

## I. The Centrality of the Resurrection

I told you last week about our decision that we were going to try to hold up here and do 2 Corinthians in the detail I want to do it. It just seems that the Lord has directed us that way with what we are trying to do here. I certainly do not want to lose my impact of where people are growing and learning.

It is like anything else you do once you learn how to do it. You put a plan together to do something in ministry, but then you are fully prepared to change the plan. Once you start doing what you are doing, you see how you have to change things to make it work. That is what I am looking at.

Last week, you remember we talked about the first part of chapter 15 and how the church at Corinth is completely messed up on really the most central issue of Christianity. I think the thing that you got out of last week was simply how important the resurrection absolutely is. Everything that we believe and everything that we hold as Christians falls on that great teaching and that great doctrine. It is not just the fact that Jesus died, but the fact that He resurrected the third day and did not stay dead.

The only thing that makes us different from what we have and what we do is that one single concept right there.

## II. The Greatest Lesson God's People Never Learn

Today, I want to show you why I think this church never grew. I think it is important for us because we already know that this church is an example for us. Just as the Old Testament, as he said there in chapter 10, was an example for them, the New Testament plus the Old Testament is that for us. There are a lot of things that we can learn today through all of this that will really help us. I think seeing why this church had such a hard time with getting what God said to them is important.

I do not title my messages. I know a lot of pastors do, and I do not think there is anything wrong with that, but I have just never done that. I just do not think that way. But if I were to put a title on this one today, I would call it "The Greatest Lesson That God's People Never Learn." This was a lesson that the Church of Corinth had a hard time learning.

If you are a young Christian here today, and I would say maybe you have just been saved in the last year or so, this will be a great message for you. It will be a great message for everybody. It will be a great message for some of you God's people that are kind of sitting on a fence, but it probably will not change you. But if you are a young Christian here today, this message really, I am designing it to help you.

I think that the Church of Corinth was a church filled with young Christians that never grew. I think that when God's people do not grow, and there are some reasons why they do not grow, and

I want to talk about that today, I think that is when their problems begin. The set of verses that we are going to look at today, we will find the number one issue that we all have.

When a person quits coming to church, and you see that a lot, when a person quits coming to church or a church gets hindered in what it is trying to do, it all goes back to one central thing. When a child of God quits coming to church and goes back to the world, they will come for a while, maybe a short while, maybe a long time. But then something happens that they literally quit coming and go back to the world.

Now, the easy thing to say is the fact that their salvation really was not real to begin with. That may be true in a lot of cases, but I also know it is not true in some cases. I have known saved people who were saved, they just quit coming to church. They went back to the world. I truly believe that they are saved; I have seen them all my life.

When they do, and that happens, you can rest assured, and this is going to be a great learning tool for you today. Many of you want to work with people, and I think working with people is really what the ministry is all about. Many of you desire to do that, and many of you have the ability, I think, to do that. But you need to learn things like today because there is a great thing in ministry and dealing with people called "cause and effect." You have heard me use that term a lot.

The cause and the effect is simply why do things happen in people's lives the way they do? For every cause you get involved in, there is going to be an effect on your life. That is what the term means. When people make choices in life, that is a cause. Many times it is a course of life that they decide they are going to take, and there are always consequences or always circumstances or always effects to that. I cannot think of anything that we do not decide to do that is not part of the cause and the effect of things.

I think it is vital that you learn these, and it is studies like this, I think, that are going to help you get better. Every person you have ever known or seen, and I have seen many of them over the years that quit and go back to the world, I guarantee you, you can rest assured that at the bottom of that is what we are going to talk about today. I promise you.

### III. Understanding Patterns of Human Nature

As a young guy going into the ministry, this would be back around 1972, I thought that I was pretty young back then and naive about things. I thought that when you read and study the Bible, you just normally got smarter by reading it. I really thought that. I thought back then that when you just got into the Bible and read it and you studied it, you should automatically just get smarter.

I have heard all my life that the four things that we want to get as a child of God are wisdom, God's wisdom. From that, we get understanding. Those two things are very important because they lead to the next two things. Once you get God's wisdom and you get God's understanding, then you get God's discernment and you get the ability to have God's discretion. I thought that we just got that from reading and studying the Bible.

But after almost four decades of being in full-time service of the Lord in ministry and pastoring and teaching and preaching and dealing with people, I know that is not exactly how it works. I look around me today and look back in my own life and in the life of people that God has brought across my path. I see lots of people who spend a lot of time in reading and studying the Bible. I really do. I have all my life, but they certainly do not get any smarter. They continue to make some of the same mistakes and go through some of the same problems and never really get to where God wants them to be.

I tell you this almost with every sermon, and I think it probably needs to be said in every sermon, and that is simply this: God saved you for a reason. He saved you for a purpose. He has got something that He wants you to do. The devil, on the other side of it, Bible basics, is going to do everything he can to keep you from doing that.

If there is anything that I have learned in all that time, it is that the truth in dealing with people, human nature, always follows certain patterns. It always does. The book of Ecclesiastes tells us that there is a cycle to life: a time to be born, a time to die. He goes through the whole thing. We talk about the repetitiveness of history, of learning how history repeats itself, or maybe I should say not learning how history, and when history repeats itself.

The Bible does not make us smarter. That is what I thought. The Bible does not make us smarter. What the Bible does, if you get into the Bible and you pay attention to the Bible, it does not necessarily just give you more brain cells. It does not make you a smarter person, but what it does is it shows you the patterns of human nature because human nature follows patterns.

When you learn the patterns, when you see the patterns by first starting with your own life, when you see how you are and you see the things that you do and you work on those things in your life, then you can look at the Word of God. When you start dealing with people, and I am telling you, the goal for every one of you ought to be to get to a point in your life when you can minister the Word of God to people. You will never begin to fulfill what God has called you to do.

Some people say, "Well, I am too shy for that." "I do not think I could do that." It is not about your ability. It is about your availability to give God the opportunity to develop in you what He wants to develop. The reason why many of God's people will never get to that point is the same reason that we are going to look at in a moment here, that the Church of Corinth did not get there. It is an easy thing to understand, but it goes back to patterns.

