

THE STATE OF HUMANKIND

Opening Questions:

- Can we objectively assess how well human beings are doing?
- Why do we humans do so many bad things?
- What is Christianity's (or for that matter religions) role in the state of humankind, if any?
- If we ignore certain things we don't like to see or admit, does that mean they don't exist?

Christians like to say that Christianity has been an excellent and positive influence on humankind over the centuries. They point to the "successes" of Christianity to validate that belief. The Christians would generally define "success" as the number of members or adherents that participate; the amount of money and land and other material resources they possess and control; or the amount of money they spend on their charitable services. Other religions do the same. Evolutionary atheists and agnostics try to make a case that either the mysterious physical force of "evolution" is bettering humankind as the millennia tick by; or that their humanistic beliefs and actions are helping humanity; or both.

If anything, this book is dealing with root issues and problems and not painting a "pretty picture" over the pain, and suffering that in reality exists—this book endeavors to provide a solution to the root problems that plague humankind. Just like a physician cannot help a patient heal without properly diagnosing and understanding the problem, so we in this book cannot properly find a solution without looking closely at the "patient," who is us, humankind. *To deny realities is to be both deluded and furthermore not able to provide help.* To be able to determine if Christianity has been either a success or a failure and to be able to see what solution will work for the world's problems, we must first have an accurate view of the state of the world. Without an understanding of the state of the world, we would be unable to determine Christianity's impact on that world.

So, for those people who have bought into the positive thinking philosophy—no matter your ilk, religious person or non-religious person—let's leave the biased filter and instead take a real, unvarnished and unfiltered look at the "patient" to get a handle on the real state of things. (Later we will address why we as human beings have a strong bias against seeing clearly.)

The people of the United States are in the process of destroying themselves. The U.S., perhaps the most successful nation in history due to:

- It's being a stable nation-state (based on people creating and agreeing to laws to govern people's behavior);
- It's people being able to select their leaders (relatively politically free)
- Its people being able to pursue what they consider important in life (individual freedom and happiness);

...is in the process of destroying itself. The amount of conflict in the U.S. today is rapidly heading to the level of other conflict episodes in the nation's history like the civil war. The people no longer agree on a fundamental existential view of human life (absolutism versus relativism – we will look at those beliefs later in the book); nor do they agree on an ethical standard for determining good or bad human behavior (traditionally derived from some religious rule). Like their religious brethren who cannot agree on what the bible says, the political folks cannot even agree on what the U.S. Constitution states, a robust political standard if people could agree on what it says and means.

These choices of the American people have led them to the place where they no longer know how to tell if something is true or false, right or wrong. In fact, most Americans now take political freedom for granted and are not grateful for much of anything since greed and selfishness have grown exponentially in the hearts of the people. This book will not analyze the self-destruction of the American society, but it is noteworthy that politics, economics, business, religion or psychological philosophies are not what make a people healthy, functional and united. All of those domains are functioning well according to usual world standards in the U.S. - politics, economics, business, religion or psychological philosophies - and yet the people of the U.S. are starting to rip each other apart.

If you have eyes to see, you will know that conflict rages in every “corner” of the globe, from large national conflicts involving warring violence and tens of thousands killed and millions driven from their homes and becoming refugees, to tens of thousands of people committing suicide each year in the U.S. alone. Then there is the “commonplace” daily conflict like children hating or running away from parents or the silent animosity or “backstabbing” that characterizes so many workplaces as people compete for power or more money. These are but a very few examples of the root problem this book will address and provide a non-religious solution.

While many seek to deny the conflict, pain, and suffering that occurs each day by hiding from it and ignoring it in their perceived “place of safety,” it does not change the facts. Just because a person lives in a relatively safe and free-from-crime housing development in the United States or Europe does not change the facts. Just because those same people can control what they choose to put in front of their face with their electronic devices; does not change the

fact that billions of people are in conflict at some level, and billions are suffering or struggling in many different ways.

The facts also rebuke the idea that human beings are evolving into something better. The conflict problems don't go away as time moves forward or as the earth's population grows or as we get smarter with our technology of manipulating matter and energy. History proves that we are, in general, naturally predisposed to conflict and violence and the resultant pain, suffering, and destruction. There are ebbs and flows over history, for sure, but the basic fact of our human predisposition to enter into and remain in conflict remains undeniable.

In 2017, here is a small sampling of facts that illustrate well the state of humankind. Please think about what might be the root level causes for the following facts.

