



HELPING MEN LIVE LIVES OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR

HOAW Newsletter

We are not a mistake, a happenstance, or a coincidence. We were on the heart of God before we ever came to be. He superintended our formation in our mother's womb. He determined how many days we would live on the earth. He identified a unique purpose for each of our lives in advance...*Psalm 139:1-18; Ephesians 2:10*

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The Problem of Evil

by Dr. Greg Bourgon

The growing pervasiveness of evil at home and abroad begs the following questions.

- Does evil exist apart from the human soul? Is it a virus that hangs in the air or must it be embodied to exist?
- Is evil increasing in the world? Is evil expanding?
- Are the depths of depravity reaching new lows today? Are we seeing new expressions of depravity than we have seen in the past?
- Is the Enemy upping his game? Is he intensifying his influence?

I simply offer my limited perspective at this point. Evil does not exist apart from its symbiotic relationship with sin. Freedom of choice existed before humans. The exercise of choice (or free will) has consequences and evil is one of those

consequences. One third of the angels fell with Lucifer when he challenged the authority of God. Adam and Eve had free will in the Garden, the exercise of which resulted in expulsion from the Garden in shame. They are the progenitors of original sin that every human being inherited--a predisposition to live our lives independently from God and His standard for morality.

Does evil exist apart from the human soul?

Is it a virus that hangs in the air or must it be embodied to exist?

In my understanding of Scripture and theology, evil does not exist apart from a host--created beings (including angels). Humans sin and humans have the potential of great good and jaw-dropping evil. Evil is not a virus, but a part of our spiritual DNA as is the fact that we were created in the image of God bearing in our person the character of God

with His communicable attributes. J. I. Packer clarifies what is meant by the image of God.

"When God made man, he communicated to him qualities corresponding to His moral attributes. This is what the Bible means when it tells us that God made man (meaning both men and women) in His own image -- namely, that God made man (and woman) a free spiritual being, a responsible moral agent with powers of choice and action, able to commune with Him and respond to Him, and by nature good, truthful, holy, upright: in a word, godly...The moral qualities which belonged to the divine image were lost at the Fall; God's image in man has been universally defaced, for all mankind has in one way or another lapsed into ungodliness.

But the Bible tells us that now, in fulfillment of His plan of redemption, God is at work in Christian believers to repair His ruined image by communicating these qualities to them afresh. This is what Scripture means when it says that Christians

are being renewed in the image of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18) and of God (Colossians 3:10)."

Is evil increasing in the world? Is evil expanding?

Given the fact that sin (and evil) demands a host then it stands to reason that as the population of humanity grows so does the expanse of evil. Some scholars suggest that the destruction of the Tower of

Babel was, in part, due to the prospect of evil (and sin) accelerating when concentrated in one place. Much like sound traveling further and faster in water than it does in air because the molecules are spaced more closely in proximity.

GotQuestions.org describes the situation. "The Tower of Babel is described in Genesis 11:1-9. After the Flood, God commanded humanity to "increase in number and fill the earth" (Genesis 9:1). Humanity decided to do the exact opposite, "Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth'" (Genesis 11:4). Humanity decided to build a great city and all congregate there. They decided to build a gigantic tower as a symbol of their power, to make a name for themselves (Genesis 11:4). This tower is remembered as the Tower of Babel. In response, God confused the languages of humanity so that they could no longer communicate with each other (Genesis 11:7). The result was that people congregated with other people who spoke the same language, and then went together and settled in other parts of the world (Genesis 11:8-9). God confused the languages at the Tower of Babel to enforce His command for humanity

to spread throughout the entire world."

The Flood preceded this event and suggests that when humanity is concentrated in one place sin is rampant. "And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually (Genesis 6:5)."

Accordingly, 'men are wicked and their hearts imagine evil. When it says 'and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do" simply means that man would continually come together in disobedience and rebellion without restraint of wickedness." When sin goes unabated, its shrill voice grows louder.

Are the depths of depravity reaching new lows today?

Are we seeing new expressions of depravity than we have seen in the past?

The depths of depravity have already been reached. Take a look at what depravities were engaged in the OT. For instance, human sacrifice was a part of the worship of Moloch, a Canaanite god (Leviticus 18:5). According to biblical research, "Moloch worship included child sacrifice, or 'passing children through the fire.' It is believed that idols of Moloch were giant metal statues of a man with a bull's head. Each image had a hole in the abdomen and possibly outstretched forearms that made a kind of ramp to the hole. A fire was lit in or around the statue. Babies were placed in the statue's arms or in the hole. When a couple sacrificed their firstborn, they believed that Moloch would ensure financial prosperity for the family and future children."

