

Editorial / Opinion

Family & Marriage

“RELIGION OF WOKISM IS TRYING TO CRUSH ALL OTHERS”

By Bill Connor

At the 2023 Grammy Awards, Americans were shown the power of the new religion of wokism. As described by the American Family Association: “Pfizer pharmaceutical company felt it fitting to sponsor performers Sam Smith, who claims to be non-binary, and Kim Petras, who claims to be transgender. These two gave the nation a Satan-themed performance of their song ‘Unholy,’ in which Petras performed inside a cage with drag queens dressed in devil costumes, while Smith gyrated in a costume with devil horns sticking out from a top hat.” <https://www.afa.net/activism/action-alerts/2023/grammys-cbs-and-pfizer-bring-satanic-worship-performance-to-national-television/>. In anticipation of what amounts to Satan

worship, CBS tweeted out “We are ready to worship!”. <https://www.christianpost.com/news/cbs-deletes-worship-tweet-promoting-sam-smith-unholy-grammys-performance.html>. The ultimate woke commentator, Joy Reid, on the ultimate woke media source, MSNBC, had this to say about it “The culture wars are over, and the Left won”. <https://www.mediaite.com/tv/msnbc-joy-reid-glee-fully-declares-culture-wars-are-over-after-grammys-the-left-won/>. Though Reid appears to be claiming victory over “culture”, the Left is actually establishing their religion wokism as the true victory. It’s time to call out wokism as religion, and demand it be prevented from suppressing all others. Let me explain.

First, though progressives don’t admit to it being religion, wokism holds the character-



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istics of a non-theistic religion as recognized in the US Code. Under Title VII religion can be defined as “(non-theistic) moral or ethical beliefs as to what is right and wrong which are sincerely held with the strength of traditional religious views” <https://www.cbp.gov/faqs/what-religion-under-title-vii#:~:text=Religious%20beliefs%20include%20theistic%20beliefs,particular%20beliefs%20in%20favor%20of>. Those holding to woke ideology clearly have sincere “faith” (regardless of direct evidence) in beliefs with the strength of other religions. They firmly believe America is systemically racist, despite any direct evidence that is now the case. They believe minorities (oppressed) have gnostic understanding of racism/sexism/homophobia/etc. that alleged “oppressors” do not and cannot. They hold that “oppressor” individuals possess privilege regardless of evidence. They believe wokism will “win” and create a future utopia. Many believe traditional societal structures like the church, nuclear (man-woman) families, law enforcement hold back their utopia. Professor of Politics, Dr. James M. Patterson, has written about this dynamic concisely: “Wokeness has an unconventional understanding of divinity that tends to disguise its religiosity from those accustomed to monotheism; in fact, the notion may not be fully recognized among its practitioners themselves. For the woke, identity is the source of divinity. Yet individuals are not divine on their own; they only participate in the divinity found in shared group identities.” <https://www.nationalaffairs.com/publications/detail/wokeness-and-the-new-religious-establishment>.

Let me quote the second part of what Joy Reid said about the “culture wars” victory, as it provides a fuller idea of the religious worldview: “(traditional Americans) are not just losing. They literally cannot win. Cultural progression is relentless. Once people get a taste of modernity, they almost never go back willingly.” <https://www.mediaite.com/tv/msnbc-joy-reid-glee-fully-declares-culture-wars-are-over-after-grammys-the-left-won/>. Reid fervently believes, with the sincere passion that her religion, wokism, will inevitably conquer all others. This is the woke “end times” religious eschatology. It does not seek to “tolerate” those who hold to the values of traditional religion in America, and believes she is heading “relentlessly” to a woke utopia.

We are now seeing the religious intolerance of wokism around the world. Matthew Grech, a 33-year-old former homosexual who left that lifestyle after becoming Christian. Grech gave a public testimony on video of coming to Christ and the Christian teachings on sexuality <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqWEXtcMkUM>. Unfortunately for Grech, he now faces five months in prison (or 5000 Euros in fines) if convicted of violating Article 3 of Malta’s Affirmation of Sexual Orientation, Gender and Gender Expression Act. This law makes it unlawful for any person to “advertise conversion practices.” The bill also enshrines in law that “no sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression constitutes a disorder, disease or shortcoming of any sort”. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-38230937>.

