

# THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR COLLECTIVE REBELLION

Series: Spiritual Bootcamp

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1. One of the greatest challenges to the Christian faith are these questions: why is there so much evil and suffering in the world? Why is life so hard? So difficult? So challenging? Why is life so unfair? Why is life so cruel?
  - a. When you look at people you know who are not Christians — co-workers, fellow students, neighbors, and family — how have you seen them deal and answer these questions above?
  - b. In the past, when you found yourself personally experiencing the cruelty and unfairness of life, how do you respond to it?
  - c. If you were asked today, “Why is life is cruel? Why is life so unfair? Why is life so disappointing?”, how would you respond?
2. When God created this planet, it put the Garden of Eden on it. Adam and Eve lived in literally in a perfect Paradise. There was no sadness, sorrow or sickness. There was no disappointment, death and decay. Nothing was broken because the world was perfect. Imagine for a moment — if you had been Adam or Eve, would you have done anything differently than them? Explain.
3. Read Genesis 2:16-17, Genesis 3:5 and Romans 5:12 from your sermon notes under point #1 under the heading, *“What is the cause for the cruelty and unfairness of life?”*
  - a. God had warned Adam and Eve of the consequence that would result if they ate fruit from the tree He had commanded them not to eat its fruit. The serpent lied to them. He convinced that if they ate the forbidden fruit, they would become a god. What “forbidden fruit” have you taken in defiance of God because you wanted to be your own god? What were the results?
  - b. People ask sometimes, *“If God knows everything and He knew they would choose to rebel and sin, why did He give them a choice?”* How would you answer that question?
  - c. If God had created us as robots, who simply act and respond from a computer motherboard, would you prefer this kind of life or the life God gave you? Weigh out and compare the pros and cons of each kind of life. Now, did your answer change in any way? Explain.
4. Read Isaiah 53:6a, Proverbs 20:9 and Psalm 32:5 from your sermon outline under point #2 under the heading, *“What is the cause for the cruelty and unfairness of life?”* You were taught 3 different, but equal kinds of rebellion against God:
  - a. The first word is called “sin.” Read the Greek New Testament word explanation for this word — “hamartia.” It is an archery term. When, where and why are you most vulnerable to fall short, to miss God’s goal for your life? What lesson(s) did God teach you as a result?
  - b. The second word is called “transgressions.” Read the Greek New Testament word explanation for this word — “parabasis.” When, where and why are you most vulnerable to intentionally go too far, to exceed God’s boundaries for your life? What lesson(s) did God teach you as a result?
  - c. The third word is “iniquities.” Read the Greek New Testament word explanation for this word — “adikia.” When, where and why are you most vulnerable to hurt and/harm, to do evil in your life against another? What lesson(s) did God teach you as a result?
5. Read Romans 8:20 and Romans 8:22 from your sermon notes under point #1 under the heading, *“The Horrible Consequences of Everyone’s Rebellion.”* Based on your filled-in answer for point #1, where have you see and/or experienced the reality of these verses?
6. Read Genesis 2:16-17 and Ecclesiastes 8:8 from your sermon notes under point #2 under the heading, *“The Horrible Consequences of Everyone’s Rebellion.”*
  - a. In America alone, nearly 3 million people die every year. That is approximately 57,692 each week or 8,219 each day. Who are some of the significant people in your life you have lost by death? What impact did this have on you?
  - b. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16 and Ecclesiastes 12:3-5 from your sermon notes under point #2 under the heading, *“The Horrible Consequences of Everyone’s Rebellion.”* People try to “slow down” the aging process through Botox, lotions, potions, makeup, face lifts, liposuction and etc. It’s still the same old shell with a new coat of paint. Where have you experienced your filled-in answer of point #2 in your own life?
  - c. Read 1 Corinthians 15:22 and 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 from your sermon notes under point #2 under the heading, *“The Horrible Consequences of Everyone’s Rebellion.”* How do you reconcile these two Bible passages with 2 Corinthians 5:17?
  - d. You probably have either seen or heard this equation by Einstein:  $E=MC^2$ . But have seen or heard of this equation:  $S=Qt$ . “S” = entropy, “Q” being heat absorbed or transferred and “t” being the temperature of the surrounding. This is part of the Second Law of Thermodynamics, which is the Law of Entropy. Entropy states that everything in the universe is irreversibly decaying into disorder. Energy seeks its simplest state — meaning matter is always decaying and energy is always being dispersed and tends to fizzle or burn out. For anything to remain stable, not to decay, more energy must be applied than the energy of decay. Things left to themselves do not improve and become more complex. We disperse a lot of energy trying to look good and look younger. How could you prioritize your limited energy more effectively for God?

7. Read Ecclesiastes 1:14-15 and Job 6:20 from your sermon notes under point #3 under the heading, *"The Horrible Consequences of Everyone's Rebellion."*
  - a. It has been said that you cannot unscramble eggs. We spend a lot of energy trying to change our past, control our future and fix our or other people's problems. What would be a better approach?
  - b. Life in a continual roller coaster of emotional ups and downs. Most of things you encounter in life are outside of your control. These experiences can tax and strain your emotions. What have been some of these experiences for you and how did you deal and get through them?
  - c. One of the most stressful emotions we experience is disappointments. We have expectations that people, places, and possessions will make us happy. Many times they do not. What have been some of your biggest disappointments? Looking back on these, were your expectations too high? Too low? Knowing people are going to let you down, why doesn't this make a disappointment less painful?
  - d. How can you be realistic while remaining hopeful?
8. Read Ecclesiastes 4:1 from your sermon outline under point #4 under the heading, *"The Horrible Consequences of Everyone's Rebellion."* People lie to each other. They are phony and wear masks. They cover up, abuse and use other people and take advantage of others.
  - a. When have people done this to you? How did you react?
  - b. When have you done this to other people? How did they react?
  - c. Read Genesis 3:7 from your sermon notes under point #4 under the heading, *"The Horrible Consequences of Everyone's Rebellion."*
    - i. How is it that when we're out of whack with God all of a sudden we're out of whack with each other and we want to pretend and cover up our faults?
    - ii. How is it that when we're out of whack with God, we're ashamed of our sexuality?
    - iii. How is it that when we're out of whack with God, we don't really want others to see the real us?
    - iv. Read Genesis 3:10 from your sermon notes under point #4 under the heading, *"The Horrible Consequences of Everyone's Rebellion."* After Adam and Eve sinned, they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. As a result, the sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves. When you rebel against God through your sins, your transgressions and your iniquities, what are the "fig leaves" you use to cover up your shame, "nakedness" (spiritually, emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually), your attitudes and actions, stress and fears?
    - v. Our sins, transgressions and iniquities always has three responses. They always make us defensive, distant and demanding. When have you done this? What happened? What changed? Why did you do this? What would you do differently now looking back on these? What did you learn?
    - vi. Are you the same, worse, or better at not getting defensive, distant and demanding? Explain. What does this say about you?
9. Read Ecclesiastes 5:13-14 and Ecclesiastes 2:17, 20 from your sermon notes under point #5 under the heading, *"The Horrible Consequences of Everyone's Rebellion."*
  - a. Have you ever had a financial setback? If so, what happened? What did you learn?
  - b. Have you ever lost a job? Been fired? Laid off? What did that teach you about the brokenness of our world?
  - c. Have you ever been in a job that was not fulfilling or you were just "buying time"?
  - d. Author Thomas Merton wrote, "When you are climbing the ladder of success, make sure it is leaning against the right wall."<sup>1</sup> In other words, in your career you could eventually make it all the way to top only to discover that your "ladder of success" was leaning against the wrong wall. As this ever happened to you? If so, when, what did you learn and what did you do about it?
10. Read Isaiah 59:2, Job 6:18 and Ephesians 4:18 from your sermon notes under point #6 under the heading, *The Horrible Consequences of Everyone's Rebellion."*
  - a. When have in your life have you felt God was not close? God was there, so why did you feel this way?
  - b. Job says he felt like he was in the desert searching for water. People turn to all kinds of ungodly things to quench the spiritual thirst in their life. Which ones have you?
  - c. All you have to do is look the media, politics, entertainment and etc. and you will see that our culture has lost touch with God and reality itself. God hates our sins, our transgressions and our iniquities. The problem with most Christians today is that they do not hate these. They watch TV shows and movies where this is displayed as natural and normal. They laugh at crude jokes and lines. They do not get mad seeing and hearing the promotion and glorification of every kind of sexual scene, sexual lifestyle, sexual innuendoes, profanity, vulgarity, drug use and mocking Christians who are trying to do the right thing. How evident is your hatred of your own sins, transgressions, and iniquities as well our culture?
11. Read John 16:33 from your sermon notes under point #1 under the heading, *"What Does Everyone Need To Do As a Result of These 6 Horrible Consequences?"* Only Jesus has the power to save you from these 6 horrible consequences and undo their results. How could you. better let Him to that in your own life?
12. Read John 8:12 from your sermon notes under point #2 under the heading, *"What Does Everyone Need To Do As a Result of These 6 Horrible Consequences?"* We all in a world of darkness. What can you do to stay in the light of Christ?

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<sup>1</sup><https://quoteinvestigator.com/tag/thomas-merton/>.