It may seem like depravity has found new depths today. But I would suggest that examples of depravity are more widely known because our communication channels today make it more possible to hear about such depravity more widely. The intensity and depth haven't changed much over the years.

Maybe more novel ways have been created to exercise these atrocities.

Is the Enemy upping his game? Is he intensifying his influence?

Finally, one can easily conclude that the efforts of the Evil One and his minions are increasing in intensity--he has upped his game. One scholar suggested we are living in the "new dark age." The world is getting darker. The liberal notion that the world is getting better has been pretty much discredited given what is happening across the globe.

We are hurtling to a climactic end so graphically described in Scripture. It may not happen in yours or my lifetime, yet the Enemy sees it coming. His desire is to take as many with him as possible--his plan is to discredit God through the lives of those who claim to know Christ but live hypocritical and incongruous lives in opposition to what they say they believe.

Satan is called the great opposer and adversary of our King Jesus Christ. He is the prince of this earthly world, "the tempter" (1 Thessalonians 3:5); "Beelzebub" (Matthew 12:24); "the wicked one" (Matthew 13:19,38); "the ruler of this world" (John 12:31); "the god of this age" (2 Corinthians 4:4); "Belial" (2 Corinthians 6:15), "the prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2); and "the accuser of our brethren" (Revelation 12:10).

Satan's influence in worldly affairs is also clearly revealed (John 12:31). His various titles reflect his control of the world system; the ruler of this world, the god of this age, and the prince of the power of the air. The Bible declares, "The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one" (1 John 5:19)."

He might have temporary sway, but his day is coming and has already been declared and set. Evil will not ultimately triumph--God will. Whose side will you be on?

FOUNDATIONAL BELIEFS FOR MEN

- My highest purpose is to bring glory to God (1 Pet 2:9; Eph 1:12; 1 Cor 10:31)
- I am to remember that God has raised me to a higher life (Eph 2:1-7).
- God is not a God of confusion but a God of peace (1 Cor 14:33).
- Love is unconditional and others-oriented (1 Cor 13:4-8).
- In everything God works for good (Rom 8:28).
- All of creation suffers as a consequence of sin (Rom 8:18-25).
- I will not be free of suffering here on earth (1 Pet 1:6; 4:13; Rom 5:3; 2 Tim 1:8; Phil 3:10).

Websites for Men

Heart of a Warrior Ministries
www.Heartofawarrior.org

Church for Men
<http://churchformen.com/>

Resolute
<https://beresolute.org/>

Life Way Men
<https://blog.lifeway.com/leadingmen/>

Men's Fraternity
<http://www.mensfraternity.com/>

Man in the Mirror
<http://maninthemirror.org/>

Men with No Regrets
<http://www.menwithnoregrets.org/>

National Collision of Men's Ministries
<http://ncmm.org/>
Every Man's Battle
<https://newlife.com/emb/>

Iron Sharpens Iron
<http://ironsharpensiron.net/>

Ransomed Heart Ministries
<http://www.ransomedheart.com/>

Band of Brothers
www.bandofbrothers.org/

Man Up God's Way
<http://www.manupgodsway.org/>

Iron Works
<http://www.ironworksmen.com/>

OTHER NEWS



Debby and I celebrated our 50th anniversary February 22, 2019. Not many couples can claim that benchmark. I can honestly say I am more in love with my wife today than I was when we married so long ago. She has been my ally, champion, helpmate, friend, and lover. She is the kindest, most caring person I know. Her faith in the Lord and in us has never wavered through all the trials we have faced together. I cannot imagine life without her.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of my wife Debby. I would not be the man I am today if not for her. She has given me the platform I get to dance on and as the song goes, the

wind under my wings. She is the most optimistic when I am the most pessimistic. She sees the best when I see the worst. I may provide the bricks of our home, but she provides the mortar that holds it together. This year we will enjoy an extended anniversary celebration in Ireland.



www.heartofawarrior.org/journeys/

Until middle January, there is still room for you who live in the area to join the group. If you are interested, please contact me at HOAWMinistries@aol.com.



Donations

As the year closes out please consider giving to

- Heart of a Warrior Ministries.

HOAW Ministries needs your financial support.

Our ability to help men live

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