

When Culture Forgets God, Beauty Dies... Even at Cracker Barrel

It's not just Cracker Barrel, it's everything. And Zach Dean at OutKick was right to call it out.

"I hate to do it, but I have to go after Cracker Barrel today," Dean opens, with that gut-punch tone all of us have felt watching another piece of cherished Americana get whitewashed by the modern age.

Cracker Barrel, with its rustic charm, old-time candy, vintage music and checkers by the fireplace, didn't just serve food, it served a reminder of a slower, simpler, more beautiful America. One where grandma's stories had a seat at the table and the walls whispered of tradition, memory and comfort.

But now, according to Dean, "Cracker Barrel's new look is making great American patriots sick to their stomachs." And rightly so.

Have yall seen the new updated Cracker Barrel stores? I'm sick.

– The Classic Wife ☐☐ (@theclassicwife) April 25, 2025

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Because what we're witnessing isn't just a decor swap: it's a cultural transformation.

The rocking chairs, the hash browns, the Sunrise Sampler and even the triangle peg game are being replaced by sleeker designs, cleaner lines and the kind of banality that comes

from a generation more inspired by sterile Apple stores than by hand-carved Americana.

“Banquet seating? Lighter paint options? Fresher? Cleaner? Nope,” Dean writes. “That’s not what we want. Not what we grew up with. Not what we go to Cracker Barrel for. It’s disgusting, and it’s insulting to you, me and mamaws all across this country.”

But here’s the truth, the decline of Cracker Barrel’s charm is just a symptom. The disease runs much deeper.

Hollywood can’t make a fresh movie to save its life. Everything is a reboot, a sequel, a shallow, CGI-glazed husk of the original. McDonald’s, Wendy’s and nearly every fast-food chain have abandoned their iconic, colorful designs for bland, corporate grays and minimalist fonts. Mainstream music has lost melody, soul and story – replaced with digital loops and lyrics that barely scratch the surface of the human experience.

This isn’t coincidence. It’s what happens when a society turns its back on its Creator.

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God is the Author of beauty, creativity and design. Scripture tells us in Genesis 1 that we are made in His image, and that image includes imagination, artistry and the capacity to create good things. When we are aligned with Him, the results are majestic: architecture that stirs the soul, music that lifts the heart and films that speak truth.

But when a culture rebels against God, when it glorifies darkness, embraces sin and elevates the self over the sacred, we should expect decay.

Cracker Barrel’s drift into blandness isn’t just about style. It’s about a spiritual erosion. The “modern” look lacks soul

because much of modern culture is soulless. It's not simply Gen-Z aesthetics, it's a generational rejection of the sacred, the rooted, the nostalgic, the good.

"There are certain things in life you just don't mess with. Cracker Barrel's decor is absolutely one of those things," Dean reminds us. And he's right, because what we're losing isn't just an old lamp or rustic signage. We're losing the last echoes of a time when culture still pointed to something greater than itself.

And in its place? Sterility. Darkness. Emptiness.

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This is why so much of what America consumes now, from satanic concerts in sold-out arenas to AI-generated music, feels hollow. It's man creating without God. And man without God can only manufacture shadows of what once was beautiful.

So yes, mourn the new Cracker Barrel. But also understand, it's just the latest tombstone on a cultural landscape that used to be alive with faith, family and reverence for beauty.

Want beauty back? We need to return to the Source. Until then, don't be surprised when the pancakes come on cold plates in rooms that feel more like dentist offices than front porches.

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As Dean says with righteous frustration, "This ain't your daddy's – or your granddaddy's – Cracker Barrel... and we shouldn't stand for it for one more second. Stop the madness!"

Maybe it's time we did just that.

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