Ten Signs of a Declining Civilization

2 Timothy 3:1-4 (NLT)
1 You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. 2 For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. 3 They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. 4 They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God.

1 Timothy 4:1-3a (NLT)
1 Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons. 2 These people are hypocrites and liars, and their consciences are dead. 3 They will say it is wrong to be married …

1. Traditional meaning of marriage is lost: A refusal of people in traditional marriages to accept family traditional responsibilities and obligations.
2. Elimination of the real meaning of the marriage ceremony: Marriage loses its sacredness, frequently and easily broken by divorce.
3. Increased and rapid easy “causeless” (“no fault”) divorce: Guilty and innocent party theory becomes pure fiction.
4. Rise of alternate or looser forms of marriage and family: Gay marriage.
5. Decreased number of children, population decay: Feminist movement abounds, women refuse to stay home and lose inclination for child bearing and rearing, the birth rate declines.
6. Increased public disrespect for parents and parenthood: For those in authority in general.
7. Increased juvenile delinquency, promiscuity, and rebellion.
8. Increase in desire for and acceptance of adultery.
9. Increase in desire for, spread and acceptance of all forms of sexual perversions: Increased prevalence (occurrence) of homosexuality.

Zimmerman sees “religious faith as especially important in establishing and maintaining the ‘the domestic’ family system, which to him is the most solid base for a robust civilization. (As a slogan familiar in the 1950s put it, ‘the family that prays together stays together).” (p.314).

James Kurth commenting on Zimmerman’s view states: “And so there will be an integral and intimate connection between the West’s faith and its fate. Religious revival, however, is not something that scholars can or should predict, or that governments can or should legislate. This is not a matter for Caesar, but for God, and it will not happen according to the world’s timing, but according to the Lord’s. The true answer to the question of what it to be done about reviving the Western family and Western civilization is that God only knows.” (p.320).

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