

Crusaders

To further illustrate the justification, and need, in my opinion, for Crusades, let's look at the corrupting influence of a rotten culture. We all do, in fact, have free will. No one can force us to act, or think, or will. But that does not mean that they cannot INFLUENCE these choices. We all, scientists and psychologists alike, understand and acknowledge the various influences that act upon our decision making processes.

We've all got internal influences, such as genetically hardwired predispositions and inherited character traits, then we each have various societal influences, which is what the particular environment you live in or were raised in feels you should do or be. Some may even call this 'peer pressure', the desire to fit in or gain acceptance from others, which may not be the same thing you would do in a different environment or without such influences.

Psychologists have argued which influence is stronger for decades, "Nature vs. Nurture" they frame the argument. Yet all of them accept the fact they both play an impact on what we decide to do, and when.

The combined total of a society's beliefs, values, ideals, etc, we label as a Culture. It's how we think, act, and operate. It defines who we are. It's what separates us from other peoples, nations, and religions. It's a form of 'groupthink', and we can see its evidence everywhere.

Now let's suppose that we really truly believe in the resurrection from the dead. That we will one day be judged for our actions in the body. And beyond that, that certain behaviors are harmful to us right here, in this mortal life. Why would we want to tolerate a culture that influenced our children or other members to make a decision that is harmful, both temporally and eternally to them? Would we not rightly perceive this as a threat to their security?

For example, and I'm not limiting this solely to the 'hip-hop' culture, it applies to several aspects of the decadence of American Culture. But to limit the discussion, let's look at the hip-hop scene. We have a pretty strong, viable sub-culture there that idealizes drug-dealing, prostitution, murder and gangbanging. I'm not going so far as to claim 'the music made me do it' excuse. Again, we all have free will. But if a whole genre glorifies and idealizes such behavior, can we not see how that would/does affect aspirations and decisions? There's a saying, 'Admiration leads to emulation'. Can we not see how, especially with young people, such deceptive glorification may cause them to have a false perception of reality?

Surely we don't hear them glorifying the consequences, long prison sentences, state executions, fatherless children, suicides, diseases...etc. We only see the false promises of a lifestyle that we know leads to slavery

and death.

The same can be said of mainstream culture. The whole materialistic me-me-me culture to impel to pursue money and wealth above family, nation, or neighbor. We can list the various destructive lifestyles modern day American culture celebrates and promotes all day long, but the point is that it is destructive and harmful, and furthermore, that it is exerting a negative influence on future generations.

The opposite could very well hold true. It is possible to use 'peer pressure' and culture to impel people to strive for virtues and Godly principles. We, as a nation, could once again create a culture that valued such principles as truthfulness, loyalty, self-sacrifice, integrity, and faithfulness. We could, in fact, discount and disdain those who willfully lived contrary to such things. We could just as easily, point out the negativity attached to drug abuse/distribution, prostitution, murder and gang banging as we are presently glorifying it. Can we not see how this would effect a younger generation? And what decisions they chose to make when presented with both sides of the story? As opposed to the lies and glamorizations that Hollywood and mainstream America presents to us? Can we not see that our world-leading prison population is a direct consequence of this?

Back to the Crusades. Some people say that to abolish such systems, through warfare if necessary, is evil. I dissent. I can think of nothing more beneficial to or for the survival of a generation and a people than the absolute destruction of those set on destroying them by any means possible, even those set on destroying them through lies and deceptions into an attempt to manipulate them into destroying themselves.

I agree that war should be a last resort, but sometimes when good arguments fail, there seems to be no other recourse. Sometimes the enemy is so dead set determined to destroy everything Holy, at their own personal gain and in pursuit of their own twisted deviant desires that they can only and must be opposed through armed conflict. I feel that we are rapidly approaching that point in American History now.

Some people say that war is wrong for any reason. Some people say only fools think we can get to heaven by waging war, some say that war can never be selfless or based on love...I disagree. I can think of no better justification than the minds and souls of future generations.