You want to get understanding in dealing with people? I watch some of you do a really good job working with people. You really do. I love when you call me when I give you somebody to work with. My goal, and this is a scary thought, is to reproduce myself in as many people as I can. I love it when people call me that are working with me on that level, and they have got a problem that they are working with somebody, and they call me up to tell me about the problem and how they handle it. Sometimes I say things, sometimes I do not. But it is amazing to me how many times that I am sitting there thinking to myself, "That is exactly what I would have said and exactly the way I would have handled it based on what the Word of God says." That is what I am talking about.

The way you get there is not just getting smarter. You do not, the Bible does not make you smarter. You get there through learning and understanding patterns of the way and the things that people do. We make the mistake, or maybe we just never figure it out, that all of us have an old nature, all of us. It is human in every sense of the word with all of its frailties. When we get saved, that nature does not go away. That pattern of human nature stays active inside your life and my life.

The Bible talks about a man having an old nature and a new nature. When you got saved, God gave you a new nature, but He does not eradicate the old nature. It is still there. It will never be gone on this side of eternity till the rapture of the church. But the new nature does give you and I the ability to keep it under control. That is why I try to get you involved with people.

Working with people is the single most important thing that you can do when you get to a point in your life. I will be honest with you today, if you do not get to that point in your life, you are not going anywhere. You will fall victim to what we are probably going to talk about today and learning the patterns of human nature. When you start to work with people, I tell people a lot of time, when you start to help people in the ministry with the Word of God, maybe it is just in the basic discipleship, I do not know. But you work your way into that scenario.

When you start to help somebody with the Word of God, it is a two-way street. You do something for them and they do something for you. When you work at it for a long time, you learn the patterns of human nature. If you want to work with people, I do not know of a better thing that you have got to learn than patterns of human nature. Because human nature always follows basic patterns. It is not that you get smarter with the Bible. It is just that the Bible shows you the patterns. When you see the pattern, you know what you are dealing with. When you see the pattern, then you know and understand how it works. People become very predictable.

I do not say this to people or anybody else, but I say it to myself many, many times. Somebody will come into church and somebody will say, "I want to do right, I want to do this, and I want to get this in my world, I want to get this in my life, and I want to fix all this." I think that is really great. I say, "That is wonderful." They will come in and they will sit down and they will talk to me, and I will watch them over the next four or five weeks maybe and try to put the people in their world and their life that is going to help them. But to me, I can already tell you that that person has a very low chance of ever making it. Chances are they are never going to get out of the problem that they are into.

I am going to tell you today why that is, and I am going to give you the key of how to fix that, that you are guaranteed if you will do it and you are guaranteed not to get it done if you do not do it. It is the patterns of human nature. Certain people fall into certain patterns. In their lives, when they choose to keep those patterns, I can guarantee you 100% of the time they are not going to make it. They are going to be the ones who come to church for three or four weeks, maybe two or three months. When the excitement wears off and the newness wears off and all of that frills and things of the newness, and it gets down now to the rubber meeting the road, you will never see them again.

You will have people who come to church, I have seen them all my life, had them in my ministry all my life. They will come to church five, ten, fifteen, twenty years, and then something happens. They quit growing, they quit ministering, and pretty soon they are right back out in the world not going to church anywhere.

I like old movies. I love the, some of you younger kids will not even appreciate this, I am afraid, but I like the old 1940s Sherlock Holmes movies. Sherlock Holmes back then was played by Basil Rathbone. He was a great guy, English guy. The counterpart of Sherlock Holmes was Dr. Watson. "Elementary, my dear Watson." You know that, come on. They were made back in the 40s, and there were two classic actors, and I enjoy watching them because, I will tell you why. He was probably, in fiction, the greatest detective of solving crime you ever saw.

Being in the ministry is a lot like being a detective. In his case, he was trying to solve a crime. In our case, we are trying to solve sin. But in both cases, the people that are guilty of it do not always tell you the truth when you are trying to investigate and try to help them. In police work, that is called profiling. There are certain profiles that the FBI have profilers. When they have a child that is abducted or they have something that happens, they have a profiler who will sit down and tell you, "Okay, this is the kind of person that you are looking for." Do you know why they do that? Because human nature follows patterns. They call it profiling. In the ministry, we call it patterns of human nature. There are certain things that people do, and given their relationship with God, they are 100% predictable.

The quicker you learn that, and I am not expecting you to go out of here being able to do that, but I am telling you, you learn that by working with people and dealing with people and watching human nature. It is just the way that it is. One line from one movie always stuck with me. It is the movie called \*Scandal in Bohemia\*, which by itself was a pretty lame movie. But it was worth the one line because here are two guys, Dr. Watson and Sherlock Holmes, looking at the same crime scene, and yet they are both seeing different things. Sherlock Holmes was the guy who always solved the case. He was the guy who was so in touch and so in tune with patterns or profiling in any case.

He would walk into, and I am sure it is true today, if you would walk into a crime scene with a really hot detective on a homicide case and stand in the middle of the room, you would see a room in disarray, and you probably would not think much about what you see. He would see it totally different. Do you know why? Because this was your first murder, homicide. He has probably worked so many of them, he knows what the pattern is, and he knows what to look for. That is the key in dealing with people. That is the key, learning and understanding the pattern.

One line from that movie has just always stuck with me, and I think about it all the time in the Bible. They are looking at a crime scene here, and I forget even what it was. Obviously, somebody was murdered because that is what Sherlock Holmes did, solved murders. They are looking back and forth, and they are talking here, and Dr. Watson makes a statement. Sherlock Holmes is one of these guys that he teaches you by one-line sentences. I think that is a really good way to learn. He does not spend a lot of time; he will make one statement, and then that

statement is everything you have got to have to fix your problem. He looks at Dr. Watson and he says, "You see, Dr. Watson, but you must learn to observe, for the two are not the same."

That is one of the greatest lines that anybody ever said, and it is true. You see, you look at things in Christianity, but you do not observe what goes on in Christianity. There is a difference. When somebody sees, that is just your normal guy. When somebody observes, they are looking beyond what they see. We do the same thing. Most of God's people listen, but they never hear. I say, "There are two lists out there. Make sure you sign up if you are going to the mission with me, with Danny, or you are going out in the street with me." I will go back, and people have signed up on both lists. I have said it now probably a hundred times since last Sunday. There were people that will come to that meeting today and say, "Oh, I did not know I was supposed to sign up." You see, that is the problem. We listen, but we do not hear.

