

Law & Awe

Series: In God We Trust

July 19, 2015

INTRODUCTION

It seems as if more and more, what we're currently seeing in our nation is a gradual distancing of *God-talk* or any *mention of God* whatsoever within the public and political arenas. The reality is, having God as a part of our national conversation has fallen out of favor. And it's not simply because of what popular culture tells us, or because of the laws passed by our government. But perhaps the real reason is because we as a nation have become so affluent, to the point, where it has smothered our sense of gratitude, accountability and trust in God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are you the type of person that would drive through a red light in the middle of the night if there were no other cars around? On the flip side, how do we know the right thing to do when there is no law?
2. Proverbs 30:8-9 speaks about dependence on God. Why do you think people tend to neglect God during times of affluence?
3. In the Old Testament, God gave the people of Israel numerous laws and regulations. However, their national conscience shaped by primarily by their relationship with the LORD God. Do you think that a nation needs a relationship with God, or can it succeed with simply a perfect set of laws?
4. Read Deuteronomy 8:17-18. Affluence and prosperity does not often work well in producing a sense of humility and gratitude. Based on these verses do you agree or disagree with this? Why?
5. Israel failed to remember the LORD. They neglected the Law and began worshipping worthless idols. As a result they were taken into captivity by other nations. Do you think that this Old Testament warning has any contemporary significance or relevance for us? Why or why not?
6. If we eliminate God from the national conversation, what else might begin to shape the national conscience? In what ways can that be a positive or a negative thing?

CONCLUSION

Although our society and culture, and the way we do things is different now than it was 60 years ago, the basis of our national conscience is still the same. We are still a nation that needs the favor and the blessing of God, and we are a nation in desperate need of the Lord our God. We, as God's people, need to boldly invite Him back into our national conversation and awareness. As a nation, we need to come back to this sense of accountability, trust, and gratitude to our Creator.

"But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today." – Deuteronomy 6:18