In 1990, nearly half of all 30-year-olds in America were both married and homeowners. Today, that number is under 15%. BlazeTV host Steve Deace reacted to this steep collapse by warning that absent spiritual revival, these numbers portend "the death of a culture."

He's right, of course. No civilization that eschews the familial ordering of society will endure. But while Deace wisely pointed to economic, cultural, and domestic causes, I think it's critical that Christians testify to something more: this isn't just an alarming economic challenge or a crippling cultural trend. At its heart, this is a spiritual crisis that the Bible has already diagnosed.

Contrary to what is now conventional wisdom, Christians know that marriage isn't a social construct, nor is it up for reinterpretation by mortal man. It is, in fact, the first institution God gave to humanity — designed to be fruitful and enduring, a living reflection of Christ's eternal love for His Church. That reality carries with it an unshakable truth: entering into such a covenant means recognizing that a home is never merely a piece of property, but the God-given setting for discipleship, hospitality, and generational faithfulness.

That's why when marriage and household stability collapse, it's not just an economic inconvenience, it's the unraveling of God's created order.

I don't doubt that inflated housing prices, student debt, and wage stagnation are real factors that discourage young Americans thinking about marriage and family. But Romans 1 tells us that when people turn from God, the breakdown of family life is one of the inevitable consequences. That means every broken covenant is rebellion against God before it later manifests as a "decline in the culture."

In his commentary about the issue, Deace warned that if this all isn't fixed or course-corrected, "Your kids and grandkids - and I'm talking about my own - they're going to live in a communist country and/or need to know Arabic."

I'll leave the soothsaying to those more qualified in such fields. But while I don't know how American society will respond to these alarming realities, I will remind my fellow Christians that the early church didn't wait for the Roman Empire to fix itself before building godly households. Amid an equally corrupt and depraved civilization, those believers set themselves apart by the way they lived: marriages were honored, children welcomed, homes opened in hospitality. All of it modeled in the middle of hostility to their "peculiar beliefs."

Their witness shook an empire; ours can too, if we will walk as they walked.

Paul's words to Titus paint the same picture: older men and women training the younger to live self-controlled, godly lives, to love their families, and to keep their households in order. This isn't nostalgia, it's biblical normalcy.

If the statistics are grim, then for Christ's Church the assignment could not be clearer. Let the pundits analyze and the politicians argue, we are called to live the revival our culture desperately needs.

Nothing else needs to happen for us to reclaim discipleship in our homes rather than outsourcing spiritual formation to schools, media, and government. We need not delay in teaching that marriage is a sacred mission, not just a marker of adulthood, and that covenant love reflects the Gospel of Jesus. We can immediately recover financial stewardship as part of our mentoring the next generation - spiritual and practical home building.

Yes, the death of a culture may be underway. But the decline that shocks the world is the same void the gospel was made to fill. And I guess I'm a believer that if God's people will be faithful in the small, daily work of covenant love in our marriages, parenting, and stewardship, the watching world might see that while cultures collapse, the Kingdom of Christ does not.

Linda Gommel

Income tax reforms passed in Trump's Big Beautiful Bill.

Here are a few of the provisions in Trump's Big Beautiful Bill that will help you and me directly - LG

✔ Larger Standard Deduction
The standard deduction is permanently expanded—to $15,000 for individuals and $30,000 for married couples—shielding more income from taxation. This means most taxpayers

✔ Tax-Free Tips
Up to $20,000 in tips are now exempt from federal income tax. This relief targets restaurant, hospitality and personal service workers. Tips are still subject to FICA payroll taxes.

✔ Tax-Free Overtime Premiums
The 50% premium earned for overtime hours is now exempt from federal income tax on up to $12,000 annually. This reform boosts take-home pay for hourly workers who put in extra time.

✔ Senior Tax Credit
Seniors age 65+ now receive an enhanced additional deduction—up to $6,000—on top of the standard deduction. Indexed for inflation, this provides relief for those on fixed incomes.

✔ Marriage Penalty Elimination
The bill aligns tax brackets so that married couples no longer pay more in taxes than they would filing individually. This removes a longstanding disincentive for marriage.

✔ Expanded Section 179 Expensing
Small businesses can now deduct up to $2.5 million in purchases of equipment, vehicles, and technology in the year they are placed in service—helping them reinvest faster.

✔ Self-Employment Tax Deduction
Self-employed individuals earning under $150,000 can deduct a portion of self-employment taxes, reducing the effective rate on gig and freelance work.

Straight Talk . . .

I appreciate courage and straight talk. I'm too chicken for it myself, but I recognize it when I see it and love to hear it. The CEO of Bed, Bath, and Beyond (BBB) tells the absolute truth about the horror show California has made for doing business here. We would love to leave, too, if it weren't for God's mandate that we stay here and serve this community. And we do love this community! Please read on.

Linda Gommel

From "Bed, Bath, and Beyond flees California, tells the world exactly why"

by Monica Showalter, American Thinker, 8/20/2025

Like many businesses, Bed, Bath & Beyond is fleeing California.
Unlike most, however, it's not slinking out quietly. It's letting the world know why it got the hell out of Dodge.

In a publicly issued statement, its executive chairman, Marcus Lemonis, wrote: We will not open or operate retail stores in California.

This decision isn't about politics — it's about reality. California has created one of the most overregulated, expensive, and risky environments for businesses in America. It's a system that makes it harder to employ people, harder to keep doors open, and harder to deliver value to customers.

The result? Higher taxes, higher fees, higher wages that many businesses simply cannot sustain, and endless regulations that strangle growth. Even when the state announces a budget surplus, it's built on the backs of ordinary citizens who are paying too much and businesses who are squeezed until they break.

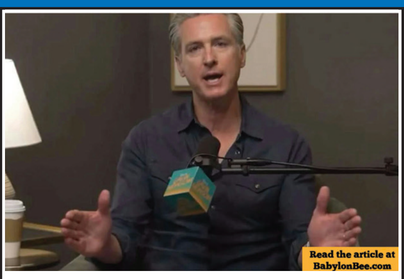
At Bed Bath & Beyond, our responsibility is to our customers and our shareholders. We will not participate in a system that undermines both. Instead, we are investing in a California strategy that works: 24–48-hour delivery, and in many cases, same-day service. Californians will continue to get the products they love through BedBathandBeyond.com — but without the inflated costs created by an unsustainable model.

We're taking a stand because it's time for common sense. Businesses deserve the chance to succeed. Employees deserve jobs that last. And customers deserve fair prices. California's system delivers the opposite. That's why Bed Bath & Beyond will serve California customers directly through BedBathandBeyond.com, on our terms, and with their best interests at heart.

— Marcus Lemonis
Executive Chairman,
Bed Bath & Beyond

On The Lighter Side of Serious Stuff . . . from the Web

Getting Out Of Hand? Newsom Orders Aide To Shoot Off His Ear
From The Babylon Bee



Gavin Newsom Vows To Double California's Violent Crime If Trump Doesn't Stop Cleaning Up D.C.
PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

Trump Says Following Brief Phone Call, Hurricane Erin Has Agreed To Change Course
From The Babylon Bee