

## The Crooked and Perverse Generation

By Doug Hamilton

### 2) Human Life Through the Eyes of the Crooked and Perverse Generation

#### a. The Biblical View of Human Life

The Christian is to value all human beings, for they all have a soul. I would like to focus on three groups of people in particular that the Bible discusses.

##### i. The Unborn

As mentioned in the last lesson, God point of view concerning children is that they are a blessing from Him (Ps. 127:3-5). There are those who say there is a difference between an unborn and born child. A brief scan of the scriptures will confirm God's love for the unborn child.

- In Genesis 25:23 God told Rebekah "*Two nations are in your womb...*" He could see the lives of Jacob and Esau. Hosea 12:3 actually says they wrestled for power while in the womb.
- Judges 16:17 says Samson was a Nazarite "*from my mother's womb*".
- Job said he was fashioned by God from the womb (Job 31:15).
- David said "*thou hast been my God from my mother's womb*" in Ps 22:10. He was "*fearfully and wonderfully made*", being knit together by God (Ps 139:13-14).
- Solomon was woven by God in the womb (Eccl 11:5).
- Isaiah was also formed by God in the womb (Is 44:2), actually being ordained a prophet while still unborn (Is 49:1).
- Jeremiah was also ordained a prophet while still in his mother's womb (Jeremiah 1:4-5).
- John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit and ordained a prophet while still in the womb (Luke 1:15).
- Jesus was also set apart in the womb (Luke 1:31).
- Paul the apostle was also set apart for the work of God while still in the womb (Galatians 1:15).

The Bible is very clear that unborn children are vital and living beings with a future. We are to value their lives.

##### ii. The Old-born

The Bible is clear concerning the love and respect do to the aged.

- *Lev 19:32 'You shall rise up before the grayheaded, and honor the aged, and you shall revere your God; I am the LORD.* God requires us as a people of His own possession to be zealous for His good works. This is absolutely inclusive to the honoring the aged. The word for *honor* means *to show favor and importance toward another*. It is not something that happens by accident, but through re-evaluation and re-application. When we "rise up" before the

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aged and treat them as important and favored, we are reverencing God in the way that He has called for us to do.

- We are to show them the highest respect for the “Old-born”.
  - 1 Tim 5:1-2 Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but {rather} appeal to {him} as a father, {to} the younger men as brothers, 2 the older women as mothers, {and} the younger women as sisters, in all purity.
- There typically is great wisdom in the minds of the “Old-born”.
  - Job 12:12 "Wisdom is with aged men, {with} long life is understanding.
  - Job 32:7 "I thought age should speak, and increased years should teach wisdom.
  - Prov 20:29 The glory of young men is their strength, and the honor of old men is their gray hair.
- There is also maturity expected from the “*Old-born*”.
  - Titus 2:2-3 Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance. 3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,

It is very clear from the Bible that the elderly are to be valued in our culture.

### iii. The Born-again

- It says in *Galatians 6:10* *So then, “while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.* The reason for this is because we share the highest goal on earth, which is to go to heaven. God expects us to go above and beyond for the born-again.
- This is why we find so many passages in the Bible concerning this.
  - John 13:34-35 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
  - James 2:15-16 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that?
  - 1 John 3:17 But whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

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The biblical point of view is to have a deep love for the brethren. We must never fail to keep that foremost in our minds.

## b. The Worldview on Human Life

Today the world has a completely different view on life, particularly in these three areas.

### i. Abortion

- “A Seattle mother is irate after she said her 15-year-old daughter's school arranged an abortion for her daughter without her knowledge. The mother, whose name has been withheld at her request to protect her privacy, told ABC News' Seattle affiliate KOMO-TV that the clinic gave her daughter a pass and helped her get a taxi that took her to a facility where she underwent an abortion.” (ABC News March 23, 2010).
- The forty years from the legalization of abortion in 1973, has yielded the death of 56 million babies. Since 1980 there have been at least 1.4 billion abortions world-wide.
- In misogynistic countries, like Pakistan, China and India, which practice “abortion selection”, there are over 160 million “*missing women*”. They have been snuffed out of existence through the use of the ultrasound and the hope of having a son to pass on the family name. This unnatural population mechanism has left a noticeable shortage of women for marriage. -Douthat, Ross (June 26, 2011). "160 Million and Counting". *The New York Times*.
- In some of our nation's schools, young girls can be given an abortion-inducing prescription pill without notification for the parents. They cannot get an aspirin in those same schools.

We are living in a world that is lowering the value on life. The killing of innocent life is a primary sign of the more serious problem.

### ii. Elder Abuse

- The United States
  - According to the best available estimates, between 1 and 2 million Americans age 65 or older have been injured, exploited, or otherwise mistreated by someone on whom they depended for care or protection.
  - Data on elder abuse in domestic settings suggest that only 1 in 14 incidents are brought to authorities.
  - Current estimates suggests that there may be at least 5 million elderly financial abuse victims each year.

