

THE SINS OF OUR COUNTRY – Genesis 1

July 4, 2021

This is July 4th, and on this day, I want to talk about our country and some of the problems we have, how they relate to us, and God's answer to these problems. We all know there are problems in our government, in our schools, in the business world, in our churches, and problems with other countries. And in our country, there's a lot of pride, anger, and greed, a lot of selfishness, immorality, and lying, and a lot of corruption, division, and violence.

And we have these problems because of the world, the flesh, and the devil:

1. People have a sin nature, a flesh, and so people sin, and this is the #1 reason we have problems in our lives, our families, and in our country. Gal. 5:19
2. There is the devil, the ruler of this world, and he hates God and us, and he does all he can to get us to sin, and to cause problems in our lives and in the world around us.
3. And we live in this evil age, an age that started with the sin of Adam and Eve - and it was at that time that they ruled the world, but they forfeited their rule of this world to the devil. And so now we live in a world that is corrupted not just by the sins of people, but in a world that is corrupted and controlled by the devil himself. 1 John 5:19, Eph. 2:1-3

So now there's this spiritual warfare taking place, and we can't see it, it is invisible to us, but there's no doubt that demonic and angelic forces are at work. Dan. 10, Eph. 6:10-13. 1 Peter 5:8-9. The devil is our adversary, our #1 enemy, and he hates us and wants to devour us, and it's not just us, but Christians all over the world.

2 Chronicles 15:1-7. And we need to know that God is sovereign over all nations and over all the problems in the world, and He allows these things to happen to trouble us. And these problems, these troubles, in and of themselves, are a judgment upon our sins. But they're also allowed by God to move Christians, like you and me, to seek the Lord, to pray, to repent of our sins, and to ask the Lord to have mercy on us. 2 Chr. 15:8, 12-15

Well, we've looked at a brief overview of what is going on in our world, and that we need to seek the Lord, and turn to Him and ask for mercy. But I want to look a lot more closely at what the Bible says about our problems and how this relates to what's now going on in our country. We don't want to have our heads in the sand, we don't want to be ignorant of how our sins and the devil affect this world, and affects Christians too, and what then we should do about it.

Genesis 1:1. God created the heavens and the earth, and He created you and me, and all the people in the world who have ever lived, or whoever will live. Now the 1st problem, and it's a big one, is when people don't believe in the existence of God, and that God created them - now many people may say they believe in God, but they don't live and act like there's a Creator who made the world and made them.

Rom. 1:18-23. The existence of God, the reality of God, the truth that there's a God who made the world is evident, is obvious, is clearly seen by what is made. And when people don't worship God, don't honor and thank Him, then they are, in effect rejecting God, and turning from God, and they then worship themselves, or someone or something else. This sin of not believing in God and not worshiping Him is the main sin, the core sin, from which we get all other sins. And vs. 29-31 gives a list of some of these other sins.

Psalm 14:1-3. Now the sinner, the one who says there is no God, is clearly a fool. And because the sinner turns away from God, he becomes corrupt, and doesn't do what is good and right, and he commits all kinds of sins. Rom. 3:10-18

- Psalm 36:1-4. The one who rejects God does not fear God, and therefore does not hate and reject sin, but instead loves sin, and then does what is sinful, evil, and wicked.

The person who doesn't fear God does not respect and honor God, and this results in him not respecting and honoring people in general, and authorities in particular. 1 Peter 2:17

- In the last 60 years, people have increasingly not been respecting those in authority, and it relates directly to people not respecting God. You have children not respecting their parents, wives not respecting their husbands, and citizens not respecting their rulers, those authorized by the government to help bring law and order. Rom. 13:4

What has shocked me this past year is all these calls to defund the police, people who are authorized by the government to bring wrath upon the evildoers. This movement started about a year ago, and it has resulted in delegitimizing, discouraging, and disabling the police, which has resulted in increasing violence and murder, especially in our bigger cities.

- And you have to have law and order to have a civilized society, and if not, there'll be chaos, disorder, and violence and, the breakdown of society. And this all this goes back to people not fearing and respecting God.

Another important point related to this truth that there's one true God is this: when a person fears God, he knows there are consequences when he does something wrong. But if he doesn't fear God, if he doesn't believe there is a God, then he doesn't believe there is a God who sees him, and therefore doesn't believe there'll be any consequences, that he will be punished when he does what is wrong. Psalm 10:3-11, 9:19-20

What's been so amazing to me is how governing authorities, especially judges, district attorneys, and law enforcement officers excuse sin, and let sinners, i.e., criminals go free. And when there's little or no consequences for crime, then people are emboldened to commit crimes, for the very government that is to punish crime does not do it.

