

## Morality Without Religion?

by Dave Miller, Ph.D.

In the incessant conspiracy to expel the God of the Bible from public life and to dismantle America's Christian heritage, a variety of ploys and myths frequently is floated by those who profess "political correctness." One commonly heard quip is: "We can have morality without religion." Those who advocate such thinking insist that Christianity must be removed from the public sector—whether in government or public schools. They declare that morality is distinct from religion, and that individuals will acknowledge and embrace morality in the absence of Christianity. It was Hitler who said, "The great masses of the people...more easily fall victim to a big lie than to a little one" (1933, 1:10).



The fact is that the Creator of the human race is the sole Author and Source of objective morality. Otherwise, moral distinctions would simply be the product of the subjective whims of humans. Morality would thus legitimately vary from person to person and country to country. One society might decide to legalize pedophilia while another might make it illegal—and both would be "right" in the sense that everyone would be free to formulate their own moral standards. The result would be complete and utter social anarchy in which every person would be equally free to believe and behave however he or she chooses.



Charles Carroll

address to the nation, dispelling the "morality-without-religion" theory in sweeping tones:

In stark contrast, the Bible presents the only logical and sane assessment of reality—an objective standard, authored by the Creator, exists for the entire human race. That standard resides within the confines of the Christian religion as articulated in the New Testament. Unless human civilization gauges its moral behavior according to that objective, absolute framework, moral and spiritual chaos in society will be the end result. In the words of Charles Carroll, a signer of the *Declaration of Independence*: "Without morals a republic cannot subsist any length of time; **they, therefore, who are decrying the Christian religion**, whose morality is so sublime and pure...**are undermining the solid foundation of morals**, the best security for the duration of free governments" (as quoted in Steiner, 1907, p. 475, emp. added).

Yet, for some fifty years now, Americans have been pummeled with the humanistic notion that morality can be maintained in society to the exclusion of Christianity. With almost prophetic anticipation, the very first president of the United States—the Father of our country—anticipated and addressed this sinister misnomer. After serving his country for two terms as president, George Washington delivered his farewell

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, **religion and morality** are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked: Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice? And let us with caution indulge **the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion**. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, **reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle**. It is substantially true that **virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government**. The rule, indeed, extends with more or less force to every species of free government. Who that is a sincere friend to it can look with indifference upon attempts to shake the foundation of the fabric? (1796, pp. 22-23, emp. added).

Washington was simply echoing the teaching of the Bible. He recognized that the American republic was founded on the moral principles of the Christian religion. He understood that to abandon the Christian religion was ultimately to abandon the moral principles inherent in that religion. He also affirmed that those who "shake the foundation of the fabric," by undermining the importance of **Christian** morality, are not sincere friends of America. Indeed, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). "For the nation and kingdom which will not serve you shall perish, and those nations shall be utterly ruined" (Isaiah 60:12).

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