

# The Evil of Sodom

By

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*“Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. And he said, “Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant’s house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way.” And they said, “No, but we will spend the night in the open square.” But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. And they called to Lot and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally.”*

*-Genesis 19:1-5*

This is one of the most disturbing stories in the entire Bible. In this chapter, there are no heroes, only grotesque violence and evil displayed for all to see. To sum up, in the beginning of the chapter, the angels who had visited Abraham in the previous chapter make their way to Sodom. Upon arriving they are offered shelter by Lot, (whose motives are a little ambiguous), but when they get to his house the men of Sodom surround the house and try to rape the angels. Lot pleads with them to stop, and offers his young virgin daughters to the mob, but they insist on assaulting the angels. As they try to break in, the angels strike the men with blindness and tell Lot to flee the city before they destroy it. Lot tries to convince his daughter’s betrothed, but they think he is joking, and eventually the angels have to drag Lot, his wife, and his daughter’s out of the city before God destroys it with fire and brimstone.

When Lot is leaving though, his wife looks back and is also swept away in the judgment and turned into a pillar of salt. Lot pleads for God to spare a small town named Zoar so he could live there with his daughters, but ends up living in a nearby cave instead. His daughters, having been corrupted by the morality of Sodom, get their own father drunk and have sex with him in order to have children. These children, Ammon and Moab, become the founders of two adversarial tribes to the people of Israel.

As I said, the story is disturbing and vile from beginning to end, but as such, it gives us a lot of insight into the nature of evil and corruption in general. By studying this story we can understand evil in a more full sense, how God judges evil, what a corrupt structure

looks like, and the overwhelming power of the cross to subvert acts of evil for His good purposes.

*“And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”*

*-Jude 1:6-7*

## What is evil?

*“Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil. Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on. For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; And their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall. For they eat the bread of wickedness, And drink the wine of violence.”*

*-Proverbs 4:14-17*

Passages like this are so disturbing to us because they describe a level of depravity and evil that most of us are, thankfully, unfamiliar with. In fact, it is so disturbing that I believe a lot of people throughout the ages have denigrated the full face of evil that is on display here. Some have suggested that the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was homosexuality. That the men described here were given over to lustful passion and pursued these angels in an attempt to satisfy their sexual lust. This is why the term “sodomy” in our present age refers to homosexual intercourse.

While homosexuality is indeed a sin against God’s design for our sexuality, that is not the sin that is on display here. These men were not merely given over to the lower passions of lust, but instead these were men who were fully corrupted by evil in the purest sense. To put it another way, they were not pursuing a sexual experience, but instead they were driven by a sadistic drive to violate and oppress purity and goodness.

The way that we can know this is through their response to Lot. Lot offers these men both of his daughters for them to rape, but they refuse. If all they were looking for was a sexual experience, they would have taken Lot up on his offer, or, just raped Lot in their place. Instead, we get a peak into their perverse mindset when they say this:

*“This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them.”*

*-Genesis 19:9*

When these men *threaten* Lot with rape we can see that they didn't see their actions as a means of sexual pleasure, but instead, violent oppression. To put it another way, these men were not interested in sexual pleasure, but instead sadistic pleasure that only comes through hurting and violating the body of another.

This is an expression, not of sin, but of genuine evil. Evil is not a mere violation of God's law, but instead an act of subversion against God's good creation. For most people, the reason why we sin is because we have misaligned priorities. To use an example, the person who lies to get out of a speeding ticket is not maliciously manipulating the cop, nor are they finding sadistic pleasure in the act of deceit. They have merely elevated their desire to avoid penalty over their desire to be honest. Most sins fall into this category. They aren't a denial of God's morality, or a rebellion against it, they are instead a misalignment of ideals in which we prioritize a temporal material good, over a spiritual virtue. While this is not an excuse for sin, it is important to differentiate this common form of sin from actual evil.

