



**Don't Be a  
CRIME VICTIM**

# INTRODUCTION

**C**riminals are generally considered to be the victims of their own actions. However, in the past few years, the concept of crime has changed. It is no longer just a matter of breaking the law, but a matter of breaking the trust of society. This has led to a new definition of crime, one that is based on the concept of trust. This new definition of crime is based on the concept of trust, and it is this concept that is the focus of this book.

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...but a group of "average" human beings, and more often than not, one to ask, "Why are you a 'good' person?"

...of "bad" people. This is not a change in the behavior of anyone but yourself, and you can do nothing to defend yourself from "bad" people. Instead, the only way to avoid being a victim of crime is to avoid being a "good" person.

The only way to avoid being a "good" person is to stop being a "good" person. This is not a change in the behavior of anyone but yourself, and you can do nothing to defend yourself from "bad" people. Instead, the only way to avoid being a victim of crime is to avoid being a "good" person.

# Don't Be a CRIME VICTIM

Criminality is on the rampage. No one is immune to its effects. It's time to understand why this tragic state of affairs exists and what you can do about it.

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# INTRODUCTION

**C**rime is generally defined as "deviant behavior contrary to the accepted codes of society." Society will not survive if most of its people break most of its laws most of the time, so punishments have been instituted for serious crimes in an attempt to stop criminal behavior. Nevertheless, crime has flourished from the time Cain killed Abel.

Ancient civilizations, such as those at

slaughters of "bad" people. Those "good" people given to paranoia hurriedly purchase the gadgets of science to protect themselves. A man's home has literally become his *castle*—complete with an electronic "moat" infested with automated laser-beam-activated "alligators."

But a glance at "average" human behavior and crime statistics causes one to ask who and where are all these

"good" people? It comes as a shock to realize how many crimes are committed by "good" people. They are often performed quite *secretly* and go unreported.

Evidently a "crime" is not a crime as long as one can "get away with it" or if those in authority wink at it.

The new golden rule is "Do unto others before they do it unto you." The eleventh commandment of big business seems to be "Everything has its price."

And it's a familiar frustration to many youths, especially in the U.S., that the naïve, weak and friendless among them end up in jail for the *same act* that sons of millionaires and public statesmen can *buy* their way out of. A small burglary by a poor person nets a multiyear jail sentence, while a multimillion-dollar business fraud or tax evasion conducted over cocktails is just "good business." The youth point out another hypocrisy of the justice system: Murder is labeled a capital crime if it is premeditated between husband and wife, but it is cause for acclaim and even medals if it is premeditated between a soldier and an "enemy" soldier or citizen. In fact, refusal to kill in the case of war has in the past meant imprisonment or deportation without amnesty.

It is the purpose of this brochure to define the biblical standards of what crime is, to make clear the causes of crime, and to show methods for conquering it. Instead of telling "good" people how to stop the "bad" people, it shows how *you* can stop *your own*

"bad" behavior. You cannot change the behavior of anyone but yourself, and you can do precious little to defend yourself from "bad" criminals, beyond the commonsense rules available from any police department or law-enforcement agency.

The only way "organized crime" can be stopped is by not patronizing it. Gambling is in places illegal, but it is the largest of all "organized crimes," due to the demands from "good" people. The same analogy applies to drugs, loansharking, prostitution, protection, graft and corruption, and all the other "services" of organized crime. In such crimes there are *two* criminals: buyer and seller. This brochure cannot convert the seller, but aims at deterring the *buyers* of organized crime.

It's time to focus on the *causes* of crime by isolating them as they lie in each person. The vast majority of crime in all nations is committed by "good" people. Stores lose ten times more to employees than they do to shoplifters; banks lose much more to embezzlers than to bank robbers. "Good" people break the traffic rules, beat their children or wives, steal items from work, disrespect the police, commit adultery, and tell "little white lies" to cover it all up.

All such acts are rationalized by human nature. Embezzling is called "borrowing"; "everybody cheats" on his income tax; and some murder is called "justifiable homicide." Human beings want to look "good," but they don't want to *do* good. They will be "honest" in front of people, but cheat when nobody is looking. Very few people have internalized their good behavior, so that they will obey laws *when nobody is looking*.

We all need to learn how to internalize good behavior and make it an integral part of our very nature. We need to comprehend the standards for what is "good."

This basic truth is further explained in our attractively printed booklet entitled, *Human Nature—Did God Create It?* We have never printed a more important piece of literature when it comes to determining the root cause of all within humankind that is disrespectful of authority and hostile toward law. Please request your copy of this intriguing booklet by title.

## Crime: Everybody's Problem

Babylon and Rome, were noted for crimes of violence. The Europe of the Middle Ages and even of the so-called age of reason was plagued with highway bandits, murders of passion, and government scandals. Even in the Roaring Twenties the U.S.A. was also a criminal society replete with Al Capone, John Dillinger, the Teapot Dome scandal, and Prohibition speak-easies. Whether certain types of crime are increasing or decreasing is irrelevant—the crime level has always been *too high*.

Since World War II, however, crime has taken on a new nature. Increased mobility, urbanization, and industrialization have sparked new forms of criminal behavior (urban riots and looting sprees, skyjacking, international terrorism) and as well as a big market for electronic surveillance equipment.

### "Good" and "Bad" People

The new forms of crime—highly visible and highly publicized—have reinforced the popular image of the world as divided into "good" people and "bad" people. The security technologies have offered ever more sophisticated means of protecting the property and person of "good" people against the on-

# The Causes of Crime

**T**here are many causes of crime. Slums, poverty, and deprivation cause one kind of crime—the highly visible antisocial crimes of economic opportunity. A violent home environment and violent mass media contribute to another kind of crime—passionate crimes against the person. Mental illness, genetic makeup, and apparently even the *phases of the moon* have a small part in making certain criminals commit “senseless” crimes, but there is a human common denominator to all crime.

That common ingredient is the human heart which the prophet Jeremiah labeled “deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked” (Jer. 17:9).

The cause of crime is lack of character, not lack of money. When children are allowed to think like criminals, the result is quite obvious: They *become* criminals!

## The Ten Commandments of Crime

Some years ago, the Houston Police Department published and distributed some rules for rearing delinquent children. Interested parents should note the following summary of ten of these surefire ways to make a criminal.

1) Begin in infancy to give your child everything he wants. In this way he will grow up to believe the world owes him a living.

2) Never give him any religious or spiritual training. Wait until he is 21; then he can decide on the “church of his choice,” if any.

3) Avoid use of inhibiting words like “wrong,” “illegal” or “bad.” It may develop a guilt complex. Instead, assure him that society is at fault.

4) Pick up everything he leaves around—toys, books, clothes. Do everything for him, so he will expect the world to support him later.

5) Let him read any printed matter he finds, or speak any words he hears. Sterilize the silverware,

“Where do conflicts, where do wrangles come from, in your society? Is it not from these passions of yours that war among your members?”—James 4:1, Moffatt

of course, but let his mind and mouth be “dirty.”

6) Quarrel frequently in his presence. In this way he will see the breakup of a family and thus be more likely to break up his own later.

7) Give your child all the spending money he wants. Don’t make him earn it. Why should he have things as rough as you did?

8) Satisfy his every craving for food, drink and comfort. Denial may lead to inner frustration, so see that each desire is met immediately.

9) Take your child’s part against neighbors, the police, teachers, friends, government, and the world. They’re all picking on your dear child.

10) Prepare for a life of grief. You will be likely to suffer it.

Multiple millions of parents, especially in the post-World War II baby boom, followed this regimen. The result was the juvenile delinquency wave of the 1950s, and the ensuing epidemic of street crime.

## The Ten Commandments of Love

Religion by itself carries no guarantee of producing law-abiding children. Humans have invented quite a few false religions. The early and oppressive enforcement of *any* false religion can often turn a child toward deviant behavior. But the law of *God*, as distinct from the ideas of men, is the greatest tool available for the teaching of right and holy *character* to potentially law-abiding, intelligent, happy and productive members of society. It is this eternal spiritual

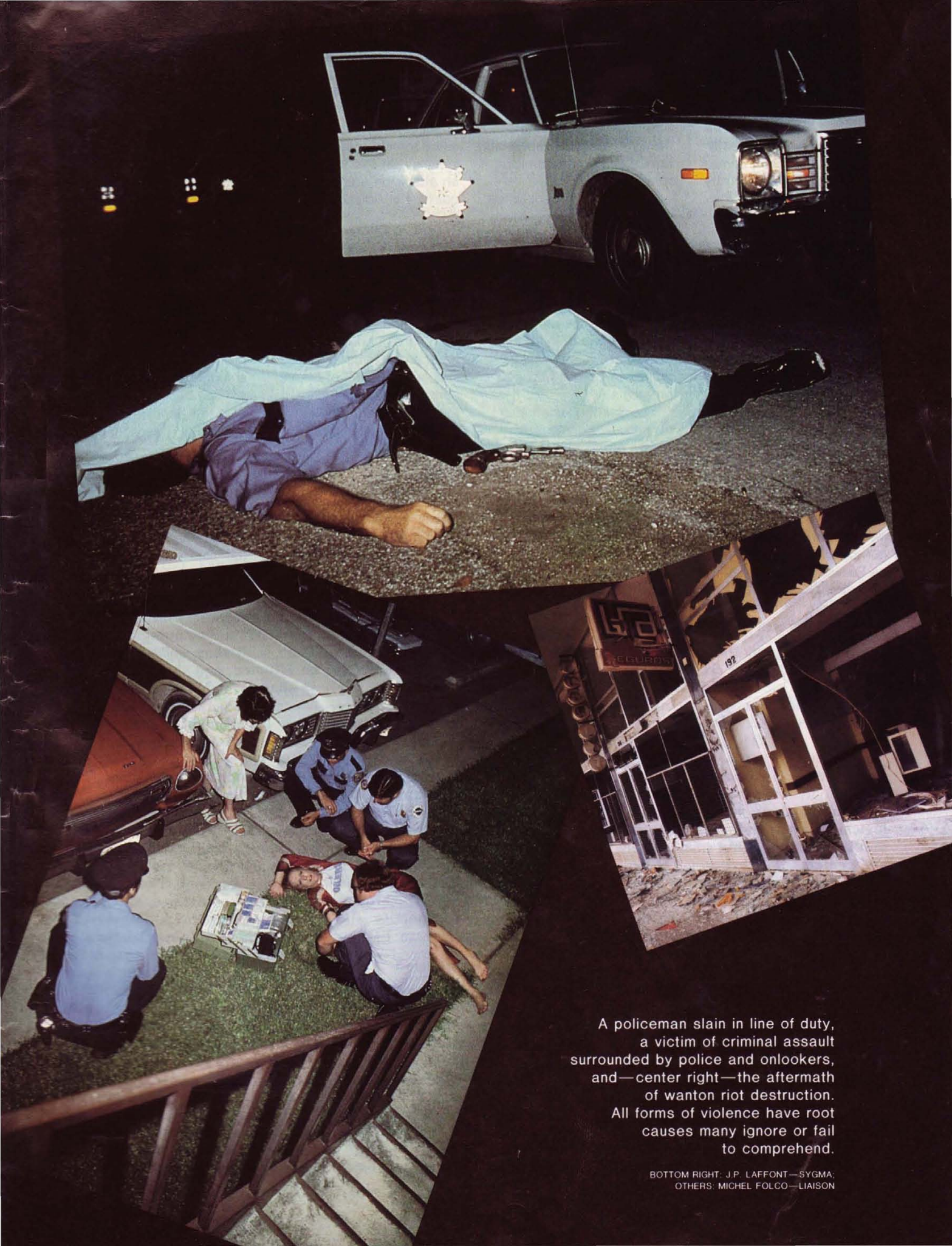
law—expressed most completely in the Ten Commandments—that can make children into law-abiding citizens, just as surely as the ten rules for rearing a delinquent produce the opposite effect.

