

CULTURAL APOLOGETIC SERIES



Where the Battle Rages

The Sexualizing of America

By S. Michael Craven

Understanding the origin of the Sexual Revolution and its impact on the family, society and the advance of the Gospel.

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Introduction

by Daniel E. Panetti, Esq.

It is my prayer that the piece you are about to read will not only change the way you think about the culture, but also, and more importantly, inspire you to think seriously about your role in changing the world in which you live.

In preparation for this booklet, author Michael Craven has delved deeply into God's Word and explored thoroughly the lives of history's saints to develop answers to questions few Christians today even ponder. Why in recent decades has the Church become irrelevant in society? Why are we more influenced *by* the culture than influencers *of* the culture?

Sadly, it is not the postmodern way of thinking that we fight, but rather the postmodern Church. It is not the relativistic culture that prohibits change, it is the relativistic Church – a body that claims to have a form of godliness but denies its power. We have become a Church that Francis Schaeffer described as being more concerned with personal peace and affluence than the issues facing the next generation.

How did the Church in America become such a weak, defeated, irrelevant body in a country founded on Judeo-Christian principles? Michael answers that question in *Where the Battle Rages: The Sexualizing of America*. Ultimately, the engine that has driven the train off the tracks is fueled by the battle to redefine sexual ethics. G.K. Chesterton, C.S. Lewis and Dorothy Sayers said the same thing to their generation in Western Europe almost a century ago. They too encountered a relativistic Church unwilling to take a stand for truth. As the morals were loosened concerning sexual ethics, the moral foundations crumbled; all truth became relative including the moral and spiritual truths of the Gospel. The Church was relegated to matters of religion and today many Christians have even given up that ground.

Michael has brought a whole new dimension to the battle for sexual ethics – understood in its proper context, this *is* the battle for the Church of America today. The National Coalition for the Protection of Children & Families is not simply an anti-pornography organization or even a pro-decency movement. Rather, we are God's people calling God's children back to God's standards of truth and righteousness in the area of sexuality. And we believe that when God's children truly understand this issue and what is at stake, they will get engaged in this great conflict for truth. To that end, we have transformed our organization to

NATIONAL COALITION FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES

The National Coalition for the Protection of Children & Families aims to equip and empower Christians to take an offensive position in the battle for truth that is being waged in the area of sexual ethics. The organization's vision is for people of faith to stand against the sexualized messages of the culture and become positive agents for cultural change. Through targeted programs, it offers meaningful opportunities for Christians to positively influence the world in which they live. Established in 1984, the National Coalition provides a thoughtful rationale for developing a Christian worldview regarding matters of biblical sexuality and moral truth.



S. Michael Craven joined the National Coalition after serving as the executive director of the Dallas-based Center for Decency, which merged with the National Coalition in 2003. In his role as vice president for Religious and Cultural Affairs, Michael leads the Dallas office of the National Coalition while offering a unique perspective on the spiritual and social implications of the sexualized culture to a national audience. Michael has appeared as a featured guest on national radio and television programs, is the author of numerous articles and essays and speaks from the pulpit to numerous churches and civic groups on the sexualized culture and its messages and the role of the Church in shaping public policy and the moral consensus.

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