What happened in Genesis 19 was not due to a misalignment of priorities. These men weren't sinning and looking for some temporal pleasure. This was a satanic spirit that delighted in oppression and violence.

*"To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things, From those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness; Who rejoice in doing evil, And delight in the perversity of the wicked..."*

*-Proverbs 2:12-14*

## Oppression of the Powerless

*"Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, The alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart Against his brother."*

*-Zechariah 7:10*

The evil heart of these men is expressed in them oppressing the powerless. Think again about what these men represented. As strangers, they represented those without power, the vulnerable who had come into the city for shelter. But instead of offering shelter and hospitality, the men of the city sought to exploit the vulnerabilities of these men and use it as an occasion to oppress and violate.

*"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."*

*-1 Peter 5:8*

There is a predatory element to evil. Evil men are not necessarily looking for a fight, but for prey. This is one of the reasons why people find themselves in a state of perpetual victimhood. When I counsel such people, they feel as though they are a magnet to predatory individuals, and in a sense they are right. What they are wrong about is thinking that there is a mystical cause to what is happening to them. That they are marked by dark forces and therefore find themselves targeted by evil and malicious individuals. Instead, the reason why they are marked is because evil men are looking for easy targets.

They delight in taking advantage of innocence and, what they perceive to be, powerlessness. Saying this is not to blame those who have been victimized, their oppression is due to the wickedness of those who viewed them as prey for their twisted desires. However, one way that someone can combat this in their life, is to learn assertiveness and confidence to ward off these opportunistic predators. When these strangers wandered into the city without protection, the predatory hearts of these men switched into gear and they pursued what they thought would be easy prey. As stated before, there are ways to be trained in assertiveness and confidence to avoid predatory individuals, but for the purposes of this paper, let's press a little deeper into the heart of evil.

## The Violation of the Innocent

*"And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel."*

*-Acts 6:15*

There is another thing that these angels represented, innocence. When someone has given themselves over to evil, they aren't just looking for pleasure, they are looking to actually destroy and subvert good. It is an important note that Luke makes in the above passage that Stephen, the church's first martyr, looked like an angel to the council that would violently murder him after hearing his testimony. In fact, listen to Luke's description of how they assaulted him:

*"When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."*

-Acts 7:54-60

When they were confronted with the purity and goodness of Stephen, both his message and his character, they were confronted with their own wickedness and were moved with demonic wrath towards him. This spirit of Satan is one that is present with all that truly give themselves over to evil. I think that John Milton described this perfectly in his depiction of Satan in "Paradise Lost".

*"Me miserable! Which way shall I fly, infinite wrath, and infinite despair? Which way I fly is hell; myself am Hell... So farewell hope, and with hope farewell fear, farewell remorse: all good to me is lost; evil be thou my good..."*

*-John Milton - "Paradise Lost"*

In rejecting God, Satan had rejected all good, and found pleasure in wickedness as opposed to goodness. There was a Satanic spirit motivating the men of Sodom. They didn't just want to oppress the powerless, they wanted to violently subjugate and violate the purity of the angels. This is why in every corrupt pagan culture, there are practices of child sacrifice and ritual molestation. And unfortunately, the heart that animated these ancient civilizations is alive and well today, and many have been violated by this same satanic spirit.

When people give themselves over to the spirit of Satan, which is the spirit of subversion and wickedness, they desire to violate children, the most innocent amongst us. It may seem strange to some, but this is why our current culture is turning against children. Why is it that the modern progressive policies focus so much on abortion, sexual education for children, and transgender surgeries for children? This is all water from the same ancient well that the men of Sodom were drinking out of. The heart of evil is one that is opposed to good and therefore finds pleasure in corrupting and violating innocence. We even saw a more graphic and direct expression of this in the Hamas attack on Israel last October. These terrorists not only murdered innocence, but they violently raped women, sometimes young girls, and sometimes so violently that they killed these girls.

