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THE DECLINE OF CHRISTIAN CULTURE IN AMERICA

Most Americans claim to be Christians but most Americans do not live as a Christian:

In the United States, 80% of the people call themselves Christians and 72% claim to have a personal commitment to Jesus Christ, yet only 29% attend a church, prayed or read from the Bible within a given week. Only 16% said that the Christian faith was the highest priority in their lives.

4% of adults and 9% of born-again Christians (13% non-denominational, 2% main line) believe in a Biblical worldview.

The Biblical worldview is defined as believing that 1. Absolute moral truths exist, that such truth is defined by the Bible 2. Firm belief that Jesus Christ lived a sinless life 3. God is the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe and still rules today 4. Salvation is a gift from God and cannot be earned, 5. Satan is real, 6. A Christian has a responsibility to share their faith in Christ with other people and 7. The Bible is accurate in all of its teachings.

Born Again is defined as people who said they have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in their life today and who also indicated they believe that when they die they will go to Heaven because they have confessed their sins and have accepted Christ as their Savior.

Ref: Barna Group

The church is not successfully discipling and challenging its members to lead the "normal" Christian life. II Timothy 2:2 is not happening. Most people do not have a foundation of Christian truth and do not know how to lead the Christian life.

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The number of Bible-based Christians in America is rapidly decreasing:

Based on the following statistics (can vary dependent on definitions and polls), the Christian culture is declining rapidly.

Year Born	% Reached for Christ*	% Born-Again**
Builders (1927-1945)	65	44
Boomers (1946-1964)	35	42
Busters (1965-1983)	16	32
Bridgers (1984-2002)	4	20

*Ref: "The Bridger Generation" Thom Rainer

** The Barna Group

The biblical worldview in high school students has dropped from 11% to 4% in the last 10 years. Ref: BIOLA Connection

The decline in our Christian culture is most disturbing. It tells me that Christian parents are not discipling even their own children. Short of revival, at this rate, the Christian church in America will soon die as it is doing in Europe.

The Christian church is not attracting men:

The average Christian church is 61% female and 39% male. This percentage is higher in main line, Catholic and minority churches and less in non-denominational and larger churches. This statistic has been true for the last several centuries and is not true for other major religions such as Islam and Hinduism.

Aside from the pastor, women fulfill the vast majority of leadership roles in the church. Even the pastorate is changing, as seminaries are having more and more women attend (50% and climbing).

Of the men that are at church, their participation and commitment is lower. Women are 100% more likely to be discipled, 56% more likely to be in leadership, 33% more likely to volunteer, etc.

Ref: "Why Men Hate Going to Church", David Murrow, also see www.churchformen.org.

This helps explain why gender specific ministries and organizations like CSB are struggling. I believe this gender specific problem can only be solved with gender specific solutions.

Boys learn differently from girls:

In school, boys account for about 80% of high school dropouts, 70% of learning disabilities but only 45% of college enrollment

Ref: "The Mind of Boys" Gurian & Stevens

Boys do not learn in the same way as girls. Boys (and girls) learn better in a gender specific environment.

Conclusions:

The relevance of a ministry like CSB Ministries is clear. The goals and purposes of CSB are vitally needed.

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