

# **AFTER THE SHOOTINGS -- LOOK TO CULTURE, NOT POLITICS**

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The nation must now endure another gut-wrenching tragedy, with at least 31 having been senselessly gunned down in Texas and Ohio over a weekend.

This following a week where three were gunned down in California.

My appeal is to consider these tragedies a crisis of culture and not to turn them into politics, which is already happening.

I'm thinking about the words of Robert F. Kennedy when he spoke to a crowd in Indianapolis in April 1968, after hearing the news that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had been murdered.

"In this difficult day, in this difficult time for the United States, it is perhaps well to ask what kind of a nation we are and what direction we want to move in," said Kennedy. He himself would be assassinated shortly thereafter.

Kennedy appealed to Americans to move away from "polarization" and "hatred" and toward "love and wisdom and compassion."

It is a great temptation to simplify what is complex, and this tends to mean translating everything into politics, looking for some particular individual to blame and

looking for some simple policy answer that will allegedly solve the problem.

But these tragedies are not simple and not partisan.

They have occurred too often in our nation and have occurred under Democratic as well as Republican regimes.

There is a sickness in the soul of our nation, and that sickness plays its way through and winds up expressed in deadly, pathological acts of lonely, lost, confused individuals -- disproportionately, young males.

We must try to grasp the nature of this pathology and consider how it may be addressed.

If we look, we can see other telling symptoms.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the rate of suicide in the nation is the highest since 1942.

From 1999 to 2017, the suicide rate increased 33 percent, and in 2016, suicide was the second leading cause of death in the age range of 10 to 34.

The rate of suicide among young men is more than three times higher than that of young women.

On the other side of the spectrum, while young Americans are taking their own lives at an increasing rate, fewer are bringing new life into the world.

The CDC reports that in 2018, for the fourth year in a row, the nation's fertility rate -- the number of births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44 -- dropped and hit a historic low.

And this has occurred coincidentally with a drop in the rate of marriage. The percentage of American adults

who are married is one-third less than where it stood half a century ago.

Nicholas Eberstadt of the American Enterprise Institute has written about the huge exit of prime-age males -- 25 to 54 -- from the workforce. In 1965, according to Eberstadt, 96.6 percent of prime-age males were working. Now it's 88.5 percent, meaning millions of prime-age males have abandoned the workforce.

All this has occurred as Christianity, once a pillar of American society, has been pushed to the margins.

Per Gallup, in 1974, 65 percent of Americans expressed "a great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in the church or organized religion. By 2019, this was down to 36 percent.

**Faith** builds a sense of belonging to something true and greater than oneself. It provides meaning and an anchor in times of difficulty and uncertainty.

**As faith and eternal truths become more marginalized, more young people, particularly young males, become isolated and left with a sense of meaninglessness.** They lose the key framework through which one takes personal responsibility for his or her life.

**It produces an inclination to look for others to blame for their difficulties, for their personal struggles. Sometimes it becomes violent.**

There is a great price to be paid for a culture of meaninglessness.

This is what we should be thinking and talking about, rather than simple political answers and who to blame.

# JUDIE BROWN SPEAKS OUT ON MASS SHOOTINGS: AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH

By [Judie Brown](#)

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Mass shootings in America are unacceptable. We as a people are better than this. The reality of a culture that is sinking further and further into decay and violence is real. Accept it or not, it's happening with or without your agreement.

Many Americans agonize over their fitness and physical health. We go to great lengths to eat the right things, to exercise, and to develop good habits. As the saying goes, you are what you consume. But we are not paying enough attention to what we allow into our minds and into the minds of our children. As a society, we have allowed violence to become the primary thing we entertain ourselves with and consume. This includes movies, television shows, video games, and music that are all as graphic, immoral, and violent as they can possibly be. We now have generations of young people who have grown up consuming death and who are numb to the reality of violence.

We have allowed the family as defined by God to be "recreated" in the image and likeness of a pagan society.

Like it or not, believe it or not, this does violence to the soul and disorders the family.

We have allowed pornography and the dehumanization and objectification of women, men, and children to be at the instant access of every human being living in our nation. The twisting and perverting of minds young and old is now a relentless torrent growing larger, stronger, and more ferocious by the second. The cost it is incurring is incalculable.

And we allow it. We do nothing. We elect people who do nothing.

We have allowed God and morality to become the enemy of "popular culture." God is not needed by many in America until someone opens fire in a public place.

Children have become a commodity – disposed of and slaughtered in the womb up until the moment of birth if we so choose. Yet we do nothing.

Sin is oftentimes its own punishment. Sin never delivers on its promise of something better. Sin can never be fed enough. Sin destroys, sin kills, and sin deceives.

America consumes death, and whether it's the entertainment industry, the abortion industry, the growing euthanasia industry, the pornography industry, or the "political class industry," the common denominator is that these industries only care about feeding us death and having us pay for it.

God's people need to WAKE THE HELL UP.

- Vote for no one who supports death.
- Give your money to no one who supports death.
- Pray with your family every day.
- Expunge the instruments of death from your household.
- Evangelize from the rooftops, and be not afraid.
- If Christian men and women lived their faith, America would not be Ground Zero for the culture of death.
- Live your life on purpose for Christ. America has spent the last 50 years trying it without Him, and hell has filled the void. Be not afraid.

The answer to stopping mass shootings is to expunge the culture of death from our daily lives, from our homes, and from our country. Then and only then – when we respect life, respect each other, and follow Christ – will we have a society where this unspeakable horror is truly rare and unthinkable.

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