## The Source of Evil

*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

*-Isaiah 5:20*

Since this type of sadistic evil exists, it has been a source of morbid curiosity for many. This is why horror movies and true crime dramas are so wildly popular. Most people think of evil as something foreign and intriguing. In a dark way, we want to know how evil works so that we can treat it as something outside of ourselves. For most of human history, evil was blamed on spiritual forces. There was a belief that evil people emerged as a result of some sort of dark and satanic infestation. This is why we have so many stories about vampires, werewolves, zombies, and the like. These are stories of human beings who are taken over by some evil force and made into a hybrid, half man, half monster.

In the modern psychological age, we think that evil is caused by mental illness. We think that some people lack empathy, or were exposed to horrible trauma, or that they are afflicted with schizophrenia or some other debilitating mental illness. A modern movie that expressed this theory pretty perfectly was the newer Spiderman movie "Spiderman: No Way Home". In this film, Spiderman tries to "cure" all of his villains by "fixing" their traumas, as expressed in the strange accidents that made them less than human. By scientifically reversing the effects of their transformation, Spiderman is able to actually "cure" all of his villains and make them good again.

This upholds our current cultural understanding of evil, and it isn't too different from the supernatural explanation. In both versions, evil is something that afflicts the human person and overrides their will. These theories are comfortable to our sensibilities, because it locates evil far away from souls and places it in sources far removed from us "good" people. As interesting as these ideas are, they run contrary to what the Bible teaches.

*"If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."*

*-Genesis 4:4*

This is what God says to the first murderer. He doesn't locate Cain's evil in his upbringing or his mental state, He doesn't say that Cain needs to be delivered from a Satanic force, but instead suggests that evil exists in the heart of Cain, but could be overcome by his will. A modern author who understood this, possibly better than anyone else, was Alexandr Solzhenitsyn. Solzhenitsyn lived under one of the most evil systems of government to ever exist, the Soviet Empire. Under the oppressive rule of Joseph Stalin, a rule that would result in over twenty million people being killed, he was sent to the dreaded labor camps called the "Gulags". After ten years of soul destroying torture and labor, Solzhenitsyn was released and wrote a book describing in great detail the evil of the Gulag system called "The Gulag Archipelago". In it he explains every element

of Soviet Evil, from the arrest, to the torture, to the imprisonment process in graphic detail.

But, his exposure to such evil, in addition to his Christian faith, gave him an insight into human evil that is almost unparalleled. And in his time in prison he had several epiphanies to the nature and source of evil that are relevant for our topic and our understanding of Sodom:

*“If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart? During the life of any heart this line keeps changing place; sometimes it is squeezed one way by exuberant evil and sometimes it shifts to allow enough space for good to flourish. One and the same human being is, at various ages, under various circumstances, a totally different human being. At times he is close to being a devil, at times to sainthood. But his name doesn’t change, and to that name we ascribe the whole lot, good and evil.”*

*-Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn - The Gulag Archipelago*

This insight lines up perfectly with Scripture. Evil isn’t something “out there”. It isn’t something far away conducted by “those people”. Evil exists within the human heart as a result of the fall. We are born with a great capacity for good, but also a capacity to rebel against good and participate with genuine evil. This also means that given the right circumstances, we are all capable of profound forms of evil. What Solzhenitsyn showed is that the guards who performed truly horrendous acts of evil, acts that might even make the men of Sodom blush, were not demons from hell, nor were they psychotics. They were normal men who had bought into an evil ideology.