That is what happens when you go hear good preaching or bad preaching. You listen, but you do not hear. We are worse at it today than we probably ever have been in our lives. But you get two people looking at the same thing, and they will see it two different ways because one will just see it, the other will observe it. Most of God's people see, but they never learn to observe. It is in observing human nature that you see the patterns of human nature that have not changed in 5,000 years. That is the good thing about it. The patterns have not changed. It would be one thing if you had to learn a new pattern every three or four years. Patterns of human nature and circumstances have not changed in 5,000 years of history since the beginning. Therefore, it is very predictable.

For instance, there are patterns in parenting. There are good patterns and there are bad patterns.

*Psalms 127:4*

*As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.*

The idea being is a guy takes a bow and arrow and can back off 100 feet and hit a target and hit a bull's eye. He launched that arrow. You launch your kids in life just as the guy with the bow and arrow. You are going to launch your kids to heaven, you are going to launch them to hell. But they will go to heaven or go to hell just as assuredly by your hand as that bowman can hit that pie plate down there at 50 feet, 100 feet, whatever it is. You see, there are patterns in parenting. Some patterns are good. Some patterns are not so good.

I can tell you right now, just from observing and seeing the patterns, some of you are going to have a real problem with your kids when they get a little bit older. You are making about every mistake in the book that you can. You are going to have some real issues down the line. Now, I am not a prophet, nor am I a son of a prophet, nor do I have a spiritual crystal ball, but the patterns never lie. The patterns are the patterns. You are going to see that. That is how it works.

There are patterns in everything that we do. There are patterns in marriage. You have good patterns, you have bad patterns. The reason why people get a divorce basically is because they fell into bad patterns. Bad patterns in everything that we do. Bad patterns or good patterns. I tell you in marriage when it gets a divorce, one of my favorite lines, and you hear me say it all the time, is, "If it starts wrong, it ends wrong." You know what that is? You know how I make that

statement? Somebody says, "Well, he just starts to shoot his mouth off." No, no, no, I have watched that pattern for 40 years. That is a biblical principle. When it starts wrong, it ends wrong 98% of the time. Anywhere in between, you can change the pattern, but most people will not. Most people will not.

There are patterns in relationships. Do you know why some of you will wind up marrying the biggest bozo on planet earth? Do you know why some of you right now will hook up with somebody that down the line will take you out of church and make your life miserable? Do you know why? Bad patterns. Some of you guys will marry a gal, and you will think because she is beautiful and she has all the things that you desire that she is going to be everything you want. You are going to find out that you have married Jezebel out of the book of Jeremiah when it is all over with. Do you know why? Bad patterns. Bad patterns are based on "when it starts wrong, it ends wrong." That is a pattern, human nature.

#### IV. The Deception of the Heart

Let me talk about the main problem with the pattern of human nature. There is one thing that is the main focus on bad patterns. This is key. This is all introduction, by the way. You are going to love the message. It is the word "deception." Go through the Bible sometime and study that word in three little formats: study it as the word "deceive," study it as the word "deceived," study it as the word "deceiveth." Because the key to the main problem with human nature and its patterns of being the wrong one is the word "deception."

In our personal life, the patterns of human nature, you have deception in two forms when you study it all out. You have got to remember now in Revelation 12:9 and Revelation 13:14, it says that the main goal of the devil is deception. He deceives the whole world. So why would that not be the number one problem that gets us into bad patterns?

When you start to study through the Bible, you are going to find there are two kinds of deception.

- The first one is in Matthew 24:4.
- Now the second aspect of deception, which I think is vitally important too, and I think it is really the most important one of the two, is found in 1 Corinthians 3:18.

Let me give you something. If you would leave after I make this next statement, it would be worth you coming here today. I do not want you to, that is how important this is. I told you two kinds of deception. First, be not to take heed that no man deceive you. The second is let no man deceive himself. Now let me say something to you. Listen to this. This is worth a lot of money. No man on planet earth, nobody on planet earth can deceive you or me till we first deceive ourselves.

Let me say it again. No man on planet earth, no person, no search of senses, no nothing can ever deceive you or me until we first deceive ourselves. Over the years, I have heard gals say, "Well, I

married this guy, and he was all a deception. He was one thing here, and now he is something else, and it was a deception, and he deceived me." No, no, no, no, no, no. You deceived yourself by stepping out of the biblical principles of not following Genesis 24. The only reason that bozo deceived you is because you first deceived yourself.

Now you get that principle down, folks, and you are going to have something to hang on to, but you will not. You will not. You are already mad about it. Have you ever wondered how a TV evangelist who is an absolute idiot in every sense of the word can rake in millions and millions and millions and millions and millions of dollars from people and get them to do all kinds of things? Then when he gets busted and his ministry falls apart and he loses everything that he has, people go around saying, "Well, he was a crook, he deceived me." No, no, no, no, no, no. He did not deceive you till you first deceived yourself that what he was telling you was the truth when you had a Bible right in your hand that told you that he was lying to you.

Now get this down, folks. You cannot be deceived by anybody, anything on planet earth. Listen to me. Till you first deceive yourself. A girl says, "Well, I will go ahead and take a shot of this guy. He does not come to church, and he does not really like God, or he says he is saved, but he does not go to church anywhere." You know what? "I will just go ahead and hang out with him." Then you go ahead and get married because you think in your mind you are going to fix him, you are going to make it okay, and he is going to love your God, he is going to love your church, he is going to love me, he is going to love everything. Then afterwards, you feel like you were let down. "He lied to me. He deceived me." No, you deceived yourself by getting yourself into that situation, which was a clear violation of biblical principles.

Oh no, you get it down. That is why I am telling you, folks, when you understand the patterns, you cannot fake real biblical Christianity. You just cannot. The Bible says if any man loved God, the same is known of him, and there are some patterns that go along with loving God. If you do not have those patterns in your life, you are kidding yourself. When somebody thinks you do love God, when they see the patterns in your life that say you do not love God, and they will get and believe you, they have already deceived themselves.

You cannot fake true spirituality. Coming to church here does not make you spiritual. Carrying a 25-pound wide margin King James Bible does not make you spiritual. What makes you spiritual is the pattern that you fall into or do not fall into. That is where it goes. When you learn the patterns of human nature, when you learn the patterns of why people do what they do, it is as sure as the sun coming up in the morning.