The Ten Commandments, as recorded in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5, may actually be summed up in one word: LOVE. The first five commandments describe the perfect law of love toward God and one’s parents, while the second five describe perfect love toward one’s fellowman, or *neighbor*.

Crime, by definition, is the *victimizing of one’s neighbor*. Crime, then, is biblically summarized as the breaking of the latter five of the Ten Commandments. While there are a few laws of man that attempt to enforce the first five commandments (the so-called “blue laws”) there are literally thousands of man-made laws against different forms of murder, adultery, stealing, lying and even *coveting* (conspiracy, assault, extortion, etc.) another’s property.

Although minor ordinances (such as driving on the left or right side of the street) are necessary in any society, the basis for all *criminal* law is found in those final five commandments of God, codified and proclaimed to man nearly 3,500 years ago, and in force and effect since the creation of man nearly 6,000 years ago.

The Bible says: “. . . Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole man” (Eccl. 12:13). A criminal, then, is an *incomplete* man.



A policeman slain in line of duty, a victim of criminal assault surrounded by police and onlookers, and—center right—the aftermath of wanton riot destruction. All forms of violence have root causes many ignore or fail to comprehend.

BOTTOM RIGHT: J.P. LAFFONT—SYGMA;  
OTHERS: MICHEL FOLCO—LIAISON

# Role of Cultural Attitudes in Violence

**S**trict gun-control laws alone will not greatly reduce violent crime rates in nations plagued by them. The truth is that the greatest determinants of whether a society will be plagued by violent crime are its social and cultural attitudes and crime-detering institutions.

The United States has a high gun-possession rate and also a high gun-crime rate. But there are nations that, per capita, have even higher gun possession rates among citizenry—Switzerland and Israel, for example. Yet these nations experience low gun-related citizen crime compared to the United States. There are nations with extremely strict gun-possession laws—such as Mexico and other Latin

American nations—that nevertheless experience high armed crime and homicide rates.

The level of violent crime and the weapons used vary significantly among different nations, regions and ethnic groups. The type of weapon and situations where they are used have strong relevance to the attitudes and traditions of individual people or regions when it comes to coping with problems.

The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution allows American citizenry possession of firearms. From its beginning the U.S. developed a strong tradition of man and boy with gun associated with patriotism, self-reliance, manly skills and defense of home and

country. Strict gun controls strike many Americans who identify with this tradition as an attack on admirable qualities in American life.

Many foreigners, however, look on in amazement at U.S. infatuation and glorification of guns. American folklore, television, movies and novels idolize both heroes and villains who reduce problems to the simple "solution" of blazing guns. Yet nations everywhere take pride in their own traditions of violence.

Many crimes of violence do not involve guns, but fists, blunt instruments or knives. Eliminating guns without eliminating the attitudes that cause crime and violence and without

providing strong deterrents by swift-moving justice, would mean many would try illegally to obtain various deadly weapons to protect themselves. Organized crime and unscrupulous dealers are ready to cater to any illicit demand.

If snub-nosed pistols and revolvers are banned, long-barreled weapons will be cut down—and they are even more deadly substitutes.

If domestic gun production is halted, smuggling will begin, and anyone familiar with a lathe or a few handyman tools can make a serviceable weapon.

Only the reestablishment of the government of God over the earth will force mankind to face repentance and the need to turn from the violent ways that now afflict society.

## Human Nature Is Violent

Strangely enough, the fear of becoming a victim of crime in the streets exists side by side with the *love* of violence as entertainment in the movies and other mass media.

Controversy rages among psychologists and sociologists as to whether man's innate violence is environmental or genetic. Physiological research indicates that certain areas deep within man's brain are centers of aggression. Meanwhile, sociologists demonstrate how violence is *learned* in the home, on the street, from the media, and elsewhere by *example*.

These two theories need not engender controversy. *Both* theories are supported by ample evidence. Although a child is *not* inherently evil from birth, the potential for rebellion is present in his psychological and physical construction. "The wicked are estranged *from the womb*: they go astray *as soon as they be born*, speaking lies" (Ps. 58:3). On the other hand, this *potential* for evil can either be amplified or con-

trolled by the child's early environment.

The solution to man's ills is for man to *dominate* his nature, to *sublimate* it, and *control* it by the agency of a higher power, the Holy Spirit of God. "For the creature [man] was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope" (Rom. 8:20). Earlier in this chapter the apostle Paul made clear exactly what is wrong with human beings. "The carnal mind is *enmity against God*: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (verse 7); but it is "through the Spirit [we] do mortify the deeds of the body" (verse 13).

## Spirit of Crime Prophesied

The apostle Paul portrayed the hostile, venomous side of human nature when he said: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents . . . fierce, despisers of those that are good" (II Tim. 3:1-3).

Speaking of these same hate-

filled days, Jesus Christ said: "All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another" (Matt. 24:8-10).

The prophet Ezekiel exclaimed "the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence" (Ezek. 7:23). A little later he went on to say that the "land is full of *blood*, and the city full of perverseness; for they say, The Lord hath forsaken the earth, and the Lord seeth not" (Ezek. 9:9). How true—usually this attitude of godless immorality precedes the actual performance of criminal acts. Criminals must at least *hope* that "God is dead," and therefore He will not see them commit their crimes.

In Romans 1, Paul wrote a complete explanation of that process by which the criminal mind operates. Notice Paul's conclusion: "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; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: 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" (Rom. 1:28-32).

Every one of the above evils listed by the apostle Paul in Romans 1—as well as Romans 8, II Timothy 3, and other places—is based on the breaking of one or more of the Ten Commandments! Speaking about all mankind, Jesus said: "Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies" (Matt. 15:19). Notice again, this is a catalog of the Ten Commandments—against coveting (#10), murder (#6), adultery and fornication (#7), theft (#8), false witness (#9), and blasphemies (#3). Jesus upheld his Father's law!

### Are You a Criminal?

What about *your* heart and mind? Do you "fly off the handle" easily? Do you dogmatically assert your *biased* racial, religious, and political attitudes? Do you come to the brink of violence over personal problems?

Do you snap at your children, argue with your boss, put down your neighbor? Do you ridicule what you don't understand, even to the point of *persecuting* minorities or other groups that don't conform to *your* image of respectability? Probably not, you may think—but think again! Peter thought he would never deny Christ, but he did so three times! The mobs who loved Christ one week spat on him and yelled "Crucify him!" the following week.

You may decry crime in the street, but do you also decry your own personal misdeeds? If you occasionally shoplift, pad an expense account, write off too much income tax, or steal time and materials

from your employer, you are just as much a burglar as the mugger you fear. It's only a matter of style and degree of stealing.

The hardest thing for a human being to do is to admit he has sinned, and then repent toward God with the desire to overcome that downward pull. Criminals in prisons may serve their time and return to society, but few seem to change their habits. Likewise, the "successful" criminals of the middle class and high society enjoy what they "are." They are "good," "righteous," "decent," "normal"—"leading citizens." Should they be told they're merely "successful criminals," they would be highly offended, embarrassed, and even angry. One may even sue you for slandering his "good name."

Yet whose "name" is clean? The apostle Paul answers: "There is none righteous, no, not one. . . . For all have sinned" (Rom. 3:10, 23).

In other words, *all* people are criminals in that sense. The first inspired sermon of the New Testament Church was delivered by the apostle Peter on the Day of Pentecost, A.D. 31. In it, he convicted his hearers of *complicity in the murder of Jesus Christ* (Acts 2:14-36). Notice their reaction to

ward: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (verse 41).

These thousands were the first members of the true Christian Church. Interestingly enough, four years earlier John the Baptist faced the same situation that met the apostle Peter. "Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, *what shall we do?*" (Luke 3:12).

Notice how practical his answer is toward providing a *solution* for crime, both violent street crime and white-collar crime. He said: "Exact no more than that which is appointed you." And (to a group of soldiers) he added: "Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages" (Luke 3:13-14).

A man content with wages will not steal, a nonviolent man will never hurt another, and one who refrains from false accusation and tampering with taxes will neither lie nor steal. The law is written in

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this accusation of criminal negligence. They didn't excuse themselves, become offended, or defend their "good names." Rather, "When they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). Peter's answer to that question is the answer to the crime problem facing mankind today.

