

God Lives Under The Bed

Luke 11 (NIV)

37. When Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee invited him to eat with him; so he went in and reclined at the table.

38. But the Pharisee, noticing that Jesus did not first wash before the meal, was surprised.

39. Then the Lord said to him, "Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness.

40. You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also?

41. But give what is inside [the dish] to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.

42. "Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

43. "Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces.

44. "Woe to you, because you are like unmarked graves, which men walk over without knowing it."

45. One of the experts in the law answered him, "Teacher, when you say these things, you insult us also."

46. Jesus replied, "And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them.

47. "Woe to you, because you build tombs for the prophets, and it was your forefathers who killed them.

48. So you testify that you approve of what your forefathers did; they killed the prophets, and you build their tombs.

49. Because of this, God in his wisdom said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and others they will persecute.'

50. Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world,

51. from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for it all.

52. "Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering."

On a hill far away, in Elbert County Georgia, USA stands a large granite monument known by a few as the Georgia Guidestones. A message comprising ten guides is inscribed on the structure in eight modern languages, and a shorter message is inscribed at the top of the structure in four ancient languages' scripts: Babylonian, Classical Greek, Sanskrit, and Egyptian hieroglyphs.

The structure is sometimes referred to as an "American Stonehenge." The monument is almost 20 feet (6.1 m) tall if the buried support stones are included, exactly 5.5 metres (18 ft) otherwise, and made from six granite slabs weighing more than 240,000 pounds (110,000 kg) in all. One slab stands in the center, with four arranged around it. A capstone lies on top of the five slabs, which are astronomically aligned. An additional stone tablet, which is set in the ground a short distance to the west of the structure, provides some notes on the history and purpose of the Guidestones.

In June 1979, an unknown person described as a well dressed gentleman under the pseudonym R. C. Christian hired Elberton Granite Finishing Company to build the structure.

So we don't know who put this together but this is it's message.

A message consisting of a set of ten guidelines or principles is engraved on the Georgia Guidestones in eight different languages, one language on each face of the four large upright stones. Moving clockwise around the structure from due north, these languages are: English, Spanish, Swahili, Hindi, Hebrew, Arabic, Chinese, and Russian.

Be not a cancer on the earth - Leave room for nature - Leave room for nature

Good

Prize truth - beauty - love - seeking harmony with the infinite.

No problem here

Balance personal rights with social duties.

Amen brother

Avoid petty laws and useless officials.

Hey sounds great to me...amen?

Let all nations rule internally resolving external disputes in a world court.

Sounds fair

Protect people and nations with fair laws and just courts.

Halleluja por fin...

Rule passion - faith - tradition - and all things with tempered reason.

Ummm...well?

Unite humanity with a living new language.

OK Biblically problematic but maybe

Guide reproduction wisely - improving fitness and diversity.

Wait...ummm...wha..?

Maintain humanity under 500,000,000 in perpetual balance with nature.

Hummm....Possibly a good idea....less pollution, resource drain, clean water, ample power...unless of course you are among the 6.3 billion people that need to step aside to usher in a better future...

And who decides?

Who gets to be the next Hitler, Stalin, Chairman Mao, Idi Amin Dada...around a hundred million dead by their combined orders...amateurs...we need a real leader...

Fact: We live on a finite planet with dwindling resources and the population and industrial growth that has ruled our economies and lives is coming to an end...soon...perhaps sooner than we think...and perhaps the problem of overpopulation will resolve itself either gently through responsibility and education or drastically through war or pandemic or some new hybrid of the two...

Either way our human reasoning processes will very probably lead us to some dark places.

The freedoms, privileges, and rights we have come to enjoy, expect, and sometimes take for granted are already beginning a slow march into history. As we lose our sense of security we will turn more and more to our governments to save us and will give them more and more power to do so. As this continues those whom we have empowered to take care of us may, or will (depending on who you listen to) come to a point where they believe that they can't save us all...so who do they save? Who gets left behind? Isn't it reasonable to save the best, brightest, youngest and healthiest of us. Saving the old, the weak, the genetically flawed, the feeble minded really makes no sense at all...unless of course you are old, weak, genetically flawed, or feeble minded. Some are actually willing to make a sacrifice if needed...raise your hands...we will be collecting you up at the end today. Hey free kool-aid.

We want a stronger, younger, better church don't we.

Come on...Do your part...

Look around you...6 of us get to remain...well me and 5 more...why me ...my scenario

Eugenics- the improvement of a society by the use of controlled reproduction based on genetic factors.

Achieved by positive means (encouraging good genetic stock to breed) or negative (sterilization of inferior genetic stock, pre-termination of undesired or flawed pregnancies, infanticide, genocide, or other culling of 'the herd') depending on your zeal and where you want to place the stops.

Eugenics easily restated is: Guide reproduction wisely - improving fitness and diversity

America embarked on an extended eugenics experiment involving forced sterilizations in which from the early 1900s through 1978 over 60,000 sterilizations were performed with the support of the US government and legal system. Mostly on the 'feeble minded' but not always.

Having a particular undesired trait in your family might mean no more family for you.

Margaret Sanger was an American pioneer in her campaign for reproductive rights as a leader of the birth control movement. As founder of Planned Parenthood she was interestingly enough anti-abortion.

Margaret Sanger was a self stated eugenicist and said the following: "The undeniably feeble-minded should, indeed, not only be discouraged but prevented from propagating their kind." Sounds practical...depending on who draws the line and where they draw it.

This concept made it into the US legal code of 24 states until 1983 when Oregon was the last state to remove it.

In her first birth control pamphlet Sanger said:

It is a vicious cycle; ignorance breeds poverty and poverty breeds ignorance. There is only one cure for both, and that is to stop breeding these things. Stop bringing to birth children whose

inheritance cannot be one of health or intelligence. Stop bringing into the world children whose parents cannot provide for them. Herein lies the key of civilization. For upon the foundation of an enlightened and voluntary motherhood shall a future civilization emerge.

Many of her birth control clinics were set up in poor black communities...sweet. Black churches and organizations endorsed her work...interesting

So according to her if you are poor, ignorant, black, or feeble minded line up...we're gonna need more kool-aid...

Who does the planning for this parenthood...

Adolph Hitler modeled his eugenics sterilization program on that of the US as did other scientists under his Reich.

IBM set up the first computers and software to do inventory control using codes tattooed on the arms of his 'defectives'

They were a bit more zealous than their American counterparts and millions had to move aside for their new world order plans. The Nazis gave eugenics a bad name.

But people forget...So did eugenics suffer the same defeat as the Nazis. Did you know that 92% of fetuses diagnosed with down syndrome are aborted.

I remember in high school liking the concept of eugenics...

Build a better society... a better race of beings...cool

I was overlooking the fact that at least in South Carolina it would not have included my race...

So I liked the idea...

And why not it made perfect sense...

It still does...

I comprehend this stuff intellectually. It's practical. My fleshy flesh brain my 'meat computer' does the math and it all adds up. The formula is simple and then I remember.

I was born half Negro half German in Munich where a few years earlier I would have had a life expectancy of about 30 seconds.

...and Arthur little Arthur so cute...at 14 months old below all the lines on the charts...slow...retarded... developmentally challenged ...no one wants to say the words but you know...when people ask, Ohhh how cute how many months is he...you answer and their meat computers do the math...hummmm...oops ...my lovely SuSu...genetically flawed...when we married...we saw a doctor who when told of her families gene for polycystic kidney disease got this funny look like someone had just passed gas in the room and said “you may want to go see a genetic counselor before you pursue having kids...” Is it self preservation that makes my meat computer re-work the math on eugenics or something more fundamental.

Luke 18:9. To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable:

10. "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

11. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men--robbers, evildoers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector.

12. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

13. "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

14. "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

15. People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them.

16. But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

17. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Bill Smiles has a brother named Dave

Dave was born severely mentally retarded to the extent that the birth doctor advised his mother to not attempt to sustain him...just let him go...no one would blame her...it's for the best.

His mom would not/could not do it...they fought to keep him alive through the remaining years of her life...

She asked Bill to help take care of him and if you ask Bill how did you get to know God whom he refers to as 'Papa' he will tell you "mama asked me to take care of Dave and I didn't want to, so I asked Papa to help me and He did." After his mother's death Bill with Papa's help continued to take care of Dave for 30 years. They were very close and Bill slept near him at night as Dave would often stop breathing during the night and Bill had to nudge him to resume his breathing. When you ask how he points up and says Papa helped. Dave was always clean, fed, and generally happy. He learned sailing and loved being on the boat. Dave was always just a little guy so he never looked his age. But, Bill and Papa both loved him and took care of him.

At some point along the way the State of Wisconsin Social Services felt that Bill's care for his brother was not adequate and forcibly removed Dave to various state run facilities where Dave has since been abused, injured, denied access by his family, and (I'm guessing here) probably remains sedated due to his now violent and dysfunctional behaviors...imagine that.

