THE REPROBATE MIND

LIVING IN A REPROBATE GENERATION

Bishop R. C. Blakes Jr.

‘All Scripture quotations are from the King James Version

We are living in a generation displaying the marks of a reprobate mind: deception defended, cruelty celebrated, and correction treated as an offense.
The danger deepens when we begin demanding approval for what God calls us to forsake.

This describes a moral climate across age groups, including the church. Let this message examine us before we use it to judge anyone else.

ROMANS 1:28
And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

Definition: A reprobate mind is a morally corrupted way of thinking that, through the rejection of God’s truth and under His judgment, becomes unfit to discern and pursue what is right.

#1 WE RESIST TRUTH TO PROTECT A DESIRE

Sometimes we know what God requires. We hesitate because obedience would cost us something we want. So we keep asking questions after the answer has become clear.

JAMES 1:23–25
For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

"And continueth therein." Carry what God showed you into the conversation, relationship, or decision you have been avoiding. Hearing must become obedience.

QUOTE: "You cannot be transformed passing by the mirror of God's Word."

Imagine seeing food on your face in a mirror, admiring its clarity, and walking away without wiping your mouth. We can do that with a sermon: compliment the message while refusing its correction.

Examine yourself: What has God made clear that I keep turning into a debate?
Stop rehearsing the excuse. Take the first step of obedience.

#2 WE REDEFINE RIGHT AND WRONG AROUND WHAT WE WANT

Once we decide we must have something, we search for language that lets us keep it and still feel right about ourselves.

ISAIAH 5:20
Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

“I am just being honest,” while deliberately wounding someone. ”I deserve to be happy,” while betraying someone who trusted us. Our explanation sounds attractive; somebody else lives with the damage.

Put a beautiful label on a bottle of poison. Call it “refreshment.” The person who drinks it will still be poisoned. Renaming destructive conduct cannot change what it does to a life.

QUOTE: “Renaming a sin does not remove the injury it causes.”

Examine yourself: What have I given a respectable name because I do not want to surrender it? Say it plainly before God. “I lied.” “ I betrayed their trust.”
Honest confession begins where the excuse ends.

#3 REPEATED RESISTANCE HARDENS THE HEART

What once troubled us can become easier to excuse. Eventually, we resent the person who mentions it. The wrongdoing feels familiar; correction feels like the disturbance.

HEBREWS 3:12–13
Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

A smoke alarm wakes you. You remove the battery and go back to bed. The room is quiet, but what happened to the fire? Silencing a warning does nothing to remove the danger.

Ask what produced the quiet. Did I make things right, or did I stop listening to everyone who challenged me? Feeling settled does not make a decision sound.

Examine yourself: Who have I stopped hearing because they challenged something I wanted to protect? Pray, “Lord, keep me willing to receive truth, especially when I would rather defend myself.”

#4 WE BEGIN DEFENDING AND APPLAUDING WRONGDOING

Now we move beyond what we do ourselves. We laugh, share, defend, and reward wrongdoing. Our approval helps it become acceptable around us.

ROMANS 1:32
Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Imagine a family laughing at a video of somebody’s worst moment. A child watches the adults and learns what deserves amusement. What are we teaching that child about another person’s dignity?

If the humiliation were directed at our own child, would it still be entertaining? Affection for the speaker cannot decide whether the harm matters.

QUOTE: “Applause can make a person feel justified without making the conduct right.”

Examine yourself: Whose pain have I turned into entertainment? Withdraw your applause from what you know is wrong. Love people enough to stop helping them defend the harm they cause.

#5 GOD GIVES PEOPLE OVER TO THE REBELLION

THEY CHOOSE

The most sobering words are “God gave them over.” Paul describes God responding in judgment to the rejection of His truth.

ROMANS 1:28
And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

God gives people over to the corruption they have embraced. We must take that warning seriously without appointing ourselves to declare another person’s final condition. Our responsibility is to respond to God today.

The business grows. The audience expands. People still praise us. We may call that proof we are right, even while our conduct damages the people closest to us. Success can give destructive choices greater reach.

QUOTE: “The freedom to continue is not proof that God approves.”

Examine yourself: Have I mistaken God's patience for His endorsement? Stop asking how long you can continue. Ask what obedience requires, and begin today.

HOW TO GUARD YOUR HEART IN A REPROBATE GENERATION

Through the grace of Jesus Christ, make the response practical:

1. Obey what you already know. Correct the lie, make the apology, or end the dishonest arrangement.
2. Let Scripture renew your judgment. Read it to receive correction, and let it govern your next decision.

ROMANS 12:2
And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

3. Stay correctable. Welcome trustworthy counsel tested by Scripture, and close the access that keeps feeding the wrongdoing.
4. Practice truthfulness and mercy. Refuse the gossip. Honor your commitments. Protect another person's dignity.
5. Repent specifically. Name the sin, turn from it, and begin repairing the harm.

Bring it honestly to Christ.

1 JOHN 1:9
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

You do not have to defend another day what God is calling you to surrender. Come to Christ honestly. Receive His mercy, and let the people closest to you begin experiencing the fruit of your repentance.

Father, search my heart. Forgive me for protecting what You have called me to surrender. Renew my mind through Your Word. Give me humility to receive correction and courage to obey. Through Jesus Christ, cleanse me and help me walk in truth. Amen.