*“But no; that’s not the way it is! To do evil a human being must first of all believe that what he’s doing is good, or else that it’s a well-considered act in conformity with natural law. Fortunately, it is in the nature of the human being to seek a justification for his actions... Ideology—that is what gives evildoing its long-sought justification and gives the evildoer the necessary steadfastness and determination. That is the social theory which helps to make his acts seem good instead of bad in his own and others’ eyes, so that he won’t hear reproaches and curses but will receive praise and honors. That was how the agents of the Inquisition fortified their wills: by invoking Christianity; the conquerors of foreign lands, by extolling the grandeur of their Motherland; the colonizers, by civilization; the Nazis, by race; and the Jacobins (early and late), by equality, brotherhood, and the happiness of future generations. Thanks to ideology, the twentieth century was fated to experience evildoing on a scale calculated in the millions.*

*This cannot be denied, nor passed over, nor suppressed. How, then, do we dare insist that evildoers do not exist? And who was it that destroyed these millions? Without evildoers there would have been no Archipelago.”*

*-Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn - The Gulag Archipelago*

## The power of a corrupting system

*“In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.”*

*-1 Peter 4:4*

When we think about evil, we tend to think of the outliers of our society, men like Jeffery Dahmer or Ted Bundy. The reason is because these men went against the norms of their society and performed horrendous acts of evil that shock us. The fact of the matter is, that any evil that Dahmer or Bundy pales in comparison to the kinds of deeds that Solzhenitsyn details in the “Gulag Archipelago” by ordinary and nameless guards devoted to the corrupt Soviet system. For most people, though we have evil within our hearts, we won’t go outside of the societal norms, but instead seek to remain “moral” within the culture that we live in. This means that those who grow up in a healthy culture are far less likely to turn their hearts to true acts of evil and depravity. Although Solzhenitsyn says that evil exists in every human heart, he also recognizes that:

*“Evidently evildoing also has a threshold magnitude. Yes, a human being hesitates and bobs back and forth between good and evil all his life. He slips, falls back, clammers up, repents, things begin to darken again. But just so long as the threshold of evildoing is not crossed, the possibility of returning remains, and he himself is still within reach of our hope. But when, through the density of evil actions, the result either of their own extreme degree or of the absoluteness of his power, he suddenly crosses that threshold, he has left humanity behind, and without, perhaps, the possibility of return.”*

*-Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn - The Gulag Archipelago*

A normal person might perform an act of evil here and there, but always within a certain “threshold”. But a person who truly crosses over that “threshold magnitude” of evil usually needs a powerful justification to do so. Most people are not like Dahmer or Bundy, they can’t go over that threshold because they are within a relatively good culture that they don’t want to be ostracized from. And by participating in these relatively good cultures, they are given the opportunity to actually practice virtue and become increasingly good. But if someone is immersed in a truly corrupt culture, then they can easily allow the evil in their heart to run wild. Solzhenitsyn even details in his book how the wives of the wicked guards of the Gulag would brag about their husband’s “ingenuity” in torturing prisoners into false confessions.

Think for a second about the city of Sodom. In the previous chapter, Abraham had “negotiated” with God to spare the city if He found 10 righteous people within it. What we find in this chapter is that God could not even find 10 righteous people. We are told explicitly that:

*...“the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house.”*

*-Genesis 19:4*

This wasn’t a small gang of criminals that surrounded the house, but this was a collection of the “upstanding citizens” of Sodom, from “every quarter”. Shouldn’t we find this odd? If evil is so rare, how is it that an entire culture was filled with this many evil people? The only possible solutions are that either there was a racial deficiency in the people of Sodom, a theory that the Bible resoundingly rejects, or that the culture of Sodom had become so corrupt that to participate in the culture was to participate in the corruption. This seems to be the only viable solution, and one that upholds the Scripture as well as the observations of Solzhenitsyn.

## Subcultures

*“Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.*

*-Philippians 2:14-16*

These corrupting “cultures” don’t have to exist on a national level in order to have power. For instance, slavery was a legal and moral proposition in the American south in the 1800’s. This culture was so strong that it polluted the consciences of the southern states and made “just” a practice that is universally denounced by everyone today. However, the fact that the northern states had outlawed slavery didn’t affect the consciences of the southerners.

