

What is the world coming to?

From earliest times, human nature has been very bad. Before the flood of Noah's time, God said of us: "the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and ... every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5). Although this is an overall statement of our condition, it does seem that one generation varies from another in the actual degrees of wickedness. When I was a lad growing up in the 1940s, society was much more moral and safe, and, although we were not well off, yet we were surprisingly happy. Even then, though, I can remember my parents and other adults saying: "Whatever is the world coming to?"

Situation

Over the last fifty years, however, the situation in our country has changed dramatically. Although there have been so many amazing advances, bringing benefits to us all, in terms of human behaviour things have only deteriorated. Has there ever been a time when crime was so rife, and criminals were treated so leniently as today? Consider abortion: since 1967 the NHS and private clinics have murdered nearly four million unborn babies, for the vast majority of cases just because they were "unwanted." Such contempt for the sanctity of human life has its impact in other areas: murders are now almost commonplace. Who would have thought that a GP would be indicted for murdering nearly 300 of his trusting patients? "Road Rage" has claimed its victims, and now "Air Rage" is with us.

Marriage

Then there is marriage. How lightly people enter this, and opt out these days. "Quickie divorces" are easily obtainable, and a growing number prefer to simply "live together" as "partners" without any lifelong commitment, thus threatening the security of their children. What a change has happened concerning homosexuality or sodomy. Nature itself teaches us that it is abnormal and perverted, as the human species can never be propagated by this means. However, the Bible, God's Word, brands it as "vile" (Romans 1:26) and something abominable. Now the age of consent has been lowered to sixteen, mere boys whom the law should protect rather than expose to preying paedophiles. There are those who want to introduce this into our schools, wanting the young to believe that instead of an acquired perversion this is an alternative lifestyle.

Wrong

Dear reader, there are many more matters I could mention, but I think these are enough to show that our generation is one of deep and dreadful moral evil. Something is terribly wrong with us. Even if we have stayed clear of the grosser things mentioned above, who of us is really contented and happy with life? Even though we enjoy a higher standard of living by far than the 1940s, we do not seem to have one fraction of their happiness — even when they were in the midst of war.

Change

"What can I do to change things?" you might ask. Well, what about considering your own life. All of us are born into the world as natural sinners, and it only takes a few years before we start telling lies, being selfish, feeling jealous — and worst of all and — ignoring God's claims upon our lives. The Bible tells us that sin is the transgression of the law, in other words, the breaking of God's Ten Commandments. This is the root of all the world's problems: rebellion against God and against His

absolute standards for us. There is no depth to which we would not sink, but for the restraining mercy of God.

Reason

This is the reason God sent His Son into this fallen, lost world. He came “to save sinners” (1 Timothy 1:15). It is only as a Christian — reconciled to God and living for Him — that we can ever know real contentment and meaning to life. In 1972, I was converted, my guilty past was forgiven, and the whole direction of my life changed. I now know why the world is so bad, but I know also what the remedy is. May you come to know it too — how about reading the rest of our church newspaper carefully, or even coming along to one of our services. We assure you of a warm welcome.

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