### "What Shall We Do?"

Peter's answer was straightfor-

ward: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

### Internalization of the Law

A man who has God's law "written in his heart and mind" is a man who deeply *meditates* about that law and its application to his life. A man with the law in his *heart* will worship one God, avoid idolatry, honor God's name, and honor his human parents. This is the man that obeys the first great law of love: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with

all thy soul, and with all thy might" (Deut. 6:5).

After loving God first, this man works on the second great law of love: honoring his fellowman as himself. He will neither kill nor hate, he won't cast eyes or lay hands on another man's wife; he won't steal objects, services, or time; he won't lie or alter the truth; he won't even entertain thoughts of taking what doesn't belong to him.

These two major standards of conduct can be expanded to cover nearly every life situation facing

empty book, yet to be written by the influences in his environment. The infant is so helpless that he would starve without a parent's immediate loving aid.

The child begins to learn its first knowledge from feelings (rather than facts) taught by *association* (rather than words). These associations begin to form concepts which then govern habits. For instance, a very young infant will soon learn that the feeling, the smell, the taste, the sound, and the limited sight of mother mean that milk is

example. For instance, the parents may show a general disrespect for policemen, government, and law. This plus viewing a steady diet of simulated criminal activity on television, in movies, and in neighborhood play, teaches the child to disrespect law and mimic criminal behavior.

A combination of vicarious violence and parental disrespect for law creates a firm association in the child's pliable mind. He begins to look at law and authority negatively. He associates criminal behavior with excitement, fun, friends, and money. If lawbreakers are his neighborhood heroes (such as often happens in inner-city slums), this association becomes so deeply entrenched as to be practically permanent.

Whether or not a child becomes an actual juvenile delinquent or prosecuted criminal, a great majority of "normal" children have nevertheless a disrespect for law, government, and constituted authority. These same "normal" children grow up to break "lesser laws" such as traffic ordinances, corporate laws, government regulations, personal and sexual codes, and other "victimless" or white-collar crimes.

Your direct responsibility as a parent is to reinforce your child's good behavior with love, praise, and occasional gifts, while discouraging any criminal behavior by thorough teaching, by offering better alternatives, and by corrective discipline when necessary. The most important contribution by a parent, however, is a good example.

#### **Know Your Enemy— and Your Friend**

The first step toward preventing neighborhood crime is to cultivate and promote a healthy respect, not fear, for the police. The police departments in most modern nations are neither gestapos, corrupt, nor abusive. Most of their time is spent *helping* the public to obey laws, rather than apprehending the criminals who disobey them. Most of their time is spent patrolling, directing traffic, making accident reports, checking complaints, and even working with youth groups and in community projects. Get to

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modern man. As a tool for meditation on these principles, write for our free booklet expounding the *Ten Commandments*. This booklet explains in complete detail how to avoid becoming a criminal before God or man.

Learning these commandments in our hearts and minds is the *first* step toward curing crime. There will always be crime until this step is taken, but there are other ways in which crime can be partially cured. Some solutions treat the cause of crime, and others merely treat the effects. Both are necessary, of course, but in the long run, treating the cause is the only complete solution for any problem.

#### **How Your Child Learns**

The human child is the most helpless, defenseless, and ignorant of all newborn creatures. The young colt and calf are able to walk minutes after birth; porpoises and whales can swim immediately, and even learn tricks from human masters during their first year. Lower life forms are equipped with *instinct*, which is a programmed pattern of behavior. The human child has no such instinct, but rather is equipped with the most marvelous instrument of creation, the human mind.

At birth, a child knows absolutely nothing. His mind is an

on the way. Within a week of birth, the child will stop crying from hunger merely when picked up.

The child's *first* year is more important than any other. He will process more information that year than any following year. Of course, he does not know one statistic, one word, one person's *name* (other than the somewhat accidental "da-da" or "ma-ma" sounds), or one tidbit of world news, but his "information" is in the most valuable "code" ever devised: "Mother and daddy love me, they feed me when I'm hungry, change me, and praise my good behavior." Later this code of feeling is expanded to include a brief jab of pain when baby disregards the word "no."

One of the major ways a child "associates" habits is by mimicking adult models. Since one of the most profound outside influences in a child's life are his parents, he will imitate what he sees in them, for good or evil. This method of learning is so powerful, so intense, that it follows us all through our lives.

#### **Imitating Criminal Behavior**

The child's first exposure to criminal behavior is usually in the home. Some parents may blatantly break laws in view of their children, but often criminal behavior is taught by attitude and



know your local police, and teach your children a healthy respect and trust for them.

A second ally in your fight against crime is your next-door neighbor. The average person doesn't know much about his neighbor, or perhaps doesn't trust him. Perhaps the feeling is mutual. But take time to know at least the neighbors on either side of you so that in case of a criminal act upon your property, you have immediate help. Likewise, you can offer help or call the police if *your* neighbor is in trouble. When leaving town for a few days, it pays to have a trusted neighbor keeping an eye on your property. Discuss joint cooperation against crime, but learn the fine line between helping and meddling.

A third group of allies is composed of the parents of your children's friends, the baby-sitters you choose, and your business associates. Without careful selectivity, however, this group can become sprinkled with potential enemies. Be careful to select baby-sitters of highest character and ability. Also beware of letting your children play or stay overnight at an unknown home. As distasteful as this may sound, a high percentage of child molestations and furtive sexual experimentation is instigated by friends, relatives, and friends' relatives.

Be sure to know the character of the employees you work with. Petty embezzlement within an organization is usually more costly than shoplifting or cheating by outsiders. This does not mean you need to suspect everyone you meet, or cross-examine baby-sitters and employees, but you must either be

able to discern character, or else take costly precautions to safeguard your possessions by other means.

### Commonsense Rules

A complete book of precautions against crime may be obtained at most local police departments or local bookstores for a nominal price. The purpose of this booklet is not to be an encyclopedia of home security. However, there are a few commonsense rules you may want to put into practice before you step out of your home to buy such a book!

- Don't keep valuables (large sums of money, expensive jewelry) accessible at home. Rent a safe-deposit box. Many thieves go directly for color TVs, tape recorders, and other compact electronic equipment, so keep these either locked, hidden, tied down, built in, or insured!

- Purchase and use strong locks. Use pin-tumbler locks, accompanied by dead-bolt locks, for all outside doors. All windows should lock too, no matter how high (criminals often use a ladder from your own garage). Make a safety check each night before retiring.

- Many professional burglars only strike while the occupants are away on an extended vacation. Be sure to alert your neighbor, delivery services, and the police (but nobody else) so that they can keep an eye out for "visitors" to your home. Besides locking your home firmly, remove all valuables to safe storage.

- To prevent auto theft, lock your car door, wing windows, and ignition if possible. Even if your car is locked, keep valuables out of sight or locked in the glove com-

partment. While driving, beware of hitchhikers, those who loiter at stop signs or signals, or phony calls for assistance by the roadside. These are often plays for armed robbery (or worse).

- Sexual assaults are usually unpredictable, but for young women the following precautions help: Don't walk alone at night; only use your first initial in phone listings; don't admit strangers into your house; leave all windows covered at night; don't flirt with strangers; and scream if attacked!

- Don't buy a gun. Many such guns bought "for protection" are used accidentally or in a fit of passion against a family member. Most people don't know how to use a gun effectively. Even if they did, murder or manslaughter is a more serious crime than being victimized by peeping Toms or burglars.

Crime is not a disease; it is a collection of inordinate, illegal, harmful, and violent acts perpetrated by human beings against their fellowmen. To conquer crime, the members of modern nations must first admit that there is all too much of the "criminal element" in every one of us.

It's time for normally law-abiding citizens to admit they are open to crimes of *opportunity*. The laws of God—or even of man—are *not* written on very many hearts and minds today! As a result, our very society is at stake.

Obviously, what is needed is a whole change of heart, a change in basic attitude toward God, country, and neighbor.

You, personally, can make a start toward achieving that law-abiding way of life which honors and serves others. □

# Helping Youth Avoid Crime

Here is the critical solution to the frightening problem of crime in the streets.

**T**he chief cause of criminal behavior is not poverty. Criminal problems now plague rural and well-to-do suburban areas as well as inner-city ghettos. Ghettos merely concentrate and aggravate the social conditions that encourage criminal behavior.

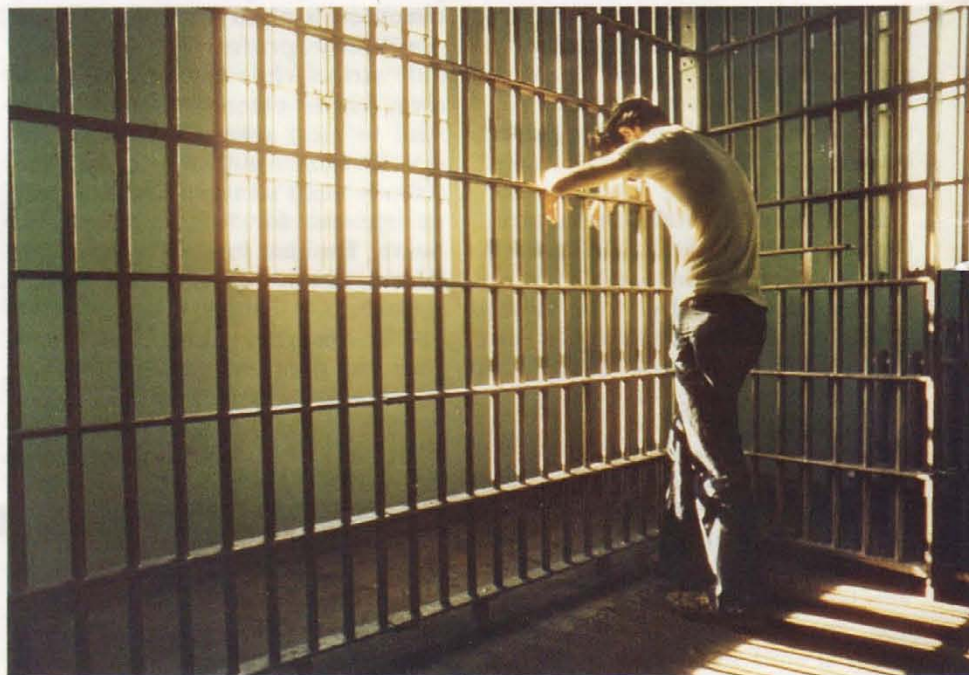
The vast majority of individuals in poverty areas are not criminals or violent. Only a minority are—though their numbers are growing for discernible reasons. We must answer why senseless crime, theft, dishonesty and violence are growing in middle- and upper-class families, businesses and schools.