I had a Treasury guy tell me one time years ago, we were talking about he was in charge of counterfeiting, catching counterfeiters, and I asked him, "Man, how do you guys keep up with all the, I mean, some of these guys really do a good job with these things. I mean, how do you guys constantly stay up on top of all the new ways that they are counterfeiting money?" He said, "Well, we do not care all the new ways they counterfeit it. That is not how they teach us." I said, "Well, how do they teach you?" He said, "They teach us to study a real hundred-dollar bill, and when you study a real hundred-dollar bill and you study it and study it and look at it and get it down, when you see a phony next to the real thing, it just glares out, 'I am phony.'"

Put most of God's people beside a real pattern for a soul-winning, love God, do something that God wants you to do. You know what it cries out. You do not even open your mouth to say a word, but you know what you cry out? "I am phony." Wrong pattern. Wrong pattern.

Here is a verse for your three by five card. Can you ever notice how God through the Bible always does things in patterns? It is all through the Bible. In Exodus, there was a pattern to the tabernacle, a pattern to the instruments, a pattern of Moses given to the mouth. There was a pattern of the altar. In 1 Corinthians, there is a pattern of the porches and the houses. There is a pattern of who had God's spirit. There is a pattern to the chariots. In Titus, there is a pattern of godly works. It just keeps going. In Hebrews 9, he says the pattern of the heavens. God does everything in patterns, and when He made you and me, He made us by a pattern, and we live our lives by a pattern. You want to figure out what human nature is? What are the patterns? You cannot hide that.

You see, you can be dirty on the outside, not shower for a month, put on new clothes, heavy on the cologne or perfume, and you can get away with that, and people say, "Boy, she smells good." But you cannot do that when you are dirty on the inside. They call it the patterns.

*Jeremiah 17:9-10*

*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

*I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*

Now that verse is not talking about somebody you know. That person is not even talking about the person sitting next to you. That verse is talking about you and me. That is our old nature, and that is our affinity for that pattern of old nature. That is the biggest problem we have in life, I guarantee you. He says the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Who can know it? Verse 10 says, "God, I the Lord, search the heart." You see what God does? God observes the pattern. Notice I use the word observe. God observes the pattern in our lives, and He sees if it lines up to the biblical pattern. That is all.

In counseling, when you get to that point in your life, and we talk about it, and I show you, you ever get to that point, rule number one in biblical counseling, hands down. There are about 19 or 20 rules you have got to follow to really be effective at it. But this is one of rule number one, and this defeats more people than it ever helps. Rule number one in helping people in biblical counseling or dealing with people with their problems is simply this: Never want people to do right more than they do. Never want people to do right more than they do because the moment you do, you are going to get deceived. You are going to get deceived. That is just the way it works.

Do not get caught up with the person and what they say. You will be deceived 100% of the time. You observe the pattern of their life. Do not listen to what they tell you. See if what they do with other people, how they treat other people. See if what they do with what the Bible says. See if that pattern is the same. The pattern of human nature is the old nature. It is one of deception. People will lie to you. The great advantage I have over most people when they lie to me is the

simple fact that I am already smarter than you, and I know you are lying to me. I just do not show it. I will ask some people some things face up, knowing what they did or what they are involved in, and just act as dumb as a stump, and then let you lie to me. When I walk away, you know what I think? I do not think you are a bad person. I do not think you are a terrible person. I just say, "That is the pattern. That is the pattern. That is the pattern."

That is just the way it works, folks. It is not hard. It is just being smarter than the problem. There is a pattern of human nature that will always be deception. Lie to cover yourself. Do this, do that. That is always the pattern of human nature, the pattern of the old nature. The pattern of the new nature is open and honesty, transparency. What you see is what you get. That is the key. That is why you do not ever want people to do right more than they do. Because at the end of the day, you fall into that trap, you will get deceived. The reason why you will get deceived by somebody is because you deceived yourself. You did not, you saw what you were seeing, but you did not observe. I am telling you. 99% of keeping close to God is just simply being smarter than the problem and learning to observe what goes on around you.

## V. The Danger of Evil Communications

Now with that, I want to look at 1 Corinthians 15, and I want to pick it up in verse 33. Introduction concluded.

*1 Corinthians 15:33-34*

*Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.*

*Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.*

Father, we thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus. With the introduction we have got today, help us to take this and to look at what happened to the church at Corinth. Lord, the people here, just like people back there, our people today have the same old nature, patterns of nature that they had back there. Nothing has changed. Lord, I ask you today to help us to learn from this, to glean from this, and how we can put it all together. We will thank you and praise you in Jesus' name for a sake, we ask it. Amen.

Now I want to show you if you are here today and you just got saved and you have been saved say six months or so, maybe a year. If you are here this morning and you are saved and you are kind of moving up in the ranks and learning the ropes and getting a hold of things, or maybe you are saved for a long time and you have it all together. I want to show you what will destroy you and your relationship with God and will destroy any church like it did in the church at Corinth from getting what God has for you. The pattern of human nature to go against God and all the things that He has got for you.

This is what Philippians 2:12 means when it talks about you and I working out our own salvation. That does not mean you are working out how to get saved. It means after you get saved, these are the things you have got to work out. A lot of people have a tough time with that verse.

My verse says in verse 33, "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." In the context of our passage here, he is talking about people in this church, the church at Corinth, who have been telling people that there is no resurrection and then telling people that the dead do not rise, and that is what he is talking about here. But there is a lot more there for you and for me because in a general sense, this principle applies all the way to us.

If you have been around any church or churches for any length of time, I am sure you have all seen this phenomenon. You go to church anytime at all. You see people, I mean, I have seen these patterns in people for over 40 years. You see people get saved, and they start to get disciplined. They start to get happy. They leave the world. Some have a very tough background, drugs, alcohol, and all those things, and they start to leave the world. They start coming to church, and somebody starts to disciple them, and they start to get happy about it. Then bang, six months later, maybe it does not even take that long. But during a period of time later, they are gone. They are no longer in church, and they are back to the world.

