

Rural America

These relationships, obligations, and common understandings are what I have called the "moral community." ...

Being part of a moral community, even when it sits lightly on people's shoulders, means that sensing your community is declining and your young people are falling behind is a reflection in small measure on you.

You may not be affected personally, but you are part of a failing community.

The school that closes is yours. You may be well educated yourself, but you feel that people consider you a hick simply because of where you live.

Robert Wuthnow, *The Left Behind*