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## Move away from religion should be no surprise

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As many readers are acutely aware, recent polls continue to reveal how Americans are markedly less religious than they were just a few decades ago.

Whereas the reasons for this decline often make for an interesting intellectual debate, it is important to recognize the trend as a natural consequence of a culture that is increasingly narcissistic and self-absorbed.

To be sure, Americans have always been defined by their individual inclinations. "Nobody is going to tell us what to do" might as well be embossed on our currency. But freedom without social responsibility is an illusion; it simply doesn't exist in the proverbial real world.

The fact that each succeeding generation has moved progressively further from a belief in God is not so much a consequence of our predecessors' failure to endow their progeny with a reverence for spiritual realities as it is a confirmation of the eternal truth, "where there is no vision, the people perish."

At a time when the fate of humanity hangs in the balance, and our shared destiny is irrevocably intertwined on a global scale, an unhealthy preoccupation with our own self-serving ambitions does not provide us with the best likelihood for shared survival. Instead of fixating on our individual desires, we should instead be focusing on our collective needs.

Watching our modern-day politicians, it is easy to see how we pay homage to a form of godliness, but we have made a sport out of denying its power. Enlightenment is not rejecting our divine nature; enlightenment is accepting our place in the universe while respecting its creator.

Or, as C.S. Lewis put it, "A man can no more diminish God's glory by refusing to worship him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling the word 'darkness' on the walls of his cell."

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