Then you have people that have been in church for years. I have seen this all my life. They are in church for years, and suddenly they stop growing, stop ministering, quit coming to Bible study, stop being involved. They get an attitude, and they are gone. Have you ever wondered why that happens? I mean, have you ever wondered why that happened? I know you can all think back in your mind and think of people in your life. I think back almost 35 years and think of people. I think of people all the time just come out of the woodwork in my mind, and I am saying, "Oh, what if you look, think of that?" We all can say, "Well, I know they left, and I watched them leave. I saw them actually leave." Ah, but did you observe why they left? See, that is the key. Do not get caught up in seeing that they left, that you had failed to observe why they left. Remember what Sherlock Holmes did to Dr. Watson. The two were not the same: cause and effect, cause and effect. Remember, you do not just see, you learn to observe, and you learn the pattern.

Now, the easy explanation why people leave churches is the one you hear the most time: "They get mad at the pastor." Now, I have got to say, there are some pastors that are idiots, and I have my time that I am sure I can be an idiot too. But there are some truly bad pastors out there. Take it from me, being in this business, I see some guys that are some really bad pastors out there. There are really some bad churches out there. There are churches that will take everything you have and want more than you can give, and then when you need something, they will subcontract you out to somebody else. They will not even take the time. You could not get an appointment with a pastor if your life depends on it. You are not important enough. Now you win a lottery, and you will be surprised how your importance just goes up overnight. So I am not saying there are not places like that.

Yet it always, in my observation, and I have seen this all my life, in my observation, when people get mad, leave a church, badmouth the church, badmouth the people in the church, badmouth whoever, and yet that church still has the hand of God on it. People are getting saved left and right. It is growing. The Spirit of God is everywhere. God is giving them new ministries. Well, in my observation, I have always asked myself, "Okay, here is one or two people over here that have an attitude, and they leave a church, and they are saying the church is bad, but God does not

agree with them." You would think if God agreed with them that He would take His blessings off that church. You think that nobody else would get saved, would not you?

When you get out of fellowship, do you think you still win people to Christ? I am asking a question now. Do you think when you get out of fellowship, the Spirit of God still leads and guides you into all truth? That is a question also. When you observe things, why would you think that two people over here, or five people, four people, or one person, it does not make any difference. Why would you, if you observe and do not just see, if you see the person leave, when you observe why they left, here is somebody that has got a problem with the church or whatever, and that church is still going, still blowing, and still growing, and God is using it. God is not doing anything with them, but they want you or the world or anybody else to believe that the church is all wrong, but they are right. See, that is the difference between seeing somebody leave and observing somebody leave. That is patterns of human nature. That is just the way it goes. It is so easy once you just see it.

Now, going back to the book of 1 Corinthians and all their issues, when you begin to observe, and that is the word today, when you begin to observe what is happening there, here is what you see. Remember now, Dr. Watson, you see, but you must learn to observe because the two are not the same. All through this book, if you have been observing, we have seen people in this church that do not like Paul, and they do not like what he is trying to do with his church. In verse 35, it simply said, "Some man says," there is some man in the church at Corinth that is going against what Paul has been teaching them, and he is taking opposition with Paul teaching them false doctrine. In other words, "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." This is what is happening. All through the book, there is an underground movement of murmurs. In 2 Corinthians 3, this group actually asks Paul if he can prove that he is who he says he is, a qualified apostle, and they are the ones that have kept this church from growing.

Now, I want to say one statement, and this is worth a lot of money too, and if you want to leave after this one, you are still coming out ahead. If any of you guys ever pastor someplace, and any of you guys ever get into the ministry where you are over a church, and some of you probably will someday, let me tell you something, you better take this one to the bank. One individual or one family can keep a whole church from growing with a bad spirit that they bring into it every time they show up. You are told in Job 26:4-6, questions thereafter the judgment seat of Christ, we looked at them before, the last question was, "And whose spirit came from thee?" I have seen it all my life. I have seen it all my life in churches when you look at the patterns and you learn to observe.

## VI. Biblical Examples of Corrupting Patterns

Yet on a grander scale, we see that pattern of human nature not just in the church at Corinth, not just in your life as you look around in your history of your life, but you see it all through the Bible. Thursday night, we got into Proverbs 6:16 with the six things that God hates. We did not go there, but I told you about that, and I told you those are seven false spirits of the devil, just like there are seven spirits of God listed over there in Isaiah 11. But did you ever stop and observe this? You see, everybody sees it, but did you observe it? When you come down through

there, there are six things listed that the Bible says God hates, but the seventh one the Bible says is like the capstone, and it is called the abomination. What is the seventh one? Sowing discord among the brethren.

Now that not only is the favorite pastime of most 21st and 20th century churches today and people, but why did he make that one? Did you ever stop and observe that? Now remember, I am sure you have seen this many times in the Bible, but you must learn to observe because the two are not the same. He says out of those six things, the seventh is an abomination unto the Lord, and yet when you look at that, why was that one the worst one? Because the first pattern you find is in Genesis 3, and this is where the devil himself begins to play the devil's advocate with Adam and Eve. If you notice that passage, he says, "Yea, hath God said?" with a question mark at the end of it, not a period or an exclamation point. He is basically saying to them, "Does God really know what he is talking about?" Then of course, he proceeded to change everything that God had told them.

Do you know what the devil did with Adam and Eve against God? Has anybody observed it yet enough to put it two and two together? What did he do between God and Adam and Eve in chapter 1 that would make the seventh thing the abomination? What did he do? Did anybody observe it yet? He sowed discord between Adam and Eve and God. That is exactly what he did. So the reason why that caps the list back there and makes the whole thing abomination is because that is the first thing the devil did was sow discord between God's people and God. In that particular case, it threw the human race into sin, did it not? That is the pattern. Then Eve goes down, she sins, and then she takes Adam with her. You say, "Oh no, no, the Bible says that Adam sinned willfully." Oh, you are absolutely right, good job. You know what he did? He looked at the pattern Eve was now in, looked at the pattern that God was, and he willfully chose Eve's pattern over God's pattern. See what I am talking about? You need to learn to observe, not just see.

You find that all through the Bible when Abraham was called out in Genesis 12:1. Do you know what God told him? God told him that he was to go out and separate himself from everybody in his family because God was going to take him and going to take him to a place where God was going to start a whole new ballgame with him, and he was to leave everybody behind. But the Bible says when you observe it that he did not do that. He took Lot with him. Now Abraham is a picture of you and me. He is a picture of a child of God who got the plan of God, who got the word from God, and God has something He wants him to do. Lot is a picture of a child of God who did not get anything from God, does not want anything from God, wants everything he can get, and is going to follow up and mess up everything that Abraham does, and that is exactly what he does. Do you know why? Because Abraham did not separate himself from the person that was going to corrupt him by the evil communication. If you took Lot out of Abraham's life, Abraham would have had a smooth sailing life. You go through that study and observe it, you are going to find that Lot is the thorn in his side and everything that happens. When you forsake God's pattern for the world's pattern, that is where you are going, guys. It is not that hard.