In a similar way, if someone is in a subculture that justifies certain behaviors, they will be “insulated” from the morality of the larger culture. Over time, if a subculture gains enough relevance, they can actually sway the morality of the larger culture that they live in. This is exactly how the church was able to sustain their morality within pagan nations, and how they were able to “take over” the nations that they existed in without actual warfare. However, this same principle is now working against the church in the current cultural moment.

The modern progressive movement borrowed a page from the Christian handbook and realized that they didn't have to subvert the whole culture overnight, they only had to create "subcultures" where they could practice their own morality and then slowly push their morality on the culture at large. The major difference between Christianity and the current cultural revolution, (beyond the obvious doctrines at play), are the methodologies. Christianity grew within a corrupt culture, and so Christians were, correctly, weary of power structures. As a result, the Church did not seek to infiltrate power structures, but only to influence the culture at a grassroots level through evangelism and open worship. However, the modern progressive left seeks to uproot the current culture by infiltrating and subverting the current power structures, and they have been very successful.

This is the so-called "long march through the institutions", a phrase attributed to a Marxist named Antonio Gramsci. The intent was clear, in order to overturn the cultural norms and uproot the cultural institutions, these institutions had to be infiltrated and subverted to this purpose. There are many books out there describing in full detail, through testimony of former Marxists, this plan and its efficacy in our culture. If you want to read some of these books try "The Devil and Karl Marx" by Paul Kengor and "Cynical Theories" and "The Marxification of Education" by James Lindsay, which are all well documented and thorough. We will talk more about these subcultures in a second here, but it is important for Christians to understand what these subcultures are in our current culture, since corrupting cultures are even powerful enough to sway the good.

## The Corruption of the Good

*"Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted."*

*-Galatians 6:1*

If this is all true, can a good person be a part of a corrupt system and effectively change it from the inside? To answer this, let's look at Lot. When Lot encounters these men he, like Abraham in the previous chapter, offers them hospitality at his home. The difference is the suspicious way in which he does it. When Abraham offered the angels hospitality, they immediately received it, but when Lot offered it, they intimated that they would instead spend the night in the town square, and Lot became more insistent that they stay with him.

*And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." And they said,*

*“No, but we will spend the night in the open square.” But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house.*

*-Genesis 19:2-3*

This account seems rather odd until we remember that the angels have come to Sodom specifically to judge it, and Lot has a personal interest in “protecting” the city from judgment. It seems that Lot, like Abraham, recognized these “men” as angels and wanted to keep them from witnessing the depravity of the city. To prove this theory, let’s look at a couple of the facts that we are given. The first is that we are told that Lot was “sitting in the gate of Sodom.” This was an ancient way of saying that Lot was in a political position. This fact is reiterated by the men of Sodom when they say:

*“This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them.”*

*-Genesis 19:9*

So Lot, having a position of power within Sodom, would have been familiar with the culture. This is why, when the men approach his house, he doesn’t seem shocked, and even offers his daughters to the mob. Think about the implications of this. Lot, a man described by the apostle Peter as being “righteous” was living in a city that was so wicked that it had weaponized sexuality in order to violently oppress the innocent and the powerless. Lot, knowing this, tries to protect the angels from this violence, but instead offers up his own young daughters to this wicked mob.

The most generous explanation we can give Lot, is that perhaps he believed that he could influence the culture of Sodom from the inside. Unfortunately the opposite occurred. Instead of Lot influencing the people of Sodom, they had influenced him. In a very real sense, Lot had offered up his own daughters to this corrupt society, and even if they didn’t violently rape his daughters, the wickedness of their culture had already violated them.

Lot had these girls through a woman from Sodom who couldn’t fully leave her wickedness behind, this is why she is turned into a pillar of salt. The men that Lot had betrothed to his daughters couldn’t even be dragged from the city and so were consumed in the fire. And the daughters of Lot were so consumed with the wicked sexual ideas of Sodom, that they got their own father drunk and had sex with him in order to have children. Lot may have had noble intentions, but these intentions didn’t protect him from the “flood of dissipation” that he chose to surround himself with.

