

Evangelicals' Collapsing Cultural Influence

By [David French](#)
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Note from Pastor Kevin Lea: I agree with this author's observations and hope that it will challenge all of us to evaluate our own hearts and actions. God has called us to holiness and obedience to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). If we are not walking in both, then we will be missing the blessings of being used by God in these last days.

On a day when many evangelicals are perhaps flexing their political muscles in the aftermath of their decisive votes in Alabama and Mississippi, it's worth pondering whether evangelicals' actual *cultural* (rather than political) influence is waxing or waning. While reading Charles Murray's [new book](#), I came across insightful and disturbing discussions by [Yuval Levin](#) and Ross [Douthat](#). Surveying the devastating decline in marriage and other critical social markers in the working class, Levin notes the failure of social conservatism outside the political sphere:

In our time, American social conservatism has much to be proud of as a movement for justice: Social conservatives devote themselves to the pro-life cause, to human rights, and to the plight of the poor abroad. But American social conservatism has almost entirely lost interest in the cause of order—in standing up for clean living, for self-discipline and restraint, for resisting temptation and meeting basic responsibilities. The institutions of American Christianity—some of which would actually stand a chance of being taken seriously by the emerging lower class—are falling down on the job, as their attention is directed to more exciting causes, in no small part because...

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