I think of Moses and the nation of Israel back in Numbers 11. Moses brings the children of Israel out of Egypt, a type of the world. There again, it is a picture today: you and I got saved, and we

came out of the world. But you see the mistake that they made, they brought the mixed multitude with them. Now, who is the mixed multitude? Oh, they are God's people that have one foot in the world and one foot in church. They are God's people that have no feet in the church. They are God's people that care nothing about the things of God, do nothing with the things of God, that is who they are. They were the source of Israel's problem in everything that they do. As far away as they could get from what God wanted them to do, but yet they are hanging out with a mixed multitude, and every time Israel gets into a problem like Numbers 11:4, it is going back to that mixed multitude. Why? Because evil communication corrupts good manners. That is why.

See, in the book of Ezra and Nehemiah, we know that in Ezra and Nehemiah, after the 70 years captivity, they go back. When they go back, they begin to rebuild Jerusalem. Do you know what it is a picture of? It is a picture of a person who has been where Exodus and coming out of Egypt was a picture of a person who got saved coming out of Egypt, a type of the world. This is the picture of somebody that was a Christian that got backslidden and now gets right with God and starts to get their life cleaned up again. Now what happens? The Bible says the adversaries show up. You bet they do. In chapter 4 of the book of Ezra, the adversaries show up, and they come to the nation of Israel, Zerubbabel, and they say, "Oh, we are glad you are back. We are glad you are here. Hey, let us build with you. Let us help you build. We seek your God just like you do." But the pattern did not match up. They did not seek God at all. They wanted to destroy the work. They wanted to keep Jerusalem from being rebuilt. What they said did not match the pattern of their actions, and the end result was the Bible says they troubled them in building. They weakened their hands, and they frustrated their purpose.

You want a great observation of those people that wanted to help them? They never built anything in their life. They wind up making accusations against them, against a king that was not true, all for the purpose of stopping what God was doing all through the Bible, all through history. That concept of the pattern of human nature and the pattern of backslidden Christians to destroy other Christians. You have got to observe.

## VII. Guarding Your Associations

Now I am going to give you the third thing. If you want to leave after this, you are really going to be ahead. You want some good advice? You will not take it. You will not take it because deep down inside you are on the middle of the fence too. You will not take it, but you ought to take it. I will give you some of the best advice you will ever hear in your life. As a child of God, as a Christian, do not get hooked up with anybody, anybody who says they are a Christian who never builds anything. If you hang out with God's people who do not build anything, never have built anything, and do not care about building anything, and only want to destroy what God is already building, you are in the wrong crowd. Do not ever get influenced by people who would never build anything.

Learn to observe. People who do nothing for God, people who give nothing to God, stay with people who do something for God. Every case in the Bible where somebody is trying to stop or hurt the work, it is a case. Well, they have never done anything for God. Why would you be influenced? Are you so, are you so deceived in your own self? Can you not see somebody,

whoever they may be, whatever they may be, that wants to destroy what God is doing in any church anywhere, and they are all through Christianity today, and yet they are over here, and you see them. You know they are not doing nothing. You know they do not care. They do not give. They do not minister. They do not do anything. They are the minister of complaining. That is all they ever do. What makes you deceive yourself that you think hanging out with them is going to benefit you? You see, you have already deceived yourself. You say, "Well, I like them." Uh-huh. I am not sure you do. Birds of a feather flock together.

You know what my mama used to say when she would not let me hang out with certain people? She would say to me, "Bobby, I will tell you why. Because you will become what the friends you hang out with are." My mama never been to Bible college a day in her life. Why would you be influenced something like that?

Here is another one for your three by five cards.

*Proverbs 13:20*

*He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.*

Now see how simple that is? How simply can it get? The Bible says evil communications corrupt good manners. It does not mean that you eat dinner with a spoon instead of a fork. That is not the manners it is talking about. It is talking about the manner of man you are. God wants you to be a certain kind of person. He wants you to have, be a mannered person. A manner is a way of life. Evil communication corrupts good manners. It corrupts who you are for God and makes you like them.

During World War II, Nazi Germany had a propaganda minister by the name of Joseph Goebbels. He got a whole nation to believe in the lie of Adolf Hitler. Do you know how he did it? Do you know how he deceived them? Well, first of all, the people deceived themselves. They should have seen clearly what was going on. But they did. We do not have time to get into historical relevance of all that, but they did not see it. They were not observing. He said, "If you tell a lie long enough, enough people, you tell it long enough and you tell it enough, people will believe it." So the minister of propaganda, that is where a word comes from. That is exactly what he did. He fostered over the period of eight or nine years the myth, the lie, and people who were closed off from all other outside communication. It was you go to jail if you listen to another radio program outside your own country that was not part of the propaganda. He actually cut off all things. Of course, that is a true statement. I will tell you something else. If you fall into the pattern of evil communication, you will be part of it.

Psalms 1 is one of my favorite passages in the Bible. It says, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." That is a great verse. But notice the progression. Observe the progression. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly." See, the man is now not walking with God, he is walking with the counsel of the ungodly. That word "counsel" there, now he is listening to them and taking advice from them. He is walking with them instead of walking with God. That is your first mistake. You start walking with the old crowd. You start walking with

people who do not like God, have an attitude about God or the Bible or church or whatever. The first thing you do is start walking with them and listening to them.

Then the second part of that verse says, "standeth in the way of sinners." Now you have stopped walking, and now you are standing with them. Now you are really listening. It is kind of hard to listen when you are walking with somebody. Have you ever noticed how that worked? You are talking along with somebody, and you are talking back and forth, and then when you really want to make your point, what do you do? You stop. These people are now making their point.

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners." Now the third one is, "sitteth in the seat of the scornful." Not only are you sitting with them, you are being scornful about the things of God, the ministry of God, people of God, just like they are. Do you know why? Because evil communications corrupt good manners. Do you know why? You want to be with a wise, walk with a wise man. You want to be a fool and be destroyed, then go with the fools.

