

Fayette County

we have a problem

TAKE A LOOK AT THESE characteristics and behaviors taken from Matthew 15:19 and Mark 7:21-23 of the Bible:

Adulteries	False Witness	Sexual Immorality
Blasphemies	Foolishness	Thefts
Covetousness	Greed	Wickedness
Deceit	Lasciviousness	Romans 1:29-32
Drunkenness	Murders	Galatians 5:19-21
Evil Thoughts	Pride	

You will notice that these behaviors are the social ills plaguing our communities. Instead of disappearing or becoming less, they continue to increase...and will continue to increase if we don't deal with their source.

THE SOURCE OF OUR SOCIAL ILLS

Jesus tells us the above behaviors are the result of a heart problem when he taught these things "proceed out of the heart" (Matthew 15:19; Mark 7:21). Romans 1:18 and Galatians 5:19 are clear that our social ills are sin. There is only one solution for sin. We must choose to do the opposite of sin if Fayette County is to have any hope: "love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). These are the characteristics that come out of God's Spirit. When God's Spirit is within people, a community's social ills are greatly reduced, even eliminated.

Real solutions for sin will never come through legislative, educational, health, or social restraints. There is only one way to restrain the actions of the human heart, and that is to embrace God and His character with our minds, emotions, and behavior. Our social ills occur because we have distanced ourselves from God. If we are to restrain the dark side of the human heart, we must return to God. He is truly our only hope.

THE PROBLEM IS SIN

In spite of a community's efforts, the social ills continue to increase when those efforts are without the standards of God and Jesus.

The solution for sin is not more community agencies, laws, programming, or government. The solution is the removal of sin from within a person—a total and complete deliverance from sin's

influence. Only God can do this. He wants to completely transform our human nature (Romans 12:1-2). A community wide transformation of human nature would transform a community. This transformation can only take place when God's standards are returned to our courthouses, our schools, our workplaces, our homes, and to every facet of community life. We need repentance. To repent is to change your way of thinking about the sinful behavior with which you are involved, and to change what you believe about God.

God's standards are made clear to each of us through the Ten Commandments and through the teachings and life of Jesus. Jesus' teachings are recorded by his disciples in the Bible books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. They were explained to us mostly through the experiences and teachings of the Apostle Paul in the New Testament. These writings tell us about Jesus and describe how to live within God's standards in order to remove the consequences of sin. They teach that we need to BELIEVE in Jesus, REPENT of our sins, and share this message with others.

THE FIRST & FINAL SOLUTION

Returning to Jesus and the Bible is the first and final solution to all the social ills we face as individuals and a community. Without Jesus' standards guiding and directing our life and our community, the character and behavior of sin will continue to increase. There is no hope for Fayette County without Jesus. There is no Jesus in the community if you do not BELIEVE in Jesus, REPENT of your sin, and share the message Jesus shared with others.

Jesus really is our hope. Our only hope.

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