

What I Have Learned about Girl Scouts of the USA

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In late January of 2004, Pro-Life Waco launched a boycott of Bluebonnet Girl Scout Council Cookie sales. This action was a response to Waco's Girl Scout council's 9-year co-sponsorship of Planned Parenthood's Nobody's Fool sex "education" conference and their naming the CEO of Planned Parenthood of Central Texas as a 2003 "Woman of Distinction." The CEO of Planned Parenthood of Central Texas is the manager of a Waco abortion mill that has operated since 1994.

Many Christian friends in Waco and nearby communities stepped forward to express their outrage and feeling of betrayal when they found out about the long-term collaboration of Girl Scouts with Planned Parenthood. The temperature rose rapidly in the Girl Scout pressure cooker. On February 22, the board of directors of the Bluebonnet Council met in an emergency meeting and voted to sever all ties with Planned Parenthood of Central Texas.

During the boycott, and in its aftermath, I have learned a great deal about the Girl Scout leadership philosophy. What I have learned affirm my confidence that the cookie boycott was the right course of action—and, in fact, was long overdue.

Much could be written about Girl Scouts. I will briefly make four points here:

- Girl Scouts embraces moral relativism..
- Girl Scouts bans prayer at all troop events.
- Girl Scouts incorporates moral relativism into its sex education programs.
- Girl Scouts is open to lesbianism and the lesbian life style.

A Girl Scout statement on the home page of their Studio 2B website succinctly sums up their moral position. (www.studio2b.org) Studio 2B is devoted to Girl Scouts ages 11-17. One of the main headings on the home page is "Live in STYLE." The lead statement is:

Find everything you need to look good, feel great, and live well. No matter how you live your life, do it with style.

I have not seen a clearer statement of moral relativism than this.

Another important matter is Girl Scout attitude about prayer. This directive is given (www.girlscouts.org/adults/beliefs.html) to Girl Scout troop leaders:

Even if your troop is all of one faith, the Girl Scout meeting is not an appropriate place for prayers or hymns. Girl Scouts is not a religious organization.

This is unsettling. If a troop were to pray before, during, or after a meeting, this would be a violation of Girl Scout policy. This would be true for a Girl Scout troop sponsored by a Catholic or Baptist church.

Since the Waco Girl Scout/Planned Parenthood controversy has related to education on human sexuality, the Girl Scout attitude about this matter is very important. Below is a quote from the statement released on February 24, when Bluebonnet Council broke with Planned Parenthood. While this statement was released in Waco, it is obvious that Girl Scout headquarters in New York was involved in crafting the statement:

As part of an organization whose mission is to help girls grow strong, some local Girl Scout councils may make girls and their families aware of the information and resources that are available to them on [human sexuality and reproductive health]. In all instances, these topics are discussed from an informative rather than advocacy point of view. (Emphasis added.)

On numerous occasions, Girls Scouts affirm a sex education that is “information-based rather than an advocacy point of view.” This statement was repeated on the NBC Today Show by Kathy Cloninger, CEO of GSUSA. What we have here is Girls Scouts applying their moral relativism to human sexuality. They believe it is okay to give information to children as long as there is no moral context. With this stance, Girl Scouts would not distribute information about an abstinence program offered by a Christian organization or even a secular organization. Girl Scouts would object to advocating moral behavior. But Girl Scouts promoted Planned Parenthood programs.

The Planned Parenthood “moral” stance on youth sexual expression is revealed by the teenwire.com website. Regarding their awful website for children Planned Parenthood makes this statement of purpose:

teenwire.com is the leading Web site for teens needing information about sexual health. We are committed to giving you the facts about sex so that you can use this information to make your own responsible choices. We provide honest and nonjudgmental information about sexuality with the hope that you will use this knowledge to reduce your risk of unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

The moral indifference stated here coincides with the Girl Scout requirement for their sex education programs: “In all cases, issues will be handled from an information perspective, not an advocacy point of view.”

Finally, the subject of lesbianism. This is a topic I did not raise once during the boycott controversy. However, in my reading and from communications, the topic came up again and again. With the Girl Scout turn to moral relativism, many parents have seen a condoning or an even advocacy (one said pushing) of the lesbian life style.

All things considered, Girl Scout does not offer a positive moral vision with any coherence to Christian morality. To the extent that Girl Scouts has any positive moral vision regarding sexuality, that vision seeks to undermine Christian morality.