Do you know what a fool is in the Bible? There are two kinds of fools. The first kind is an unsaved man. An unsaved man is a fool because of the fact that he is unsaved. But there is another kind of fool in the Bible, and that is a saved man. A saved man is a fool because he has got God, he has got the Bible, but he will not do what is right with it. Both of them are fools that are going to go to two different places.

Listen, let me tell you something. As a Christian, the number one thing without a doubt, see it all through the Bible, you and I need to guard is who you associate with and how they influence you. Because, brother, that old pattern that you and I have is the thing we have always got to hang on to and get rid of. Keep the good pattern throughout the old one. I am telling you, when you violate biblical principles and you deceive yourself, you are on the road of being deceived big time.

I am telling you, there is a great study in the Bible, going back to these mixed multitude. You have got to go back in the Bible in the Old Testament, and you want to study how this thing is set up. There were three families that when they camped at night or however long they camped, the Ark of the Covenant was right in the middle. I am going to draw a little circle here. The Ark of the Covenant was right in the middle. All the other tribes camped out around here. This is called the uttermost. But inside that square where the tabernacle was, and the real business with God was going on, there were three families. There were the Kohathites, there were the Gershonites, and there were the Merarites. Those three families were tied into the central ministry of what God was doing with the nation of Israel. The other tribes were all scattered out here in the outer parts of the camp.

Do you know who was in the other part of the camp out there? That is where the mixed multitude was. In other words, those tribes got as far away from what God was really doing when they camped as they could. You will never find in all of the problems that Israel had where those three families ever gave Moses, Israel any problems whatsoever. Do you know why? Because those three families represent God's people that are tied into what the ministry really is and in doing, and they never get out in the uttermost.

Some of you have got your tents pitched about as far as you can get from what is going on here, and you just make the pilgrimage here on Sunday. Then you wonder why you have an attitude problem. You wonder why you do not have things in your life going for you the way it is. Do you know why? Because you are out there on the edge. You are out there on the edge where nothing ever happens. You are out there on the edge where the mixed multitude comes into your camp and out of your camp and talks to you about this and that. Every time Israel had a problem, it was because they were too far out from what God was doing, and the mixed multitude was out there with them, and they kept dragging them down, complaining about what the things were happened and what is going on. I am telling you. Boy, you better learn some lessons. He observes, observe, and a companion of fools will be destroyed, and that is what he tells you.

I make it a habit in my life. I have done this for many, many years. I make it a habit of my life not to hang around negative people. Now I am in a ministry, and I know the ministry is people, and I know that when you work with me on a level where you work with people, that there are things that you are working with people that are negative about them, and we have got to work through them and talk through them and find the best way to deal with it. I am not really talking about that. But I know myself and my human nature. Do not ever doubt it, my friend, learn the pattern of human nature. There are some people who are nice people. They are lovable people. They are sweet people. They are wonderful people, but a half an hour with them, and they will kill your zeal for the Lord.

Now I cannot speak for you. I do not need that. I do not need that. My old nature does not need that anymore than I need a Playboy or a Penthouse magazine or a Skoal or a beer or a wine cooler in my life. I do not need them because that is exactly what they do. Every time you are around them, all you hear is negative. All you hear is what is wrong with things. All you hear, they never focus on what God is doing. Do you know why? Because God is not doing anything with them. When you observe that, I cannot speak for you. I do not want to be around that. I just do not need that.

You want some advice? Evil communications corrupt good manners. Spend time with people who are doing something, spend time with people who are building something, spend time with people who are involved in ministry, learn from them. "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise." Now those people are not perfect people, and that is what you always hear. "Well, nobody is perfect." Nobody is perfect, but they are doing something, and you are not. They are here, and you are not. They are involved with somebody as imperfect as they are, you are not. They are focusing on what is positive. You are focusing on what is negative. Do not just see the two. Observe the two. Not complicated. Not complicated at all.

Michael and I met this week, and we had a great time in the Bible. Michael said something to me that we were talking back and forth, and Michael says, "How do I get involved? I really want to get involved with the book and get going." I told him, "Michael, here is what you do. Keep coming to church. I will keep working with you. I will keep giving you things to do. Keep learning. But what did I tell you? I said, 'You get with the guys that are doing it. You get with the guys that are where the action is. You get with the people who love this church, who love the ministry, love the Word of God. You get everybody else out of your life that does not, and you

focus on that crowd, and you get with them, and you learn everything you can from them. You watch what they do. You watch the patterns they do when you do not know how to do something. Watch how they do it, and in time, you know what? They are a pattern you follow." The Bible says if you want to be wise, hang out with wise men. What is so hard about that?

How do I learn to win souls? Hang out with people that win people to Christ. That is how you do it. That is exactly how you do it. "Well, I do not want to." Then you are never going to. The way to learn the Bible is hang out with people who know and love the Bible and talk about it all the time. The way to learn to pray, "How do I learn to pray?" Get in a prayer group. Get with people who know how to do it. Oh no, when I started the prayer group, oh boy, I had some people that just thought that was the most terrible thing in the world. "Well, I just think he is going to take up more time of our life." No, it will not because you will not do it. So do not worry about it, and do not worry about somebody else's time. Maybe they count their time a little different than you do.

I remember when we came up through the athletic ministry, and we got to the point where you got hurt with an ear, did not you? Really bad. Danny decided, he said, "Well, we cannot do this. The guys are getting too good and too aggressive, but there is nothing wrong with it." We were playing co-ed, and we have got to change it because too many girls are getting hurt. Now personally, I do not have a problem with girls getting hurt. I think you would want to get into the guys, no, I am just kidding. So the next time we decided, next we were going to decide, we sat down and talked about it, and we said, "You know what, it will just double our chances of ministry." You ought to hear the whining complaining I heard of people, "Oh, I do not want to play if we are not playing co-ed." Then do not play. "But it is what I want to do." It is not about we are going to have another develop the ministry, and we are going to have more outreach. It is about, "I want to, and I do not want to do that." Hit the road. Oh, I am sorry you did.

