

Opinion / Editorial

THE LEFT CANNOT DESTROY OUR IDENTITY

By Bill Connor

Over the past week, most Americans have had the déjà vu moment to what many felt during the BLM/Antifa riots of 2020. Particularly in watching Minneapolis, we have seen not only the growing and violent attacks against Federal Agents attempting to enforce immigration law, but crazed leftist rhetoric alluding to coming Civil War. Mayor Jacob Frey has openly told Federal agents to “get the f.ck” out of Minneapolis. Frey has warned the nation his city could soon have local law enforcement fighting with Federal law enforcement. Governor Tim Walz has gone further with a hyperbolic wartime address to his citizens. He called the immigration enforcement in Minnesota “a campaign of organized brutality against the people of Minnesota by our own federal govern-

ment.” Then, after defaming the Federal government as another Nazi Germany, Walz then commended the open “resistance” against the Federal government. Walz claimed “We’re an island of decency in a country being driven towards cruelty.” [First, as founder John Adams put it, we believe in “A government of laws, not of men.”](https://mn.gov/governor/newsroom/press-releases/?id=719765#:~:text=PAUL%2C%20MN%5D%20%2E2%80%93%20Governor%20Tim,%E2%80%9CMy%20fel-low%20Minnesotans%3A%20As%20Walz%20and%20others%20attempt%20to%20permanently%20divide%20America,%E2%80%9C%20it%20s%20a%20reminder%20of%20our%20true%20national%20identity.”</p>
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In Minneapolis, as happened in “blue” cities like Los Angeles, Portland, Chicago, and Seattle, the left claims Federal Agents don’t have the right to carry out immigration law. Though the ICE operations target known criminal illegals and gang members, that doesn’t matter to the left. “If” the illegal immigrant’s crime was to illegally enter the U.S. (which Congress has made a crime and not just a civil offense), blue city politicians allege enforcement should never occur. Further, it is only motivated by racism and should be resisted by all. Pure lawlessness in overturning the John Adams quote. At a Congressional hearing, Rep. Ilhan Omar not only egregiously defamed Federal agents but ominously warned “we will fight back”. <https://omar.house.gov/media/press-releases/ilhan-omar-opening-remarks-co-hosted-hearing-trumps-terror-minnesota> Just as during the riots of 2020, antithetical to that part of our American identity.

As we watch the mayhem on the streets of places like Minneapolis where radical agitators physically assault Federal Agents to prevent them from enforcing laws, it’s important to think about our moral identity. To our founders, Liberty was not considered an end, but as a means to the end of personal virtue. Founder John Adams famously said “this Constitution was made for a moral and religious people and is wholly unsuited to the governance of any other.” This observation of the general moral identity of Americans, flowing from a general agreement of Bible truth and natural law, was ubiquitous among the founders. Research Fellow for American Studies, Brenda Hafora, makes the following observation of the importance of virtue: “While Founders like Thomas Jefferson, James Wilson, and Mercy Otis Warren used ‘independence’ in varying ways, none of their definitions is synonymous with the radical autonomy that progressives push today. When considering the conditions of the time and place that the Founders found themselves in—that is, putting their ideas in the proper context—this becomes obvious. Individual independence for the Founders is always situated within a transcendent moral order, human nature, and an understanding of what enables human flourishing.” <https://www.heritage.org/american-history/commentary/the-founders-vision-american-independence>

Democrats have shown through their words and actions they view

Family & Marriage

Doing vs. Being



Roger Rollins,
Family and Marriage Coalition

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.” – Bible (John 15:4)

“Positive feelings come from being honest about yourself and accepting your personality, and physical characteristics, warts and all; and, from belonging to a family that accepts you without question.” – Willard Scott

We’re a month into the new year, now. How are you doing with your New Year’s goals? Maybe you didn’t set any, or maybe you were conservative and set a few relatively easy goals. I set a couple simple ones, and so far, I’m keeping them – when I can remember. By the way, that’s one of my goals – to remember my goals.

Are you busy? I know you’re looking at this column and hopefully reading it. But what were you doing before and what do you plan to do next? We all have busy lives; we’re either doing something or nothing but we’re working hard at it.