What is wrong is clear. Most criminologists, sociologists and other officials are fighting crime at the wrong end of the problem. Many blame lack of police, the easy availability of guns, the overburdened and crippled criminal justice system, or drug abuse, underemployment, violent entertainment or poverty. These situations contribute to the crime problem, but they are not the fundamental cause.

## The Primary Cause

The cause of crime is the lack of right character!

It is the failure of individuals to grasp right values and recognize and resist evil, whatever its source. The roots of juvenile crime develop when children—rich, poor or middle class—are allowed to think criminal thoughts or develop unso-



cial or criminal attitudes in their character.

The foundation of human character is first formed in the family unit. Character development starts at an early age. Children must overcome ingrained emotional in-

stability, destructiveness, defiance of authority or lying, in their character.

Parents, how many of you train your children in right character? The personalities of some children, maybe yours, demand more attention, guidance and discipline than others.

Parents fail their God-given responsibility if they don't set a right example in living and self-discipline. They are failing if they don't teach right and positive values, if they fail to discipline their children for indecent and inhumane attitudes. Why are so many parents distracted from this most important of human functions?

Increasingly it is because parents are not there! Divorce, desertion or separation have intervened. More frequently parents are too busy with other interests, activities or pleasures. Some parents, misled by false child psychology, excuse their children's misbehavior lest discipline damage their child's "creative" abilities. What they often create is an obnoxious, undisciplined brat!

Some parents don't care what their children do as long as they stay out of their hair. Others don't conceive it's their job to train their children; it's their mate's job to carry the responsibility!

Often it's not that parents don't



The cause of spiraling crime and violence is the failure of homes, schools, churches and government leaders to teach the law of "love your neighbor as yourself."

care about their children. Many parents don't know how to care, to train, teach and discipline their children in love. They feel embarrassed to show love or affection. They were not raised that way.

Dr. David Abrahamsen, writer of volumes on the psychology of criminals (*Psychology of Crime*, 1960 and *Our Violent Society*, 1970) concludes: "A real answer to the problem of violence we have today must come from within the family and the way we raise our children. There is no mass solution—not in our schools, [or in] our jails. . . ."

Absolutely true!

More than two decades ago, Judge Rodney S. Eielson of Darien, Connecticut, also pinpointed the reason for criminal behavior:

"I am sick and tired of spanking someone else's children in court. This has to be done at home. It's at home where the moral fiber of a young person is woven, and the process starts with the earliest ages. By the time a teenager gets to my court, he is often beyond help. His character has been formed. . . ."

"Until we place the responsibility where it lies, with the parents, our country will continue to see a rising incidence among teenagers of larceny and theft, reckless driving and intoxication, pregnancy among unwed high school girls, and other legal and moral crimes, including homosexual experimentation and the use of narcotics. . . . Inability to administer discipline with love is equally harmful. . . ."

[Without that] you won't convince a youngster that you really love him or are interested in his welfare" (*McCall's*, January, 1965).

Judge Eielson's "prophecy" of a worsening epidemic of youthful immorality, crime and drug abuse is more than fulfilled. It is now an international tragedy that touches all of our lives!

### Sins of the Fathers

Vicious criminal behavior is mostly concentrated in inner-city ghettos of the United States and other nations where the family structure is most greatly fragmented. Many inner-city families are headed only by a mother. Divorce, desertion and illegitimacy are rife. Often there is no father whom young men and women can look up to and emulate. Street toughs are the only models of "success."

The sins of the fathers do pass on to the next generation. Hordes of men have

dropped their God-given responsibility of leadership in the home. Many mothers have neglected theirs also. Both parents need to effectively support each other and properly train their children. What happens if they don't?

Each generation improperly loved and disciplined comprehends less and less of what decency, goodness and affection means, of what right relationships—especially a right marriage and family—are. Eventually, more youths have little or no compassion, no caring feelings for others but themselves. They feel they become somebody only if they dehumanize another human being.

The cause of spiraling crime and violence is the failure of homes, schools, churches and government

leaders to teach the law of "love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 19:19). Compounding the problem is widespread violation of another important biblical principle: "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed *speedily*, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do

ment of incorrigibles laid out in Deuteronomy 21:18-21.

### If the Family Fails

In 1963, Herbert T. Jenkins, chief of police of Atlanta, clearly answered the question of why children become delinquents. Listen to his words:

"In my 30 years of experience, I

fully pick up the reins. "We look for quick solutions, but family stability is the only long-term solution," says Judge Seymour Gelber, Juvenile Division judge in Dade County, Florida.

Everyone is accountable for his or her actions and attitudes. God holds parents accountable for teaching decent and godly attitudes and values—and setting a right example. Children are free moral agents. They can choose to respect or rebel against right parental and godly values; but God will also bring each youth into an accounting (Ecclesiastes 11:9-10). Young people need to be told this early in their lives!

Fortunately, growing numbers of parents who heed our warnings are willing to meet the great challenge of guiding, loving and rightly disciplining their children.

They are beginning to fulfill the prophecy to "turn the heart of the fathers to the children"—that often must come first—"and the heart of the children [will be turned] to their fathers." Otherwise God would be forced to smite the earth with "total destruction" (Malachi 4:6, Moffatt translation).

Are you going to be part of the reason why God will save humanity from total destruction—because you are willing to learn the right way to rear your children?

## Often it's not that parents don't care about their children. Many parents don't know how to care, to train, teach and discipline their children in love.

evil" (Ecclesiastes 8:11).

Criminals need to know punishment for a crime will be sure and quick. But today it is not. Criminal youths are often caught for serious crimes only to be quickly spewed back onto the streets by juvenile justice systems never set up to handle large numbers of hardened vicious criminals. What deterrent is there for a young lawbreaker if he is considered a "hero" by peers for "beating the system"?

Contrast this to the swift punish-

ment of incorrigibles laid out in Deuteronomy 21:18-21. have come to the conclusion that the lack of discipline and self-discipline are the major roots of all crime. If the family fails to discipline a youngster, thereby instilling in him a sense of self-discipline, then it later becomes the almost hopeless job of the courts to try to do it. For that is where this type of youngster always ends up."

If parents fail in their responsibility to show affection, guidance and proper discipline, it is unlikely any other institution will success-

# Sociologists Who Proved Juvenile Delinquency Can Be Predicted

In the 1940s and 1950s, Drs. Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck, a husband-wife sociologist team at Harvard Law School, developed a delinquency prediction scale for young persons. It is based on five social factors: affection of the father for the child, discipline by the father, affection of the mother for the child, supervision and discipline by the mother and cohesiveness of the family. Some of their studies also considered traits of juvenile temperament and character.

The Gluecks' rating method was developed from what they found in the family background and youthful temperament and character of delinquents and nondelinquents.

They found delinquents far more than nondelinquents came from homes of little affection, stability, moral fiber or understanding of parent-child responsibilities. The delinquents temperamentally tended to be more restless, impulsive, aggressive and destructive; in attitude, more defiant, hostile, resentful and nonsubmissive to authority.

The Gluecks' predictions of individual delinquency or nondelinquency among groups of youths they studied proved out to be remarkably accurate. They were often able to predict future criminal delinquency in children as young as ages 5 or 6 by looking at their family background and existing character.

The Gluecks' research can be found in numerous books and papers

authored by them. Unfortunately, the Gluecks' sound methodology is largely ignored by criminologists and sociologists today.

In 1952, for example, the Gluecks studied 244 six-year-old boys of white, black and Puerto Rican origin in high delinquency areas for the New York City Youth Board. They predicted which would be criminal delinquents by age 17 and which would not. But since fathers of this group were so often missing, they made their predictions using only the three family factors on their scale not involving fathers.

Still, 10 years later they found 85 percent of the boys they predicted to become delinquent actually did so. And 97 percent of those unlikely to become delinquents did not. Out of 19 boys predicted as having an even chance of delinquency or nondelinquency, nine became serious or persistent offenders and 10 did not.

Other researchers using the Gluecks' methods in studies of juveniles often found that nine out of 10 persistent juvenile offenders could have been identified at age 6; if not then by age 10; and 90 percent of nondelinquents could also have been identified.

## Blind Eyes

Juvenile delinquency is for the most part predictable. But many parents and other persons blind their eyes to the signs of

delinquency in children and make excuses for them.

In one interview, the Gluecks, concluded, "Poverty, by itself, doesn't make a delinquent. . . . You cannot make good parents out of bad ones simply by raising their income or moving them into a new house."

The Gluecks said after another study, "In Boston, our research investigators

the same in poor, middle class or upper class areas: parents fail to properly instill in their children respect, discipline and concern for others and their property.

Often these parents themselves were raised by permissive parents, or were raised by parents that swung between extremes of laxness and harshness in discipline. Such parents don't know, and their children can't know, what discipline with love is.

The things that count most in raising children to be law-abiding citizens do not depend so much on



could often tell just as soon as a tenement door opened whether they were entering the home of a delinquent or a nondelinquent. All the families in the neighborhood would be poor, but there would be enormous variation in the under-the-roof atmosphere from one household to the next. . . . In a suburban neighborhood or middle income, you could find similar variations."

The primary roots of delinquency are basically

income as they do upon the parents' right values, affectionate attitudes and fair but firm discipline.

Many parents try to express love or buy the love of their children through overindulgence or gifts to make up for their lack of parental guidance, day by day. Parental love is not purchasable. True parental love is more than providing material comforts of life. It involves training children in right values and character!



convicted of crimes. But it happens. Only slowly and agonizingly do the wheels of justice sometimes turn and such evils are corrected.

### World of Injustice

The English-speaking world, at times, decries the methods of justice used in certain other areas of the world. In some nations, citizens can be picked up by police or authorities upon the flimsiest of pretexts and held in prison without trial.

