

SAVE AMERICA Ministries
Presents the Year 2003 Edition
The SPIRITUAL STATE of the UNION
Connecting the Christian Dis-connect
DIAGNOSIS and PRESCRIPTION

America's Spiritual Health Chart

- **Truth** - 96% believe in God - but - 91% lie regularly.
- **Morality** - 78% believe we have severe moral decline - yet - 96% believe they are doing good job in teaching children moral values - and - only 11% believe their life or ways have anything to do with moral decline. "Morality, ethics and dishonesty" were named by the Gallup Poll in 2001 as the "top problem facing the nation."
- **Family** - Highest divorce rate in the world - 48 million children murdered (by abortion) since 1973 - 33% of all children born illegitimate. Cohabitation increased 1000% since 1960 and 72% since 1990.
- **Peace** - Most violent of all industrialized nations - Rage is all the rage . . . road rage, air rage, outrage, school rage.
- **Religion** - Most religious of all industrialized nations - George Gallup declared America, "A nation of Biblical illiterates." We have become a polytheistic nation with a new multi-faith religion. TIME Magazine declared, "In So Many God's We Trust."

America's "Christian" Health Chart (Vital Signs)

- **Truth** - 78% of mainline Christians - 66% of "born-again" Christians do not believe in absolute truth. Only 9% of Christian youth and 4% of non-Christian youth embrace absolute truth.
- **Professed Faith** - 75% claim to be "Christian" in moral precept (a drop of 10% in one decade) - 45% claim to be "born-again" - 10% claim to be "evangelical."
- **Morality** - 75% of "Born again" Christians lie regularly and consciously - 18% of all abortions are among evangelicals - "No observable differences between moral behavior of professing Christians and rest of America." (Barna & Gallup) Relativism is now wrapped in a religious robe and declared righteous.
- **Family** - Divorce rate among "born-again" Christians exceeds nation by 4% - Divorce rate among "Bible-belt" exceeds nation by 50%. 90% of all divorces among Christians occurred after they came to Christ (Barna Report August 6, 2000).

America's Spiritual Health Diagnosis

- Jesus may be "Savior" but SELF is king.
- American "Christians" do not worship the God of the Bible, but "a custom-made God, one made in their own image". (TIME April 3, 1992). We have pernicious anemia at best. Most are in a moral coma, and many are on the verge of spiritual rigor mortis.
- American "Christians" have spiritual cancer as a result of a diet of pop-Gospel and pop-psychology from pastors and parachurch leaders who pandered to their tastes rather than promoting God's TRUTH.
- American "Christians" are addicted to feeling good and must receive increasingly more virile forms of feel-good spirituality to release their resources, to fund the voracious appetites of mega-ministries that continue to manufacture GOS-PILLS of pop psychology and pop theology to be marketed to a people who worship their feelings while forsaking their faith.
- American "Christians" think they are rich and have need of nothing, but are, in reality, "wretched, poor, and naked." (Rev. 3:17)
- American Christianity has become "like people, like priest," a symbiotic system of self-support that lacks life support.
- **FINAL DIAGNOSIS** - Belief IN God is killing America.
- Hint for our healing - God does not care if we believe IN Him. Rather, He requires that we BELIEVE Him. Even the devils believe "in" God and tremble. (James 2:19) If Christians would enter the Promised Land, we must leave Egypt and obey God. (Jer. 7:22-28)

Correct and Consistent Diagnosis May Help Correct the Christian Disconnect

George Gallup's Diagnosis

- "Evidence suggests . . . the percentage of the populace with a deep, transforming, lived-out faith is far smaller than overall percentages on religious belief would seem to indicate."
- "There is an ethics gap - the difference between the way we think of ourselves and the way we actually are."
- "There is a knowledge gap - the gap between American's stated faith and their lack of the most basic knowledge about that faith."
- "There is a decoupling of belief and practice." We have, "a belief in God, but a lack of trust in God."

George Barna's Diagnosis

- For those who believe America is a Christian nation, "never have so many been so deceived."
- "For close to two decades . . . Christians have had an alarming lack of impact on the national culture as a direct

- outgrowth of their faith,” because, “relatively few committed Christians model authentic, biblical Christianity . . .”
- “There has been a growing amount of discussion about the spiritual revival that is allegedly taking place in America, but there is no statistical evidence to support those contentions.”

America’s Response to 9/11 Attack

Initially, church attendance increased by 10%. Within 3 months, by January 2002, church attendance dropped and attitudes became more entrenched in “business as usual.” All pollsters have concluded that 9/11 events have no lasting positive effect. The actual effect was to inoculate America against genuine Spiritual Revival.

