

Amos 1-2 - Corrupt Culture theory

INTRO – the Bible is the most up to date, accurate and relevant book there is - “living and active and ... The scripture address the human condition as we are and reality as it is. God’s word is the plumb line that shows all our crooked ways/thinking. Today I am beginning a short series I am apprehensive to do it but feel compelled to address it (controversial). Not wanting to just poke the bear but to bring the scripture to bear on a tumultuous topic in our society and church. We need to ask ourselves how to view these things from a biblical perspective? There is this common accusation that the USA has some unique sins that are indicative of, & woven into the fabric of the USA – or a certain segment/pigment of American society. Is there any validity to such accusations and if so what is the culpability of each individual?

- Today - Societal/national sins - Are there cultural sins and, if so, are we culpable and answerable for this community guilt? I am calling this *Corrupt Culture theory*
- Next week – what is the churches role is addressing cultural corruption and the culture wars?
- How do we properly/biblically judge each other? How do we give & receive accusation/criticism

It is unwise to automatically dismiss an accusation. Look in mirror of God’s Word. Put on Bible bifocals

1. Where does our corruption come from? From our fathers and our first father Adam
 - a. We are all guilty of original sin- Rom. 5:12,19 Total corruption from conception- Ps 51:5
 - b. The community of humanity is collectively guilty. We are all equally corrupt
 - i. Guilty of Original sin born in sin our entire self is totally corrupt
 - c. We each develop our depravity and acquire individual proclivities. We all have personal preferred sins. Besetting sins. Lying, stealing, coveting, lustung...
 - i. Sin is defined as lawlessness (1 John 3:4) breaking one of God’s commandments
 1. Our color is not our corruption. Our skin is not our sin
2. Are there cultural sins, national sins or community sins? YES!
 - a. In Amos 1-2 eight different cultures are addressed about their collective sins
 - i. Damascus was cruel/oppressive Gaza deported / sold populations as slaves
 - ii. Tyre broke covenant to sell people Edom-angry with no compassion
 - iii. Ammon loved abortion - abusive towards women & killed babies in the womb
 - iv. Moab loved the crematorium and destroying other nations symbols/heritage
 - v. Judah (privileged) rejected Gods law and believe the lies of their fathers
 1. Not a sin to be privileged – but to whom much is given much is required
 - vi. Israel (privileged) justice system =bribes, poor oppressed, sexual perversion and a predatory lending system -getting rich off of the poor but still religious
 - b. The big picture is 8 different cultures are being held responsible for their unique sins
 - i. Every culture is corrupt and each culture has its own approved sins they excel in
 - ii. Just like each culture has its own unique cuisine(Italian/Mexican/Amer/Chinese) so too each culture has its own preferred flavor of sin that suits its palate
 - iii. There are certain sins that *season* each society. Unique expression of corruption
 1. Different countries/cultures have different value systems
 - c. Titus 1:12-13 The Cretan’s were liars, evil brutes and lazy gluttons
 - i. Their society accepted those sins as normal, no big deal and culturally cool & ok

3. CCT = Every culture is corrupt but and each culture embraces different corruptions

- a. *Family Culture* passes down preferred corruptions. Yelling or avoiding, abusive...
 - i. "Hank, why do you drink?....family tradition"
- b. *Church Culture* embraces certain sins and lets them slide –
 - i. prayer chain can be gossip train , pastoral fish stories/exaggeration, plagerism
- c. *Ethnic/group Culture* collectively sanitizes certain sins and removes any stigma
 - i. Views on marriage, drugs, work ethic
- d. *National /regional culture* can be known for their cultural corruptions
 - i. CBS – America is known worldwide as: Arrogant, all about abundance- \$ & food

4. Are we culpable for cultural corruptions?

- a. In one sense, "Yes" – we all live in the home/culture created by our forefathers
 - i. God judges cultures/nations and the whole population suffers for collective sin
 - ii. When a culture accepts certain sins in effects the entire group
 - iii. All Cretans acquired a bad reputation. All Israel went into captivity
 1. Past sins (and blessings) do effect present people (Exodus 20:5-6)
 - iv. Idolatry is especially pernicious in this way Jeroboam son of Nebat
 - v. Repeated phrase "sin which he caused Israel to commit" 2 Kings 17:21-23
 1. Generations were infected with his corruption. Whole nation suffered
- b. In another sense, "no" ...or it depends on whether we approve/adopt/absorb the sin
 - i. Matt. 23:29-36 - they approved of their fathers sins by doing their fathers sins
 - ii. Their fathers rejected/persecuted the prophets. They continued the family tradition of a rejection of Gods words and messengers (Amos 2:4)
 - iii. We are culpable only when we accept/commit the sin Ezekiel 18:1-4
 - iv. 18:5-9 = righteous 18:10-13 = wicked son 18:14-18= righteous grandson
 - v. Ezek. 18:19-20
 - vi. It is unjust to punish a son for the sin of his father when he hasn't embraced the sin of his father. (Deut. 24:16)
- c. CCT = 1]All cultures are corrupt. 2]Each culture *seasons* itself with its own taste for sin 3] these *flavors* effect and permeate the community 4] but I become personally culpable only when I take, taste, eat, embrace and commit the same

5. We a need biblical view on cultural corruption. I hope this was helpful and not just theoretical.

But I want to end with being very personal. Invite you to examine your culture and name 3 or 4 sins that are sanitized in your society. What are the cultural corruptions around you?

- a. Family culture _____, _____, _____
- b. Church culture _____, _____, _____
- c. Ethnic/group culture _____, _____, _____
- d. Regional/National culture _____, _____, _____

- Have you embraced the acceptable sins of your culture?
- Revival begins when we see and shun our own sins. 2 Chron. 7:14 Gospel deals with sin
- The bible is the most up to date relevant book. It is living and active.... Heb. 4:12
- It is a plumb line that shows where we are crooked in thought/deed it is a mirror bifocals