Under some governments, persons afoul of the law or in disfavor with those in power are executed without trials. Kangaroo courts, or mock trials, may mete out cruel justice on the whims of the presiding official. Confessions—true or false—may be beaten out of suspects.

There is injustice in all nations. But some nations handle crime and justice problems more

# WHY SO MUCH

Why do dangerous criminals often go free? Why are the innocent sometimes imprisoned? How do we help the victims of crime?

**F**RIGHTENINGLY, it happens again and again in the United States!

Killers, muggers, rapists, sex molesters—many who even have confessed to their grisly crimes—are released from police custody to freely walk the streets.

They're set free because of some loophole in the law or failure to perfectly fulfill some technicality in the prosecution. Within weeks of their release, many of these same criminals commit new serious crimes.

On rare occasion, we are startled to hear of persons sometimes erroneously sentenced to long prison terms. Some have been convicted because of mistaken identity by witnesses, or by testimony of lying witnesses. Perhaps there was community prejudice against the person, or a frame-up. Perhaps overzealousness by police to find a suspect and solve a case.

No one knows how often innocent persons are

effectively than others. There are still conscientious judges and qualified lawyers. There are fair decisions rendered in many court cases. And there are honest law enforcement officials and honest officials of government. Much depends upon individual character and training.

God commands humans to maintain respect at all times for officers of justice and government, even if one doesn't agree with everything they do (Romans, chapter 13).

But along with this fact, the truth is most societies also have experiences with crooked judges and greedy, unethical lawyers. There are corrupt policemen, and prosecutors who will drop criminal charges if paid a sufficient sum.

In the United States, many citizens have become upset over the widespread practice of plea bargaining because it often seems to make a mockery of justice. Under this procedure, thousands of criminals are given reduced sentences or probation by pleading guilty to a lesser crime than for the one for which they were originally indicted. *Ninety percent* of all convictions in the United States are obtained through plea bargains. Yet, the plea-bargaining procedure, hammered out by judges, prosecutors and defendants' lawyers behind closed doors, is often justified to speed cases through courts clogged with heavy backlogs of cases, or to avoid a costly jury trial, or when it is difficult to get evidence for a conviction. The consequence of this practice is many criminals repeatedly get off with light sentences. But without plea bargaining they could go unpunished for the

serious crimes they really did commit.

Through this procedure another evil may develop. Indicted but ignorant citizens are sometimes cowed into accepting a guilty plea for a crime they didn't commit when a jury trial would have found them innocent of the original charge. Said one trial judge of the inaccuracies of such assembly-line justice in the United States: "Most judges are so burdened with simply getting through a day and 'disposing' of the allotted quota of cases that they are usually too weary to undertake the painful examination of the justice, morality or common sense of the sentence they impose."

Too, justice is often denied because justice is delayed. Delay is virtually guaranteed in many courts clogged with cases, or by drawn-out court procedures, or by planned tactical delays of litigants.

Sharp lawyers use every tactic they can to delay

decision-making frequently produces conflicting judgments about what is acceptable human activity.

Citizens are angry and alarmed. Many are tempted to take matters into their own hands and arm themselves with whatever means they can to protect themselves.

The widespread failure of justice to deter criminals and brazen young thugs is precisely the reason numbers of fear-stricken citizens in the United States, in highly publicized incidents, have taken it upon themselves to shoot down criminals or others who threaten them.

As the perception of injustice grows, the foundations of orderly, peaceful society with respect for law and order weaken and edge ever closer to anarchy.

### **Explosion of Civil Disputes**

Another social evil now plagues the judicial system

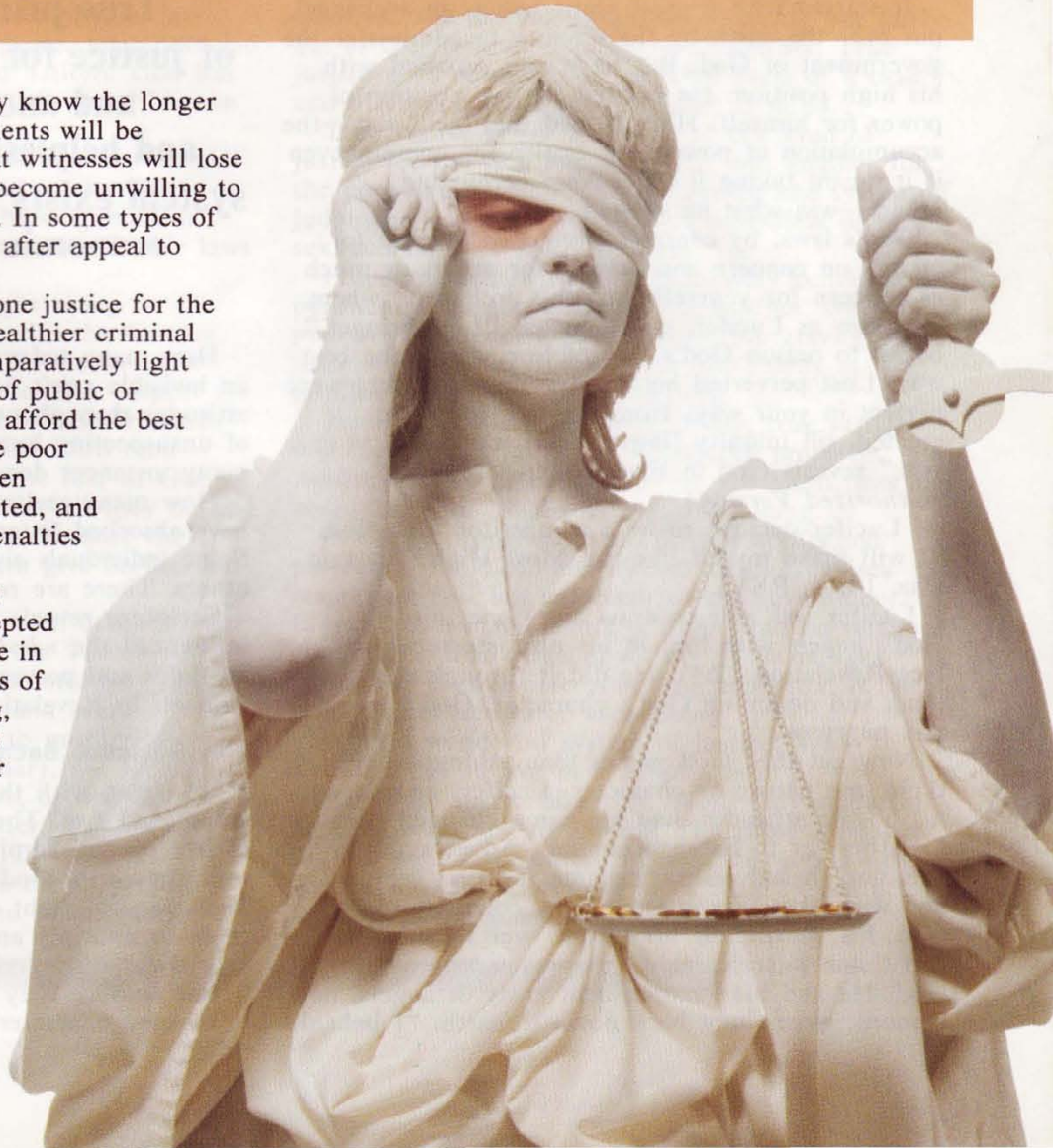
# WHY INJUSTICE?

prosecution of guilty clients. They know the longer the delay the more likely their clients will be acquitted. Some lawyers hope that witnesses will lose memories of events, or they will become unwilling to testify, or move away or even die. In some types of serious crime, lawyers use appeal after appeal to delay a prison term.

In some jurisdictions, there is one justice for the rich and another for the poor. Wealthier criminal defendants often get off with comparatively light sentences for corruption or theft of public or corporate funds because they can afford the best lawyers to defend them, while the poor (sometimes of a minority) are often unrepresented, or poorly represented, and pay proportionately far heavier penalties for theft or dishonesty.

Today, justice may not even be dependent upon a commonly accepted standard of good and evil. We live in an age where a judge, on the basis of *personal* ideas of right and wrong, can let felons convicted of serious crimes or dishonesty off lightly or be acquitted, and citizens can do nothing about the decision.

Judges in the highest courts are often divided philosophically in their values, outlook and decisions. This failure to agree upon a common moral/spiritual base for determining right and wrong at the highest levels of



in the United States. The American system of justice has experienced an explosion of millions of civil lawsuits of citizen against citizen. Many of these complaints traditionally used to be resolved through church, school or family.

Now, over any grievance, children are suing parents, patients are suing doctors, clients are suing lawyers, employees are suing employers, parishioners are suing clergymen, businessmen sue each other and neighbors sue neighbors.

This onslaught of adversary lawsuits to sue anyone over any real or imagined problem has made citizens feel vulnerable to the whims of an offended passerby, customer, neighbor or associate.

### **Origin of Adversary Conflicts**

Why do so many adversary relationships exist between human beings? Why so much hostility and vengefulness in resolving disputes?

It's human nature, many say. That may be true. but any explanation that doesn't answer the true *cause* and solution for human nature fails to get to the bottom of human criminality and injustice.

The Bible reveals the reason for human attitudes that cause the adversary conflict. The origin of adversary relationships began before man was created.

It started with a great spirit being, an archangel, put over the earth by the Creator to administer the government of God. But he wasn't satisfied with his high position. He wanted the top position of power for himself. He reasoned the "get" way—the accumulation of power and wealth for oneself, even if it meant taking it away from or hurting others—was what he wanted.

God's laws, by contrast, are based on love for others, on concern and respect for others as much as concern for yourself. But this archangel, whom we know as Lucifer, which means "Lightbringer," began to reason God's way of love wasn't the best way. Lust perverted his mind. "You [Lucifer] were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity [lawlessness] was found in you," reveals God in Ezekiel 28:15 (*Revised Authorized Version*).

Lucifer decided to be a competitor with God. "I will make myself like the Most High," he said (Isa. 14:14, RSV).