Problem 1: Few with most, many will little

“Nearly one-half of the world's population — more than 3 billion people — live on less than \$2.50 a day. More than 1.3 billion live in extreme poverty — less than \$1.25 a day. One billion children worldwide are living in poverty. According to UNICEF, about 22,000 children die each day due to poverty.”¹⁰

Thousands of children are dying from preventable disease and starvation, while the number of billionaires has risen to over 1,800 and the number of millionaires has risen to about 16 million. What does that mean from a wealth/resource distribution standpoint?

- Half of the world's wealth belongs to the top 1% of the wealthiest people;
- The top 10% of adults hold 85% of the world's wealth, while the bottom 90% hold the remaining 15% of the world's total wealth;
- The top 30% of adults hold 97% of the total wealth.

“According to the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) in 2012 the top 0.6% of world population (consisting of adults with more than 1 million USD in assets) or the 42 million richest people in the world held 39.3% of world wealth. The next 4.4% (311 million people) held 32.3% of world wealth. The bottom 95% held 28.4% of world wealth.”¹¹

So, let's get the simple facts straight. Tens of thousands of children are outright dying each day, and millions more are suffering, neglected and abused, and billions of people are scraping by to survive each day. At the same time, a while a few hundred million people who could easily help them, don't, and instead ignore them, justify their lack of help and work to become wealthier. Clear enough? Even if you weed out the people who are self-destructive or

¹⁰ Source: <https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-global-poverty>

¹¹ The World Fact Book – Central Intelligence Agency. Distribution of Family Income – GINI Index. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2172.html>
OECD DATA. Income Inequality. <https://data.oecd.org/inequality/income-inequality.htm>

unwilling to perform ethical work to “better their lives” in this world, the facts don't significantly change.

The simple truth is that there are more than enough resources on this planet for all human beings and with our improved technology; it would be a relatively simple matter to distribute those resources equitably.

Problem 2: Priority of Resource Usage - War Machines

The world's people/nations spend trillions of dollars on war machines, and they do this based on the primary corruptors of human nature – pride, fear and selfishness (we will look at this critical point in detail later). No murderous outer-space aliens are invading the planet to justify such behavior. Only pride, the pride that says, “we are better than you and more worthy than you and thus can take from you what we want.” Fear says, “you are different than us so we don't trust you and you might try and hurt us so we must defend ourselves.” Selfishness says, “we want something (perhaps what you have), and we don't care about the impact to you of taking what we want” (or we are going to take it no matter what it does to you). More self-pride which says, “try to stop us, and we will destroy you.” and that, dear reader is the darkness of humanity. To deny it is irrational.

These motivations and associated behaviors account for the vast majority of conflict in human history. And it is these aspects of human nature that justify spending a significant amount of the earth's resources on weapons. Can the reader think of any better use of the world's resources than making machines intended to kill human beings? What is it about humankind that they are so driven to build war machines and use them?

Problem 3: Mankind's Worst Enemy

No, our worst enemy is not a disease or natural disasters; instead, it is ourselves. The people who decide they are going to spend a large part or even the majority of our resources on war machines and weapons certainly want to use them and seem to look for opportunities to take and destroy. More people in human history have died at the hands of other human beings than any other means of physical death other than “natural” means of illness, disease or body function failure. Add to that "neglect" as a cause – meaning I could have saved a person but did not – and you paint an accurate picture of the human race...many hundreds of millions of people killed – or allowed to die when they did not have to - by other people.

Warring conflicts flare up all over the earth – the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe to name a few in the last few years. Millions of refugees are fleeing the uncontrolled self-pride generated hatred of one people group and their beliefs against another and the resultant destruction. As a result, vast amounts of pain, suffering, and loss occur for what? A “new, better” political

leader who will allow the power he/she will receive to corrupt them and start the violence cycle all over again? Another religious leader who will say, “Our God is the right God or greater...” and keep the people in darkness and start the cycle of fear and hatred all over again?

No doubt religion has contributed to a significant portion of the conflict in world history. Stated another way, people's God-claims and beliefs have been consistently used throughout history as justification to harm or destroy other people. How often has, “we have the One True God, and you must submit to him.” been said, thought or acted upon? (A note for the atheist to not commit a logical fallacy by believing this acknowledgment proves that God is not real or that Joshua of Nazareth is to blame. Joshua of Nazareth taught AND lived out, "love your enemies" so no, he is not to blame for the violence in his “name’.) Other non-theists or agnostics try and blame all conflict on religion, and this too is wrong. Plain old greed and the desire for more or better material things including land has played a role. The willingness to take slaves to serve us and the desire to exercise power over others with non-God motivations (or using God claims as an excuse) equally have their place in history and the current state of affairs as the motivation for the conflict that exists.

Problem 4: People Killing Themselves or Suicide

People killing themselves has become the leading cause of injury-related death in the United States, overtaking auto accidents – a nation that people worldwide describe as one of the most desirable places to live. That means about 50,000 U.S. citizens are killing themselves each year or about 137 people each day. (<https://afsp.org/about-suicide/suicide-statistics/>)

The number of suicides has been steadily increasing over the years. The Reuters news agency published the following horrible and revealing facts on November 3rd, 2016.

“The suicide rate among U.S. *middle school students* doubled from 2007 to 2014, surpassing for the first time the incidence of youngsters *aged 10 to 14* who died in car crashes, a federal report released on Thursday said.” So, not only adults are killing themselves by the tens of thousands, but now children are also killing themselves by the hundreds each year. What a horrific manifestation of the state of things in “the Christian nation” that is the U.S.

Add to the number of suicides those people who die from more-or-less purposeful drug usage and overdose, and you have about a hundred thousand people essentially killing themselves because they do not want to exist in this world anymore.

What evolutionary hypothesis fits with suicide caused by hopelessness? What political solution is going to fix those problems? How is money going to fix that? How are the latest psychological philosophies going to fix that? Is there some drug around the corner which will take away the hopelessness that drives much of the drug use problem? The answer is no since chemicals don't cause despair as hopelessness is a spiritual condition, not a physical one. And

just as obvious is that while religion flourishes in the U.S., these problems wax, not wane, thus proving that religion is not an effective solution for these problems. Also, many Christians are part of the statistics of suicide and drug usage.

Problem 5: Drug Usage to Dull the Hopelessness

Using drugs to dull or numb the inner/spiritual hopelessness and pain people are experiencing in the U.S. alone, rises every year and at this point is in the tens of millions of people. Whether they are illegal narcotics or opioids dispensed by one's physician, the intent is the same, and the result is often the same. How many human beings worldwide are using drugs to dull their hopelessness? Billions?

The number of people in the U.S. that are addicted to some drug is about 20 million. The number of people in the U.S. who misuse alcohol is about 15 million. Get the picture?

Problem 6: Bigotry and Racism

Let's define the terms first. Bigotry is "a person who has strong, unreasonable ideas, esp. about race or religion, and who thinks anyone who does not have the same beliefs is wrong".¹² Racism is "the belief that some races are better than others, or the unfair treatment of someone because of his or her race." So, bigotry is a broader category of unjust discrimination whereas racism is bigotry towards people of different races or ethnicities.

This characteristic of the human race is one of the ugliest, worst and unfortunately widely held problems of people all over the earth. To judge people as somehow less human or less valuable based on their skin color or other racial or physical characteristics is plain evidence of the darkness in which human beings dwell. How much animosity and hatred exist due to bigotry and racism, and how much conflict does it generate on the earth each day? Undoubtedly, the hostility and conflict associated with bigoted views cause many millions of unloving thoughts and actions each day on the planet.

As soon as an individual starts seeing things through skin color, for example, they become racists, even if they do so to correct or speak about a perceived wrong or injustice to a particular group. Until people can get past all the labels and unimportant differences between people, the human race will continue to broil in potential and actual conflict, desiring to harm one another.

Please note that it is not bigoted to call out a particular group of people if they have beliefs or behavior that is harmful towards others or themselves.

¹² Cambridge Dictionary, www.dictionary.cambridge.org, April 2018

Problem 7: Allowing others to be murdered and tortured when people can stop it

The people of the nation's allowing openly murderous individuals and their followers to roam the earth to rape pillage and murder freely. Groups like Boko Haram are paid mostly lip service while the "united nations" sits around doing nothing but arguing, bashing Israel and enjoying their New York lifestyle. With all the trillions of dollars spent on military junk, the only excuse the people of the world have for not preventing the murders perpetrated by groups like Boko Haram is the darkness of lovelessness and selfishness.

The world leader's position on Islamic "terror" is nothing short of atrocious. It is politically incorrect to critique a world religion, so the leaders of democratic nations blunder around with words to avoid the simple truth that the religion of Islam itself contains teachings from their primary prophet Muhammad, that includes sayings like "kill the infidels" (or non-Muslims). We shall address this in more detail later.

Problem 8: Human Slavery-'Trafficking'

"According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), forced labor alone (one component of human trafficking) generates an estimated \$150 billion in profits per annum as of 2014. In 2012, the ILO estimated that 21 million victims are trapped in modern-day slavery. Of these, 14.2 million (68%) were exploited for labor, 4.5 million (22%) were sexually exploited, and 2.2 million (10%) were exploited in state-imposed forced labor."¹³

Human sex trafficking is enslaving and abusing millions of women and children for men's sexual pleasure each day, while the people of the earth who could do something about it turn away and pretend it is not a problem—or engage in it or facilitate it.

Problem 9: Only Helping Others with Basic or Critical Needs for Money

It is one thing to not provide a non-essential product or service to someone who cannot pay for it. It is another thing altogether, for example, to not provide a necessary medical procedure (for instance life-saving or pain reducing) because the person needing the help cannot pay for it or cannot afford it.

How would you describe only being willing to help each other with bodily illness or injury needs if we receive money for doing so? If you are injured or

¹³ Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour (20 May 2014). "Profits and poverty: The economics of forced labour" (PDF - http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/-ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_243027.pdf). International Labour Organization. p. 4. Retrieved 24 October 2016.

have a disease that you cannot treat yourself, how would you like it if the only way someone would help you is if you paid them money, but you didn't have the money? This dynamic essentially describes the “medical profession” in the U.S. The people operating the medical or healthcare industry are able and equipped with the means to help others who are injured or ill but will only do so if they get money. Here is a simple illustration to demonstrate this evil.

Let us say you are walking along a trail somewhere, and you fall and break your ankle and cannot walk. While you are laying there in pain and concerned about the coming cold night, a person with the ability to help you comes along, and you ask for help, and he says, “well, I'll help you if you give me 100 dollars'. You don't have the money, so he walks away and leaves you there or says, “oh, I will see if I can find someone who will help you for nothing.'

The simple truth is that the people who make up the medical or health systems of the U.S. operate on that same principle, all their objections notwithstanding. Of course, they hide behind receptionists and insurance companies; and in some places, they are forced by law to treat people. But that does not change the fact that they have the means to help the sick and injured, but will only do so if they receive a material benefit for doing so. This practice of just helping others for material gain is evil.

I do not propose that they not receive a wage for their work, for their work is valuable, but so is the electrician's work which provided electricity to the building, or the plumber who provided working toilets or the cafeteria staff who prepare food, or the cleaning service who cleaned the bathrooms, etc.

What I am saying is to deny competent medical help to a person based on money is morally wrong. It is also morally wrong to provide better medical care to those who can pay more.

Solutions include tax-based compensation for health care providers with appropriate incentives, peer, and patient reviews. A simple and practical solution would be to pass a law that says when a physician's rate exceeds, for example, \$100 per hour; the physician must collect his fee in person from the patient. The law would be even better if it required the physician to say something like, “Please give me the \$X you owe me for my \$X per hour rate.’

One thing is sure - when you have many people who "cannot afford" good medical services and at the same time you have physicians occupying most of the top 10 highest paying jobs in the nation - love and compassion are gone, all the marketing slogans about "Care" notwithstanding.

Problem 10: Disrespecting and Devaluing Older or Elderly People

Most people in the United States regularly show contempt and hatred for those who raised them and provided for them for the first 15 to 20 years of their life – their parents. Parents are ignored, disrespected and dishonored by their children and finally, put away in a “nursing home” to die essentially alone – “cared for” by paid people who don't care. To not truly care for parents is evil even when the parents - **who have forgotten or never knew what love is** -

say they want to be put “in a home.” Only parents who believe they have nothing to contribute – no wisdom gained over their life, not even any love to give – would ask to be away from their children. Only parents who don't love their children would want to be away from their children. Only children who:

- Don't believe their parents are worthy of appreciation for all they did for them;
- Don't believe their parents are worthy of respect or honor;
- Want to live selfish lives;
- Don't love their parents;
- Would send their parents away to be “cared for” by people who are performing that work primarily for money.

Stated another way, only people who have believed or contributed to the lie that older people are worthless and younger people are valuable would participate in the evil of isolation from people they claim to love. Or, predicted by Joshua of Nazareth some 2,000 years ago, "*the love of most has grown cold.*"

A significant number of suicides happen in these loveless healthcare facilities—is it any wonder why?

Problem 11: Fashionable Lying

Lying for selfish material gain is evil. The “sales” and “marketing” people of the earth have made lying into an art form. The standard in the U.S. is falling so low that people expect that a person selling something will lie to them, deceive them or withhold important information about something associated with “the sell.”

It should concern people that the Real standard of honesty to which we will be held accountable is this - if I don't keep my word and don't apologize for breaking it, I have spoken falsely. If I make a practice of breaking my word and apologizing for it but don't change, I am a self-deceived liar. If I practice lying or speaking falsehoods for selfish gain, I am evil. If I withhold information to gain from someone selfishly, greed rules me.

Problem 12: The General State of Human Affairs

There are trillions of acts of unkindness that occur each day on the planet, all due to the three things that rule humans instead of love. From the coldness of not helping someone with some simple task, to ignoring people who would benefit from a kind word, to outright hurting each other in millions of ways each day. Yes, there are acts of kindness as well, but sadly, they are but a ripple under the tidal wave.

State of Things Conclusions

What is the conclusion that is arrived at by the above truths about the state of humankind? How about this saying of The Light?

And this is the judgment, that the people of the earth love the darkness rather than the light because their deeds are evil. (John 3:19)

From one important perspective, no other reasonable conclusion can be arrived at other than “guilty.” Someone once said well, “Facts are stubborn things.” Oh, you can whitewash all the above problems and ignore them and pretend they don't exist to live in a delusional state of selfishness, as we shall see in the next section...but that behavior does not make the facts go away. In like manner, focusing on the good things to the exclusion of acknowledging the bad things also does not make the bad things go away. For example, to say, “oh well, the tsunami will cause some fish to be available to eat on land,” does not nullify the fact that the tsunami will come and kill many people and destroy much useful hard work.

It is just true that people are the same all over the earth for the past several thousand years. Nothing significant has changed except people's knowledge about physical things; how matter and energy work; and applying that knowledge to solve physical problems – thus the improvements in science and technology. Human beings and the issues caused by our nature has not changed one bit as the above fact examples illustrate. Religion has not solved those problems over the recent millennia and in fact, has caused much conflict.

That is not to say that some people have not been good people or that they have not made significant contributions to smaller groups of people. Some more recent examples come to mind like Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela and others. They all made significant improvements within a nation, culture or a group of people on the earth. The problem is, when those leader's die, what happens? Do the things they stood for and the ethics or principles they believed or implemented remain and endure among their people or beyond? Sadly, history provides the answer to that question. Look at India, the U.S., and South Africa today. India has billionaires and remains deeply divided among religious and economic status. The U.S. is falling apart with identity politics, meaning racial, ethnic, gender and religious division are growing along with a deepening income/wealth divide. South Africa's racial advancements under Mandela are rapidly deteriorating.

The BIG picture is what is in view here, and given the facts above we are failing each other in a big way given the potential we have. *If you consider the possibility – all human beings working together for good, constructive purposes and projects and without conflict – the failure is magnified tremendously.* The simple fact is that people can work together without conflict, but instead choose not to.

This failure is worse because more than ever in history – through technology - we are capable of alleviating much of the non-human caused suffering that plagues billions of human beings. Food abundance and

distribution means have never been greater. Drilling water wells and the methods to accomplish that drilling to provide safe drinking water all over the earth have never been better. Disease-fighting and other medical technology and cures have never been better, etc.

Furthermore, due to global communication removing the excuse of ignorance *and* due to the abundance of resources of some people groups/nations, we don't have a valid explanation for the above. All we have are the root problems, described in the next section, which causes what we see on the earth and causes us to be "guilty."

If we (you and I) are not working to help improve things; if we (you and I) are not working to bring change in some way to problems we see, *then we are part of the problem instead of part of the solution.* What are Christians doing to solve these problems? Is it not true that Christians manifest the problems within their circles? And is it not true that Christians and Christianity claim to have the solutions to make the world a better place? And is it not true that organized Christianity has been around for millennia and yet the problems are not going away? Can you point to "Christian communities" where the "truths" of the Christians are consistently practiced and lived out? If you can, why are you not a part of them?

Here is a truth worth pondering: Few people are good, most are bad and the strong or powerful take advantage of, use or abuse the weak or powerless.

Don't believe that? Why? Perhaps you have the wrong standard to make that judgment? Or maybe there is something in the way of your being able to make that judgment properly? Or perhaps you don't want to see the facts? Or maybe you have a strong bias against the facts? In the next chapter, let us explore the premise that we have a strong and deep bias regarding how we view ourselves and others.

Chapter Summary:

- The world is a nasty place, and that reality can only be denied by ignoring the facts or by having a deficient standard to judge right from wrong;
- As we shall see, having some "positive belief" philosophy that one uses to ignore the facts presented in this chapter is both delusional and selfish;
- In as much as Christianity claims to "impact the world," it has not improved the general state of things, and in many cases, it has been the source of conflict and violence in God's name;
- Christians do not have widespread models of actual, real communities where their supposed beliefs and practices are lived out and manifested.