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Questions & Answers

April 9, 2023

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Question: The world is going crazy. Are demons literally posing as humans and running the show?

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Preliminary Answer: No. While it is true that . . .

“Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.” (2 Corinthians 11:14, NASB95)

“his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness . . .” (2 Corinthians 11:15, NASB95)

“. . . the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” (2 Corinthians 4:4, NASB95)

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Something else is happening. We are moving ever more rapidly toward a world without God.

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A World Without God

[Begins when men . . .]

A. KNOW THE TRUTH

1. According to Paul there are two things which God has made evident to us:
 - a. His eternal power
 - 1) Where did all this come from?
 - 2) Someone had to exist before it existed.
 - 3) There had to be an uncaused first cause.
 - b. His divine nature

- 1) Throughout history, man has sought to worship something.
- 2) Why? Where did this desire come from?

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2. In Psalm 19:1-4b, David tells us that the universe declares God's handiwork.

"The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their utterances to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun," (Psalm 19:1-4, NASB95)

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3. Paul states that it is God who has put within us a desire to seek Him (Acts 17:26a, 27a).

"and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;" (Acts 17:26-27, NASB95)

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[But they . . .]

B. SUPPRESS THE TRUTH

1. Paul tells us that while men know God, they suppress the truth about Him by their own unrighteousness (v. 21, 18).
2. To suppress truth is "to hold it back, to restrain it" so that others are prevented from knowing it themselves.
3. Even though "they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks" (v. 21).
4. Instead of responding like David of old . . .

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- a. Who after observing the stars in the heavens declared, “O Lord, Our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth” (Psalm 8:1).
 - b. Who after considering his own physical frame proclaimed, “I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are your works, and my soul knows it very well” (Psalm 139:14).
5. No, today, instead of honoring God or giving Him thanks, we are being told that we are . . .
- a. The result of chance, or a random process.
 - b. Have evolved over billions of years from the lowest forms of life.
 - c. Exist because the fittest of each species competed for survival until man came on the scene.
4. Every time you walk into a museum, the truth is being suppressed.
5. Almost every time you open a science textbook, the truth is being suppressed.
6. Not every scientist or school teacher believes in evolution.
7. There are a host of credible scientists who believe in intelligent design.

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8. Paul tells us that those who chose not to honor God or give Him thanks “became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools” (vv. 21b, 22).
9. David wrote that it is the fool who says in his heart, “There is no God” (Psalm 14:1).

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[Then they . . .]

C. REPLACE THE TRUTH WITH IDOLATRY

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- 1. When we no longer give God the glory due His holy name, we give it to someone or something else.
- 2. In the O.T., the word *glory* came from the Hebrew *kabod* which meant

weight.

3. Something with weight (*kabod*) in the O.T. had worth or value.
4. Our place is to give glory to God, but when we give glory to another human being or some animal form, we worship something of no more glory than ourselves.
5. It is at this point that we exchange “the truth of God for a lie, and worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator” (v. 25).
6. Such idolatry is a sign of moral and spiritual depravity — it is to turn all moral and spiritual sensitivity upside down.

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7. When we upset the spiritual order of things there are dreadful repercussions (v. 24).

“Therefore, God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them” (Romans 1:24).

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[Next, they . . .]

D. ALLOW IDOLATRY TO JUSTIFY IMMORALITY

1. What happens when people . . .
 - a. refuse to acknowledge God
 - b. suppress the truth of God
 - c. exchange the truth of God for a lie
 - d. worship and serve the creature instead of the Creator,
2. What happens is that man loses his value.
3. We no longer see ourselves as made in the image of God because we have chosen a different truth.
4. It is then that God gives us over to “degrading passions” — that which dishonors you and treats you as less than you are.

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5. Paul describes it in this way, “women exchanged the natural function for that

which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts” (Romans 1:26b-27b).

6. Homosexuality is a complete reversal of God’s natural order.
7. It indicates a total throwing off of the revealed will and design of God.
 - a. “God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created Him; male and female He created them” (Genesis 1:27).
 - b. “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24).
 - c. “Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:22).
 - d. “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her” (Ephesians 5:25).
8. Paul also added that those who engaged in such “indecent acts” were “receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error” (v. 27).
9. According to Dr. Jeffrey Satinover M.D., *Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth* participation in an active homosexual lifestyle carries with it a host of issues:
 - a. A 25 - 30 year decrease in life expectancy.
 - b. Chronic, potentially fatal, liver disease.
 - c. Inevitably fatal immune disease including associated cancers.
 - d. A much higher than usual incidence of suicide.

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[Finally, they . . .]

E. CHOOSE TO LIVE IN DEPRAVITY

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1. Finally, Paul states that because “they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper” (v. 28).

2. God's description of mankind in Noah's day is very similar, "every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5).
3. A society which has pushed God aside can expect . . .
 - a. To be "filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed and evil"
 - b. To be "full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice"
 - c. To be "gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving and unmerciful"
4. It is not a pretty picture, but it is a picture of a world that no longer honors God.

Conclusion

1. What makes this picture even worse is that those who make such choices encourage others to live the same way even though they know it is wrong.
2. I would much rather live in a world which knows and honors God than one which chooses to ignore Him and live as if He doesn't exist.

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3. So what are we to do? Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33).
4. Pray for all who are in authority, throughout our land, "so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity" (1 Timothy 1:1-2).
5. Pray for this congregation and its leaders, that God will give us the strength to live faithfully before Him regardless of what may happen around us in the world.
6. We must each do our best as servants of God to "be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).