Lucifer was able to draw away one third of God's angels with him in his ultimate rebellion (see Revelation 12:4). He did it through subtly lying and defaming God's character, God's laws and purposes.

Now get this! God names many things after their true nature or character. Lucifer, because of his hostile attitudes, had his name changed from Lightbringer to Satan, meaning "Adversary."

Satan, the adversary, became the first criminal and warmaker. He attempted by conquest to boot God, his Maker, off his throne over the universe. But Satan miscalculated the awesome power of God. He and his violence-bent army of angels, now demons, were flung back down to earth. "I beheld

Satan as lightning fall from heaven," said Jesus (Luke 10:18).

Jesus said Satan was a *murderer* from the beginning of his rebellion—and the *father of lies* (John 8:44). Jesus also warned that human beings could allow Satan's attitudes of deceit, lying, false accusation, hate, lust and rebellion to enter their minds if they did not guard the doors of their minds (see verses 38, 41, 44, same chapter).

Notice what the apostle Paul revealed to early Christians about their lives before conversion. They had been "following the course of this world, following the prince of the *power* of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience" (Eph. 2:2).

Grasp that! Humans not only learn wrong ways of living and wrong attitudes from other misguided humans or damaging cultural practices, but Satan has power to sway people, or broadcast his evil nature and attitudes and perverted sense of justice through the air; and unsuspecting human minds can pick up such moods and attitudes, nourish them and develop them as a very part of their human nature.

**True justice is not one kind  
of justice for the rich and powerful,  
and another for the poor  
and helpless. In true justice one  
system exists regardless of race, sex,  
economic or political status.**

How many today have been taught or know that an invisible spirit being is broadcasting wrong attitudes throughout the atmosphere into the minds of unsuspecting humanity? A humanity that in many instances does not even believe a devil exists?

How many realize humans in varying degrees have absorbed Satan's attitudes into their minds? Some individuals and cultures absorb more than others. There are reasons why.

Scripture reveals Satan has deceived and influenced the *whole world* with his corrupt attitudes and perverted sense of justice. Read it for yourself in Revelation 12:9.

### **Why Societies Became Unjust**

It all began with the very first human couple, Adam and Eve. They were offered the opportunity to live by and administer the government of God over the earth. God instructed them in basic knowledge of right and wrong. He commanded them to multiply and to rule by his law of love over the creation on earth.

But because they were free moral agents and had to develop character, God allowed Satan to



approach them with his ways. Quickly, Satan insinuated to Adam and Eve that God lied and was untrustworthy.

Eve falsely reasoned in her mind and took what God forbade. Adam weakly dropped his leadership role and followed her. They both allowed themselves to take from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In effect, they would decide for themselves what was good and evil; they would rely on their own thinking and reasoning instead of God's. An attitude of hostility toward God and his ways was now in their minds.

God then told them, in effect, that because of their disobedience they and their progeny could develop their own cultures, their own ideas of good and evil, their own systems of living under the sway of Satan, and experience the results.

Scripture, and written human histories also, record one competing human culture or system of government after another. Every system in turn became corrupt, violent and ridden with injustice.

Mankind has developed systems that fail to cope properly with human nature—with lying, selfishness, lust and greed. Men have failed because they have rejected revealed knowledge from the Creator—rejected the ways they should be living.

Injustice is caused by broken spiritual law. It is caused by breaking the immutable spiritual law God set in motion to maintain peace, happiness and security for both individuals and nations. God has revealed and defined these spiritual, moral laws in Scripture.

Crime and injustice begin when humans violate these great spiritual laws revealed in the Ten Commandments! Many nations have ignored or twisted these laws in the development of their laws and societies.

The most important law of right living is maintaining a right relationship with the Creator. The breaking of God's—and often human—law begins when individuals fail to maintain respect for the Creator and his laws foremost in their minds and action. "... By the fear of the Lord men depart from evil" (Prov. 16:6). The fear of God causes humans to seriously consider all they do and to strive to live and think rightly, because they realize God is going to have them give an account of their lives to their Maker.

Next, true justice in relations with other human beings is built upon the laws of the Ten Commandments that regulate relationships between human beings. These laws command every individual to honor parents, not to murder (or to hate, which is the spirit of murder), not to commit adultery, not to steal from others, or bear false witness (tell lies) about any matter, and not to covet property or things of others.

God's instructions in Scripture magnify these laws; they teach us the *spirit* and *intent* of God's

laws, how to love our neighbor, and what are right and wrong attitudes and human relationships.

The attitude undergirding proper relations with other humans is summarized in Scripture as, "you shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Lev. 19:18; Mark 12:31, NKJ) and, "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour" (Rom. 13:10).

A truly effective justice system does not begin with lots of policemen on the streets. True justice can occur only when all levels of society, young and old, are taught and accept a right standard of right and wrong behavior.

An effective justice system starts first with the family unit that teaches children, from the very beginning of their comprehension, their responsibility to do right. Justice is encouraged through adult examples of self-discipline and obedience to law—persons who deal honestly and fairly with all others in business and social affairs.

Justice is secured when all institutions of society impress on minds of all ages society's inevitable and speedy penalty on wrongdoers. Proper justice deters those who are tempted to commit crime or wrongdoing because it maintains a track record of discovery, prosecution and swift, sure retribution.

True justice is built on a clearly defined system of legal procedure and careful fact-finding by qualified and mature judges who quickly but fairly get to the roots of crime or civil conflict. True justice goes beyond mere physical facts of a case and discerns intents and attitudes of mind.

True justice is not a system of one kind of justice for the rich and powerful, and another for the poor and helpless. In true justice one system of judgment exists for wrongdoing regardless of race, sex, economic or political status.

Proper justice swiftly but accurately considers all pertinent facts about a crime or conflict. And it punishes wrongdoers according to the gravity of their wrongdoing. But there is also mercy at genuine repentance of wrongdoing.

Finally, yet often neglected today, true justice will make the criminal or wrongdoer properly remunerate his or her victim for the harm, loss and emotional pain caused by his wrongdoing.

In sum, a proper system of justice uplifts and protects a whole community and nation. It raises respect for law, law enforcement and government. It encourages maintenance of proper human relations at all times in all levels of society. It encourages humans to change defects in their character. It fairly remunerates victims of wrongdoing.

What a wonderful system of justice! Who wouldn't like to live in a nation—even a world—with justice like this! Well, the wonderful news is, it's going to happen! The Bible announces it! This announcement is, in fact, the gospel—the good news—Jesus brought more than 19 centuries ago—the same good news we announce today.

# Justice is Failing When...

Something is seriously wrong with any nation's values and system of justice when criminals develop the arrogant idea that crime pays.

Many criminally minded believe if they commit a crime the odds are they won't be caught; and if they are caught they won't get prosecuted; and if they are prosecuted they won't be convicted; and if they are convicted they won't go to prison; and if they do go to prison it won't be for very long.

The disturbing facts are that the odds of being caught and punished for crimes in many areas are minimal.

In the United States, for every 100 serious crimes, 80 are *unsolved*. Out of 20 criminals who are caught, 15 will have charges dismissed for lack of evidence, be acquitted or placed on

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***Justice is corrupted when winning a case for a client is more important to lawyers than discovering the truth.***

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probation. Only five will do time in prison. And of these imprisoned few, most will serve only a fraction of their sentences and be released from prison. Three or four of these criminals will be convicted of new serious crimes within a few years of being released.

Judges often take the chance of sentencing felons to probation (free to walk the streets with certain limits) rather than sending anyone, short of a vicious hardened criminal, to a degrading, overcrowded prison environment where

there is a good chance of being physically and sexually abused, where much time is spent without any privacy, or in idleness, or performing routine tasks for low wages, where there is no opportunity to support a family (maybe now forced onto welfare) or make any meaningful amends to society.

Justice is failing when it pays high costs for prison programs of rehabilitation, but relatively few criminals are really rehabilitated to socially accepted standards of living. Instead of institutions of rehabilitation, many prisons are colleges of crime where felons come out with advanced diplomas in criminality.

Justice is corrupted when winning a case for a client, for money or prestige, is more important to lawyers than discovering the truth to render justice equitably. Complete and fair truth-seeking is not the object in many trials in the United States.

"Each side must present not all it knows, but only its 'best case'; must assail the opposition; must attack and counterattack, 'discover' and avoid discovery," summarizes Ann Strick in her book on the American adversary legal system, *Injustice for All*, page 20.

Justice is subverted when articles and books by numerous attorneys instruct other trial lawyers how to win for their side by any tactic they can get away with. One such book advises, "... if you are cross-examining a clear-headed honest witness ... pull the attention of the jury away from it."

Another book gives the maxim: "No matter how clear, how logical, how

concise or how honest a witness may be or make his testimony to appear, there is always some way, if you are ingenious enough, to cast suspicion on it, to weaken its effect."

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***Complete and fair truth seeking is not the object in many trials in the United States.***

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Some lawyers intentionally attempt to confuse even honest, reputable witnesses or defame their character, thus turning the witness stand into "the slaughterhouse of reputations.

Justice often fails today when critical witnesses to crimes are afraid to testify because the felon is free on probation to threaten them, or because of a real or implied threat from gang or family members who support the criminal if the witness testifies to convict him.

Justice is not fairly rendered when, as is frequently the case, there are large disparities in sentences for crime within a nation or state; when, for example, the personal beliefs of one judge lead him to hand convicted criminals long sentences for a serious crime while another judge not far away gives another criminal of similar background and criminal offense a short sentence or places him on probation.

Such disparities in sentencing cause criminals in prisons, the majority of whom will be released again on society, to increase their hatred and resentment of constituted authority and the social order.

Justice is far from served


when hardened young thugs can knock elderly or weaker persons down, seriously injuring or crippling them, but receive only a short prison term or probation because it's their first offense. Meanwhile the victims recover nothing for their pain and loss though the criminal acts may force victims and their families into great loss of income or onto welfare.

Around the world, millions of victims of crime suffer the injustice of being virtually forgotten by the judicial system. Whether the cause is preoccupation with traditional methods of retribution on criminals or with rights of criminals, or the belief that criminals can't or won't commit another offense, rarely are criminals forced to fully pay for losses, costs and injuries to their victims.

