

Sins that Destroy, Solutions that Save

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Today

Things have changed since we last met in this building

- a) tornado devastation, Covid-19, George Floyd protests and riots

Interesting time for all

- a) tensions rising in society in general, shortness, quick to jump to meanness, violence released
- b) trying to be composed, compassionate and seeking truth is hard — engenders wrath of all sides
- c) due to youth in midst, address issues cautiously, use words carefully

Title — *Sins that Destroy, Solutions that Save* — not the end-all, but a contribution to the conversations, that if employed, will contribute to the saving of lives, relationships, and our nation.

WHAT SINS ARE DESTROYING US?

Ignorance and Unrighteous Anger

Ignorance — lack of knowledge

- **Hosea 4:6**
My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.

Unrighteous Anger — unjustified anger

- **Ecclesiastes 7:9**
Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, for anger rests in the bosom of fools.

**We are so quick today to express ignorant, angry thoughts —
it's killing us!**

Application — *ignorance gives birth to unrighteous anger. Whites can be ignorant of legitimate hurts and grievances of blacks, hastily leads to unrighteous anger, attitudes, words, trouble. Blacks can be guilty of the same toward whites with the same results.*

Question — How many whites have really looked into legitimate complaints of blacks?

Answer — How many blacks have really looked into legitimate complaints of whites?

GOOD NEWS —
*when dealing with reasonable, thinking people,
ignorance and unrighteous anger
gives way to understanding and peace.*

Exaggeration and Lies

Exaggeration — spinning, twisting, misrepresenting the full truth, bolstering my side

- **Proverbs 11:1**

Dishonest scales are an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is His delight.

Lies — total falsehoods

- **John 8:44**

When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Application — *I'm watching exaggerations and lies being used by both sides right now. I see it because I've done my homework, from both sides. I'm seeking to know truth and not just to support my opinion.*

Extremism and Violence

Extremism — so entrenched and stubborn in your own opinion, you won't even listen to opposing ideas

- **1 Samuel 15:23**

... stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

Violence — logical conclusion of taking the Satanic bait of the previous five sins. Violence is the end result of 1) unchecked ignorance, 2) unrighteous anger, 3) exaggeration, 4) lies, and 5) extremism. It's playing out in our streets now.

Interesting —

These same six sins, starting with ignorance and ending with violence —destroyed the life of Jesus!

These same six sins will destroy us! We must get reasonable, thinking people to lead the way, be the loudest voice, bring the real change we need!

So, I see what NOT to do — what CAN I do?

Solutions that Save Us

Micah 6:8

He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

DO JUSTLY

The just and right thing, right time, right attitude — justice is a huge thing with God

- **Isaiah 30:18**

... For the LORD is a God of justice; Blessed are all those who wait for Him.

- **Isaiah 1:17**

Learn to do good; Seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, plead for the widow.

- “Justice for All” last 3 words of pledge. *Our pledge “justice for all” mere words?*

Application — *when injustice happens, the people of God must be the conscience and voice of justice!*

- **Proverbs 31:8-9**
Open your mouth for the speechless, in the cause of all who are appointed to die. Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.
 - *We can't just quote that about abortion- we must do that with all injustice!*

LOVE MERCY

Love mercy, kindness, compassion so much that ***you extend it and not just receive it***

- **Exodus 34:6**
And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful..."
- **Luke 6:36**
Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.
- **Luke 10**
Good Samaritan kind of mercy, kindness and compassion, *no* to religion, *no* to walking on other side of street. **YES**, to getting involved, being inconvenienced, uncomfortable, bridge-building, friend-making.

WALKING HUMBLY

Journey lowly — Jesus did

- **Philippians 2:8**
And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

We're called to...

- **Romans 12:16**
Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. (*important now*)!

Application — *friends, there's a chance we don't know it all — there's a chance we have room for education, insight, growth. There's a really good chance that doing justly, loving mercy, walking humbly in increased ways will be part of the solutions that save us.*

**We have to be committed to these things in a greater way
than we are committed to our races, tribes and parties.**

Righteousness over Race

Truth over Tribes

Piety over Party

Closing solution

1 John 4::7-11

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

We Love so others can Live

We need to Initiate Love

We need to Love Sacrificially

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between righteous and unrighteous anger?
2. How does ignorance and lack of knowledge lead to unrighteous anger?
3. How can you seek to know *truth*, and not just the opinions that agree with your own side?
4. Discuss: “Extremism is when you’re so entrenched and stubborn in your own opinion, you won’t even listen to opposing ideas.” Does this apply to you?
5. Read aloud Micah 6:8. How does what the LORD requires of us — create the Solutions that Save Us?

NOTES