# In 1860, America Was Divided

**By Van Yandell**

Without waiting for Abraham Lincoln's inauguration (March 4th, 1861), seven southern states seceded from the union of the United States of America. South Carolina was the first state to secede and was followed a month later by Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Alabama and Texas.

Followed later by Arkansas, Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina, the confederacy quickly became a force to be contended with.

Many prefer to believe the Civil War was not fought over slavery. An old history book we have ("History of Our Country" by Reuben Halleck, first published in 1923) conclusively states that was the cause and no other. Southern cotton farmers depended on slave labor for the successful operation of their plantations.

To those farmers, their slaves were possessions and the government had no business in taking them. To the slave owners, it would be like the government today telling farmers today they could not use tractors.

Southerners used scripture in Leviticus 25 to defend the use of slaves. The Hebrew word ebed (the language in which the Book of Leviticus was written) can mean slave or servant. It can also mean apprentice or assistant.

We know a slave is in bondage where a servant is by choice. Numerous Biblical beliefs, formulated by many opinions, confuse the original Hebrew words with the meaning they want it to be.

The confederacy was formed and Jefferson Davis from Mississippi was elected president. Secession at that point did not necessarily mean war was inevitable.

Lincoln however, did not agree with a peaceful separation into two countries. At that point, neither could agree on the stated conditions of the other.

Lincoln stated "The union of these states is perpetual." He was adamant that the United States of America could not and would not be divided.

Had the country been divided into two countries, neither could have the strength and political clout of the combined great nation, the United States of America.

The confederacy then occupied and controlled most of the military facilities (forts), in the southern states. Fort Sumter, in the Charleston, South Carolina bay entrance remained in Union control. Lincoln refused to give in to the rebels.

The southerners began a bombardment of the fort April 12th, 1861 at 4:30 am. The shelling lasted thirty-four hours. The fort was given up to the south, the union flag taken down and the confederate flag raised.

For the next four years the war raged on and America was divided. Levels of hated not previously seen, developed in a nation that had the word "united" in its name.

A certainty of the numbers of deaths during those years cannot be accurately determined. Numbers from 620,000 to 750,000 are found but none can be verified.

Thousands of soldiers died from starvation, exposure or diseases. Andersonville prison in Georgia is now a National Historic Site. There are painted cannons, beautiful green grass and paved roadways through the once horrible death camp located there 160 years ago.

Men died horrible deaths and suffered immeasurably in environments existing at Andersonville. Men slept in mud with rain falling on them in the winters. Heat in the southern summers made for another kind of misery.

Sanitation was not a word at Andersonville. During its fourteen months of operation, 12,920 deaths of Union soldiers were recorded.

The march of General William T. Sherman through the south in 1864 and early 1865 was designed to break the will of the southerners. Any and every type of torture, rape and murder were perpetrated on the citizens of the south.

Sherman's men used a "scorched earth" tactic to destroy the economy as well as the people. Homes, barns and other buildings were burned; bridges, roads and other infrastructure were destroyed and crops were destroyed in attempts to starve southerners.

This "body" called The United States of America was severely divided and a level of hatred existed for years after the surrender of the south (April 9th, 1865 at Appomattox courthouse).

If a study of the horror and atrocities of the American Civil War do not make us take notice of the damages of division, nothing ever will.

We may think this example of division, the American Civil War, is an exaggerated case but is it? Is the dividing of a family something to take lightly? Maybe the dividing of a community over a trivial matter would appear frivolous to many.

Is Christianity divided? Luke 11: 17b "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth."

One thing people of all religions have in common is that we all believe we are right and everyone else is wrong. And of course, we humans still confuse opinions with facts.

This includes the various denominations claiming Christianity as a religion. Confusing opinions with facts has led to the many denominations in Christianity which has led to divisions in the faith.

Of all the times in the history of Christianity, now is NOT a time to be divided. With the hatred and other forms of chaos in the world, what the world needs is Jesus.

Disagreement over the liberal-conservative political views has further divided the church. Several denominations have split over issues that are clearly defined in the scripture.

Matthew 16: 18 "And I (Jesus) say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." The gates of hell may not prevail against the church but the gate of division is making a serious effort.

There is only one fundamental of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. All other subjects are trivial, inconsequential and have nothing to do with one's eternal destination.

The Bible teaches there is only one eternal salvation. That is by a faith based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) that Christ Jesus was crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (Romans 4: 25), resurrected (Matthew 28: 6) and ascended alive into Heaven (Acts 1: 9).

*Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and missionary. His email is vmy3451@gmail.com*

# There Are Perks To Getting Older

***By Tommy Druen***

We often complain about the aches and pains of getting older, but there are a few quiet perks. One unexpected advantage I've discovered is that it's considerably easier to see my favorite bands in concert. For one thing, getting tickets is no longer a frantic scramble or constant busy signal. More importantly, I can actually afford to be where I can see the band without squinting. And there is nothing wrong with a reserved seat, as a sweaty mosh pit would probably leave me in traction.

Recently I joined with fellow members of my generation at a Better Than Ezra show. The band sounded every bit as sharp as they did when I first heard them back in 1995. They also understood their crowd, mixing in a few shrewdly chosen covers with their own hits. When they struck the opening chords of Sublime's "What I Got," something remarkable happened. Within seconds, the entire crowd erupted in unison, singing every lyric back toward the stage with an absolutely joyful fervor.