What a dilemma! None of the most commonly used sentences for crime and wrongdoing—fines (usually paid to the state), probation with no significant limitations on activity, or prison terms—are effective in deterring crime, rehabilitating criminals or helping crime victims.

One judge called the modern system of meager fines, widely disparate sentences, plea bargainings and probation legally sanctioned injustice. A few years ago, even U.S. Chief Justice Warren Burger called the American legal system "too costly, too painful, too destructive and too inefficient for a truly civilized people."

All of these evils of injustice can be eliminated from human societies. But it will only happen when God intervenes in human affairs and restores his government and laws that will set nations back on the right track of living.



# Understanding the Criminal Mind

**H**ow do you explain the growing crime and violence in our world? The senseless street killings, rape and assault in so-called civilized societies?

Why has the rate of violence surged skyward during the unparalleled prosperity of the post World War II period? And much of it is not between strangers but in family units—between husbands and wives, parents and children or be-

tween social acquaintances.

Criminologists and sociologists are confused as to the reason for this shocking state of affairs.

#### Do You Know?

No significant genetic, chromosomal or hormonal differences can be shown to exist between those who frequently commit violent and aggressive assaults and those who do not. Medical examinations admit that organic defects, at most, account for only a negligible portion of human aggression.

Violent physical and verbal as-

sault can be found in all classes—in upper-class white collar levels as well as in downtrodden ghettos. And confounding the experts further, numbers of societies—some poverty stricken by Western standards—experience low levels of crime and violence.

Why have the sciences of sociology and criminology failed to discover the root causes of violent behavior and the *nature* of human nature?

Because they have rejected the Source that reveals those causes!

They are not able to recognize or are unwilling to face the rea-

sons why human nature is what it is!

### First Cause of Aggression and Violence

There was a definite beginning of violence and aggression. How many today believe the scripture, "He who commits sin is of the devil" (I John 3:8, *Revised Standard Version*)?

The Bible reveals the originator of sin—of hate, conquest, aggression and murder. This great spirit being, an archangel, named Lucifer in Latin, means *Lightbringer*. This being was put over the earth by the Creator to administer the government of God. But he wasn't satisfied with his high position. He wanted the top position of power and riches for himself. He reasoned the "get" way—get for self even if it means taking away from or hurting others—was the way to acquire what he wanted.

God's laws, by contrast, are based on love, concern and respect for others. But Lucifer began to reason the way of love wasn't the best way. Lust perverted his mind. "You [Lucifer] were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity [lawlessness] was found in you," reveals God in Ezekiel 28:15 (*New King James*).

Lucifer decided to be a competitor with God. "I will make myself like the Most High," he said (Isa. 14:14, RSV).

Lucifer was able to draw away one third of God's angels with him in his ultimate rebellion (see Revelation 12:4). He did it through subtle defaming of God's character, God's laws and purposes.

Lucifer, his name now changed to Satan, meaning "Adversary," attempted by aggression and conquest to boot God off his throne over the universe. But Satan miscalculated the awesome power of God. He and his violence-bent army of angels, now demons, were flung back down to earth. "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven," said Jesus (Luke 10:18).

Jesus said Satan was a murderer from the beginning of his rebellion—and the father of lies (John 8:44). Jesus also warned that human beings from birth could allow Satan's attitudes of deceit, lying,

false accusation, hate, lust and rebellion to enter their minds if they permitted it (see verses 38, 41, 44, same chapter).

How many today have been taught or know that an invisible spirit being is broadcasting wrong attitudes throughout the atmosphere into the minds of unsuspecting humanity? A humanity that in many instances does not even believe a devil exists.

How many realize humans in varying degrees have absorbed Satan's attitudes into their minds? Some individuals and cultures ab-

What are the "passions of the flesh" that come from yielding or following Satan's ways?

"Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness [physical and moral], licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders [hatred is the spirit of murder—I John 3:15], drunkenness, revelries, and the like..." (Gal. 5:19-21, NKJ).

Notice the attitudes and acts just described. They are common not

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## When increasing numbers of people reject their responsibility to be accountable to God and society for their actions, crime, violence and aggression increase.

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sorb more than others. There are reasons why!

Satan, Scripture reveals, has deceived and influenced the *whole world* with his corrupt attitudes. Read it for yourself in Revelation 12:9. Yet, many today deny the existence of the very source of evil that sways their minds into wrong feelings and reasonings.

### Satan Broadcasts His Attitudes

Notice what the Bible says about Satan's deception. Writing to converted Ephesians, the apostle Paul mentions why they were once spiritually dead—because of the sins "in which you once walked" (Eph. 2:2, RSV).

They had been "following the course of this world, following the prince of the *power* of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience."

Grasp that! Satan can broadcast his evil nature and attitudes through the air and unsuspecting human minds can pick up such moods and attitudes, nourish them and develop them as a very part of their human nature.

"Among these [children of disobedience] we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of body and mind, and so we were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind," continues verse 3.

only to many who are violence-prone but to noncriminal citizens who don't always do right. "All have sinned," says a scripture (Rom. 3:23). Sin is defined in your Bible as the transgression of God's law (I John 3:4).

But in humans there are differences in the types of aggression and severity of violence individuals will allow in their lives. There are differences in human responses to situations and stimuli that trigger anger and aggression. There are differences in emotional self-control.

Humans, from training, or from unfortunate personal experiences or from Satan's invisible influence on their minds, learn to hate other persons. The objects of their ill feeling may be those of their own race or of other races or nations. They also learn to be aggressive and intolerant when certain obstacles, challenges or threats to self-image or security arises.

God created the human mind with capacity for anger and aggressiveness and love and mercy. There can be anger and aggressiveness that's not sinful (Eph. 4:26)—to resist evil and to overcome personal weaknesses of character or to overcome obstacles to development. Just as there can also be misdirected love and mercy.

These capacities can be misused when wrong social values or wrong moods or attitudes are allowed to take root. Uncontrolled anger and aggression or tolerance for evil bear the bitter fruit of violence—physical and verbal.

Experiments by social scientists have induced aggressive behavior in human beings by stimulating certain areas of the brain with electricity. They have discovered aggression needs a stimulus. What they admit they don't understand are the underlying factors that can stimulate aggressive responses.

Differing cultures, and individuals within those cultures, develop different triggers and sensitivities. Some societies culturally tolerate, or even expect, acts of aggression under certain circumstances—not only in warfare but in personal social circumstances. We may call it the *macho* culture.

Other cultures, for religious or social reasons, discourage such expression through heavy social stigma or swift punishment. Such societies can limit the influence of Satan's influence even though they may not understand his existence.

Growing crime and violence are a measure of the increasing lack of respect and concern citizens of a society have for each other. Through permissive child rearing, through wrong social and peer influences, or outright rebellion, youths and adults open their minds to more of Satan's attitudes than do those of other cultures who exercise restraint and better judgment.

The apostle Paul warned Christians of the primary source of the harmful attitudes ignored by most today: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers . . . against wicked spirits in high places" (Eph. 6:12, AV, margin).

### **The Second Cause— Physiological Factors**

Yet it is also important to recognize that physiological factors may be involved in sensitivity to aggressive or irritable moods.

Some persons with strong emotional temperament or high mental-physical energy levels may be quicker to respond to irritating situations with anger or aggression. They need to learn to develop more self-control.

Also, the state of the neural systems that transmit the signals that govern aggressive behavior can be altered by the health and chemical balance of an individual.

Changes in blood chemistry influence the sensitivity of the aggression system. Studies have shown that changes in hormone levels from premenstrual periods (in women) or from stress can alter moods and make one more susceptible to irritation.

Inappropriate use of drugs, alcohol and other ingested chemical compounds can alter a person's control of emotions and feelings. Certain chemicals reduce control of inhibitions. Or make a person's nervous system more irritable. Humans differ in their responses to drugs and the presence of chemicals in their environment.

Some health conditions such as hypoglycemia or food or chemical allergies can alter metabolism and blood sugar levels and affect emotional and mental self-control. Such persons may need to seek professional help to learn what *physical* factors in their diet or environment need to be changed to help control their mental and emotional state of mind. The sciences are continually learning more about such physical factors.

### **Individual Responsibility**

Some personalities let themselves be more responsive to Satan's wavelength. We are each responsible for guarding the doors of our mind!

"Train up a child in the way he should go," commands the Bible, "and when he is old he will not depart from it." "Discipline your son while there is hope . . ." (Prov. 22:6 and 19:18, RSV).

Sound child rearing (and we have a free brochure titled "The Plain Truth About Child Rearing") is not merely punishment or dealing with

childhood infractions. It is positive, yet firm instruction in right values and attitudes, coupled with much expression of love and affection, along with proper discipline. Some youthful personalities need more guidance than others.

But parents are not the only bulwark against criminal and violent behavior. Misbehavior and evil actions should be quickly recognized and dealt with appropriately in all levels of society. Today, however, we witness loss of respect for law and enforcement.

Why?

"Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil" (Eccl. 8:11, NKJ).

When increasing numbers of people reject their responsibility to be accountable to God and society for their actions, crime, violence and aggression increase. This is precisely what your Bible prophesied for the days in which you are now living.

You can read this cause and effect relationship in II Timothy 3:1-5.

From the beginning God has revealed the causes of evils and how we ought to live. He also reveals the good news that Satan is going to be forcibly thrust from his role of god and deceiver of this world. Jesus Christ is coming to restore the government of God over the earth and change human nature.

Meanwhile, in today's world you need spiritual weapons—spiritual help—to counteract the power of Satan. "For the weapons of [a true Christian's] warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds [of Satan's attitudes and temptations]" (II Cor. 10:4).

"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you," reveals James 4:7. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour," say I Peter 5:8.

Are you vigilant? Are you in contact with God for the spiritual help you need?

# How Nations Control Guns

**UNITED STATES**—The United States does not have unrestricted availability of firearms. More than 20,000 federal, state and local statutes are concerned with the acquisition, ownership or carrying of firearms. Federal law prohibits gun sales to felons, minors, the mentally incompetent, narcotics addicts and illegal aliens.