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- The elderly are portrayed in our American media as stupid and out of touch, not wise and experienced.
- The society is being taught to keep them out of sight and out of mind.
- Internet scams against the elderly are skyrocketing (San Francisco Monitor. May 23, 2014)
- Throughout the country robberies and violence against the elderly is becoming an epidemic (WMC-TV report from Memphis August 2, 2012).
- India
  - Reported elder abuse has risen from 23% to 50% all elderly from 2013 to 2014. (HT Correspondent Chandigarh, June 16, 2014)
- Africa
  - In war-torn Africa, the fastest growing violence is against elderly women over 60 years of age. This does not even include the estimated 80% of unreported cases. This is what prompted the UN to declare June 15<sup>th</sup> as Elder Abuse Day. (UN News Service June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014)

Worldwide there is an increase of mistreatment of the elderly. This is the way of the world and not that of the Bible.

### iii. Persecution of Christians

The worldview for the most part is negative on Christianity. This is leading to a rise of persecution against the born-again.

- The top 10 countries where Christians faced the most pressure and violence in the 2013 are: North Korea, Somalia, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Maldives, Pakistan, Iran and Yemen (Opendoorsusa.com). In the top 50 countries whom persecute Christians, 36 of them are in the name of Islam. In some of these countries, like North Korea, being caught with a Bible is grounds for execution or a life-long prison sentence.
- Victoria, Australia, for example, legally compels “every doctor to participate in abortion” even if morally or religiously opposed” either by doing the deed when asked, or referring the pregnant patient to a doctor they know supports abortion. The Dutch Medical Association (KNMG) recently promulgated a similar ethical rule requiring all Dutch doctors to kill, or if opposed on religious or moral grounds, refer when legally qualified patients ask to be euthanized.
- In America we do not have a level of persecution as compared to tyrant governments. What we do have is “pre-persecution” of

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intolerance. Many in the media, government and other positions of power have made it their goal to silence Christians. As Jonah Goldberg noted in *USA Today*, the opposition to many Christian values has become an “if you’re not with us, you’re against us” mentality.

- Catholic Charities in Illinois shut down its adoption services rather than place children with same-sex couples (as the state required).
- Ten Commandment plaques, crosses on public lands, high school students’ clothing and the banning of Intelligent Design in the classroom are all examples of intolerance.
- A Christian counselor was penalized for refusing to advise gay couples on how to keep their marriage together.
- Employees banned at the workplace from even having a religious conversation.
- A court clerk in New York was told to issue same-sex marriage licenses, despite religious reservations.
- Privately owned businesses where there is religious conviction against the abortion pill are required to buy them anyway.
- A wedding photographer was sued and lost the case for refusing to book a same-sex wedding.
- Where will our nation go from here? It is a big leap from intolerance to persecution. If you do not think persecution will come here someday, then contemplate the following.
  - Hate Speech Legislation: Though there are justified laws against true bullying, there is a movement in our nation that says we have a right to not have our feelings hurt. Leaders around the country are attempting to pass laws which limit freedom of expression, particularly religious convictions. On Feb 28, 2013 the Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that Biblical speech opposing homosexual behavior, including in written form, is essentially a hate crime. Can you imagine a preacher who reads a passage from the Bible condemning homosexuality might be imprisoned? In Sweden a preacher named Ake Green was sentenced to one month in prison for just that. This will be a problem in the future.
  - Freedom to Worship: The First Amendment provides Americans the Freedom of Religion. This includes the freedom to display our faith in public, to evangelize and to allow our faith to be in the public square. There is a secular United Nations movement today to interpret Freedom of

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Religion as Freedom of Worship. They say that Christians have the right to worship within their confines, but must be secular outside the walls of the church building. Many prominent politicians, including the President, a former Secretary of State, Senators, Congressmen and even some Governors have been using the phrase “*Freedom to Worship*” when describing the first Amendment. *If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it* –Dr. Joseph Goebbels (Hitler’s Minister of Propaganda). He was able to convince a nation to kill millions of Jews simply because they differed in opinion. Nowhere in our founding documents does it say “*Separation of Church and State*”, but the majority of Americans believe it does. Will “Freedom to Worship” replace “Freedom of Religion?” God help us all if it does.

There is a war against the born-again, but did we ever expect less? 2 Timothy 3:12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...”

### c. How can we shine as lights in the world?

#### i. Be educated.

- We are expected to be reasoned, for God gave us a brain (Is 1:18; Acts 17:2-3). We have to take the time to understand how God views all human life. We must understand the scriptures to reason it to others. We must be prepared to give an account for the faith which is in us (1 Pet 3:15).

#### ii. Be vocal.

- If you see something, then say something. Don’t let someone devalue another human being’s life. If you see someone bullying another, then say something! If you hear someone proclaiming that unborn children are not people, then say something. If you see someone not showing respect for the elderly, say something! If you see Christians being belittled, the say something! Preach the word, be instant in season and out of season, say something (2 Tim 4).

#### iii. Be loving.

- Above all make sure that we are working with others made in the likeness and image of God (Gen 1:27). Show the compassion of Jesus to everyone, including those that would consider us an enemy. Pray for them that despise you. We ultimately will be judged by God is we fail in this realm.