

Time is filled with swift transition, naught of earth  
unmoved can stand. Build your hopes on things  
eternal, hold to God's unchanging hand.

This was a subject of an op-ed piece in the  
Philadelphia Inquirer on Aug 9, 2017

In part it reads – We then discussed the “cultural script”—a list of behavioral norms—that was almost universally endorsed between the end of World War II and the mid-1960s:

Get married before you have children and strive to stay married for their sake. Get the education you need for gainful employment, work hard, and avoid idleness. Go the extra mile for your employer or client. Be a patriot, ready to serve the country. Be neighborly, civic-minded, and charitable. Avoid coarse language in public. Be respectful of authority. Eschew substance abuse and crime.

These norms defined a concept of adult responsibility that was, we wrote, “a major contributor to the productivity, educational gains, and social coherence of that period.” The fact that the “bourgeois culture” these norms embodied has broken down since the 1960s, we argued, largely explains today’s social pathologies—and re-embracing that culture would go a long way toward addressing those pathologies.

Where did these “norms’ come from?

The Bible

Get married before you have children –

Heb 13:4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

strive to stay married for their sake

Mal 2:14-15 ... Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. (15) Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.

Get the education you need for gainful employment  
Paul worked at a trade he had been taught  
somewhere.

Act 18:2-4 And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, (3) and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. (4) And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

work hard, and avoid idleness

2Th 3:7 For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, (8) nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. (9) It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. (10) For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. (11) For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies.

Go the extra mile for your employer or client.

Eph 6:7 rendering service with a good will as to  
the Lord and not to man,



Be a patriot, ready to serve the country.

Rom 13:1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

Be neighborly,

Rom 12:16-17 Live in harmony with one another.  
Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly.  
Never be wise in your own sight. (17) Repay no  
one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is  
honorable in the sight of all.

civic-minded,

1Ti 2:1-2 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, (2) for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

## Charitable

1Ti 6:17-18 As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

(18) They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,

Avoid coarse language in public

Eph 5:3 ... as is proper among saints. (4) Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

Be respectful of authority.

Rom 13:1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

Eschew substance abuse and crime.

Gal 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, (20) idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, (21) envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Eschew substance abuse and crime.

Concerning crime, the Scriptures are emphatic --  
1Co 6:9-10 Or do you not know that the  
unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?  
Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral,  
nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who  
practice homosexuality, (10) nor thieves, nor the  
greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers  
will inherit the kingdom of God.



You might ask if the readers of the Philadelphia agreed with, “The fact that the “bourgeois culture” these norms embodied has broken down since the 1960s, we argued, largely explains today’s social pathologies—and re-embracing that culture would go a long way toward addressing those pathologies.”

We can’t be sure whether this obvious change in culture is recognized by other than a small portion of the people of Philadelphia.

We can be sure about the position of 33 of the writer's Law School colleagues, as they replied in the Daily Pennsylvania, and "categorically rejected" all her views. They further called for the students to "monitor" her and report any "stereotyping and bias" they might perceive.

Her Dean said she needed to "rethink what she had written and understand the hurt [she] had inflicted."

Ms Wax asked for “free and open debate in a civil manner” which she said is the “American way.”

Obviously a civil debate isn't the “American way” anymore. But it is the Bible way -- 2Co 5:11  
Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.

1Pe 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

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I thought it rather nice that there was an op-ed in a major daily newspaper that stood for “Biblical” values.

2Co 5:18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, (19) namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. (20) Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

For those who are here who have not been  
reconciled to God, Rom 1:17 ... "BUT THE  
RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Mar 16:16 "He who has believed and has been  
baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved  
shall be condemned.

To those who have been reconciled - you have the  
word, are you God's ambassador to the world?

Why not now?