

Tolerance, Charity, Compassion, Forbearance

- I. O.E.D. definitions.
 - A. tolerate: To allow to exist or to be done or practised without authoritative interference or molestation; also gen. to allow, permit.
 - B. charity: Christian love: a word representing *caritas* of the Vulgate, as a frequent rendering of *ἀγάπη* in N.T. Greek. With various applications: as **a.** God's love to man. (By early writers often identified with the Holy Spirit.) **b.** Man's love of God and his neighbour, commanded as the fulfilling of the Law, Matt. xxii. 37, 39.
 - C. compassion: Suffering together with another, participation in suffering; fellow-feeling, sympathy. 2. The feeling or emotion, when a person is moved by the suffering or distress of another, and by the desire to relieve it; pity that inclines one to spare or to succour.
 - D. forbearance: The action or habit of forbearing, dispensing with, refraining or abstaining from (some action or thing).

- II. Scripture requires believers to exercise discernment: making differences between right and wrong, good and evil, acceptable and unacceptable, judgment and mercy, etc. **1TH 5:21; JUDE 1:21-23.**
 - A. Making valid distinctions is the foundation of intelligent inquiry: things that are different are not the same. Declaring a thing true while also declaring its opposite as equally true is not tolerance but irrationality.
 - B. There is good to be revered, evil to be rejected (**ROM 12:9**), and perverting how these values are defined has become the basis for enshrining and legalizing what would rightly be condemned in the eyes of God and those who agree with Him. **ISA 5:20; PSA 94:20.**
 - C. Consider *compassion*, a positive trait which we should manifest in view of the way our God deals with us as weak sinners. **1PE 3:8; 1JO 3:17 c/w HEB 5:2.**
 1. Digging and dunging before axing is the general rule. **LUK 13:6-9.**
 2. Per **JUDE 1:21-23**, it is not perpetual nor beneficial for all cases. **ISA 26:10.**
 3. Sparing when one ought not to spare does not benefit the rebel. **PRO 19:18; ECC 8:11 c/w ISA 58:1.**
 4. Sparing when one is commanded to not spare also invites God's judgment. **1SAM 15:3, 23.**
 5. Faulty compassion towards someone involved in sin or destructive behaviors is hatred. Sympathy for a sinner's struggle does not mean one should sympathize with his sin. **LEV 19:17.**
 - a. Reproof from a friend is better than secret pacifying of an error in the name of love. **PRO 27:5-6.**
 - b. The proper way to show Christian love is to do what is right, not what feels good or is easy, nor what is wrong, nor what cements wrong. **1JO 5:2-3.**
 - c. Charity's softer tenets do not overrule its demands of propriety. **1CO 13:4-6.**
 6. Beware of false demands for compassion such as would deprive the healthy of their livelihood or rights in the name of public good.
 - a. Public good is best served by a thriving support by the healthy. Forced compassion for the perceived benefit of some is also the forced denial of compassion to the person who needs to work.
 - b. Hence, in Israel when communicable disease might be present, only the sick and symptomatic were quarantined. **LEV 13:2-6, 46; NUM 5:2-4.**

- III. Consider the comfort we have through Jesus Christ and His New Testament gospel.

- A. The Eternal God is ever holy and will not let sinful man into His presence. **HAB 1:13 c/w PSA 5:4-5.**
 - B. The Old Covenant only underscored His separation from man and that the best of sinners were still sinners unfit for His presence.
 - 1. His mountain was ablaze and unapproachable. **HEB 12:18-21.**
 - 2. The Ark of His Covenant was hidden behind a veil. **HEB 9:1-4.**
 - 3. No sinner could be perfected by that Old Covenant. **GAL 3:10.**
 - 4. Abundance of righteousness could not offset the sinful nature. **ISA 64:6.**
 - C. Comparing himself with this distant, holy God, Job was frustrated that God could not truly identify with him as a man who struggled against sin. **JOB 9:30-35.**
 - D. But God did come to identify with man in his struggle. **JOH 1:1-3, 14.**
 - 1. Jesus Christ was subject to imperfect human authority. **LUK 2:51.**
 - 2. Jesus Christ was subject to needs and weakness. **MAT 21:18; JOH 4:6-8; 2CO 13:4.**
 - 3. Jesus Christ was subject to temptation. **HEB 4:15.**
 - 4. But He held fast unto death, which satisfied God's wrath against us. **GAL 3:13.**
 - 5. He is not only our Savior, but our High Priest and Advocate. **HEB 7:24-25; 1JO 2:1.**
 - 6. Because of Christ, the inadequacy of the sinner is not the barrier to God but rather the incentive to approach Him. **HEB 4:16.**
 - E. As Christ walked among sinners, He was tender and gentle towards the meek according to the prophecies of Him: a caring Shepherd, not a hurtful mahout. **ISA 11:1-4; 61:1; 40:11 c/w MAT 11:28-30.**
- IV. Christ's perfect model of brotherly relating before a pure and holy God helps us in ministry and in Christian life.
- A. Although Paul would not compromise truth and its implications, he modeled his ministry after Christ's dealings with His fellows. **2CO 10:1; 1TH 2:4-8.**
 - B. As brethren, Christ's model regulates our tempers and sense of justice in consideration of the foibles of human frailty. **ROM 12:10; EPH 4:2, 32; COL 3:12; GAL 6:1.**
- V. It behooves us as members of the body to judge not only between the polarity of things but also to *judge righteous judgment* in dealing with one another. **JOH 7:24 c/w 2CO 10:7.**
- A. Judging not according to outward appearance stands against:
 - 1. partiality in judgment. **1TI 5:20-21; JAM 2:1-5.**
 - 2. the vain form of godliness. **2TI 3:4-5.**
 - 3. superficial or premature conclusions without proper investigation and consideration. **DEU 13:12-14; PRO 18:13; ISA 11:3-4 c/w JOH 7:51.**
 - a. Caution is needed to guard against prejudicial assumptions or *evil surmisings*. **1TI 6:4.**
 - b. God has the advantage in that He knows and judges what is in the hearts of men. **1SAM 16:7; HEB 4:12-13.**
 - c. We cannot fully see the heart of a man but sometimes the thoughts of the heart are revealed by reaction or behavior and this helps our assessments of character. **LUK 2:35 c/w MAT 12:34.**
 - d. "The Lord knows those that are his by name, but we must know them by their character." (Matthew Henry)
 - B. One of the first things Christ taught was to first judge ourselves to better hone our own lives and thus have credibility in judging others. **MAT 7:1-5.**

- C. God's laws and God's wisdom teach us the importance of tolerance, charity, and forbearance in relating to others, especially to brethren. **COL 3:12-14; GAL 6:10.**
1. We can opt to not take umbrage over a fault against us. **PRO 19:11; 1CO 6:7.**
 2. Charity is not high-handed nor high-minded and not easily provoked. **1CO 13:4-7.**
 3. We do well to not strain over every contrary word. **ECC 7:21-22 ct/w ISA 29:21.**
 4. We should seek to cover another's faults when possible rather than unduly exposing him. **PRO 17:9; 10:12; MAT 18:15; 1PE 4:8; JAM 5:19-20.**
 5. We dare not assume to be more righteous than God, devising extra-biblical expectations of men or not duly considering the frailty of human nature. **ECC 7:16 c/w 1TI 4:1-4; PSA 103:8-14.**
 6. Biblical Christianity is neither ridiculously permissive nor rigidly harsh. It neither tramples the law underfoot as if the law didn't really mean what it said, nor does it trample mercy underfoot. **MAT 23:23-24 c/w JAM 2:13.**
 7. Where possible, it is better to live at peace with all men (**ROM 12:18**), not at war: seeking to first save by soft words or rebukes (**PRO 15:1; 27:5**), by forbearance when offended, by covering another's faults by personal dealings rather than public exposure when possible.
 - a. Hasting to judgment to destroy when some patience and mercy might be afforded is a questionable spirit. **LUK 9:51-56.**
 - b. Publicly known sin which God forbids in His kingdom is a different matter. **1CO 5:1-5.**
 8. Compassion, mercy and forbearance towards an offender have limitations.
 - a. The man of knowledge is more accountable than the ignorant. **LUK 12:47-48.**
 - b. Some are *implacable* (cannot be reconciled or appeased): no amount of soft reasonings or intreaties moves them. This trait is sin. **ROM 1:31.**
 - c. Some are *stubborn* (dogged in refusing compliance or obedience) which is the idolizing of the individual's will (**1SAM 15:23**). Hence, Paul says of persistent sinners, "...they which DO such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (**GAL 5:21**). Where persistence in sin overrules repentance, judgment is in order. **REV 2:20-23.**
 - d. Some are *unreasonable* (irrational): you cannot reason with them because they are determined to justify themselves. **2TH 3:1-2 c/w PRO 26:16.**
 - e. Protracted leniency can embolden sinners. **ECC 8:11.**
 - f. If the form of compassion that you show someone emboldens or subsidizes his error, you have done him no favors. Remember the basic rule of human governance: do not reward bad or destructive behavior. **1PE 2:14 c/w PRO 1:32; 1KI 1:5-6.**

VI. The law of Christ which governs thought and conduct in His kingdom, the church, establishes the supreme order of what should be tolerated for community fellowship.

- A. An ungodly world may or may not agree with these principles.
1. **1CO 5:1** is an example of a moral infraction which even the heathen rejected.
 2. The world will generally separate from murderers. **1PE 4:15.**
 3. But an unbiblical culture will permit, condone, even celebrate things like fornication, adultery, sodomy, abortion: things which God condemns in the church. This list grows and widens with increasing rapidity as men turn from God's revelation in His word and in nature. **ROM 1:28-33.**
- B. We are stuck with living in a world which tolerates what God will not. **1CO 5:9-11.**

1. We may responsibly use the fashion of this world where doing so does not violate the law of God nor give the enemies of God occasion to speak reproachfully. **1CO 7:29-31; LUK 16:9 c/w 1CO 11:20-22; 1TI 5:14; 1PE 2:15-16.**
 2. We may not conform to the world where Scripture tells us otherwise. **EXO 23:2; ROM 12:2; 2CO 6:14-17; MAT 6:5-7.**
 3. Faithful saints have always been constituted a parallel society in the world and in some seasons they will not be well-tolerated because of this. Often, it is not what one does that incurs the wrath of the ungodly but what one will not do: conform and comply. **DAN 6:10.**
 4. There are seasons when those who fear God need to be more concerned with *saving themselves from an evil culture* than saving the culture. **ZEC 2:7; ACT 2:40.**
 5. Doing what is good and right regardless of its unpopularity is always the best course since it pleases God and provides contrast to a dark world. **MAT 5:14-16; PHIL 2:14-15.**
- C. Unlike the Law of Moses which empowered the church to execute temporal punishment for behavior which God did not tolerate, the Law of Christ only empowers the church to separate offenders from its membership and turn them over to Satan, or to the world for appropriate carnal punishments. **1CO 5:5; 1TI 1:19-20.**
1. The Law of Moses tolerated bigamy, etc. **DEU 21:15.**
 2. The Law of Moses tolerated easy divorce and remarriage. **DEU 24:1-2.**
 3. The Law of Christ tolerates neither of these. **MAT 19:3-9.**
 4. Neither the *Law of Moses* nor the *Law of Christ* nor the *Law of Nature* tolerate perverse sexual relationships like sodomy. **LEV 18:22; 1CO 6:9; ROM 1:26-27.**
 - a. This “threefold cord” (**ECC 4:12**) is very binding on mankind. Even in the absence of the written revelation, the creation itself will judge such tolerance. Nature teaches and judges those who reject its message. **1CO 11:14; JUDE 1:10; ROM 1:27.**
 - b. This agreement of principle in both written and natural revelation is a key to sorting out what society should and should not tolerate.
 - c. Civilizations self-destruct where such perversions are tolerated, then celebrated, then codified.
 - d. “Cicero (Tuscul. Ques. iv. 34) says, that ‘Dicearchus had accused Plato of it, and probably not unjustly. He also says (Tuscul. Q. iv. 33), that the practice was common among the Greeks, and that their poets and great men, and even their learned men and philosophers, not only practiced, but gloried in it. And he adds, that it was the custom, not of particular cities only, but of Greece in general. (Tuscul. Ques. v. 20.) Xenophon says, that “the unnatural love... is so common, that in many places it is established by the public laws...”

“The meaning of this doubtless is, that the effect of such base and unnatural passions was, to enfeeble the body, to produce premature old age, disease, decay, and an early death. That this is the effect of the indulgence of licentious passions, is amply proved by the history of man. The despots who practice polygamy, and keep harems in the East, are commonly superannuated at forty years of age; and it is well known, even in Christian countries, that the effect of licentious indulgence is to break down and destroy the constitution. How much more might this be expected to follow the practice of the vice specified in the verse under examination! God has

marked the indulgence of licentious passions with his frown. Since the time of the Romans and the Greeks, as if there had not been sufficient restraints before, he has originated a new disease, which is one of the most loathsome and distressing which has ever afflicted man, and which has swept off millions of victims. But the effect on the body was not all. It tended to debase the mind; to sink man below the level of the brute; to destroy the sensibility; and to 'sear the conscience as with a hot iron.' The last remnant of reason and conscience, it would seem, must be extinguished in those who would indulge in this unnatural and degrading vice..."

(Albert Barnes Commentary re: ROM 1:27)

- e. "How early these were in full career, in the history of the world, the case of Sodom affectingly shows; and because of such abominations, centuries after that, the land of Canaan 'spued out' its old inhabitants. Long before this chapter was penned, the Lesbians and others throughout refined Greece had been luxuriating in such debasements; and as for the Romans, Tacitus, speaking of the emperor Tiberius, tells us that new words had then to be coined to express the newly invented stimulants to jaded passion. No wonder that, thus sick and dying as was this poor humanity of ours under the highest earthly culture, its many-voiced cry for the balm in Gilead, and the Physician there, 'Come over and help us,' pierced the hearts of the missionaries of the Cross, and made them 'not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ!'" (Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Commentary, re: ROM 1:27)
- f. Unnatural lusts are called *confusion* in **LEV 18:23; 20:12** and "...God is not the author of confusion..." (**1CO 14:33**). Therefore such unnatural lusts cannot be designed nor condoned by God in men.
- g. Ignoring or defying nature is not a solution to life's trials, turmoils or impulses. The solution is Jesus Christ Who is able to cure and correct the mind which Satan has exploited. **MAR 5:15 c/w COL 1:21-22; ISA 26:3.**
- h. Paul's words to Corinth guide us to a godly blend of compassion and conviction towards sinners: his identifying with sinners was with an eye to human weakness under the bondage of a lie from which Christ sets men free, not by affirming the sinner's sin. **1CO 6:9-11.**
- i. Paul's accommodation of all men affirmed rather the subjugation of the body, not surrender to its lusts. **1CO 9:22-27.**
- j. Paul knew that he was as susceptible to ungodly lusts as any man. **ROM 7:8, 18-21.**
- k. Paul warned believers about giving in to the vanity of their mind and so be given over to ungodly lusts. **EPH 4:17-20.**
- D. "Tolerance applies only to persons, but never to truth. Intolerance applies only to truth, but never to persons. Tolerance applies to the erring; intolerance to the error." (Fulton J. Sheen)
- E. "The truth cannot be hateful however, except in the eyes of those who hate the truth." (Michael Hoffman)
- F. It is not hateful to hate sin. It is not hateful to declare hope and deliverance for sinners. It is, however, hateful to subsidize, solidify, approve, affirm, celebrate, or codify sinful behavior which is manifestly an offense to God and nature.

VII. Tolerance may be virtuous or not virtuous. It must be qualified by distinctions of good and evil.

A. Consider these wise axioms:

- 1. "If we continue to teach about tolerance and intolerance instead of good and evil,

- we will end up with tolerance of evil.” (Dennis Prager)
2. “You will be ruled by what you tolerate... If you tolerate corruption, you will be ruled by corruption. If you tolerate perversion, you will eventually be ruled by perversion.” (Artur Pawlowski)
 3. “Tolerance is the virtue of the man without convictions.” (G. K. Chesterton)
 4. “Where objective truth is despised, tolerance will become the chief virtue and principled dogmatism the chief vice.” (PWB)
- B. The church at Ephesus was praised for its *intolerance of evil*. **REV 2:2, 6.**
1. Christian discernment requires loving whom and what God loves. Examples: **PSA 11:7; 37:28; 87:2; 146:8; JER 9:24.**
 2. Christian discernment also requires hating whom and what God hates. Examples: **PRO 6:16-19; PSA 5:5; 10:3; 11:5; 139:21-22 c/w 2CH 19:2; 1CO 16:22.**
 3. The churches at Pergamos and Thyatira were reproved for excessive open-mindedness and inclusivity. **REV 2:14-16, 20.**
 4. Corinth wrongly tolerated incest, heresy, carnal strife, etc. **1CO 5:1-2; 3:3; 11:19; 2CO 11:4, 19-20.**
 5. Churches that are too lax, too open-minded, too tolerant and “seeker-friendly” are likely to end up with the wrong kind of seekers. **MAT 12:43.**
- C. When any society perverts the definitions of good and evil (**ISA 5:20**), it of necessity ends up tolerating evil and not tolerating anyone who objects to the perverse standard. Truth matters, but it will for them be a different “truth.” **ISA 59:14-15; 3JO 1:8-11.**
- D. Consider the false motto of tolerance of the neopagan religion of Wicca: “An it harm none, do what ye will.” This is a broad and dangerous liberty.
1. This is similar to the concept of “victimless crimes or indulgences” such as prostitution, self-mutilation, drug usage, etc. The idea is that as long as there is no harm suffered by another, liberty to do it should be assumed.
 2. Mind that this would morally justify suicide, assisted suicide, fornication, adultery, bestiality, necrophilia, etc.
 3. This also depends on one’s definitions of “harm” and “none.”
 - a. If “none” refers only to humans, what age?
 - b. If the pre-born are not human, then aborting them is not immoral.
 - c. If it is assumed that Kinsey-style experimentation on children is not harmful, then doing so would be acceptable.
 - d. If any person or class of persons are deemed unhuman, then doing harm to them is no real harm and may even serve “the greater good.”
 - e. One may even convince himself that a harm to self against nature is not a harm at all but actually a good thing.
 - f. One may be persuaded that self-harm has no negative effect on anyone else: that putting others at risk who are obliged to render aid to a self-harmer is inconsequential.
 4. Against this philosophy is the Biblical truth that:
 - a. life and personhood begin at conception. **ISA 7:14 c/w MAT 1:23.**
 - b. life is the grant of God and only to be taken according to His rules. **GEN 2:7; ACT 17:28; MAT 19:18.**
 - c. the body of man is for God’s glory, not for defilement. **1CO 6:9, 18-20.**
 - d. children are God’s heritage and to be protected from ungodly force. **PSA 127:3 c/w LUK 17:1-2.**
 - e. sexual connection is only for husband and wife (male and female). **GEN 2:24 c/w 1CO 6:16.**

- f. nature, though an imperfect teacher, nevertheless has obvious instruction and warnings which should not be carelessly defied. **ROM 1:26-27, 31.**
 - g. it is not natural to hate one's own flesh. **EPH 5:29; PRO 11:17; COL 2:23.**
 - h. Jesus Christ has ever been *harmless* (**HEB 7:26**) and therefore His examples of rebuke, reproof, exposure of evil and error, truth over feelings, physical chastening (**JOH 2:15**), etc. are not genuine harm to anyone.
 - i. the answer to every trial, turmoil or impulse of humans is Jesus Christ Who is the perfect man, Who knows what is in man and what is best for him, Who provides for life and abundant life and Who is the solution for sinners. **EPH 4:13; COL 2:10; HEB 2:18; JOH 10:10; 14:6; 1TI 1:15.**
- E. Never underestimate the power of false love since whatever you love you give power to over yourself to some degree. The greater your love for someone or something, the greater the power he/she/that has over you.
- 1. There is the false love of self which idolizes oneself. **2TI 3:2.**
 - 2. There is the false love of pleasure which substitutes for love of truth. **2TH 2:10-12.**
 - 3. There is the false love of money. **1TI 6:10.**
 - 4. There is the false love of the world. **1JO 2:15-16.**
 - 5. There is the false love of men's praise that exceeds love of God's praise. **1PE 2:14 c/w JOH 12:42-43.**
 - 6. All affection other than of God must be ordered, regulated. **COL 3:5.**
- F. We are to *love neighbor as self* (**ROM 13:9**), therefore we cannot truly love our neighbor if we have no love of self.
- 1. The absence of natural affection for oneself is not of God since He has written the principle of self-preservation into us. **EPH 5:29.**
 - 2. Self-loathing is oftentimes generated by pride and envy: one cannot endure his condition or circumstance being less than another's. Pride and envy will breed hatred of others. **PRO 14:30 c/w LUK 18:9; TIT 3:3.**
 - 3. Biblical self-loathing is abhorring one's self-centeredness and fashioning oneself according to the image of Christ. **JOB 42:6; COL 3:9-10.**
 - 4. There is greater hope in conformity to Christ than any form of false self-love which breeds envy, self-mutilation, confusion, loss of natural affection, etc. With Christ in the picture, the word is "...Do thyself no harm..." (**ACT 16:28**).
 - 5. Conformity to Christ is the best form of image management. **2CO 3:17-18.**
 - 6. Measuring ourselves by other sinners is unwise. **2CO 10:12.**
 - a. It feeds *emulation* (The endeavour to equal or surpass others in any achievement or quality...) which is a work of the flesh and was Ahithophel's undoing. **GAL 5:20 c/w 2SAM 17:23.**
 - b. It is an occasion to *envy* (Malignant or hostile feeling; ill-will, malice, enmity... feeling of mortification and ill-will occasioned by the contemplation of superior advantages possessed by another), another work of the flesh which is self-destructive. **GAL 5:21 c/w PRO 14:30; JOB 5:2.**
 - c. It feeds *defeatism*, as if a two-talent man is less value than a five-talent man and a one-talent man might as well do nothing. **MAT 25:14-30.**
 - d. We should not think of ourselves more highly than we ought. **ROM 12:3.**
 - e. We should not think of ourselves more lowly than we ought, not considering that God is willing and able to exalt the lowly and the diligent. **JDG 6:12-16; 1SAM 15:17; LUK 1:52; PRO 11:27; 13:4.**
 - f. Do you really think that Satan didn't anticipate the personal and social turmoil that social media would generate in people? **JAM 4:5; EPH 2:2.**

- g. What we think of ourselves or what others think of us is not as important as what God thinks of us. **1CO 4:3 c/w 2CO 10:18.**

VIII. The above information is critical to overcoming this world which not only feeds men false messages of self-fulfilment but also fights against the realities of God, Christ, godliness, etc. which are the true means of maximizing oneself and finding real satisfaction. The world also fights against exposure of the negative effects of its “bright ideas” (**2CO 11:14; ROM 1:21-22**).

- A. While not decrying rational thought, the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. **1CO 3:19.**
- B. There is a way which seems right to a man but is destructive. **PRO 14:12.**
- C. There is *the way* of Christ, the gospel way which the world despises even though it sets forth the solution to men’s personal and social turmoils.
ACT 19:9, 23 c/w MAT 11:28-30.
 - 1. It counters what men imagine as good for themselves. **2CO 10:5.**
 - 2. It delivers them from the bondage of lies unto the liberty of truth. **JOH 8:32.**
 - 3. It gives them a durable hope which evolution, hedonism, etc. cannot give. **ROM 8:21-24 c/w HEB 6:17-20.**
 - 4. It is grounded in the most thoroughly documented and testified event in ancient history: the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead which sealed the justification of sinners and turned the world upside down. **ROM 4:25; ACT 17:6.**
 - 5. It holds all men accountable to God regardless of race, nation, color, sex, language, social status, economic status, etc. and also erases such distinctions as far as man’s hope and access of God. **ROM 3:9 c/w GAL 3:28-29.**
 - 6. Do you love life and good days? It shows how. **1PE 3:10-12.**
- D. The Scripture, though maligned by the world, is remarkable for its insights into the human condition, human nature, the ill-effects on men personally and socially of anti-God decisions, etc. In fact, its accuracy about man is one of reasons it is rejected as authoritative by worldly men.
 - 1. It is not because it is inaccurate about the sciences but that its accuracy about biology, paleontology, anthropology, geology, sexuality, etc. has implications for carnal-minded men who want to maximize carnal pleasure and power.
 - 2. It expresses and deals with realities of both seen and unseen things, of material and spiritual things. It has much to say about the invisible Creator and His world above, etc. but it also has much to say about the creation such as:
 - a. biology is emphatically binary, male and female. **GEN 1:27; 6:19.**
 - b. biology is reproductively coded and not subject to willful change. **JER 13:23; MAT 6:27.**
 - c. mankind springs from common original parents. **GEN 3:20.**
 - d. same-sex connection is a recipe for trouble. **ROM 1:26-27.**
 - e. catastrophe has altered geology, climate, and metabolism (presumably). Uniformitarianism is not supported by Scripture or true science. **GEN 9:3-6; 2PE 3:4-6.**
 - f. the world will endure in spite of CO2 or SUV but SIN is a different story. **GEN 8:22; 2PE 3:10-12.**
 - 3. Mind how many of the above issues are central to the insanity that has taken over humanity which not only despises a sovereign Creator but the manifest realities in nature itself which happen to also be declared in Scripture!
 - 4. I have come to the conclusion that a major reason why genuine rational inquiry into these current ills in the world is so opposed is that the answers have to be rooted in

- reality and people under such fantastic delusion cannot deal with reality.
5. Even professing believers in Christ are being swept away with this madness but if your theology and final authority is fluid, why would you not assume that your sex is fluid?
 - a. Transgender-friendly summer camps for children have been popping up around the country. Some of them are “faith-based.”
 - b. When your salt has become strychnine and your light has become darkness, you have no preserving power in the world. **MAT 5:13-16; 6:23.**
 6. Sinful human nature is such that in order to justify its lusts or give in to its weaknesses, it will refuse to change things that can and should be changed but insist on changing things that can't be changed.
 - a. It will not concede the Biblical code of life and reality.
 - b. It will not repent of sinful, destructive thinking and behavior.
 - c. It will not concede even reputable evidence-based study that counters its premise, such as the 200 studies worldwide on transgenderism which ultimately conclude that it is a dangerous disorder of the mind which is not cured by surgery or hormones. A major thirty-year Swedish study shows about a nineteen-fold increase in suicide in the post-transformation clients.
 - d. It will insist that radical affirming modifications are better than coming to grips with psychotic delusions.
 - e. It will insist that others change their minds about obvious disorder, deviancy, perversion, or even climate.
 - f. It will even insist that personal internal conflict is caused by those who do not agree with the inevitability of the conflict and that the latter is therefore the real danger to society.
 7. Positive change through Jesus Christ is more real than the manufactured inevitability of disordered thought and behavior.
 - a. Christ cured the lunatic. **MAR 5:15.**
 - b. The humbled prodigal “...came to himself...” (**LUK 15:17**).
 - c. Christ yields sober thought and sound mind. **ACT 26:11, 25; 2TI 1:7.**
 - d. “...such WERE some of you...” (**1CO 6:9-11**).
 - e. Overcoming is possible. **ROM 12:2; 1JO 5:4.**
 - f. The Christ-swept mind is a Christ-kept mind. **PHIL 4:6-7.**

- IX. A fundamental error is when personal desire, need, weakness, pain, struggle, poor self-image, deficiency, poverty, etc. is not processed through a biblical grid.
- A. God may not even be a consideration, an awful harbinger. **JOB 22:15-17.**
 - B. One may have improperly set affections which disorder the heart, the seat of thoughts and emotions. **MAT 6:19-21; COL 3:1-2.**
 - C. One may reverse the order of **MAT 6:31-33**, a very common disorder.
 - D. One may reject education, labor, diligence and patience and instead yield to sloth, theft, vagabondage, get-rich-quick schemes, etc. which are sinful or contrary to wisdom. **ECC 10:15; PRO 21:25, 5-7; 22:13; 28:20.**
 - E. One may be placing more value on outward appearance than on inward character, which even religious folks may be guilty of. **MAT 23:25-28; 1PE 3:3-4.**
 - F. One may be sinfully discontent with the way God made him/her, or with perceived unfairness in general. **ROM 9:20; JOH 21:20-22.**
 - G. One may assume inevitability of low circumstance or injustice which makes godly effort to overcome futile, as if God would not bless accordingly (playing the victim card).

MAT 25:24-25.

- H. One may have natural desire for sexual connection but not seek resolution properly. **1CO 7:2, 9.**
- I. One may not come to terms with a fallen world full of fallen people riddled with troubles of flesh and spirit, all of which demands a continual struggle to do good in spite of that until the day of Christ. **ECC 8:12; ROM 8:19-23.**
- J. If one's response to every perceived problem is carnal-mindedness, death awaits (**ROM 8:6**). Fellowship with God, hope, faith, charity, peace, joy, patience, gratitude, relationships, soundness of mind, bodily health, public order, justice, etc. can all be killed off by carnal-mindedness.
- K. It is ignorance or rejection of God's ways which opens the pathways to an eventually reprobate mind that screams in defiance of God and nature. **ROM 1:28.**
1. **reprobate:** Rejected or condemned as worthless, inferior or impure. 3. Rejected by God; lost or hardened in sin. b. Of abandoned character; lost to all sense of religious or moral obligation; unprincipled.
 2. This degree of rejection can be a point of no return where even a grant of repentance is taken away, a heart continually hardened, and God goes deaf. **2CH 36:16 c/w JER 7:16; 11:14; 14:11 c/w ROM 9:17-18.**
 3. Under the dominion of *deceitful lusts* (**EPH 4:22**), the reprobate mind is given over to the most unnatural desires and irrational ideas that are contrary to natural well-being.
 - a. It will justify self-destructive habits and conditions and even demand that others celebrate and submit to the model under threat of law. **PSA 94:20; ISA 10:1 c/w PSA 12:8.**
 - b. Consider that June is "Pride Month" in this country. How long before the other so-called Seven Deadly Sins like sloth and gluttony get their own month?
 - c. At its worst, there is no reasoning with such reprobate minds that are determined to force their "values" on others. **GEN 19:4-9.**
 4. As bad as the situation seems, be mindful that the conclusion that "...all hope that we should be saved was then taken away" (**ACT 27:20**) is just an observational perspective without considering God Who specializes in radical eleventh-hour deliverances and also the frustration and judgment of the wicked and their devices. **PSA 94:21-23 c/w ISA 3:8-11; 2PE 2:7-10.**
- X. How should Bible-believing Christians live in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation which tolerates and celebrates antiChrist thinking and conduct? The question has an answer in **PHIL 2:14-16**. If unbelievers can't see Christ in you, they are unlikely to be persuaded by your arguments for righteousness. Reflections cannot be seen in boiling water, nor Christ in a turbulent man.
- A. We cannot go along with the madness. Do not yield to demands to accept what God forbids, including crazy pronouns which defy HIM. **ROM 12:2; EXO 23:2.**
 - B. We cannot tolerate perverseness in our persons or our church for long or we will suffer God's judgment against us. **REV 2:19-23.**
 - C. Resist and stand for truth. **PRO 28:4; MAR 6:18.**
 - D. Pray **2TH 3:1-2**. Gospel success is critical but some men are beyond reason.
 - E. Never adopt the mentality, "I would never do that" since sin can work in us all manner of evil desire (**ROM 7:8**). Remember the words, "There but for the grace of God go I."
 - F. Give consideration to men's ignorance of the truth: some have never been shown a better

- way and/or have been fully persuaded that their error was the right way. **ACT 3:17.**
- G. Having facts and reality on your side is good, but if you personally don't have a hope that speaks to men's souls, something is missing. **1PE 3:15-16.**
- H. Be ever ready to do good to all men. **GAL 6:9-10.**
- I. Be mindful that sinner's real problems are with God, not you.
1. They need to know that there is a true God Whose word is not men's opinions and that WE will all stand before Him someday. **ACT 17:30-31.**
 2. The natural man will reject this (**1CO 2:14**) but God's children walking in darkness have His law and life written in their hearts awaiting the gospel. **2TI 1:10.**
- J. Above all, point men by godly living and good witness to Jesus Christ as the Answer to sin and its consequences, the Hope that exceeds this world, the perfect Man Who provides for eternal life and abundant living by modeling Him and patiently waiting for Him. **1TI 1:12-16; JOH 10:10; MAT 11:28-30; 1TH 1:9-10.**
- K. Frequently re-acquaint yourself with Him also, lest a mad world and your corrupt lusts overtake you. **HEB 3:13-14; 6:18-20.**