All this is also why God judges Sodom with fire. Fire is a picture of of unending craving in the Bible, which is also why hell is associated with fire:

*“Hell and Destruction are never full; So the eyes of man are never satisfied.”*  
-Proverbs 27:20

Like fire, evil spreads and consumes all in its path. It also doesn't know when to stop and can't be quenched no matter how much destruction it brings about. We are Christians should be aware of the destructive power of evil, but also keep in mind that the “fire” of corruption is liable to catch in our own hearts if we are not careful.

*“Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.” Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.”*  
-1 Corinthians 15:33-34

But how can Christians be a light in this dark world if we remove ourselves from it? This is another virtue that requires balance and discernment. A Christian must be a light in the world, but this requires us to do two things very well. The first is being an active participant in the church, and the second is restricting our participation in the corruption of the world. We have to remember, that the early Christians already saw the world as a corrupting influence, and that means that they approached the world with this skeptical lens and had to learn to do these two things very early on in church history, though they didn't always do it that well, hence the rebuke from the above passage. But for us who have grown up in the west, this has not been our experience. We grew up in a culture that was largely built by Christian values, and therefore, we don't see the institutions around us in such a skeptical manner.

## A City on a Hill

*“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.”*  
-Matthew 5:14

For this reason, Christians have not prioritized being members of a local church, nor have they been wise in approaching the corrupt subcultures of this world. To put it another way, if the tide of the world is going so powerfully in a single direction, it will take a lot of conscious effort to swim against the current and maintain our faith and purity. Christians can't just see the church as a source of sermons of worship, they have to start seeing the church as the primary culture that they belong to. This is what Jesus meant when He called the church “a city on a hill”. He wasn't saying that the church was to buy real estate outside of civilization and live in a closed community, but that the community of the church has to be a “city” unto itself. We have to develop strong social

bonds and friendships that allow for us to help one another and encourage each other towards God.

*“Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”*

*-1 Peter 2:4-5*

This type of community that can actually act as a bulwark against the powerful tide of culture isn't built one hour a week on a Sunday. This is a decision to pull together as a church and live life together. To actually invest in each other's lives and pursue Christ in a conscious and intentional way together.

### Avoiding Corruption

*“And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.”*

*-Revelation 18:4*

Which leads us back to our earlier question, where are the corrupt subcultures of our day and how can we avoid them without removing ourselves from the culture as a whole? Herein lies the difficulty, there seem to be things in the bible that are like Sodom, cultures that are so corrupt that any participation in them will corrupt you, and cultures that are only partially corrupt. Meaning that they have a corrupting influence, but they aren't innately bad to be a part of. For instance, in Romans 14 and 1 Corinthians 8 the apostle Paul talks about the ancient meat markets that did offer up sacrifices to idols. In this circumstance Paul doesn't forbid going to these markets and getting meat in and of itself, but he does caution about corrupting younger members of the church by doing this. However, in 1 Corinthians 6, Paul speaks against the temple of Aphrodite that worshiped through ritual prostitution. In this case, Paul directly forbids participation in this temple and gives the Scriptural reason for this.

So when we think about our culture, there are obvious corrupting influences that we have to avoid completely, like pornographic websites and things like this, but there are even more dangerous areas of our culture that aren't completely taken over, but contain corrupting influences. Think about social media for example. There are many good and positive things that can be done on these sites, but there are also many sinful and corrupting influences on these sites. Or, think about Hollywood. Hollywood releases movies every year that are irredeemable from a Christian perspective, but some have negative themes, messages, and images, but they aren't altogether wicked, and might even contain uplifting and good themes and messages.

These are just two examples, but there are countless others that we have to be aware of and cautious of in our current world. In order to help navigate this dilemma, I will talk about one of the most powerful examples, the university system. The university system was built by Christians years ago. But, as stated before, these power structures were infiltrated decades ago and now stand for something other than higher knowledge in submission to godliness. As such, much of what is taught in the university system runs contrary to Christianity and is instead a powerful indoctrination tool of those pushing the modern progressive agenda.

