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The Coop Report...

Stop Signs, Proper English, & Moral Standards...

There was a time in the land we call home, where the Great Mammoth roamed and people used to stop at red lights and stop signs. People used to be less hurried, less anxious to get wherever it was they were going. Drivers actually honored the speed limits and stopped (*yes, fully stopped*) at red lights and stop signs and yielded to the traffic that had the right-of-way, because the law said they were supposed to do that. In this land, more often than not, people were actually civil to one another. Neighbors were friends you could count on…not just the "people next door" or the "people across the street."

The English language was spoken when all the words we needed were already in Webster's Dictionary. We didn't routinely invent new words like "snuck," when we were referring to someone who *sneaked* into the movie theater, or use the word, "done" when we telling our teacher that we had *completed* the test. We used "done" when we were referring to the moment we tested the turkey in the oven and announced that it was fully cooked and *ready* to eat. We were taught when it was proper to add an "er" to the end of an adjective and when we should prefix one with the word, "more" (i.e., "It was more chilly than I had thought, as opposed to it being "chillier".) Being an English Major, I grumble every time I pick up a newspaper or listen to a TV news broadcast.

What happened to those days? Just why were those days…*those days*? I suppose you need to be over 50 or so to really be able to remember how it was back then in that older land. If you're on the younger side of this demarcation line, I'll try to characterize "those days' that were remarkably different from our "todays"…

The way it was…

America used to be a *Christian* nation. Going to church at least every Sunday was a routine family affair. The old traditional hymns before, during, and after the worship service made for a reverent, soothing, and comforting service.

The typical American considered atheism and homosexuality a threat to the nation's moral fabric. School prayer during school and before sporting events was sanctioned and expected.

The pledge of allegiance was recited at school on a daily basis and the most awful thing a student did at school was chewing gum. Young men, on becoming 18 years of age, were required to register for the draft board and at one time or another, they had to serve at least two years in the military. Some of our folks built bomb shelters in the wake of the cold war with Russia and the Cuban Missile Crisis…others just learned how to hide under our school desks or "drop and cover" by way of our occasional "drills."

Men and women in America got married and *then* lived together under the same roof and *then* conceived children. Abortion was not considered an acceptable or convenient method of birth control for adults *or* teens (there were few out-of-wedlock babies). Teenagers showed respect for adults or got into BIG trouble. Teenagers didn't take drugs (I don't think they were invented until much later). Very few tried smoking cigarettes, drinking a beer, or engaging in pre-marital sex but those that did wound up getting caught and held accountable for their actions. Owning a car as a teen was a rare privilege.

Christmas decorations and Christmas toys didn't show up until the day *after* Thanksgiving; no one complained about a nativity scene display; and everyone joyfully said "Merry *Christ*mas" when meeting during the Christmas Season, not "Happy Holidays" or "Seasons Greetings." It was illegal to utter a profane word over the airwaves (radio or TV). Television commercials didn't talk about private things grownup people do or the personal things they may have to take care of to do the personal things they want to do. "Sex" wasn't used to sell anything on the radio or TV. Back then Hardees's hamburgers were sold using cartoon characters like *Speedy McGreedy* (or something like that).

Kids straight out of college had to start at the bottom rung of the corporate ladder and work their way up. CEO's and other executives in corporate America got paid a reasonable salary and some perks, but certainly not the Crown Jewels…*not even a stone or two*.

I think there are a lot of reasons why America departed

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company with "those days," but I think it all began when our country decided that we should be more tolerant of the minority interests in our nation, not the racial issues, but the ones that gave people the "right" to do what they believe is right for them (e.g., "to do as they please"), regardless of the majority's interests. This theory of "relativism" (what's "true" for you, may not be "true" for me) has been forced down America's throat by the liberal activists since the 60's.

Fueled by the misguided "interpretation' of the 1st Amendment, this *individualism* has since caused our nation to lose is reputation as a nation bearing the fruits of integrity, ethics, and decency. The *individual* has been granted the freedom to be or do almost anything they desire...you know, like running red lights and stop signs. Unfortunately, these "rights" of the minority go much beyond running red lights and stop signs. At the forefront, America has been forced to run the stop signs and red lights of moral accountability...(what's "true" for you, may not be "true" for me). God is no longer allowed in the classrooms of our schools...(what's "true" for you, may not be "true" for me). Baby Jesus is no longer allowed in the Manger Scene during the Christmas season…(what's "true" for you, may not be "true" for me) and babies in America can be legally killed in their mother's wombs as a form of birth control...(what's "true" for you, may not be "true" for me). Did you know that statistically, 85% of all abortions are performed as a means of birth control?

Continuing the downward spiral…

As if abortions aren't bad enough, mothers are now killing their children *after* they've been born. Fathers, too, are killing their children, or their wives (or both) and wives and mothers are doing likewise. Unfortunately, we cannot leave out the children in this scenario… children are killing their mothers, their fathers, their siblings, their schoolmates, and their teachers.

People of all kinds are spending more time worshipping their material treasures than God, the benefactor of our very lives and all that we have.

Legalizing moral decay…

Judges and legislators have made us accept a relative perspective on what is morally acceptable and what is not. Today, laws protect the "rights" of people to behave in ways that are leading to America's self-destruction. We are told that the homosexual lifestyle is now an acceptable way of life in our society; we are told that we must accept people of the same sex getting married or being legally "joined"; and we are even made to accept homosexual couples rearing children of their own.

Under the protection of "free speech," violent-themed video games permeate our store shelves and the bookshelves in children's bedrooms where kids get to shoot policemen, steal cars, blow people to bits, and score points for doing it.

> *"In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit."*
>
> Judges 21:25

(…and there was no God in the land of America and the people did as they pleased.)

> *"As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord…"*
>
> Joshua 24:15

"The Lord said to Moses,

'How long will these people treat me with contempt. How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them? I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them…'"

Numbers 14: 11-12 (NIV)