The Bible tells us about Mary and Martha. Martha was a doer. She was always busy, maybe cleaning the house, maybe cooking, maybe shopping, maybe even caring for others. But she needed to be doing something. Mary, on the other hand, was what we would call a be-er. She was more interested in the passive roles, such as experiencing and observing. In today’s culture we tend to be more of a Martha than a Mary. We feel if we aren’t doing something, we are wasting time – and maybe our lives.

An online source suggests that doing people are action-oriented. They are interested in tasks,

productivity, future goals, and outcomes. They are driven, goal-oriented, evaluating progress, often linked to external validation. They prefer working through a to-do list, striving for a promotion, focusing on the end result of a project.

Being people, on the other hand, are presence-oriented. They enjoy the present moment, internal experiences, emotions, relationships, the journey itself. They are non-judgmental, accepting, valuing intrinsic worth. They enjoy a good meal, listening fully to a friend, spending more time in meditation.

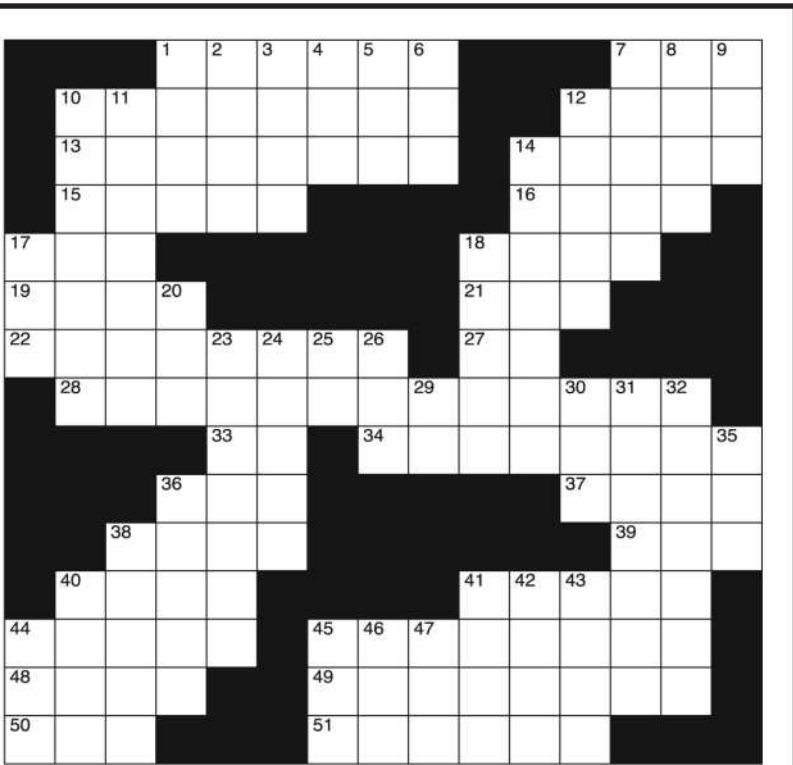
Which are you? Do you enjoy just being with your spouse and your family, or do you have to be doing something? If family members come to visit you, do you want to go out on the town with them, or do you just enjoy sitting and visiting together? Or maybe playing a board or card game together. Or just being quiet in each other’s presence and reading a book.

It’s not a matter of one being better than the other. Sometimes we need to be a Mary and sometimes a Martha. After all, the dirty dishes do need to be taken care of and the house cleaned, at least once in a while. Most of us have a good understanding of doing. We’ve been working on that all our lives – we have to be doing something. On the other hand, do we really know what it means to just be? Here’s an interesting definition of being: to exist in the present moment without judgment, control, or overthinking, allowing life and your inner self to unfold naturally, rather than forcing outcomes or pretending to be someone else. A significant challenge in the doing process is that we focus on accomplishing something, to make a sufficient income to support our lifestyle, to curry favor from others, to be like the crowd. Other-

wise, we are not a success. The being process changes the playing field.

God has given us all abilities and skills. He expects us to use them, ultimately to glorify Him. In our relationship, especially in marriage, we want others to think the best of us. We tend to hide our weaknesses and our failures. We think our spouse will love us more if we do good things. We like to be praised for what we do. However, any relationship founded on what we do, is most likely to fail, because we fail.