To just give one example, my niece in law is currently pursuing an education major. As a part of her degree, on top of the numerous professors who personally push this agenda, she has a mandatory class entitled: *Foundations of Education for Social Justice*. This course is explicitly filled with Marxist ideas and even requires reading from men like Paulo Friere, an open South American communist who successfully infiltrated modern public education with his ideals. Here is just one excerpt from the course syllabus to show what I am talking about:

*“We stand alongside and speak out with our colleagues, staff, students, and community members when any of us or others experience micro or macro aggressions. We recognize that those of us who enjoy privileged status due to our racialized, gendered, heteronormative, or otherwise privileged aspects or our identities may be unaware of the ways this privileged status marginalizes others. We pledge to listen to our colleagues, students, staff, and community members when any of us or others make efforts to remain diligent in maintaining awareness of micro, macro aggressions, and raise our awareness around issues of invisibility, marginalization, normatively, power, and privilege... The entrenched nature of oppression requires both institutional restructuring and new social discourses. Therefore our stance on disrupting existing and persisting inequities requires attention to micro and macro level interactions. Every interaction is an opportunity for disrupting processes of marginalization, whether overt or subtle, both through person-to-person exchange and through resisting oppressive structures and systems. We commit to holding one another and ourselves accountable, through our research and practice, to rejecting entrenched inequalities, and to cultivating new discourses as groundwork for imagining new social worlds.”*

*-Foundations of Education for Social Justice Syllabus*

Notice that this is given in the form of a pledge, and it has within it a lot of overt Marxist imperatives like recognizing “oppressive structures and systems” and even calls students to “disrupt processes of marginalization”. For those familiar with Marxist revolutionary lingo this is pretty overt and in your face. For those not familiar, it sounds

like meaningless jargon, which is actually what makes it so dangerous. By using confusing, obtuse language, these teachers can be both overtly Marxist without being obvious Marxists. But think for a second about the implications. This is a mandatory course being taught at a respected university that is intended for new teachers. This means that the intent of this course is explicitly to indoctrinate new teachers into believing this ideology that is explicitly contrary to the Christian faith, both morally as well as practically. This would then create a teaching class that in turn educates children armed with these new ideas.

This is in line with many Marxist thinkers who knew that they had to corrupt the youth in order to take over a culture. Take this one quote from Vladimir Lenin, one of the main architects behind the Russian communist Revolution.

*"Give me four years to teach the children and the seed I have sewn will never be uprooted."*

*-Vladimir Lenin.*

That means by proxy, these ideas don't stay put at the university. The reason why talks about "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion" have become so universal in both public education as well as the corporate world is because this is what the teachers of our society are learning. So what are Christians to do? Should we avoid public education in general and especially the university system? This is admittedly a difficult question since I am not yet sure that the education system falls into the category of Sodom, an irredeemable system of corruption. However, these facts should at least give us pause and cause us to search our hearts and see how best to approach this issue.

I think that the current Christian "wisdom" of just holding our heads above water and avoiding influence from this world is clearly not working. More and more of the younger generation is being lost to this perverse ideology and they are leaving their faith. These systems have power, and they are currently corrupting those who are exposed to these teachings. Beyond that, as Alexandr Solzhenitsyn would warn us, these small compromises might turn our culture into a truly corrupt system overall. Which is why I am going to quote once again from Solzhenitsyn and what he believed to be a viable solution to this problem:

*"When violence bursts onto the peaceful human condition, its face is flush with self-assurance, it displays on its banner and proclaims: "I am Violence! Make way, step aside, I will crush you!" But violence ages swiftly, a few years pass—and it is no longer sure of itself. To prop itself up, to appear decent, it will without fail call forth its ally—Lies. For violence has nothing to cover itself with but lies, and lies can only persist*

*through violence. And it is not every day and not on every shoulder that violence brings down its heavy hand: It demands of us only a submission to lies, a daily participation in deceit—and this suffices as our fealty.*

*And therein we find, neglected by us, the simplest, the most accessible key to our liberation: a personal nonparticipation in lies! Even if all is covered by lies, even if all is under their rule, let us resist in the smallest way: Let their rule hold not through me!”*

*-Alexandr Solzhenitsyn - “Live Not By Lies”*

Remember that Solzhenitsyn taught that systems become corrupt through little compromises over time, and these compromises become increasingly evil through justifications gained through evil ideologies. This means that a Christian’s main weapon against corruption is a participation in truth and a refusal to participate in lies. The advice given to many young people is to just “keep your head down”, don’t make a fuss, say what you need to say in order to pass the class and then move on with your life. Doing this would be a participation with lies. It is a willing compromise of the soul that will corrupt both you and the culture that you live in.

For a Christian this should be seen as folly. We can’t build a world of virtue on a foundation of lies. This can’t possibly be the way forward but only the way backwards. Once again, it is possible that Lot believed that hiding the corruption of the city might have given him an opportunity to continue to change it from within, but in reality he was only fooling himself.

So can a Christian attend one of these university classes, or a corporate “DEI” meeting? Sure, as long as they can speak the truth. If a Christian can disagree with the professor, refuse to use pronouns, and refuse to sign pledges that conflict with our conscience, then we are walking in truth. But when we compromise ourselves and participate in lies, we are allowing a new tyrannical empire to be built on our own complicity. Such a decision to walk in this world without compromise will have a great cost, but the cost will be to our bodies and not to our souls. But, more encouragingly, Solzhenitsyn found something very powerful to be true. By exposing the evils of the Gulag system in his book, the Soviet Union began to crumble around him. As a result he was awarded the Nobel Peace prize, and in his acceptance speech he says this:

*“One word of truth shall outweigh the whole world.”*

*-Alexandr Solzhenitsyn - Nobel Acceptance Speech*

# Christ Destroys the Works of the Devil

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”*

*-John 1:1-5*

This is the power of Christ. No matter how powerful the evil of this world might seem, the power of Christ is infinitely more powerful. Just as darkness can seem so overwhelming, but a single light can pierce through it, this is what Christ has done to the darkness of this world. Christ took the most evil event in history, the execution of the only innocent man to ever live by the most corrupt human systems to ever exist, to overcome the power of sin and death and to reconcile mankind to Himself. This is the power of God. So while we should be weary of the power of darkness, we should not be overcome by despair.

*“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”*

*-John 16:33*

Take the story of Lot as an example. As dark as this story is, one of the children that Lot had was Moab. While this tribe, overall, was fairly wicked, a woman was born within this nation named Ruth. In the book that is named after her, we learn the story of a Moabite woman who, through various twists and turns, fell in love with a Jewish man named Boaz and married him. Both King David, and Jesus Himself, descend from this woman Ruth. Meaning that God took, arguably one of the most wicked and disturbing unions in the Bible, the union of Lot and his own daughter, and used that same line to bring His Son into the world. This means that Jesus is also a direct descendent of Lot!

This is the power of the cross. No evil is too great, no darkness too pervasive, God will always have His way and shine His purposes through the darkness of this world. This is not to downplay the power of darkness, we must walk in a wise and discerning manner through the corrupting influences of this world. But we should also know that a decision to walk with Christ and participate with His truth will not make the powers of darkness happy, it will instead incite them to wrath. The Christian who decides to walk in integrity and speak the truth without compromise, but also in love, is more than likely going to suffer calamity as a result. The encouragement of the Scriptures is not that we will avoid suffering, but instead that through Christ our suffering can make us more like Him. Therefore, let us boldly follow our God of perfect truth and refuse to participate with this present darkness.

*“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”*

*-Romans 8:16-18*