

The Crooked and Perverse Generation

By Doug Hamilton

The Apostle Paul write in Philippians in 2:14-16 “*Do all things without grumbling or disputing; ¹⁵ so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.*”

Paul was referencing an Old Testament concept given by God to show contrast from His people and the people of the world. In god’s eyes the world was darkness and the people of God were to be light.

- Proverbs 4:18-19 But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, That shines brighter and brighter until the full day. ¹⁹ The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know over what they stumble.
- Is 49:6 He says, “It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”
- Is 4:6-7 “I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, And I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations, ⁷ To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the dungeon And those who dwell in darkness from the prison.

Jesus carried this concept into the New Testament times as well.

- Matthew 5:14-16 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; ¹⁵ nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
- John 8:12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”

One can conclude that Jesus was not referring to literal light and darkness, but contrasting ways of life, two conflicting views concerning the chosen practices of man.

- John 3:19-21 “This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. ²⁰ “For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹ “But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”

There is a way of God and the way of the *crooked and perverse generation*. We must not confuse the two for they are as opposite as light is from darkness. This series, “*The Crooked and Perverse Generation*”, focuses on the clash of the two different views. In response we have the responsibility to be lights among darkness. This will not occur simply by accident, but through calculated actions of Christians. The views which will be categorized are the following six topics: 1) Parenting 2) Human Life 3) Sex and Marriage 4) Property 5) Truth and 6) the Heart. Each lesson will follow the pattern of A) The Biblical View B) The Worldview and C) How we can shine as lights in the world?

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1) Parenting Through the Eyes of the Crooked and Perverse Generation

a. The Biblical View of Parenting

i. Children are a blessing from God.

- Psalm 127:3-5 Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. ⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. ⁵ How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; They will not be ashamed When they speak with their enemies in the gate.
- Children are a gift from God, not an inconvenience. They have the potential to change the parent's lives beyond ways we can even imagine. They can bless a parent with patience, accomplishment, joy, sadness and other dimensions which stretch the character. Like little time machines we can watch them make the trip from infancy to maturity, celebrating their accomplishments for the kingdom of God along the way. This is the Biblical view of parenting.

ii. Children are only on loan to the parent.

- Genesis 2:24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother...
- Prov 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go..."
- The Biblical point of view of parenting is that our children are only ours temporarily ours. They are expected to grow up, seek out a spouse and begin a new family unit of society with that partner. They are not expected to be under the parent's household forever. This Christian principle is why a father gives his daughter's hand in marriage, for she was on loan from God for only a short time.

iii. Children must be prepared for a life of faith in Christ.

- Prov 1:8-9 Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and do not forsake your mother's teaching; ⁹ Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head, and ornaments about your neck.
- Eph 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), ³ that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.
- Passing the faith to the offspring is the number goal of the Christian parent. It is not something which comes naturally, but with careful planning. Through great amounts of love and attention this goal can and will be achieved if we put our minds to it.

iv. Children need correction.

- Hebrews 12:9-10 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?

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- Proverbs 13:24 He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.
- Proverbs 29:15 a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.
- Correction comes in many forms, from timeouts, groundings and yes...even a swat on the backside. Yes, for thousands of years spanking was accepted as part of parenting. It was practiced in all fifty states and still legal to administrate in nineteen states. They learned this from the proven record of the Bible. Children need to be corrected from time to time, for it is called discipline.

b. The Worldview of Parenting

i. Children are viewed as an inconvenience to lifestyle.

- There are still over 1.2 million documented abortions in our country every single year. Another study says that 11% of all women in our nation have taken the *Morning After* abortion pill. Why are so many women having abortions to prevent children? According to an AGI report, the top six reasons were the following.
 - a. 25% felt they were not ready.
 - b. 23% felt they could not afford a child.
 - c. 19% felt they had all the children they desired.
 - d. 8% wanted to avoid single parenthood.
 - e. 7% felt too immature.
 - f. 4% for health reasons.
- The media would have us believe that these were all great and innocent reasons to end the life of a human being. It can be difficult to be ready for what life has in store, many have found themselves pregnant and poor and being a potential single-parent can be tough. Mary faced similar circumstances, but gave birth to the Savior of the world. Simply put, our society has typically accepted selfish reasons to portray a child as an inconvenience.
 - a. Many influential people are teaching that having children is bad thing.
 - b. We are told that having children is hard on the planet and the need to be ecofriendly.
 - c. There are more pet dogs in our American households than there are children!

ii. Children are viewed as wards of the state.

- Typically the parents of a child have the greatest interest for them to succeed in this life. Today we live in a world that is habitually

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infringing on these parental rights because they want to be the parent.

- a. They tell you what they want to teach your child, but what they necessarily should be learning.
 - b. They tell you what therapy you can and cannot use.
 - c. They attempt to tell you how you must discipline your children.
 - d. In some states they are strong-arming children out of the home because they disagree with your religious convictions.
 - e. The world feels they can do a better job with your child than you can do for your child.
- How bad is the worldview over individual parental rights? Check out the *United Nations Convention of the Rights of Children* (CNCRC). 194 nations, not including the US, are supporting this. It requires those nations to report to the UN concerning children's rights. What does the UN teach is acceptable?
 - a. Children should have the ability to choose their own religion regardless of their parents.
 - b. The *Best Interest of the Child* principle giving the United Nations the power to override parental decisions if their own government does not.
 - c. A child's "*right to be heard*" without parental influence.
 - d. Legal "*right to leisure*" against the parents.
 - e. The right of children to have reproductive decisions, including abortions, without parental notification.
 - f. Shutting down or fining of schools, both public and private, that fail to teach "*alternative worldviews*".
 - There is a crooked and perverse worldview that seeks to make our children the wards of the state.
- iii. Children are viewed as projects of social experiments.
- Government bureaucrats force material on many teachers in school systems that seeks to indoctrinate our children. Instead of focusing on important skills like reading, writing and arithmetic, they are fed a steady diet of social experimentation.
 - a. Sex education is being taught without discretion to accept what feels good instead of abstaining from relations until married.
 - b. Evolution is being force-fed as fact instead of the theory it really is. Never mind it takes more faith to believe in Evolution than Intelligent Design.

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- c. These bureaucrats attack Biblical qualities like *Love Your Neighbor* while scratching their heads in bewilderment to the school shootings, bullying and other violence.
 - All this about making children a social experiment for the bureaucrats to run their stats and determine they were wrong in the end.
- c. How can we shine as lights in the world?
- i. Study and pray with your children regularly.
 - The studying will prepare them mentally to take on the logic of the world. (*Proverbs 1:1-2 My son, give attention to my wisdom, Incline your ear to my understanding; 2 That you may observe discretion And your lips may reserve knowledge.*)
 - Prayer will prepare them emotionally to take on the chaos of the world. (*Phil 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*)
 - ii. Guide your children to a Christian spouse.
 - Proverbs 31:10 An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels.
 - Proverbs 12:4 An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, But she who shames *him* is like rottenness in his bones.
 - 2 Cor 6:14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?
 - iii. Encourage them continually to be Christians.
 - Titus 2:4-8 "...encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored. ⁶ Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; ⁷ in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, ⁸ sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us."