Even while singing along, my mind recalled the tragic history behind that song. For nearly a decade, Sublime had been little more than a scruffy California trio clawing for any foothold they could find. Frontman and guitarist Brad Nowell and his bandmates played rowdy backyard parties, slept in battered vans, scraped together pocket change for studio time, and handed out homemade cassette tapes. They spent years pouring their souls into their music during a time when practically nobody was paying the slightest bit of attention.

Then came 1996. In May, just two months before the band's major-label debut arrived in stores, Nowell died of a drug overdose in a motel room. He was only twenty-eight years old. When the self-titled album finally hit the shelves, it became a nationwide sensation. "What I Got" soared straight to No. 1 on the alternative chart, while tracks like "Santeria" and "Wrong Way" became ubiquitous anthems on rock stations. Sublime became one of the definitive sounds of the decade, yet Nowell was not there to witness it. He had paid every ounce of his dues, but never heard the thunderous applause that followed. It was over before it had begun.

It is a poignant reminder of an enduring truth: the person who plants the sapling rarely gets to enjoy the cooling shade of the full-grown tree. History is filled with creators whose genius only resonated long after they had left the room. Vincent van Gogh died believing himself to be a failure. Herman Melville published Moby-Dick in 1851, but it was not a commercial success. By the time he died in 1891, only a few thousand copies had been sold. Today, it is routinely regarded as one of the greatest American novels ever written. Gregor Mendel published his groundbreaking work on hybrid plants in 1866, but it attracted little attention during his lifetime. His work was essentially forgotten until scientists rediscovered it around the turn of the century, and today he is known as the father of modern genetics.

The list could go on. Sometimes recognition comes years later, sometimes generations later, and sometimes it never comes at all. In every case, the person who did the work may never know what it eventually meant to the rest of the world.

The lesson here is not that hard work is futile, but that applause makes for a terrible compass. If an endeavor is worth undertaking, its real value comes from the honest act of doing, not from whether the world throws a parade. A fresh blackberry pie does not taste one bit sweeter because a blue ribbon gets pinned to the tin at the county fair, and a well-tended flowerbed is not a waste of effort just because the neighbors drove past without turning their heads. And I dare say nobody is framing a meticulously crafted spreadsheet.

We cannot control whether other people notice our labor or appreciate our craftsmanship. If we spend our lives measuring our worth by the fickle opinions of strangers, we have surrendered our independence and handed them the ruler. Far better to do the work simply because it matters to your own heart.

Dr. Jonas Salk once said, "The reward for work well done is the opportunity to do more." I like that. It's great to set goals for ourselves, and it's even better to achieve them, but we need to remember that they are our goals. They are personal.

Brad Nowell never got to stand beneath arena lights and hear a massive crowd sing his creations back to him. But nearly thirty years later, a rapidly-graying group of strangers was still lifting their voices to lyrics written in obscurity. The recognition may arrive late, or it may never show up at all. But when you put something genuine into the world, it has a way of outliving the silence.



# God Knows You

***By Dr. Bob Hardison***

**Arrogant Boasting Is Annoying**

Q: A person in my Sunday school class is always bragging about what he has done and where he has been. Whenever another class member tells of their vacation, he always tells how he has done something similar and often better. Class members find it hard to tolerate his braggadocios talk. Should I confront him about his arrogance?

A: Certainly, bragging and arrogance are not Christ-like ways of interacting with others. Boasting of our deeds repels others. The Bible clearly asserts, "Love is not boastful, is not arrogant" (1 Cor. 13:4). When we speak in love, we should be careful not to exalt ourselves over others. Instead, we should in love seek to build up them.

Please, pray for the person who is always bragging about what he has done. Perhaps, he didn't receive love and acceptance in his home and boasting of his accomplishments may be his way of seeking acceptance.

Perhaps, in a casual setting, you could say to him, "In our class, your input and insights are good and appreciated. I hope I don't hurt your feelings, but I've noticed one thing that I think will help you with your relations with everyone in the class. Almost always when someone shares something special they're done, you top their story by telling of a bigger experience you've had. Doing that takes away the joy of their sharing their experience." Speak only out of love and be sure you are seeking that person's highest good.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

Karen S. Parker, 7430 State Route 132-East, Sebree, KY, was appointed Administratrix of the Estate of Raymond M. Floyd, who died intestate, a resident of 5621 State Route 132-East, Sebree, KY on September 30, 2026. Date of qualification October 13, 2026. Inventory due January 12, 2027. Settlement due October 17, 2028. All claims must be filed within six months of appointment.

Danny L. Stone, 2802 Wesco Drive, Madisonville, KY, was appointed Executor of the Estate of Hershel L. Stone, who died intestate, a resident of Dixon, KY on September 29, 2026. Charles A. Willson designated as Agent for the Service of Process. Date of qualification October 16, 2026. Attorney: Charles A. Willson, P.O. Box 335, Dixon, KY 42409. Inventory due January 18, 2027. Settlement due October 25, 2028. All claims must be filed within six months of appointment.

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