

January 2023

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It is cruelly ironic that Russian President Vladimir Putin is protecting and promoting traditional values in Russia as the reason for invading Ukraine. Those traditional values are patriotism and practices of the church (Russian Orthodox), including forbidding nontraditional sexual practices. He says there is a “global crisis of civilization and values that leads to humankind losing traditional spiritual and ethical waypoints and moral principles.”

These efforts did not just begin. For example, when the 2014 Olympics were in Sochi, there was western criticism of Russia’s position on not approving same sex relations. There is some merit to his commitment to traditional values. It is, however, hypocritical to support protection of those values, while at the same time killing civilians in an unjustified war.

The truth for us hurts. We do not honor traditional values. Supporting athletes who dishonor the national anthem, promotion of critical race theory, increasingly accepting more and more aberrant sexual practices as human rights, and creating opportunities to diminish religious freedom are an indictment of not just the government under Joe Biden, but our failure to oppose those things. We quietly acquiesce to the disintegration of the west, as Putin might say.

This month’s Educational Update addresses an overt act of national defiance of the traditional values of the sanctity of marriage and the protection of religious freedom. Polls apparently show a majority of Americans find same sex marriage acceptable. At the same time, fewer and fewer Americans are taking religion seriously. Few of us would do anything but show concern for others, regardless of their lifestyle. However, we should not be penalized for our beliefs when we disagree.

SLI is trying to make a difference in this world. Thank you for joining us in our efforts.

Yours Very Truly,

A. Eric Johnston

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