Matthew Grech was clear about the religious nature of this woke persecution: “They want to ban Christian counseling in churches simply because it does not conform to their religion, they claim not to

Memorial Day

“Gratitude changes your perspective about life. You see the future, experience the present, and remember the past in a dramatically different way.” – Erwin McManus

“... and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” – Bible (Ephesians 5:2)

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. Several towns and cities claim to be the birthplace of this day. In May 1966, President Lyndon Johnson officially declared Waterloo N.Y. the birthplace of Memorial Day. Memorial Day always falls on the last Monday of May, and was declared a national holiday through an act of Congress in 1971.

Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War and a desire to honor our dead. One of the earliest Memorial Day commemorations was organized by a group of formerly enslaved people in Charleston, South Carolina less than a month after the Confederacy surrendered in 1865. On the 5th of May in 1868, General John Logan, who was the national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, made it official in a General Order.

The General proclaimed, “The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet

churchyard in the land.” On the first Decoration Day, 5,000 participants decorated the graves of 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried at Arlington Cemetery.

After World War I, the holiday was changed to honor Americans who died fighting in any war, not just the Civil War. Red poppies are typically worn on Memorial Day to commemorate the sacrifice of so many men and women who have given their lives fighting for their country.

Both Memorial Day and Veterans Day (which honors all who have served in the military, whether or not they died in battle) remind us of the sacrifices of men and women for us, and especially for their families. Many of us, particularly of the older generation, remember friends and perhaps relatives who served and died in the military. We grieved over their loss, and then we moved on with our lives. But the families of those who died continued to suffer.

One primary reason why so many have been willing to suffer and if necessary to die for others is because they believed in something greater than themselves. They believed in a God who demonstrated the supreme sacrifice of His son for us. They have a love for family and others that transcends and supersedes selfishness. This willingness to give of self for others is what agape love is all about.

In our society today the prevalence of agape love in the world and even in the family appears to be decreasing. When we take God out of society and the family, we replace Him with something or someone else. That space left empty when we remove God has to be filled, and it is usually ourselves (or alcohol, sex,

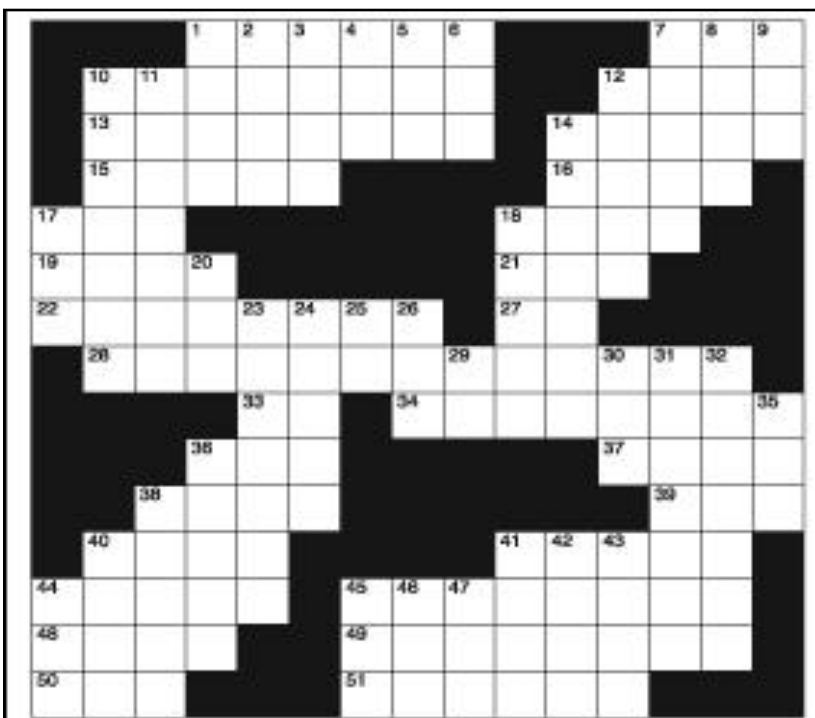


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work, etc.). We no longer exhibit agape love. At best, we maintain a phileo love, at least in the family. Many families are disintegrating today because they have forgotten about agape love and are focusing on self-love as the number one priority.

