

DIVINE SUPERGLUE

...in him all things hold together (Col. 1:17).

Do you ever feel like things are falling apart? Frankly, as I gaze into the mists that shroud the 21st century yawning before us, it feels to me like we stand at the edge of an abyss. Economic meltdown, political instability, moral decline, the breakdown of the family, Islamic expansionism, tribalism... Can civilization survive?

The Irish poet, William Butler Yeats, peering into the 20th century, felt something similar. The year was 1919 and the killing fields of Europe were still drenched in the blood of the First World War. Russia had just experienced a revolution that brought atheistic communism to the forefront. The foundations were shaking. Looking into the darkness, Yeats wrote:

Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.
Surely some revelation is at hand;
Surely the Second Coming is at hand...

Yeats was prophetic. Without a cohesive center, things will indeed fall apart.

- **Morality** will fall apart. Every man will do what is right in his own eyes. Each person will become autonomous (a law unto himself).
- **Truth** will fall apart. No longer will the quest for Truth define human existence. Rather, each person will celebrate individual values and personal preferences. The uni-versity becomes a multi-versity. Truth (capital "T", no "s") is replaced by "truths."
- **Community** falls apart. Without a center to unite us, society falls back on the most basic of all human instincts: tribalism. The common good is lost as each person lobbies for his own self-interests.

History is littered with failed civilizations built around various understandings of "the center." But only one Center is able to keep things from ultimately falling apart: Jesus Christ. In Him *all things hold together* (Col. 1:17). He is the divine superglue!

O Lord, raise up a generation of men and women so centered in you that other commitments (political, ethnic, economic, ideological, etc.) seem petty in comparison. Thank you for establishing a kingdom that cannot be shaken (Heb. 12:28). Help us, Lord, to live as citizens of that kingdom! Amen.

Pastor Stan