

'THE COST OF A CORRUPT LIFE STYLE TO A CHRISTIAN, LESSONS FROM THE BIBLE'.

From the Biblical point of view, the word corruption means Moral degradation, Moral ruin and a state of decay and hopelessness.

(Job .17:14, Acts. 2:27, Genesis. 6:11, Exodus.32:7, Hosea.9:9 and Galatians.6:8).

In Jeremiah 17:9, the Hebrew word meaning corruption is translated as '*deceitful and polluted*'. It means a self-serving conduct and attitude. Hence selfishness and '*Self-Centeredness*'.

Corruption is a monster that destroys whatever it feeds on. It renders the individual and the society incapacitated. It destroys the social, political and religious systems.

According to the Bible, Corruption is the violation of divine order and God's covenant hence attracting divine judgment (*Genesis 3:1*).

Corruption is sin and the wages of sin is death...." (**Romans 6:23**).

In the book of **Genesis 3:16-19**, God cursed Adam and Eva for choosing a corrupt life style. **In verse 17** God said; '*Because you (Adam) have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'you shall not eat of it'. 'Cursed is the ground for your sake.....'(KJV).*

Corruption as a life style deprives justice. A society characterized by corruption misses out on justice. When Israel was characterized by corruption, God sent Prophet Amos who called upon the Israelites to..... '**Let justice run down like water.....'** (**Amos.5:24**).

Amos 2:6-8 – The prophet describes three major sins; covetousness, indifferences and oppression of the poor, As Israel's destruction neared, conditions worsened drastically. The courts of law were totally corrupt with judges in collusion with Lawyers, selling their verdicts to the highest bidder. The best thing to do by then was to settle out of court if possible.

While corruption ran rampant in Israel, people were worshipping God in droves! A high percentage of the people attended services and observed the religious festivals. But in spite of their religious worship- God said; '**I hate, I despise your feast days, and I do not savor your sacred assemblies.....take away from Me the noise of your songs, for I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments'**.

Therefore, the corrupt lifestyle of the Israelites had made God reject their worship and sacrifices. Communication had broken down. **Cf Revelation. 3:16.**

In Amos 3:9-10, the Prophet is told to proclaim the oppression, violence and robbery in the nation. The Israelites did not seem to realize that this cancerous immorality plaguing the country from within would result in Israel being crushed and destroyed from without in **Vs 10a** corrupt lifestyle had made Israel unable to tell the difference between good and evil.

However even when time came to defend Israel from foreign invasion, Israel would have no strength (*Amos.3:11*) hence the cost of a corrupt life style is the deprivation of strength for self-defence. Therefore an individual and/or society become weak in the face of the enemy. One becomes vulnerable to destruction.

A corrupt lifestyle of a Christian/man makes God to grieve in the heart. God is made to regret his action of creating man.-**Cf Genesis 6:6**. In the next chapter (*Genesis.7*) God sent the floods to destroy the earth.

Proverbs 29:2 says; when the righteous increase, the People rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan. (**Cf Prov28:15**). When the wicked are in power, it's often a judgment of God just like He did with ancient Israel (Ahab, Nebuchadnezzar, Jeroboam and Rehoboam etc). It's like the nation gets leadership they deserve. It is God who 'removes Kings' and sets up Kings. (**Daniel 2:21**).

When a nation exalts God, God will exalt that nation (**Deutronmy.28:1**). Morality and righteousness make a nation strong but immorality and unrighteousness will always bring it down into ruin. (**Proverbs 14:34**).

Where there is corruption, Government, Business and Community become ineffective. There is what we call in medical language '**Multi-organ failure**'- (**systems breakdown**).

Today you may find so many loopholes in the tax laws- but unfortunately the leaders who set-up these laws try all they can to avoid paying taxes- but some of our parliamentarians want these taxes to be raised and paid by the poor people so that the Government can facilitate the program for them to secure new cars, get fuel allowances of 5 million per month, get consultation and medical allowances; receive a funeral allowances of about 68 million on top of their huge salary around 20 million.

The New Testament portrays corruption as something that affects every aspect of the personality (**Ephesians.4:22, II Peter.1:4**). Corruption is expressed in the mind and conscience (**I Tim.6:5, Titus.1:15**) and also in character

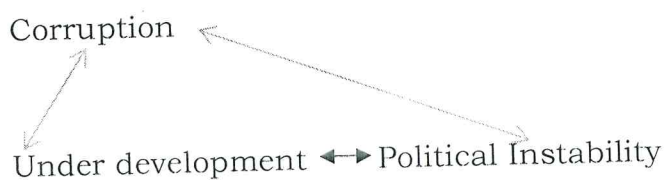
(**1 Cor.15:33**).

In Acts 24:26- Felix left Paul in prison hoping to receive a bribe from Paul.

The most heinous example of corruption in the Bible is the 30 pieces of silver that Judas received to betray Jesus. A direct result of Judas's action was that Jesus was arrested, unjustly tried in courts and later condemned to die. Eventually, even Judas realized that his acceptance of a bribe was evil. But when he tried to return the money to the chief priests and elders, they refused it, calling it what it was – 'blood money' **Mathew 27:3-9**. Consequently Judas destroyed himself when he committed suicide. Choosing a corrupt life style is choosing suicide.

When man decides to love the world, friendship with God is sacrificed. **James 4:4** says; Friendship with the world is enmity with God.....;It's too expensive for man to cause enmity with God – **Cf Amos 2:10**-The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken in pieces....'

It's important to note that wherever corruption thrives, growth and development of the individual and a society will be hindered. As observed from the bible, corruption compromises national security. Wars crop up due to the unfair distribution of the national cake. People loose trust in their leaders leading to unstable Governments. The Government's instability could lead to over expenditures on defense and procurement of military hardware in order for the government to perpetuate itself amidst opposition. This leads to compromising the values of democracy. From this argument one can see that if corruption is not checked it could lead to more corruption hence the society is deeply rotten. Political instability corruption and underdevelopment are mutually reinforcing, resulting in a life –stressing vicious cycle.



The solution to the above is repenting and coming back to God. **Amos.5:6** says; '**Seek the Lord and Live.....**'

GOD BLESS.