On this Memorial Day, as we remember those who sacrificed their lives so that others may live, we recognize and appreciate that they served something bigger than themselves. Expressed in so many words, whether they gave their lives because of a Christ-centered love for others, or because of the simple recognition that there is a cause greater themselves, even though they might not be able to define it. Isaiah 6:8 “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’”

The Family & Marriage Coalition of Aiken, Inc. (FAMCO) was created to provide resources for you to succeed in your marriage and families. Roger Rollins, Executive Director, FAMCO, 803-640-4689, rogerrollins@gmail.com, <http://www.aikenfamco.com>. Let us know how we can help.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Wear away by friction
- 7. Insecticide
- 10. Elicited a secret vote
- 12. Beef
- 13. Disagreement
- 14. Crawford, supermodel
- 15. Jeweled headdress
- 16.. Digits
- 17. Trillion hertz
- 18. Snap up
- 19. Classical portico
- 21. Residue after burning
- 22. Large integers
- 27. Free agent
- 28. Where ballplayers work
- 33. Blood type
- 34. Scottish city
- 36. Google certification (abbr.)
- 37. Serbian monetary unit
- 38. Make a sudden surprise attack on
- 39. Wood or metal bolt
- 40. Relaxing attire
- 41. Famed neurologist
- 44. Dullish brown fabrics
- 45. Member of ancient Jewish sect
- 48. Griffith, Rooney
- 49. Lawmakers
- 50. Government lawyers
- 51. The arch of the foot

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Nonflowering aquatic plant
- 2. Britpop rockers
- 3. National capital
- 4. Consumed
- 5. The habitat of wild animals
- 6. Sun up in New York
- 7. Cygnus star
- 8. Male parents
- 9. Talk to you (abbr.)
- 10. A place to clean oneself
- 11. Southwestern US state
- 12. South Korean idol singer
- 14. Pirate
- 17. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
- 18. Mistake
- 20. Promotions
- 23. Prepares
- 24. Partner to flowed
- 25. State lawyer
- 26. Patti Hearst's captors
- 29. Pound
- 30. Electronic data processing
- 31. Sports player
- 32. Treats with contempt
- 35. Apprehend
- 36. Excessively talkative
- 38. Highways
- 40. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- 41. College organization for males
- 42. Any customary observance or practice
- 43. Employee stock ownership plan
- 44. Male parent
- 45. The 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet
- 46. Female bird
- 47. Autonomic nervous system



SUDOKU

8				4	2			
			8			9		
			6	7				
		5						
9			7	6				
2	6	7	9					
		4		9	1		5	
				4	3		1	
			5		6			

Fun By The Numbers

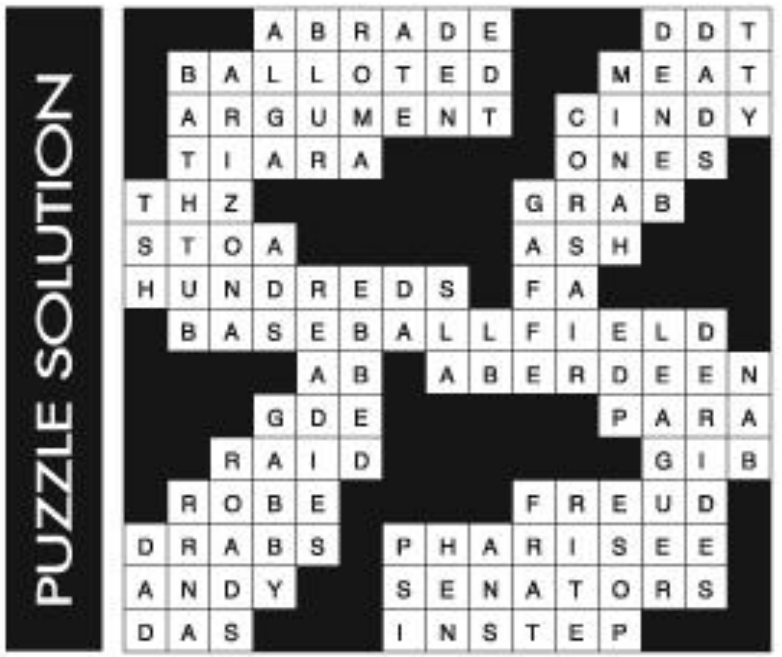
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

4	9	8	7	5	1	2	3	6
7	5	2	6	3	8	4	9	1
1	8	3	4	7	9	6	5	2
2	6	3	5	8	7	9	1	4
3	5	2	9	1	6	7	8	4
6	7	8	2	4	5	9	1	3
8	1	3	6	4	7	1	3	8
5	4	1	6	8	3	7	9	5
8	7	3	1	5	9	4	6	2

ANSWER:



PUZZLE SOLUTION