

- It was David who said in **Psalms 11:3**, "If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" I don't know about you, but there have been some times recently when it seemed to me as if the foundations of our society have been completely corrupted and crumbled. Think about the foolishness and destruction that was a part of the protests that took place in Ferguson, MO. There were the shootings that took place back in my original home of East Tennessee in Chattanooga where 5 men were shot and killed. After that, there were the shootings that took place at the Oregon Community College in October where 10 people were killed. And then just recently you have probably read about the racial protest that took place at the University of Missouri. Sadly, this list is not exhaustive in regards to these types of events. Many more could be listed as evidence for what seems to be the degradation of our society. Certainly these are said times within our country, and even worse is the fact that these things are not only happening in our country, but they happen all over the world.
- This must lead us to this question though.....What can be done to stop these senseless acts of violence and foolishness? What can be done for people to stop hurting each other and stop acting foolishly? I don't claim to be all knowing, but I can look into the mind of the One who is all knowing. I can look into God's Word and I can find some things that would help to cure many of the ills within society. Tonight, I would like to look to God's Word for 3 simple things that we can do in order to improve society. For those who want answers to the troubles of society, I can't think of a better place to look than to God's Word.

I. Live for God

- A. Too many people in our society care for nothing other than themselves. This is a major source of the issues that we have within our society.
 1. Far too many people are completely self-focused and they don't care what happens to others as long as they get their way.
 2. When this happens, when there is no regard for anyone but self, then there is no end to what a person might do in order to get their way or their desires.
 3. James speaks about this type of a person in **James 3:16,17**.
 4. This type of person who is selfish creates nothing but problems because all he cares about is accomplishing what he wants done. If others get hurt or if it creates problems then so be it.
 5. If a society is filled with people who live only for self...then that society will be full of strife, conflict, and unrest. Sadly, our society is seeing more and more strife, conflict, and unrest.
- B. If society wants to improve, then its people will start to live their lives with God being their focus & God.
 1. Many would reject the notion that following of God would help society. This is because they see God's standards as being overbearing and burdensome.
 2. When pure Christianity is suggested as a cure for society's ills many would quickly object that Christianity is simply oppressive, but the fact is that God's are not burdensome and they are actually for our good. **(I John 5:2-4; Deut. 10:12,13)**
 3. God wants His most prized creation to live in peace and that can happen when it follows the commands that the Creator has given them to live by.
 4. The catch, however, is that we must submit to the Will of God. This requires humility and we know well that humans are full of pride and our pride is the greatest obstacle to overcome when it comes to following God and His standard in this life. **(Prov. 16:18)**
 5. There are many things that man sees as being right and best, but man's wisdom only leads to destruction and strife. **(Prov. 16:25)**
 6. If we want to help society improve then that begins by living for God instead of self. It begins with recognizing the wisdom of God as being so superior to ours. It begins with living for God and His perfect will for man, instead of living for our own desires.

II. Restore the Family

- A. Many of the problems within our society are a symptom of the broken families that have taken over this country and society.
 1. The following statistics are from 2014 and can be found at singlemotherguide.com
 2. Nearly 12 million homes in this county are of the single parent variety. and 49% of those homes consist of a parent who has never been married.

3. Around 50% of those single parent homes live in extreme poverty and averaged around \$26,000 in income with over 50% earning less than \$25,000 per year. This is compared to the \$84,000 average income of 2 parent households.
 4. In 2013, nearly 50% of children born out of wedlock were born to mothers 24 and under.
 5. What about divorce in this country? These stats are from children-and-divorce.com
 6. 50% of all children will see their parents divorced once, and 25% will see their parents divorced at least twice. 10% of all children will see their parents go through 3 or more break ups.
 7. And 40% of children grow up without a father present in their lives.
 8. I am firmly convinced that these statistics directly correlate to the many issues that we have in this country because as the family goes...so goes the country.
- B. If this society wants to reaffirm the foundations then it needs to restore the family unit to what God originally intended for it to be.
1. We need a man and a woman (not man and man or woman and woman) to truly commit to one another for life in marriage, and to fulfill the roles that God has given them to fulfill.
(Matt. 19:4-6; Eph. 5:22ff)
 2. We need individuals who reserve the sexual relationship for marriage and not risk bringing a child into a home that doesn't have both parents. **(Heb. 13:4)**
 3. We need fathers who step up and raise the children that they have helped create. **(Eph. 6:4)**
 4. We need fathers who help to teach their sons how to be men, husbands, fathers, leaders, & providers.
 5. We need mothers who help teach their daughters how to be women, wives, supporters, & homemakers.
 6. If our society would commit to God's design for the family, then we wouldn't have to worry about so many children being harmed by divorce, raised by only one parent, or have to face the difficulties that so many are facing in this country, now.
 7. The restoration of the family would be a big step forward towards the betterment of our society.

III. Love our Neighbor

- A. The murders and mistreatment of one another has led to nothing but more hatred of others.
1. The senseless killings simply show a lack of love and respect for one's neighbor.
 2. The acts of foolishness of violent protests and looting that have taken place show a lack of respect for the property of one's neighbor.
 3. The racial tensions and situations over the past few months have shown that there are still many people who don't recognize that differences of skin color mean nothing.
 4. Too many people are failing to show love for their neighbor and that has led to much of the violence, protests, lootings, and harm done to so many in this country over the past few months.
- B. If we wanted to stop many of the problems in our society, we will simply start loving our neighbor as we ought to.
1. Jesus, while being tested by a Pharisee, said that God's commandments could be summed up in 2 commands: Love God and love your neighbor as yourself. **(Matt. 22:35-40)**
 2. Paul echoes these words in his letter to the Romans. **(Rom. 13:8-10)**
 3. If everyone would simply love their neighbor and their property, then we wouldn't have many of the issues that we see today.
 4. We wouldn't see people hurting or murdering others. We wouldn't see people destroying or stealing the property of other people.
 5. We would instead see respect, patience, care for those around us. We would see others helping instead of harming others.
 6. If we would commit to loving our neighbor regardless of faith, opinion, or color of skin then we wouldn't have the dumpster fire of a society that we seem to have at times.

As is usual, whenever man deviates from God's design... bad things happen. When man decides to live for self instead of God, blow up God's design for the home, and love themselves more than others then bad things happen. The health of society declines, and people begin to lose hope. However, if we would simply get back to things as God would have them, then things would get better and society will seem more at peace. May God help us to do our part to make sure that we live for God, build godly families, and love our neighbor as ourselves then good things will happen, society will be bettered, and God will be pleased.