



# The Caller

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## Confidence

### Corner

John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* I wanted to examine a biblical principle that could help change our mindset as a nation if we would only consider it very seriously. That Biblical principle is found in Genesis 6:9 and it reads, "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man, shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man." This passage is often used as the principle of the sanctity of all human life. ALL human life needs to be valued and treasured.

Most often this biblical principle is applied in the discussion regarding abortion. The killing of innocents is astounding and many will no doubt give an account for their callous and careless taking of human life. But yet this is not the only place we as Christians should apply the principle of this passage.

In our society today, whenever there is a murder that occurs, instead of horror that a life has been taken and thus a soul potentially has been lost, society will begin taking sides. Private debates are held and news outlets will begin to argue as to whether or not the person who killed another person "were within their rights" to do so. Somewhere in the mix is the failure to realize the horror of the loss of life.

I wonder if as Christians, rather than our first and primary focus turning to the debate of whether the killing of an individual was justifiable if we could simply first see the sorrow that a life made in the image of God has been taken. God takes no joy in one's death and perhaps as His followers, we should think as He thinks. All human life needs to be valued—then perhaps any human life would not be taken so casually. And when one dies, let's us as Christians be grieved.

jfb

When we pray,  
God hears more  
than we say,  
answers more than  
we ask,  
gives more than  
we imagine...  
in HIS own time  
and HIS own way.

### Sunday's Sermons:

AM — GOD'S FINGERPRINTS

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

PM — PRAYER SERVICE

JAMES 5:16-18

## Why Do The Heathens Rage?

A few years back there was a story that was circulating regarding Penn Jillette of the controversial magic/comedy act Penn & Teller. In this story, we were told how on one occasion Penn gave credit to a Christian who tried to give him a Bible or NT (I'm not certain which it was). Penn commended this Bible-believer for at least trying to talk to Penn about the believer's faith.

It is true that talking to others about our faith is what we ought to do, even with rabid Bible haters such as Penn Jillette. But I want us to examine just how credible are the claims like Penn Jillette regarding why we should reject the Bible as God's Word. Make no mistake, Penn is vulgar in his attacks on the Bible. We will leave out the profanity that is usually tied to his statements while still conveying the gist of his thoughts.

In their series on Showtime network (I have never seen it...only read about it) Penn will encourage the 4 or 5 Americans who own a Bible and follow along as they debunk it. He encourages them to follow along because he says "If you do not read along, you will think we are making this stuff up." Penn speaks in vulgarity and makes fun of preachers who like him wear a suit and hold a Bible in his hands. He plans to take the Bible and show it is full of inaccuracies, inconsistencies, and as he says, "outright impossibilities."

Now one interesting thing to me regarding what Penn says is that first, he is able to get away with saying much that he does because most people do not take the time to study the Bible. In addition, there is little respect for the Bible in America and Hollywood has done a bang up job of seeing that, more and more, the idea of laughing at or mocking Christians and the Bible is the norm. Because of such, we will sit by and listen, and perhaps even laugh, at presentation like Penn's.

Here is my point! If people either knew the Bible well or if they knew the history of the attacks on the Bible, they would realize that what Penn is saying is nothing new at all; Penn simply repeats attacks that have been made upon the Bible since the outset of Christianity in the First Century. Names like Celsus, Porphyry, and Julian are little known today, yet some of these men wrote over 1800 years ago, the same arguments made by Penn in his presentation (there is one small difference between Celsus, Porphyry, and Penn...that is Celsus and Porphyry were actually more highly educated than their 21st century counterpart).

At any rate, here is an interesting observation. While all these writers of the past have attacked the Bible and claimed it would not survive the test of time, the Bible has — and all these men have not! They, with the exception of Penn, are all gone and their writing mostly forgotten. The Bible on the other hand, remains! "All flesh is as grass, and all the glory thereof as the flower of the grass. The grass withereth, and the flower fades, But the Word of the Lord abideth forever." (1 Peter 1:24-25)

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