



Bethany Lutheran Church & Preschool
5051 McCarty Road
Saginaw, MI 48603
www.bethanysaginaw.com
Phone: 989-793-9579

Viewpoints

Observing events in our modern world from the viewpoint of our ascended Savior.

Is Crowd Behavior Bending You? ~ September 18, 2014

Stand up, stand still, stand strong for what is good and right.

[Online Version & Archive](#)

In a busy mall, scientists planted volunteers (ringers) who stood still while staring intently at the same spot in the air. You know what happened next. “The scientists found that within seconds hundreds of people coordinated their attention in a highly systematic way. People consistently stopped to look toward exactly the same spot as the ringers.”

From studies like this and others, researchers are reporting what we Christians have known for quite a few millennia: “Humans naturally follow crowd behavior; and our sensitivity to crowds operates in a remarkably swift and automatic way.” The devil and his evil angels know these things too. In fact, they’ve been employing this science to wage war against us humans, because we’re created in God’s image. And Satan wars against the things of God.

Consider how Satan has manipulated our society. He plants unwitting ringers, who are homosexual or are favorable to the homosexual lifestyle, into influential positions in academia, Hollywood and the media. So to speak, they stand and look, they even point and applaud. And so they influence society. And because humans naturally follow crowd behavior, soon the average American believes that maybe 30% of the population is homosexual. If we’re not careful, we allow this perception to manipulate our personal outlook on life. And our convictions about what is right and wrong may become skewed. We may even become afraid to allow logic and reason to naturally identify homosexuality as unnatural, abnormal, deviant. And perhaps we say to ourselves: “Who am I to judge? If these many people are gay, I can learn to be OK with it.”

Reality check, my friends. A new study published in July shows that less than 2% of our population is gay. When there’s no spin, no politics, no social influence and it’s a straight-forward scientific study, research shows that only 1.6% of the population is homosexual.

But here’s my point: why does it matter if it’s 1.6% of the population or 61%? What God teaches in the Bible is the truth. The Creator who fashioned humans is the one who reveals what is normal and abnormal, what is right and wrong. For example, one study found that more than 30% of Americans admit that they have had problems with alcohol, yet this doesn’t make drunkenness any less sinful in God’s eyes.

God through the Apostle Paul teaches: “Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters

nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). Someone who makes excuses for their sins, and defends them, and does not seek help from God or man to turn from them, is someone who brings eternal punishment upon himself. Paul urges: “Do not be deceived!” He could as well have added, “Do not be deceived *by instinctively following the crowd.*”

For our family, friends and acquaintances who are trapped in sin – whether it’s homosexuality or drinking problems or whatever- we are their spiritual doctors, lawyers and coaches. For we are equipped to tactfully and lovingly witness to the truth about sin, and to point the broken-hearted to Jesus, the Savior of sinners. Let us follow Paul’s example, who after revealing sin as sin, pointed to the cleansing work of our crucified and risen Savior: **“And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God”** (1 Corinthians 6:11). “Were” versus “are.” Do you get Paul’s point about repentance and faith? Let us help those who “are” become those who “were” because they now have Christ.

Let us be the ones who go into the crowds and stand still, looking up to God’s Word. Let us be the ones who rightly employ the science of crowd behavior, fueled by the Spirit of our God and the truth of Jesus Christ. Whether it’s only 1.6% or 30% of the population who need the truth about Jesus, every soul is precious to us because every soul is precious to our God **“who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth”** (1 Timothy 2:4).

Source Material (Links may become inactive over time.)

[Humans Naturally Follow Crowd Behavior](#) @ the Wall Street Journal

[The Government’s in your bedroom but this time it’s OK: Well-Conducted Surveys of Social Data...](#) @ National Review Online

[Third of Americans have alcohol problems at some point](#) @ the Washington Post

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Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz

