

CRIME AND CONSCIENCE

By

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Readers have asked for an article on the cause of crime. Of course, there are many contributing factors, and only room in this paper for a brief treatment of the subject.

Each week my mail brings a great number of papers, magazines, books and letters produced by highly qualified people who have done years of research and who can document their work from reliable and widely recognized sources. Their work exposes secret societies and organizations which are attacking the foundations of Christian civilization and helping in its decline.

Many people hold membership and offices in several of these organizations, creating a network of power by which they can control the centers of communication, such as TV, newspapers, charitable foundations, and educational institutions.

All of these organizations, which oppose Christ and His teaching, share some responsibility for the decline of moral values, but in the final analysis crimes are committed by individuals, and there is no way the individual can escape personal responsibility for his or her actions.

In the 1992 Los Angeles riots, a film was made of Damian Williams crushing a man's skull with a brick, while Henry Watson held the victim down. The defense lawyers claimed that people cannot be held accountable for getting caught up in mob violence, so Williams and Watson were acquitted on most counts.

In every crime the tendency is to look everywhere to fix the blame except upon the individual who commits the act. In a free society, designed for self-government under constitutional law, each person must exercise self-control by the power of a God-directed conscience. From ancient times it has been recognized that actions spring from one's inner resources, as the writer of Proverbs advised: "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23).

What a person does is a result of what he thinks, not just the thought that enters his head at the moment of action, but the long-term set of his mind as he has been taught and conditioned to think. Right conduct is the fruit of right thinking. The basis of such thinking must be that which is constant, a standard that does not change with the circumstances. Also, it must be a standard from outside the person, so that it applies to all, as a uniform code by which the entire society may function in harmony and peace.

Such is the standard established by God, which requires each person to govern his own actions. The principle is stated by Jesus: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind...you shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:37, 39). James echoes the principle when he writes of "the perfect law, the law of liberty" (James 1:25), and the "royal law" of love (James 2:8). If you love God you will love His commandments, therefore; your actions will be in harmony with God's perfect standard.

It was this standard, from God's law, that was incorporated into our constitution. As long as this divine standard was generally accepted, the constitution was the law of the land and citizens lived in relative peace and freedom. When respect for God's law

began to fade, so did the power of the constitution, and so did the peace and security of the citizens.

When people do not have the moral character to govern themselves internally (by conscience), then they must be governed externally, by force of the police, the military, the courts, or a multitude of bureaucratic agencies. When a society must resort to the power of the state to establish rules of conduct, then it must bid farewell to justice. The rules will change according to the whims of those in power (now wrongly vested in the Supreme Court), or according to the winds of pressure upon them.

Where there is no inner power to constrain the wicked, there will be no awareness of personal responsibility, so he will rely upon society to provide both the limits to his sinful indulgences as well as all his legitimate needs. This become his “right.” After all, if I am not responsible for my bad actions, why should I assume responsibility for my bad actions, why should I assume responsibility for good actions, such as earning a living and providing for my family?

Laws cannot make useful and peaceful citizens out of the unlawful and criminal. The stop sign can only tell us that we should stop at the intersection; it cannot make us stop. Law is of no value unless there is a mutual respect for it by people who are governed internally by a common moral code. Where such a code is absent there will be no respect for the law, and the only way order can be kept will be by force, ultimately by a totalitarian government.

This moral consciousness, which once permeated Western society because of Christian teaching, did not erode of its own nature, to leave the present moral vacuum. Rather, it was deliberately sucked out of children by the constant indoctrination of secular humanism, and the teaching of evolution and multiculturalism. For the past three decades there has been a war going on in America, a war over basic morals, a war in which everyone who upholds moral standards based upon God’s word has come under vicious attack in the schools, in the press, on TV and in politics.

Whatever other factors figure into the deadening of the American conscience, it is the public schools that play the heaviest role. That’s where children are sent to receive instruction, and they are strongly aware that they will be judged on how well they accept that instruction. There they are taught that they are only animals on the high end of the evolutionary ladder. With the current emphasis on environment, many children are taught that they are of less value than some endangered species. Even a seven-year-old can figure it out, that if that is the case, God and the Bible can be forgotten, and there is no supreme moral code to follow.

Wherever an effort has been made to teach students what is right and wrong, a host of “educators” rise up to demand “separation of church and state.” When values education was suggested in New Hampshire, the vice-president of the Concord school board said, “This wipes out diversity and separation of church and state. It negates everything public schools stand for” (Reported in *The Wall Street Journal*). Just what are they supposed to stand for? It’s all right to teach respect for the filthy practice of sodomy, and lies about American history, but not Christian values?

Parents may set good examples and instruct their children at home, but at school the textbook and teacher take precedence over parental authority. Thus a wedge is driven between children and parents. The national Education Association (NEA) take care to instruct teachers on how to overcome the influence of Christian parents. While there are

many Christian teachers, their efforts to uphold the truth of Christ are regularly frustrated by school policy or the ACLU.

Samuel Blumenfeld, after citing murders committed by high school students, wrote that “these crimes...vies one the impression that these young monsters are the products of a nihilist education system, supported by a nihilist entertainment industry, in which conscience is not developed lest it diminish the student’s self-esteem.” (*The Blumenfeld Education Letter*, march 1995.)

Society is being transformed by a numbing process which leaves people in a kind of mindless vacuum, where they no longer determine their own actions and destiny, but give in to the changes engineered by those who control the communication centers, such as schools and the media.

Over against this process is the message and the power of Christ. He calls us to know the truth, to believe on Him, to follow Him, and obey His commandments. He calls us “children of light” and makes us salt and light in this world of corruption and darkness (Matt. 5:13, 14).

To Him each person is an individual of great worth. He tells us that our Heavenly Father watches over each of us, hears our prayers, and provides our needs (Matt. 7:7–11, 6:33). Each individual will be held accountable for his deeds (Rev. 22:112). No matter who or what group in society acts as the stumbling block and presents the temptation, it is the individual who is responsible for his sin. “Each man is tempted, when he is drawn away by his own lust, and enticed. Then the lust, when it has conceived, bears sin: and the sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death” (James 1:14, 15).

The crime problem will not be solved by more prisons and more policemen. The solution is expressed by Paul in his address at Athens: “The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commands men that they should all everywhere repent: inasmuch as he has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he has ordained; whereof he has given assurance unto all men, in that he has raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:30–31).

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