



REPENT AUSTRALIA

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

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OUR SLOPPY SOCIETY

In the future what will this present time be known as? The Age of Anxiety? The Age of Hedonism? The Age of Consumerism? Yes, all these but something else as well. Surely this must go down in history as the Age of Sloppiness. Never in the modern age of civilisation has society been so scornful of what is elegant, well-mannered, gentlemanly and ladylike. In dress, speech and moral behaviour we have become careless, slovenly, and unkempt. In a word, SLOPPY! Just observe clips of old newsreels and see how sport (especially tennis and cricket) was generally played in a gentlemanly and sportsmanlike manner and the tidy dress and good behaviour of the spectators. Furthermore, it is no coincidence that when our culture challenged us to be well-mannered, courteous and well-dressed we were among the great nations of the world. Indeed, whatever image we project as a society and a nation will have a strong impact on both ourselves and others as it reflects the inner core values we hold dear. In fact, what we appear on the outside is what we really are on the inside.

Sloppy Appearance

Someone has said that the age of elegance is long dead. In fact, its demise occurred during the long post-World War II period when the baby boomer generation rejected maturity for a culture of eternal youth, one of perpetual adolescence. These baby boomers are now grown-ups but have clung to their childhood, so that their immature state of mind is reflected in their state of dress. Consequently, as columnist Diana West in her book *The Death of the Grown-up* observes, "Father and son dress more or less alike...both equally at ease in the baggy rumple of eternal summer camp". Nowadays, the people of Australia and other nations have descended into this modern standard of what is ugly, unkempt and SLOPPY. No matter where people go, it seems, into the city, to a show, a sporting contest, a concert, or even church or the opera many can be seen in the ubiquitous T-shirt, jeans, joggers or thongs. Not to mention young adults and adolescents wearing back-to-front baseball caps indoors and out, uncombed, messy hair, dress shirts hanging outside their trousers, and scruffy, unshaven sportsmen. Then there are the women, especially young women, brazenly flaunting large areas of bare midriff, undergarments, tattoos and many kinds of rings and other types of piercings hanging from all parts of their faces and bodies, as well as pregnant women wearing tight garments that emphasise the baby bulge in their stomach. Where is their modesty? Where is our pride and sense of dignity? Where is our country heading? At least the recently elected Premier of Western Australia has been concerned enough to demand high standards of dress, behaviour and conduct in the WA Parliament, insisting that formality be upheld and maintained there. Oh that we all were equally concerned about our appearances!

Sloppy Language

Not only have we slipped badly in looking after our appearance, we have allowed our English language to be misused and abused. Because grammar has been neglected and practically eliminated from our schools' curricula, most students have little idea of correct use of the language. Consequently we find many young and not-so-young people using 'he and I' as the objects of a sentence instead of 'him and me'; unnecessarily peppering 'like', 'you see', 'you know' and 'OK' throughout a conversation; and dropping the final 'g' from words ending in 'ing'. Of course this may appear pedantic, but there is a more serious side to what comes out of our mouths. And that is the almost relentless assault on our senses by the use of vulgar swearing, once strictly censored out of the media. The modern trend that anything goes is upsetting and insulting to many people. Television (and the internet) is now a purveyor of obscene language every day of the year---the

national broadcasters, ABC and SBS, being the worst offenders, neither apparently censoring anything out. Whatever is said in interviews or documentaries is broadcast over the airwaves completely unhindered. A recent survey was conducted in Britain after monitoring found that the F-word and its derivatives were used 88 times in a single week's evening television viewing. The survey showed that the public find certain words offensive and that comedy programs are too vulgar. And, no doubt, many of the Australian public agrees. Although the general feeling among speech libertarians is that words are only words---that "sticks and stones will break my bones but words will never hurt me"---they are so wrong. Words are the very essence of communication, of human interaction and a major contributor for either good or evil. Words can build up; words can tear down and destroy. Jesus emphasised the importance of words and the need for their careful use: "I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the Day of Judgment". Furthermore, the erosion of language standards is a graphic reflection of our low regard for decent, worthy moral values.

