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IT'S A MORAL THING

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-- *Commentaries from past newsletters – July 2008*

A recent meeting of the National Minority AIDS Council met to decide what to do about the increasing incidence of AIDS in the African American population. African Americans are 13 times more likely to have AIDS than any other ethnic group. Over 500,000 are living with the infection and over 200,000 have died. When a group of leaders met to decide what to do about it, they came up with five policy solutions that address the increasingly disproportionate impact HIV/AIDS is having on the African American community. These are as follows:

1. We have to eliminate marginalization of, and stigma and discrimination against black gay and other men who have sex with men.
2. Reduce incarceration as a driver of new HIV infections.
3. Reduce the role of injection drug use in sustaining the AIDS epidemic.
4. Expand proven HIV prevention and diagnosis and care programs
5. Stabilize communities by increasing affordable housing

The authors of these recommendations believe that these steps will seriously affect the current epidemic.

It seems incongruous to me that these black leaders are not perspicacious enough to see

that these recommendations totally miss the point. It seems to me that all of their recommendations, perhaps except one, either cannot be accomplished or will fail to influence the problem. If we take them one by one we can point out the fallacy of their thinking.

First, HIV is not spread because of marginalization, stigma or discrimination. **It is spread by sexual intercourse.** This is true whether the sex is with the same or opposite sex persons. Homosexuals and heterosexuals do not consistently use condoms when they have sex. In one study it was found that a group of homosexuals had unprotected sex with over fifty different partners during the first five years after they were diagnosed with HIV. If this is true, one can extrapolate the incidence to a lifetime where they demonstrate their promiscuity by having sex with at least 500 different partners. They may use condoms with some but not all, and they will surely spread it around if they have it. It is also a fact the HIV can be spread by oral contact too. People rarely use condoms with oral sex.

Second, blacks are disproportionately represented in the prison population because they disproportionately commit crimes that lead to incarceration. They break the law because they do not develop character in their youth. Most are illegitimate and are reared without a father. Fathers are the primary disciplinarians in a boy's youth, and if they are absent the boys do not develop self-discipline. The end result is they are lured into gangs and groups that set their beliefs to evil. This leads them into crime. They, in time, end up in jail. Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck demonstrated years ago that delinquency in children was related primarily to an absent father and the lack of a philosophy to live by.

They also studied a group of non-delinquents. They were out of the ghetto twenty years later, whereas the delinquents were still there. The philosophy that took them out of the ghetto was Christianity and they had fathers who loved them and taught them how to be moral.

Third, has anyone been able to reduce injection drug use by any secular means? No! The statistics are miserable. Alcoholism and drug addiction are spiritual diseases and only have a spiritual cure. Teen Challenge has demonstrated conclusively in their Christian oriented ministry that they can be permanently cured. One cannot keep people from using drugs by education, persuasion, or threats. I know from personal experience, having treated hundreds in my lifetime. Only when I used spiritual treatment was I ever successful.

There is a the belief in the social science world that if we give drug addicts clean needles they will not spread HIV. That is a fallacy. All one has to do is to watch drug addicts share a fix, and you will see that they draw infected blood back into the syringe. A clean needle makes little difference for the blood is also in the neck of the syringe and the solution. When they inject the drug that blood is all it takes to infect.

There is no question that expanded HIV prevention, diagnosis, and care will help. This was demonstrated in Uganda where the infection rate was profoundly reduced by teaching abstinence. This can work with heterosexuals, but will it work with homosexuals? The answer is no! You cannot get many homosexuals to be abstinent. I truly have never met

one that was abstinent for very long, and I have had over 500 consult with me about their problem. Even when they establish a union, they are still promiscuous. Also, it is a sad commentary that most secular social scientists object violently to abstinence programs and discount their success.

Finally, we have provided affordable housing for years and the epidemic still goes on in the affordable housing. Housing has nothing to do with promiscuity and immorality. Housing does not affect ones sex drive or outlets. You have promiscuity in high and low rent districts. Highly promiscuous persons are more likely to contract HIV because they are less discriminating in choosing their partners. They take their sex where they can get it.

The Apostle Paul said that this world's wisdom is foolishness. This is a sagacious statement if there ever was one. Having worked in the field of human behavior for 62 years, I have had to evaluate human 'wisdom' constantly. As a medical practitioner and social scientist, I have observed that what the "world" thinks is truth is often times really foolishness. People are enthusiastic about the most recent discovery or pronouncement based on research, only to find that it is not true some time later. They have computer models for all kinds of things, and produce predictions based on the use of these models. Then we find that they are wrong. Their predictions do not come true.

Biological scientists take any new discovery and try to use it to "prove" evolution. Then on minimal evidence they make grandiose pronouncements about discovering missing links, etc. If you inspect their data, you find that it does not prove the entire theory. As a biological

scientist I have to say when I read their pronouncements I take many of them *cum grano salis*. Evolution is not a proven theory and probably never will be.

Astrophysicists are trying to find water on Mars. They believe that where there is water there must have been life. If there is life on other planets then the earth and mankind are not unique. One might suspect that they want to prove that this planet is not a unique creation of God, and that life and man are not uniquely created either. They find methane and other organic molecules on one of the moons of Saturn and speculate that because of its presence there might be life. They are also spending large sums of money trying to communicate with other life (?) in the universe. The effort is motivated by the same desire. So far they have had no luck. Much of science is based on minimal data and massive speculation.

Why am I writing this? The answer is that we have turned our back on God and have made science a god. We do not have to chase after Baals, or Molech, or Astarte, or other pagan gods. When we worship science we become our own god! Science is nothing more than unraveling the work of God and discovering its mechanics, but it does not prove that he did not do creation. We do not know how he did it for his thoughts are higher than our thoughts, but there is no question in our mind that he did design and create it.

In addition, he told us how to live life by giving us his laws. Jesus did not do away with these laws; he only gave us the power to obey them. Our relationship with him makes us a moral person. He knows that we have the propensity to disobey them, for the drives of our

human nature needs to be satisfied. Therefore, we covet, we lust, commit adultery, and fornicate. We become prideful, and make ourselves the god of our lives. We are gluttonous, get angry and hate; we are slothful, and we reject the lordship of our creator. But even if we know him we do not maintain the relationship by praying, reading his word and celebrating communion. We envy others, and we are greedy. All of us disobey one or the other of the seven deadly sins almost on a daily basis. Sadly, we do not confess our sins and repent to be cleansed of our unrighteousness. We do, therefore, quench or grieve the Holy Spirit and are impotent servants.

In spite of the fact we know we are unworthy servants, we continue to sit idly by; while the world perishes we go our purposeless and passionless way day after day. We believe we can rely on the world's wisdom and its foolishness. It does not work! We need to repent and turn back to the living God.