

Perspective

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Corruption, It Will End!

Ever since Adam and Eve were created in the Garden of Eden, there has been human corruption (Genesis 3). Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and by their disobedience the first parents introduced sin into the world and broke what could have been the perfect relationship between God and humanity. It became like the anecdote of Humpty, Dumpty and the four-line rhyme, “Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. All the king's horses and all the king's men, couldn't put Humpty together again.” Thus, has been the world, and man's corruption just keeps getting worse. After the sin of Adam, sin spread throughout human history. Genesis 6:5 describes the world as *“filled with corruption and violence,”* prompting God to judge it with the flood. The prophets repeatedly warned of moral decay, idolatry, injustice, and oppression, showing how sin corrupts society. Scripture emphasizes that corruption begins in the heart. Proverbs 15:26 calls the thoughts of the wicked *“an abomination to the LORD.”* Jeremiah 17:9 warns, the heart is *“deceitful above all things.”* This internal corruption leads to outward evil, such as deceit, hatred, and injustice. Is there an end to it?

Corruption is everywhere

The first place we often see corruption is in the political realm. Corruption often begins in public institutions, where officials misuse their authority for personal gain. This can include bribery to secure permits or valuable contracts, embezzlement of public funds, nepotism in hiring, and abuse of authority by extortion from citizens or businesses. Police officers, judges, and prosecutors may engage in corruption by accepting bribes to overlook crimes, issue false warrants, or favor certain parties in legal cases. This erodes the rule of law and deters people from even seeking justice. Corruption in education may involve nepotism in admissions, bribery to secure scholarships, or misuse of school funds. This undermines the quality of education and limits opportunities for underprivileged students. Corruption in these sectors often leads to poor quality work, cost overruns, and delays. Contractors may bribe officials to win contracts or manipulate the bidding processes. Corruption manifests itself wherever power is without oversight. It harms the public's trust, undermines economic growth, and further marginalizes the poor.

Astoundingly, most are unaware that the U.S. has a huge black market — also called the underground or shadow economy — estimated to be worth about \$1.55 trillion, which is roughly 5% of the country's GDP as of 2023. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported in April, 2024, based on data gathered from 2018-2022, the U.S. federal government loses approximately \$233-521 billion each year to fraud.

All the while, God is left out of the picture and man seeks his own way, but God sees and hears the corruption which is so prevalent. These very same things are also happening in the U.K., Australia, Canada, New Zealand and about every country on earth. Isaiah 59:1-4 states, *“Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken falsely, and your tongue mutters wicked things. No one calls for justice; no one pleads a case with integrity. They rely on empty arguments, they utter lies; they conceive trouble and give birth to evil.”* Continuing in verses 9-10 it says, *“So justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. Like the blind we grope along the wall, feeling our way like people without eyes. At midday we stumble as if it were twilight; among the strong, we are like the dead.”*

Micah 2:1-2 warns about these foibles of the flesh: *“Woe to those who devise iniquity, and work out evil on their beds! At morning light, they practice it, because it is in the power of their hand. They covet fields and take them by violence, also houses, and seize them. So, they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance.”* Leviticus 19:11: *“You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another.”* *“The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.”* (Proverbs 12:22)

All things have been corrupted

Mankind has perverted and corrupted sex, sexual genders, marriage, family, and have sought to redefine and distort just about everything. When Adam and Eve were created in the Garden of Eden, they were married by God. They were made to unite in love and become one. Sex was intended to be a beautiful picture of intimacy. The woman

taken from man and then man becoming one with woman again. But God intended it not merely as a picture of intimacy between a man and woman in marriage, but also a picture of unity.

Man perverted that wonderful beautiful creation. Today, the pornography industry generates over \$ 100 billion globally. Pornography and human trafficking are closely linked; as traffickers often force individuals into producing pornographic content, making it sexual exploitation and modern slavery.

Such sexual immorality is an old story. The Apostle Paul wrote about it in his time: *“For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise, also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness (Romans 1:26-29).*

God commands His people not have anything to do with this world’s brain-damaged, demented ways which God calls unclean. II Corinthians 6:17 instructs, *“Therefore ‘Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.’”*

Man has even corrupted our languages!

My parents taught their children to never use profanity; they told us it was a sign of a low vocabulary. It was also customary for a man to never use profanity of any kind in the presence of a lady. Today, it seems even on some radio talk shows foul language is very often used by the hosts and guests.

Does the Bible say it is a sin to curse, swear, or use profanity? While today we may think of “curse words” simply as vulgarity, the Bible addresses the idea of cursing as a multitude of forms of speech. In the biblical context, cursing could be considered wishing ill upon another person or spreading falsehoods about them. Either way, it is definitely a sin to curse (swear, cuss, etc.). Scripture directly tells us, *“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” (Ephesians 4:29)*

The Bible instructs us to *“bless and do not curse them” (Romans 12:14)*, and warns us that *“whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech” (1 Peter 3:10)*. God clearly instructs Christians not to curse or swear. James 3:9-10 shows a true Christian should be careful in their speech: *“With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.”*

What about the use of euphemisms such as shoot, gosh, golly, dang, darn, or heck? What is a euphemism? It is a milder or less direct word or expression substituted for one considered to be too harsh or blunt. We shouldn’t play games with sin and merely substitute milder words which mean the same thing—we should also eradicate those words from our conversation.

Interestingly, the Bible prophesies a coming pure language in Zephaniah 3:9: *“For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the Lord, to serve Him with one accord.”*

The Great Straightener is coming again!

God’s people cannot allow the ways of this world, which has been blinded by Satan, to creep into our lives (II Corinthians 4:3-4). It behooves all those “called to be saints,” who were once dead and are now made alive, to be continually, with the help of God’s spirit and His grace, purifying ourselves (Ephesians 2:1); *“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.” (I John 3:1-3)*

John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus Christ, Whose mission was to begin the process of straightening out this world, by His sacrifice. John prophesied in Luke 3:4-6: *“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth; And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”*

It is our time now to judge ourselves (1 Corinthians 11:31), make our paths straight, and end any corruption in our lives in preparation for Christ’s return the second time; a time when we will be prepared to serve with Him as He makes all that is crooked straight and ends all corruption.