Sloppy Morality.

Moral rot is revealed by the words of our mouths. It is clearly manifested in the gutter language that we condone and eventually adopt for ourselves. It is time to say NO to the insidious canker of foul and degrading language that is at work in our midst polluting both young and old alike. The fact of the matter is that sloppy dress, sloppy language and sloppy morals all go together. In our hearts we are what we appear on the outside. And who could deny that our morals are at best suspect, at worst deplorable. In fact, Western standards of dress, language and morality shout DECADENCE to the rest of the world. We have declined into a *fun culture*, a hedonistic realm of unbridled irresponsibility, where today's criteria for almost anything are based on feelings, not moral principles. In our deluded condition we have allowed a litany of social and moral ills to permeate our culture over the last few decades: Abortion, once regarded as a shameful crime, is now seen as a woman's right. Divorce, once relatively rare, is now commonplace. Extramarital sex, once strongly frowned upon, is accepted as normal behaviour. And homosexuality, once a criminal offence, is now brazenly paraded in the public arena. Believe it or not, we shall surely pay a heavy price for our folly. The destruction of a nation, an empire or a civilisation is wrought by internal decay. For God is not mocked: we reap what we sow!

Wickedness Abounds

As a nation Australia is rapidly losing its Christian heritage and with it the high moral standards that made us great. Each year our nation slides further down the path of promiscuity and profanity, pornography and perversion. Wickedness abounds, largely unpunished, and truth, honesty, and integrity are casualties as selfishness, greed and lies dominate too much of our thoughts and actions. Unfortunately, we have lost the core Christian values which set the standard for our code of conduct. Worse, many ordinary citizens of this fair land mock God, wilfully or in ignorance flouting His divine laws. They do not worship Him as Creator; they do not accept His gift of salvation offered by His Son on the Cross of Calvary; they treat His commands with either apathetic disdain or spiritual disobedience; they even scoff at His messengers and their message. Wake up, Australia! The Word of God solemnly warns us: "Whenever I speak concerning a nation...to pluck up, to pull down and to destroy it, if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I planned to bring upon it". Yes, God is merciful. He will forgive all our foolish, wicked ways if we will sincerely repent and turn back to Him. As we begin a new year, what better time to resolve to correct our sloppy image, in dress, language and morality? Though the hour is late in terms of these being the last days, there is still time to confess to our heavenly Father that, like the Prodigal Son, we "have sinned against heaven and in Your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called Your son". In a spiritual sense He will kill the fatted calf and prepare a feast, "for this my son (nation) was dead and is alive again; he was lost but now is found".

PRAYER

Loving, Eternal Father, the GREAT I AM, as Your army of watchmen and warriors, in love with JESUS CHRIST and yielded to Your Holy Spirit; He triumphed over all the wicked schemes of the devil. Thank You, O Lord, that Christ in us is the hope of glory and that through Him we have power to lay the axe of the Holy Spirit to our country's disobedience to Your laws, that with the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit, we can stand against the ungodly trends of our society in sloppy dress, language and morals. Holy Father, thank You for releasing Your River of Life to sweep all leaders, parents and children into Your Kingdom through repentance, faith and obedience to Christ. Indeed, O Lord, grant our sloppy society divine forgiveness for Your Holy Spirit to transform them into servants of the Living God, eager to enthrone JESUS CHRIST King of kings and Lord of lords of this Great Southland of the Holy Spirit, to the glory of Almighty God. Amen.

RA: Led by our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify the Fatherhood of God with the Brotherhood of Man; in love and in faithfulness to bring glory and honour to His holy name.

REJOICE IN COVENANT PRAYERS FULLY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT DAILY FOR AUSTRALIA'S REVIVAL.