

SHALL THIS REPUBLIC STAND?

Is Our Culture Self-Destructive?

It brought us together for a moment. We wept as we watched it play out on television. We swelled with pride as we watched firefighters and law enforcement rush into a dust cloud, not knowing whether they would emerge, and many did not. We heard reports of individual heroism as persons gave up their lives to save another. We listened to the cell phone calls of husbands and wives saying their last farewells. We watched in horror as people jumped from burning buildings to certain death on the sidewalks below. Our culture was under attack.

We headed for our places of worship. We openly prayed. We embraced strangers in emotional responses. National pride swelled in our breast. Nationalism was exhibited everywhere one looked. Flags were more plentiful and were flown more often. Lapel pin flags were worn proudly. Patriotism was “in.” Political adversaries stood on the steps of the American Capitol and sang together. “Let’s Roll” became a national slogan. The American culture was on display.

Culture is how we view things and how we do things. Culture is what we, as a people, expect, give, reward, and punish. It is our “way,” our style, our very basis for interaction. Culture is the sum total of our established habits. And, it is culture, conscious or unconscious, that steers or propels us as a community toward an end result.

For a few moments, on 9/11 our way, our style, our established habits, our true and traditional culture surfaced and we were united. We were Americans and we were proud. But, as we remember 9/11 years later, one has to wonder, has our culture become self-destructive?

United By Values or Divided by Hyphen?

This nation and its culture was founded by people whose hearts and minds were energized by the hope of personal freedom and responsibility. They believed, taught, promoted, and shared values founded on Biblical principles. Upon their core values they built a cohesive and strong nation that has played a unique role in world history; a nation that has become the most powerful (by any standard) known by man; a nation that has served the world (by any standard) more nobly than any other. The Founders of this nation established a culture in which they were enabled, not entitled. Opportunities were sought, outcomes were not guaranteed.

Yet today our culture seems more an “association” of special interest groups held together by increasingly less cooperation and possessing a fading memory of our roots, strengths, and reason for

being. History is being rewritten in order to train younger generations to believe that the founders of this nation were wicked not wonderful, fiendish not faithful, defilers of freedom not defenders of freedom. A new culture has been introduced and is being advanced. The 9/11 event that brought us together, if only for a moment, is now a debated "issue" with some saying America deserved what it received and worse.

We are no longer attuned nor aligned for accomplishment. Autonomy is valued over accountability. Dissatisfaction and discontent is rampant. A condition we call, "Aggressive Apathy" has enveloped us. "I don't know and I don't care, as long as I get mine" has become the prevalent culture statement. It appears that the culture of today may well lead us to destruction.

The political conventions have just ended and the culture differences could not have been made any more obvious. The candidates continue to raise money at a pace never seen before. Media ads destroying the ideas, character, and whatever-else-is-necessary of opponents are saturating the airwaves. The culture war is on and America has never been more polarized in its history.

There is no argument that the ethnic composition of our nation has changed and continues to change rapidly. There is no question that our world has become "smaller" because of technology and we are more interdependent as nations and people groups than ever before in history. However, the culture of the hyphen that divides us is killing us.

The victims that were killed on 9/11 were not referred to as African-Americans, Italian-Americans, Polish-Americans, or any other "Something-dash-Americans" until media analysis began days later. Until that moment, those who died or were injured were simply "Americans." The unified reference is what brought us together and the hyphen reference is what is tearing us apart.

Can Our Culture Survive?

One of the goals of the perpetrators of the 9/11 attack was to disrupt the American economic system, the heart of our culture. The World Trade Center was chosen as a target because it was the economic hub of the world. The terrorists viewed (and still do) American success as unfair, corrupt, and something to be destroyed. The culture-envy political philosophy has an identical view.

Capitalism, as an economic system, is not perfect, but it has been proven again and again that it is far superior to any form of socialism. It was Winston Churchill who said, "The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings; the inherent virtue of socialism is the equal sharing of miseries."

Make no mistake, if allowed to prevail, European socialism will replace American capitalism and the economic goal of the extremists attacking in 2001 will be an accomplished fact. The victims of the 9/11 attack will have been just that, victims. There will be no ultimate good that will have come from their sacrifice. Likewise, the life of every Armed Forces hero given in the last decade to preserve our freedom

will have been for naught. Nothing less than our personal freedoms, our way of life, our traditional values, our economic system, our culture is at stake when you vote.

Shall this Republic Stand? It is up to you....

“Never Forget!”

By: Duane Miller, COO,
The Proud Americans