You want to be a soul winner? Hang out with soul winners. You want to learn the Bible? Hang out with people who know and love the Bible. You want to learn to pray? Get in a prayer group. You want to become a gossip? Hang out with people that gossip. Get your little group together. Every church has got them. Get your little group together of you little people that all you are going to do is get together and talk about all the negative things. You want to learn to be a gossip? Hey, there you go. You want to learn to be an idiot? Hang out with idiots. The way to become negative and criticize the church, the pastor, and other people, and all you do. Hang out with that kind of people because the Bible says if you are going to be wise, you hang out with wise people, and you want to be a fool, you hang out with fools. And why not being destroyed? Why? Because corrupt evil communications corrupt good manners.

You want to ensure you make another disaster in your life with another bad marriage. You want to ensure you go back to your drinking or your drugs or that lifestyle or just come to church on a Sunday morning and hang out with the wrong crowd on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. You will get there. You will get there. You have got to make the break. You have got to get rid of the pattern. You have got to realize that that pattern will always lead to disaster. When you hang out with the unsaved crowd or the ungodly, godly crowd, you are going to wind up in the ash heap. It is just that simple.

The way to build nothing in your life, the way to get to the judgment seat of Christ and be absolutely naked, the way to build absolutely nothing and be miserable is just hang out with miserable people who do nothing, give nothing, bring nothing, or do nothing to God's work. The pattern of human nature will take care of itself after the Church of Corinth's problem.

Now that is the underlying fundamental issue here at the Church of Corinth. People listening to people who do not like Paul, people listening to do not like the way Paul is doing things. They do not like the Lord's work. They do not like Paul. They are backslidden. Look at verse 34, "Awake to righteousness and sin not." He is basically saying, "Wake up. Start to observe. Do not see why people do and say what they say. Observe why they do and see what they say. See what they are building in their life first. See what they are doing personally for the furtherance of the kingdom of God, and then, then make your choice."

Verse 34 says, "For some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame." Let me just clarify that for you. You have got to be ashamed of yourself. You have got to be ashamed of yourself. God's people ought to be ashamed of themselves today that they have got the truth. They have got the Word of God, and they get influenced by somebody who builds nothing and does nothing, who is going to wind up at the judgment seat of Christ as naked as can be and going to drag you there with them because you deceived yourself first because our worst enemy is our old sin nature. You have got to be ashamed of yourself, and that is another message in itself.

There is no shame among God's people today. God's people are not ashamed of anything. That is not saying you will not be because the Bible coming in 1 Corinthians 3 and 2 Corinthians 5 where it says the shame of your nakedness does not appear. So you are going to feel shame. It is just God's people do not feel it today. Let God's people do what everybody want to do. I mean, they can get pregnant in wedlock. They can do what everybody want to do. They can live their lives however they want. They go out and do this, commit this, go do that, go do this, and there is no shame about it. It is just like, "Well, that is what Christians do today." You know, "We are no different in the world." No, we are different from the world. There ought to be a difference. There ought to be a difference in everything about you if you are saved today.

I am telling you right now, you get into that mindset, and you get in that world, and keep yourself from being deceived from people. He says, "Some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame." Letting some God-forsaken Christian who never wins anybody to Christ, who has not ministered to anybody, who has not built anything, has nothing going for him. There is nothing positive about him. Who likes to live in the world, who likes to drink, who likes to smoke, who likes to chew, and they are smarter than you are because you fall into that pattern. You deceive yourself, and in time, it will get you. If it will not do anything else, it will ensure that you never grow past the point that you are in. You will wonder the rest of your life why we cannot get any farther. "Why can't we? I want to do this. I want to do that." Let me tell you something. There will be an anchor around your ankles the rest of your life. Why is that, Bob? Why? Because evil communication corrupts good manners. That is why. That is the way it works.

As I said earlier, this message should be called, if it had a title, "The Greatest Lesson God's People Will Never Learn." The pattern of old nature versus the pattern of the new nature. Keeping yourself from being deceived by people. How do you do that, Bob? How do you do that? You start by not deceiving yourself. You get your own pattern straightened out by living the principles of the Word of God. Even when it goes against your human old sin nature. By holding yourself accountable. By realizing, "I do not care how good a friend they are. I do not care what it is. I do not care what it is like. Bottom line is simply this: I am not going to associate with that simply because I am not going to violate myself because corrupt evil communication corrupts good manners."

That is a problem we all have. We all think it applies to everybody else, not to us. We all think we are the exception to the rule. We all think that we can beat the system. We do. That is why guys get killed at railroad crossings. Everybody else stops. He thinks he can make it. That is why people overdose on drugs. They think that the fact that they can make it, everybody else does, it will not happen to them. That is why people wind up dying of cirrhosis of the liver through drinking or alcoholism. They think it is everybody else, but it will not happen to them, and they deceive themselves, and they get into that pattern, and that pattern destroys them.

Some of God's people say, "Well, I can have friends with this person. I can be with that. It does not matter if they are negative. It does not matter if they do not like God. They do not like the Bible. They do not go to church anywhere." You already deceive yourself based on what the Word of God says. Learn to observe, not just see. Learn to hear, not just listen. Learning the patterns that people fall into, being smarter than the people you hang out with. Remembering the great verse 1 Corinthians 15:33.

*1 Corinthians 15:33*

*Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.*

Add these verses to your three by five cards. Add that one. Add Proverbs 13:20. Add Numbers 11:1. Add Ezra 4. And add Genesis 12:1. Those verses will mean something to you differently now because you had a great lesson on learning to not just see but learning to observe. Do not just see why people do what they do. Observe why they do what they do and bring it back to the pattern because human nature always follows the pattern.

Let us pray. Father, we thank you for this great study in the book of 1 Corinthians. We know, Lord, that many of the issues that they have that throughout Christianity were plagued with the same things. Lord, we do ask you today in a very special way to take what we have talked about. We ask you to bless our hearts with it to help us. Lord, there are some here that will never get it. They are already in the pattern. They are not going to change a thing. They could care less. It is all on the outside with them. They will be out of here, Lord. I mean, they are in church on Sunday morning, they are at the Royals game with a beer in their hand on Sunday night. They are not ever going to change. That is just the way it goes.

But Lord, for the ones that will change. For the ones that it means something to. To do what you have done for us, to give back to you. I pray that this will be a great lesson in not just seeing but

observing. That we will be smarter than the problem. That we will see that evil communications do corrupt good manners. Father, help us to want to be wise, to hang out with the wise, and he that hangs with the fool will be destroyed. Help us to learn these principles, but help us to observe these principles. In all that we do, and we will thank you and praise you in Jesus' name for a sake we ask it. Amen.