We want to take care of our family, but they know we mess up, both at home, at work, and in general. So why try to hide? Let’s admit when we fail, acknowledge our weaknesses, and work together with our spouse to build and maintain a successful family. And we can’t do that ourselves. May God help us as we work together to sustain relationships that honor God and promote our continued growth. Family and 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. Let us know how we can help.

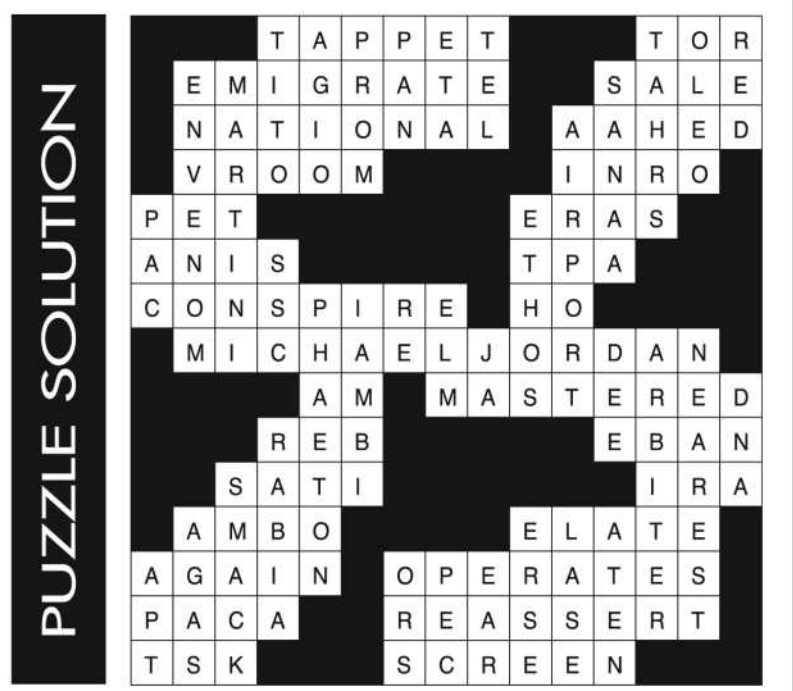


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Mechanical lever
- 7. Rocky peak
- 10. Leave a country
- 12. Discount
- 13. D.C. ballplayer
- 14. Partner to “ooohed”
- 15. Engine sound
- 16. Japanese ornamental box
- 17. Fido is one
- 18. Amounts of time
- 19. DiFranco and Phylo are two
- 21. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- 22. Make secret plans
- 27. “Tiny Bubbles” singer
- 28. “His Airness”
- 33. Morning
- 34. Perfected
- 36. Winger guitarist Beach
- 37. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 38. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 39. A way to save money
- 40. Pulpit
- 41. Make ecstatically happy
- 44. Once more
- 45. Works on
- 48. Nocturnal S. American rodent
- 49. State again
- 50. Expression of disappointment
- 51. Type of door

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Yugoslavian communist leader
- 2. Exchange rate
- 3. High school dance
- 4. Peter’s last name
- 5. When you anticipate arriving
- 6. Israeli city __ Aviv
- 7. Goat-like mammals
- 8. Margarine
- 9. End-of-the-spectrum color
- 10. Make poisonous
- 11. Popular beverage
- 12. Actress Lathan
- 14. Where planes land and depart
- 17. Political fundraising entity
- 18. The distinctive spirit of a people or an era
- 20. Buffer used in microbiology
- 23. Light, open carriage
- 24. Metrical feet
- 25. Email subject line feature
- 26. A street with lots of nightmares
- 29. Rapper Rule
- 30. River in Scotland
- 31. One who settles a dispute
- 32. Most chummy
- 35. We all have our own
- 36. Arab tribe
- 38. Slap
- 40. Ottoman military commanders
- 41. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
- 42. Emit coherent radiation
- 43. Sun or solar disk (Egyptian mythology)
- 44. Inclined to
- 45. Olfactory reference syndrome
- 46. Chest muscle (slang)
- 47. Body part



PUZZLE SOLUTION



SUDOKU

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

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!

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

ANSWER: