

Why Are People So Crazy?

2 Timothy 3:1-5

1 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.

2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,

3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good,

4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

Why are people so crazy?

Because of sin.

Genesis 3:1-6

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”

2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,

3 but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.

5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

6 So when the woman **saw** that the tree was good for food, and that it was a **delight to the eyes**, and that the tree was **to be desired** to make one wise, **she took of its fruit and ate**, and she also gave some to **her husband** who was with her, and **he ate**.

Romans 5:12

12 Therefore, just as **sin came into the world** through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

EXAMPLES

- Cain and Abel
- Lot and his daughters
- David and Bathsheba
- Amnon violating his sister Tamar
- Absalom in turn kills Amnon
- Herod beheading John the Baptist
- Judas’ Betrayal
- The apostle Paul’s murder, Peter’s murder, etc.
- Nero
- Hitler
- Manson
- Child sex slavery
- Abortion – the slaughter of innocence

Because of the sinful nature of unredeemed man...

Romans 3:10-23

10 as it is written:

“None is righteous, no, not one;

11 no one understands;

no one seeks for God.

12 All have turned aside ...

To deviate from the right way; to go their own way

Romans 3:12 cont’d

together they have become worthless...

Unserviceable, useless; to go bad to turn sour as milk. This is referring to character

Romans 3:12 cont’d

no one does good, not even one

Romans 3:13

Their throat is a standing open grave ...

Their mouth (words) is like the odor of a newly opened grave. They use their tongues to deceive and do so perseveringly.

Romans 3:13 cont’d

The venom of asps is under their lips.

An Asp is an Egyptian cobra whose poison is contained in a pouch just underneath their lips.

Romans 3:14-18

14 “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness

15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood; that the seed of murder is one of a multitude of evil seeds that are universally found in the human heart

16 in their paths are ruin and misery,

17 and the way of peace they have not known

18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes

Romans 3:21-23

21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—

22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. **For there is no distinction:** sin manifests itself in all ethnicities; in every culture, amongst every tribe and influences every tongue

23 for **all have sinned** [see Rom 3:9-11]

Though men differ greatly in the nature and extent of their sinfulness, there is absolutely no difference between the best and the worst of men, in the fact, that "all have sinned," and so inspire/trigger the wrath of God.

Romans 3:9-11

9 What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin,

10 as it is written:

“None is righteous, no, not one;

11 no one understands;

no one seeks for God.

and fall short of the glory of God,

What did sin affect?

Sin affected the heart/mind [will, emotion, intentions, heart, understanding, the thought processes, etc.]

Example of sinful will and emotions, i.e. man after the Fall

Gen 6:5

5 The Lord saw that the **wickedness of man was great** in the earth, and that **every intention** of the **thoughts of his heart** was **only evil continually**.

EXAMPLE Gen 6:5 in action

Genesis 4:3-8

3 In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground,

4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering,

5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain **was very angry, and his face fell**.

6 The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you **angry** emotion, and why has your face fallen result of emotion?

7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.” This verse gives Cain Time to think about what to do next

8 Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

Genesis 4:3-8 demonstrates the perversion of the following: emotion, will, intentions, heart, understanding, the thought processes

ANGER

Matthew 5:21-22

21 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’

22 But I say to you that everyone who is **angry** with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.

The HEART after the Fall is corrupt and unreliable

Jer 17:9

9 The **heart is deceitful** [cunning, treacherous] above all things, and desperately sick; [dangerous, incurable, corrupt, depraved] who can understand it? [Who can know it? i.e., fathom its nature and corruptness]

Therefore, a man must not trust the suggestions and illusions of his own heart.

Matt 15:18-20

18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds **from the heart**, and this defiles a person.
 19 For **out of the heart** come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.
 20 These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.”

Eph 4:17

17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the **futility of their minds**.

Futility = devoid of truth and appropriateness; perverseness, depravation, nothingness, emptiness, transistory

Eph 4:18

18 They are **darkened in their understanding**, alienated from the life of God because of the **ignorance** that is in them, due to their **hardness of heart**.

Darkened = lack knowledge or insight; blindness

Ignorance = lacking knowledge/understanding especially of divine things

19 They have become **callous** and have **given themselves up to sensuality**, greedy to practice **every kind of impurity**.

Callous = to lose the capacity to feel shame or embarrassment - 'to lose a feeling of shame, to become calloused

Given themselves up = to surrender, to yield up to

Greedy = a strong desire to acquire/do more and more

Phil 3:18-20

18 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ,

19 whose **end is destruction**, whose **god is their appetite**...

Their appetite = Here it is used metaphorically to refer to all unrestrained sensual, fleshly, bodily desires

1 Corinthians 6:13

13 “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

Phil 3:19 cont'd
and whose glory is in their shame...

The things that they are proud of are the things that they should be the most ashamed of; This is the most extreme form of wickedness — when the sinner's most wretched conduct before God is his highest point of self-exaltation.

Phil 3:19 cont'd
who set their minds on earthly things.

Sin causes one to set their mind on earthly things, only!!!

Rom 1:18-21

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

21 **For although they knew God as creator, they did not honor glorify him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile**

Futile = vain, futile, that which is without result or success - Solomon said in Ecc 1:2, "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity." That is, "futility of futilities, all is futile." All that he tried was futile, unsuccessful, in giving him complete satisfaction. Thus, the human race, refusing to glorify God and be grateful, became futile, unsuccessful in its reasonings (imaginations)

Rom 1:21 cont'd
in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Thinking = imagination; thinking, thoughts, speculations, reasoning; the thinking of a man deliberating with himself

Foolish = _unintelligent, without understanding **hearts**

Heart = the seat of feeling, intelligence, moral choice

were darkened = a failure to think right or correctly about God and moral issues

Rom 1:22

22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools,

Claiming = to affirm, allege, pretend, profess, to boast." "The verb is used of unfounded assertion

Rom 3:23

23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Exchanged = to cause one thing to cease and another to take its place

Rom 3:24

24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,

Gave them up = to deliver a person into the control of someone else, involving either the handing over of a presumably guilty person for punishment by authorities or the handing over of an individual to an enemy who will presumably take undue advantage of the victim - 'to hand over, to turn over to; cf. Gen 6:3

Rom 3:25

25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;

27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

28 And since they **did not see fit to acknowledge God** to have full and precise knowledge, **God gave them up** to a **debased mind**

Did not see fit = *adokimazo* - to put to the test for the purpose of approving and finding that the person tested meets the specifications prescribed, to put one's approval upon him. The human race put God to the test for the purpose of approving Him [*to see if He*] should....meet the specifications which it laid down....a God who would be to its liking....And finding that He did not meet those specifications, it refused to approve Him as the God to be worshipped or have Him in its knowledge.

Debased mind = "Reprobate mind" is *adokimon* noun.

The human race put God on trial (*dokimazo*), and because it rejected Him after trial, God gives it a "trialess" mind, one incapable of discharging the functions of a mind with respect to the things of salvation.

Denney says; "As they did not think it fit, after trial made to keep God in their knowledge, God gave them up to a mind which cannot stand trial. The one thing answers to the other. Virtually, they pronounced the true God *adokimos* (disapproved), and would have none of Him, and He in turn gave them up to a nous *adokimos* (a disapproved mind), a mind which is no mind and

cannot discharge the functions of one, a mind in which the divine distinctions of right and wrong are confused and lost.

In summary, reprobate, debased, corrupted refers to a mind that no longer functions as it should; this does not imply insanity, but rather the lack of ability to make moral and spiritual distinctions; degenerate, depraved reason. **to do what ought not to be done.**

Convenient/proper = *katheko*, "becoming, fitting."

Commentator Robertson says, "Like an old abandoned building, the home of bats and snakes, left 'to do those things which are not fitting,' like the night clubs of modern cities, the dives and dens of the underworld, without God and in the darkness of unrestrained animal impulses."

Rom 1:29-31

29 **They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness**, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips,
30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,
31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless

Heartless = (without natural affection) *A stor gos – a – storge [love of kindred]*, a lack of love of parents for children, children for parents, husband for wife and wife for husband; hard hearted toward kindred; a lack of love or affection for close associates or family - 'without normal human affection, without love for others., ruthless without mercy, merciless.

Rom 1:32

32 Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them

Give approval to = to think well of in common, i.e. assent to, feel gratified with; to decide with someone else that something is preferable or good

They know God's righteousness...

Look back at

Romans 1:19-21

19 For what can be **known about God** is plain to them, because **God has shown it to them.**

20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been **clearly perceived**, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. **SO THEY ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE.**

21 For although **they knew God**, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

☐ People do not recognize God because they do not want to recognize Him, because they willingly "suppress the truth in unrighteousness concerning him"

Romans 1:18

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness **suppress the truth.**

John 3:19-20

19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people **loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.**

20 For everyone who does wicked things **hates the light and does not come to the light**, lest his works should be exposed.

Rom 2:14-16

14 For when Gentiles who do not have the Law **do instinctively** the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves,

15 in that they show the work of the Law **written in their hearts**, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,

WHY ARE PEOPLE SO CRAZY?

Because their minds (will, emotion, intentions, heart, understanding, the thought processes, etc.) have been lost, damaged, short circuited, darkened because of sin.

Redemption first includes the lord performing surgery on our hearts.

Deuteronomy 30:6-8

6 And the Lord your God will **circumcise your heart** and the heart of your offspring, **so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul**, that you may live.

Jeremiah 24:7

7 I will **give them a heart to know** that I am the Lord, and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me **with their whole heart.**

Jeremiah 31:33

33 For **this is the covenant** that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: **I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.** And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jeremiah 32:39

38 And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

39 **I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever**, for their own good and the good of their children after them.

Ezekiel 36:25-26

25 I will **sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean** from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

26 And I will give you a **new heart**, and a **new spirit I will put within you**. And I will remove the **heart of stone** from your flesh and give you a **heart of flesh**.

Because we have been redeemed, does not mean that our hearts and minds are perfectly restored. We are still capable of sinful emotions, sinful intentions, sinful understanding, and sinful thought processes. In other words, we are still capable of doing all of the things our heart desired before we were redeemed.

Remember...

Jeremiah 17:9

9 The heart is deceitful above all things,
and desperately sick;

who can understand it?

10 "I the Lord search the heart

and test the mind,

to give every man according to his ways,

according to the fruit of his deeds."

Salvation, redemption, being born again, being saved cures our heart, to a certain extent.

However, we must understand that a curing of our hearts does not necessarily mean that we can no longer sin with our **heart - mind** (will, emotion, intentions, heart, understanding, the thought processes, intellect, etc.)

What was cured/restored, was our ability to use our heart - mind for God's glory. However, this using of our hearts for God's glory, is not automatic.

It is a process.

Sanctification is the process of renovation/renewal of our **mind** {will, emotion, intentions, heart, understanding, the thought processes, intellect, etc.}, which leads to a transformed life.

The first thing that we need to understand when it comes to obeying scripture concerning our mind (will, emotion, intentions, heart, understanding, the thought processes, intellect, etc.) is that we have, as a present possession, **the mind of christ**.

1 Corinthians 2:16

16 "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we **have the mind of Christ**.

Matthew 22:37-40

37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart** and with all your **soul** and with all your **mind**. strength

38 This is the **great and first** commandment.

39 And a **second** is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

In other words, you are to take your heart, mind, soul and strength and love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 22:40

40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

Romans 12:2

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed** by the **renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh.

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy **strongholds**.

5 We destroy **arguments** reasonings, theories, philosophies, ideas, etc. and every **lofty opinion** raised against the knowledge of God, and take **every thought** captive to obey Christ,

Colossians 3:1-2

1 If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek the things** that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2 Set **your minds** on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

Philippians 2:1-5

1 So if there is any **encouragement** in Christ, any **comfort** from love, any **participation in the Spirit**, any **affection** and **sympathy**,

2 complete my joy by being of the **same mind**, having the same **love**, being in **full accord** and of **one mind**.

3 Do nothing from **selfish ambition** or **conceit**, but in **humility** count others more significant than yourselves.

4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

5 Have **this mind** among yourselves, **which is yours in Christ Jesus**,

1 Peter 1:22

22 Having purified your souls by your **obedience to the truth** for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart

Obedience to the truth = constant, consistent and continual obedience to the truth is what purified their hearts. This in turn caused them to have a pure heart. for a sincere brotherly love *phileo* – *To be fond of, to love as a brother*, **love agape** one another **earnestly** from a **pure heart**, This is what honest, sincere, genuine love looks like. To love one another from your heart, mind, soul and strength.

1 Peter 1:23

23 since you have **been born again**, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;

Thus, the exhortation is to love one's brother Christian because he is precious to God, and to love him with a love that is willing to sacrifice one's self for the benefit of that brother, a love that causes one to be long suffering toward him, a love that makes one treat him kindly, a love that so causes one to rejoice in the welfare of another that there is no room for envy in the heart, a love that is not jealous, a love that keeps one from boasting of one's self, a love that keeps one from bearing one's self in a lofty manner, a love that keeps one from acting unbecomingly, a love that keeps one from seeking one's own rights, a love that keeps one from becoming angry, a love that does not impute evil, a love that does not rejoice in iniquity but in the truth, a love that bears up against all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. That is the kind of love which God says one Christian should have for another.

These Christians to whom Peter was writing already had a fondness and an affection for one another. The feeling of fondness and affection was perfectly proper in itself, but it could degenerate into an attachment for another which would be very selfish. But if these Christians would blend the two kinds of love, saturate the human fondness and affection with the divine love with which they are exhorted to love one another, then that human affection would be transformed and elevated to a heavenly thing. Then the fellowship of saint with saint would be a heavenly fellowship, glorifying to the Lord Jesus, and most blessed in its results to themselves.

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