Would he get to be in the select 500 million...if it were up to Bill, up to the state, up to you. How do you assess the value of a human being.

Have you ever assessed or compared the relative values of people around you. Where do I fit in. Where do you fit in...are you thirsty...Is it true that:" everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

GOD LIVES UNDER THE BED

I envy Kevin. My brother, Kevin, thinks God lives under his bed. At least that's what I heard him say one night.

He was praying out loud in his dark bedroom, and I stopped to listen, 'Are you there, God?' he said. 'Where are you? Oh, I see. Under the bed...'

I giggled softly and tiptoed off to my own room. Kevin's unique perspectives are often a source of amusement. But that night something else lingered long after the humor. I realized for the first time the very different world Kevin lives in.

He was born 30 years ago, mentally disabled as a result of difficulties during labor. Apart from his size (he's 6-foot-2), there are few ways in which he is an adult.

He reasons and communicates with the capabilities of a 7-year-old, and he always will. He will probably always believe that God lives under his bed, that Santa Claus is the one who fills the space under our tree every Christmas and that airplanes stay up in the sky because angels carry them.

I remember wondering if Kevin realizes he is different. Is he ever dissatisfied with his monotonous life?

Up before dawn each day, off to work at a workshop for the disabled, home to walk our cocker spaniel, return to eat his favorite macaroni-and-cheese for dinner, and later to bed.

The only variation in the entire scheme is laundry, when he hovers excitedly over the washing machine like a mother with her newborn child.

He does not seem dissatisfied.

He lopes out to the bus every morning at 7:05, eager for a day of simple work.

He wrings his hands excitedly while the water boils on the stove before dinner, and he stays up late twice a week to gather our dirty laundry for his next day's laundry chores.

And Saturdays - oh, the bliss of Saturdays! That's the day my Dad takes Kevin to the airport to have a soft drink, watch the planes land, and speculate loudly on the destination of each passenger inside. 'That one's goin' to Chi-car-go!' Kevin shouts as he claps his hands.

His anticipation is so great he can hardly sleep on Friday nights.

And so goes his world of daily rituals and weekend field trips.

He doesn't know what it means to be discontent.

His life is simple.

He will never know the entanglements of wealth or power, and he does not care what brand of clothing he wears or what kind of food he eats. His needs have always been met, and he never worries that one day they may not be.

His hands are diligent.. Kevin is never so happy as when he is working. When he unloads the dishwasher or vacuums the carpet, his heart is completely in it.

He does not shrink from a job when it is begun, and he does not leave a job until it is finished. But when his tasks are done, Kevin knows how to relax.

He is not obsessed with his work or the work of others. His heart is pure.

He still believes everyone tells the truth, promises must be kept, and when you are wrong, you apologize instead of argue.

Free from pride and unconcerned with appearances, Kevin is not afraid to cry when he is hurt, angry or sorry. He is always transparent, always sincere. And he trusts God.

Not confined by intellectual reasoning, when he comes to Christ, he comes as a child. Kevin seems to know God - to really be friends with Him in a way that is difficult for an 'educated' person to grasp. God seems like his closest companion.

In my moments of doubt and frustrations with my Christianity, I envy the security Kevin has in his simple faith.

It is then that I am most willing to admit that he has some divine knowledge that rises above my mortal questions.

It is then I realize that perhaps he is not the one with the handicap. I am. My obligations, my fear, my pride, my circumstances - they all become disabilities when I do not trust them to God's care. Who knows if Kevin comprehends things I can never learn? After all, he has spent his whole life in that kind of innocence, praying after dark and soaking up the goodness and love of God.

And one day, when the mysteries of heaven are opened, and we are all amazed at how close God really is to our hearts, I'll realize that God heard the simple prayers of a boy who believed that God lived under his bed.

Kevin won't be surprised at all!

If you can receive this, say a prayer and thank God.

I don't even know where this story originated or if it even happened but I know that it reveals the truth and the will of God and these are the only truth we need.

On another hill far away stood a cross upon which was written the outline for the future of mankind where Jesus died to make each and everyone of us with all our God given flaws worthy to be the chosen. No monument can replace Him.

When the darkness falls will you trust Him.

Luke 18:15. People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them.

16. But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

17. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Don't get left behind when it really counts. Don't be fooled.

Any philosophy, government, or system that seeks to promote physical appearance, strength, intellectual prowess, or genetic purity at the cost of human dignity, value of life, respect for Gods creation, and simple love...

Any system makes the error of the pharisees to whom Jesus said: you clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also?