Another result of not believing in a Creator, in the true God, is what we call relativism. God gives us absolutes. He tells us what is right and wrong, what is good and bad. - And the Bible is filled with absolutes - for example, the truths that God is perfectly holy, and is sovereign over all things, knows everything, and must punish all sin. But if you don't believe in God, then you won't believe what God says in His word, and you won't believe in absolutes. And that leads to what we call relativism, that a person can believe whatever he wants, which results in him doing whatever he wants.

Judges 21:25 – *“In those days there was no king in Israel, and everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”* Everyone in Israel at that time was doing whatever they wanted to do. There was no right or wrong, and no one was going to tell you what to do; you could do whatever you felt like doing. (1 Sam. 2:12). At that time, the people didn't have a king, but more than that, they abandoned God and the laws He gave them. God had given them the 10 commandments, 10 absolutes, 10 clear-cut commands of what they were to do and were not to do. But the Israelites didn't fear God, and therefore, weren't obeying the ten commandments. And so they were law breakers.

If people reject God and His authority over their lives, and if they're not being influenced by authorities to do what is right, then they will do what they think is right, whatever their sin-darkened minds tell them to do, and what the authorities let them do. This is what we see with our children, and in our cities, in our country. You watch the movies, listen to the music, play the video games, and read the books, and they are sure not displaying the godly absolutes of God, but rather the ungodly relativism of man.

Then we talk about how we have freedoms in our country, and we're told we're free to do whatever we want. In the last 10-15 years we've heard about libertarians, ones who think they are at liberty to do whatever they want, as long as it doesn't hurt anyone else. But that's not true, you're not to do whatever you want, but only what God wants you to do. And some say, well the times are changing. Well time has nothing to do with the truths of God, the absolutes of God, for they are eternal, they were true in the past, are true now in the present, and they will be true forever and ever. Psalm 119:89

Gen. 6:5. Clearly, the people in the world at that time, except Noah and his family, did not have any regard or respect for God, and therefore, didn't do what God wanted them to do; they did whatever they felt like doing and therefore, were extremely wicked and evil. And so God had to judge the world at that time, which is exactly what He did. Gen. 6:6-7 - More and more, this present world is becoming like the days of Noah, which is what God tells us it will be like in the last years before Christ's return to rapture the church.

Genesis 1:25-28. What does this tell you, what does it mean?

1. That your identity comes from the fact that God made you. It doesn't come from who your parents are, your skin color, your sex, your race, or your physical strength. Your identity, your value, your importance in life comes directly from the fact that God Himself made you. You didn't evolve, you are not just some higher life form, coming from some animal or some monkey or some slime. (Acts 17:24-27).

And the fact that God made you means you are extremely valuable.

2. And you are made in God's image and this means you have a soul, a spirit, and that you are an eternal being, and therefore are eternally valuable.

3. Having a soul, a spirit, means you're vastly different and infinitely more important than animals. Animals don't have an eternal spirit, an eternal soul, but you sure do.

Again, you are very special, and are infinitely and eternally valuable. Ps. 139:13-14

4. That you're made in God's image means you are to be like God in character – you're to be holy, loving, truthful, good, kind and forgiving. Animals can't be like this.

5. Because God gave you a mind, a soul, and a mouth, then you can communicate with both God and man. And God's primary way to communicate with us is through His word.

6. God created you in His image because He wants you to have a relationship with Him and others. He doesn't want you to be alone, to be by yourself and on your own. Gen. 2:18

7. Finally, this means that God has work for you to do, and you're to fulfill His purpose for your life. And we learn that mankind is to populate the world and rule over it. Psalm 8:3-8

Many of our problems in this country and in our world stem from the fact that people don't understand these truths I just mentioned.

1. Think of all the crime and the violence and the murders. Don't people see that that other person was made by God, has an eternal soul, and is special to God? 2 Cor. 5:16

2. Think about work – God doesn't want people to be lazy, to be idle, to be sitting around and doing nothing – He has work He wants them to do. Eph. 2:10

3. Think about racism. God doesn't want anyone in this country or this entire world, to think they are more important or less important because of their skin color. Col. 3:11

4. Think about all the abortions, all the unborn babies that are aborted, and they're all made by God, and are infinitely special, but the good news is they will all be in heaven someday.

5. Think of all the identity politics, how people are stereotyped, categorized, put in different classes, not just by color or sex, but also by ability, by work, by intelligence, and by families.

We are talking about problems in this country and in our lives. And the Bible gives us the answer. And the answer is Jesus Christ. It is the truth about Christ's first coming, that He will save all those who believe that He died to pay for their sins, so as to forgive them, and give them eternal life. And it is the truth of Christ's 2nd coming, that He is coming to judge a world of sinners. Daniel 9:3-10, 16-19