting - MSC
P. O. Box 116543
Atlanta, GA 30368-6543



Make your check payable to *North American Mission Board* and write *Hal and Lisa Selby #9634* on the memo portion of your check. We are so thankful for you and for God's leading you to give to Refuge 461. You are helping us help others live free!

Refuge 461 is a Christian discipleship ministry providing biblically based help and encouragement for those individuals, couples, parents and families whose lives are impacted by homosexuality. This is done through individual support, weekly group meetings (which include worship, Bible study, and small group accountability), and by helping churches respond redemptively to those who are impacted by homosexuality.

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