Our viewpoint of ourselves is vastly different than reality reveals. What viewpoint do you suppose God has? Viewpoint determines destiny. What does God expect from you, from me, from “we the people” in response?

Looking at God Through America’s Eyes

- “**Spirituality**” is the byword with 85% claiming to seek spiritual growth, while only 54% describe themselves as “religious” (Gallup Poll).
- Americans define spirituality as “something beyond oneself,” “seeking the inner self,” “reaching human potential,” “a mystical bond,” or “a calmness in my life” (George Gallup).
- “Never in the 60 year history of scientific polling have Americans been in such (apparent) agreement on a belief” as their belief in God as a universal spirit. In 1947, 94% believed in God; in 2000, 95% (Gallup Poll).
- 85% of Americans call themselves “Christian” (Barna Research).
- 45% Claim to be “born-again Christians” (George Gallup).
- 41% of adults attend church weekly, a figure plateaued for years (Barna Research).
- 26-33% of adults claim to read the Bible in a typical week (Barna Research and Gallup Poll).
- 93% own at least one Bible, the average family owns 4 (Gallup Poll).

Looking at America Through God’s Eyes

- Belief that the Bible is the actual Word of God has declined to 27%, “the lowest point ever recorded” (Gallup Poll). In 1963 the figure was 65%.
- 67% of teens say they feel the need for spiritual growth, 84% consider religious beliefs important, but 61% say they rely on SELF rather than God to solve life’s problems (Gallup Poll).
- 58% of Americans believe religion is losing its relevance (Gallup Poll), as compared to 75% in 1952.
- 75% of all adults do not believe in absolute truth; 90+% of teens reject absolute truth; and 2/3 of all “born-again” Christians contend there is no absolute truth (Barna Research).
- Divorced believers outnumber divorced non-believers 27% to 24%. The majority of divorce by Christians occurred after they were born-again (Barna Report). The divorce rate in America’s Bible Belt is 50% higher than the nation as a whole (Rutgers University Report). Yet God says He “hates” divorce and repeatedly calls it “treachery.”
- During the 90’s, a supposed heyday of spirituality, evangelical Christian adults dropped almost 50% (Barna Report).
- 32% of born-again Christians claim to tithe, but in reality only 8% do. Giving by born-again Christians declined 19% in 1999, the pinnacle of America’s prosperity. 16% of born-again Christians gave nothing to a church in 1999 (Barna Research).
- From 1968 to 1995, giving by mainline Protestants dropped from 3.3% to 2.9% of net income. During the same period, giving by evangelicals dropped from 6% to 4% of net income, a 33% drop (Empty Tomb Inc Research Group).

Prognosis and Prescription

- “Surveys reveal a nation where most claim to be religious but few take their faith seriously” (Newsweek).
- “Religious faith in America today appears to be a smorgasborg” with people picking and choosing what they want to believe (George Gallup).
- Americans believe IN God, but refuse to BELIEVE Him, resulting in progressive numbness to spiritual receptors.
- “We’ve lost the ability to care that people don’t know Jesus Christ” (Emerging Trends), a condition of grave myopia.
- Since Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there is your heart also,” giving among Christians reflects massive apostasy of the heart as well as advanced deception. Hardness of heart is a progressive and irremediable condition absent heart surgery.
- The last 50 years have been the most “churched” in American history, yet “a profound gulf exists between America’s avowed standards and observable realities of American life. George Gallup calls it “national schizophrenia.” We must seek the “Great Physician.”
- Profound compromise if not massive deception is the best way to describe American Christianity. 2/3 of American adults claim America to be a “Christian nation.” “Never have so many been so deceived” contends George Barna. Compromise is reversed only by repentance.
- “The absence of significant Christian influence in society is attributable to the fact that relatively few committed Christians model authentic, Biblical Christianity” (George Barna). We clearly are not following the Great Physician’s prescriptions for spiritual health.
- The churches of America face no greater challenge than overcoming Biblical illiteracy. The prospects are

- formidable. Our faith is not rooted in Scripture but in the allurements of modern life (Emerging Trends). The Scripture must become the scalpel of the Spirit for heart surgery rather than a Gos-pil to salve our symptoms.
- We are, in truth, “The Generation That Forgot God” (TIME, April 5, 1993). We have created new gods made in our own image.
 - ***Renewing the Soul of America*** through massive moral and spiritual revival is America’s ONLY hope! Might it begin with you?

Suggested Resources

- *Renewing the Soul of America* (2002) by Charles Crismier (Elijah Books)
- *Emerging Trends*, George Gallup
- Barna Research

SAVE AMERICA MINISTRIES

A Voice to the Church, A Vision for the Nation

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