Some cities and states have strict gun-control laws—a few cities practically forbid handguns to citizens unless needed in professional security work or law enforcement. Those restricted from handgun purchases by local regulations buy weapons elsewhere. Most cities and states have less strict handgun laws or their gun laws are loosely enforced.

Since the Federal Gun Control Act of 1968, all gun dealers must be licensed and interstate sale and mail-order gun sales between nondealers is banned. Dealers must record the identity and address of gun buyers, but there are no such restrictions on the resale of weapons by buyers. The 1968 act makes importation of cheap handguns (Saturday-night specials) illegal. Parts can still be imported, which has led to such weapons being assembled within U.S. borders. Around 90 percent of guns bought since 1968 can now be traced, estimate government officials. But scores of millions of guns sold before 1968 are not traceable.

In most states there are no screening procedures other than certain age requirements for the purchase of rifles, shotguns or ammunition. Dealers are

supposed to require handgun purchasers to sign an affidavit of eligibility. Waiting periods are required so that police may check up on a handgun purchaser's background. Search can verify little beyond a felony record. There is little other effort to verify character or if a purchaser has entirely told the truth on gun purchase forms.

**BRITAIN**—British law is predicated on the principle that possession of a weapon is a privilege rather than a right. To buy a gun an individual must apply directly to the chief of police in his area. All firearms must be registered with the police. Licenses are granted only after an extensive checkup of the applicant. The applicant must prove he has not been convicted of a criminal offense or suffered from mental disorder. He can be denied a license if he has a record of alcoholism or even heavy drinking.

The gun applicant will be interviewed by a police officer, who will also likely check with neighbors and friends about the applicant's background. In general, permission to possess a firearm usually is granted only to supervised members of Britain's gun clubs and on condition that all weapons are kept in secure places away from children and burglars. Farmers who need firearms to control vermin usually can get them. It has been estimated that only 1 in 50 Britons owns a firearm.

Nevertheless, use of firearms by criminals and terrorists, and a significant rise in the use of knives or other sharp instruments, has increased considerably in recent years. Growing crime and violence, armed and

unarmed, is viewed by many authorities in Britain as the result of general deterioration of respect for law and order.

Special riot police of various types are emerging out of the climate of terrorist bombings and the riots in Liverpool and London in 1981. Increasingly these special squads do carry firearms and there is some pressure from certain quarters to arm the police in general.

**AUSTRALIA**—Australia has quite rigid gun-control laws, which are acceptable to the population at large. While there are various state regulations on licensing of long guns for hunting or target shooting, all states have strict licensing laws on handguns. A person must have very good reason to obtain a handgun permit from police. The majority of handguns are pistol club guns—they can be used only on approved ranges, or are souvenirs made inoperable by police, or are antiques with ammunition unavailable.

**CANADA**—Canadians likewise do not have the tradition that citizens have an inherent right to carry a gun. While shotguns and rifles are relatively easy to purchase, all persons wishing to acquire firearms must be more than 16 years of age and must obtain a firearms acquisition certificate. A person must not have been convicted of violent crime or been treated for mental illness within five years of application.

A special permit is needed to possess a handgun. A person must have good reasons to possess a handgun, such as security work or a critical need for personal

protection. Before issuing a handgun permit, a police officer may visit the applicant's home to see where he plans to store the handgun. A second permit is needed to transport a handgun and yet another to carry a concealable handgun. The latter is rarely issued.

**FRANCE**—Ownership of concealable firearms in France has always been strictly controlled. If you want to buy a small gun you must apply to a police station. After an inquiry lasting several weeks, the prefect who represents the Interior Ministry gives or withholds authorization. French officials are most worried about gun thefts and smuggling of weapons, which usually end up in the underworld of gangsters and terrorists.

**SWITZERLAND**—Under the Swiss militia system, almost every male adult is a serviceman and must keep military weapons and ammunition at home. Yet homicide by guns and armed robbery rates are among the lowest in the world.

All sales of handguns require police licenses and are registered. Sale is prohibited to exconvicts, alcoholics and the mentally deranged. If there is any doubt on eligibility, the applicant won't get a permit. Handgun licenses usually are granted only to people such as watchmen, bank employees and jewelers.

**SOUTH AFRICA**—Any white citizen over the age of 16 who has no criminal record can purchase a firearm from an established dealer. Once a choice of gun is made, the potential buyer, armed with the serial number, applies for a license. Provided good reason is given, usually self-protection, the license is

granted after several weeks.

**ITALY**—No weapon of any kind may be bought without a license. All purchases must be registered with police. An applicant has to make a good case for needing any firearm other than shotguns and hunting weapons. Nevertheless, Italy has been plagued by rising gun crime. It is not difficult to get a gun on the black market.

**SWEDEN**—Gun laws in Scandinavia are strict.

must be members of a shooting club or have an acceptable place to use their weapons. Gun owners can buy guns only from specified dealers. Despite these restrictions, violent deaths by firearms are on the increase in West Germany, many caused by guns acquired illegally.

**MEXICO**—Mexico's Department of Defense registers all weapons in the country, but Mexican officials admit that almost

Criminals get guns through smuggling, theft or purchase them from a few corrupt officials. Law-abiding citizens, in turn, feel they must arm themselves against city robbers and rural bandits.

**SINGAPORE**—Citizens are strongly discouraged from owning a gun. A decade or more term in prison can be meted out for unlawfully having arms or ammunition. There is a life term for carrying a gun while

extensive jail term, and sale of ammunition is strictly regulated.

**TANZANIA**—Police deny permission for anyone to own a gun without giving strong reasons. Said one police official: "This is not the United States. We don't think that everyone has the right to have a gun."

**JAPAN**—This crowded country has one of the strictest arms regulations anywhere. No one may possess handguns except police, military personnel, a few government officials and Japanese Olympic marksmen. Hunting rifles, shotguns and air guns are licensed by government agencies. No one less than 18 can possess a hunting weapon, nor can psychopaths, former convicts, racketeers or drifters.

Most citizens in Japanese cities, even Tokyo, feel relatively safe from violent crime and don't feel a need for self-protection. Factors that have worked to make the country relatively low on crime are high racial uniformity and the relatively close-knit Japanese home. Children are taught to fear bringing personal shame upon family and name by criminal acts. School and company traditions also teach great respect for legal and government institutions and police.

**SOVIET UNION**—Soviet law provides tough penalties for illegal actions involving firearms, setting prison terms up to five years for anyone who carries, keeps or supplies firearms without a police permit. Hunting rifles must be registered with authorities. When at home, owners must keep such weapons taken apart and locked up. In rural areas these regulations on private guns often go unobserved.



Swedes must have a license to obtain any firearms. This is granted only after careful examination and then usually only for hunting, sport shooting or because one belongs to a shooting club. There are no mail-order sales. Few Swedes own handguns.

**WEST GERMANY**—A special license is required to carry weapons, which only the police can grant. Only persons with clean records who can prove they need a weapon for self-defense or professional reasons may own a handgun. Hunters and target shooters usually

anyone who has the money can buy a firearm without registration. Guns are readily available on the black market. There is a high rate of gun violence and homicide in the country—much of it attributable to personal quarrels and family feuds.

**CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA**—Latin Americans commonly possess guns despite strict firearms laws in most countries. In Brazil, stores selling guns must register with police and keep a record of persons buying guns. Nevertheless, armed robberies are common.

committing a crime, a death sentence if convicted of using a gun in a crime.

**MALAYSIA**—Illegal possession of firearms carries a death sentence.

**ISRAEL**—Israelis feel much differently about guns than Americans and other nations. Guns are regarded first and foremost as essential tools for collective security from sudden aggression from hostile nations. They are not primarily purchased for personal protection from crime. Any civilian caught armed without a permit for a weapon is subject to an



# SECURITY BEGINS WITH YOU.

On these two pages we offer some basic steps to help you avoid being an easy target for crime. In addition, many law enforcement agencies have crime prevention units offering programs or brochures on how to prevent various types of crime, including fraud. Seek their information and help. Also, many books on deterring crime are available.



## HARDEN YOUR HOME

There is plenty you can do to protect yourself and home from a burglar—in fact, only you can do so.

- As soon as you move into a new residence, have the door locks (at least tumblers) changed.
- Don't hide a key outside near a door. Most burglars know where to look. Don't leave notes outside saying you are gone.
- Don't leave front (or back) doors unlocked if you're in the back (front) yard. It only takes a few moments for a thief to dash in and whisk away purses, jewelry and loose valuables.
- A dog that barks at strange noises is a good deterrent to many burglars.
- Have good outside lighting at night.
- Never enter a residence that looks burglarized. The burglar may still be there. Call police instead. If you confront a burglar suddenly, don't block his exit, he may suddenly panic and turn violent to escape.
- Get to know reliable neighbors. Join in a neighborhood crime watch program to provide more eyes and ears for police.



## HAVE STRONG DOORS AND LOCKS

It is preferable to have **solid core doors** with securely-affixed strikeplates. Exterior-mounted hinges should be pinned. Locks that can be easily forced, such as key locks in door handles, and slip-bolt latches, are an invitation to burglars. All outside entrance doors should have quality **dead-bolt locks** in addition to existing locksets. Garages should also have good locks.



## LIGHT UP YOUR HOME . . .

and trim shrubs around doors and windows so they can't conceal an intruder.



## CLOSE AND LOCK WINDOWS

Unlocked, unsecured windows make it easy for the burglar, but most won't break a secured window. Most windows can be secured (in addition to locks) by drilling a hole on a slight downward slant through the inside

frame and into the exterior frame. A nail or metal dowel in the hole will secure the window. With sliding glass windows and doors, to keep the window from being lifted up and out of its track, install metal screws in the upper track, and back them out so there's just enough clearance for the window to slide.



## LEAVE YOUR HOME LOOKING "LIVED-IN"

Whenever you're leaving for an extended time, notify your police or sheriff's department. Have a trustworthy neighbor pick up newspapers, mail and such. Arrange for garden, lawn and pet care. Have someone change the positions of blinds and drapes daily. Put lights on an electric timer.



## BEWARE OF STRANGERS

Never let a stranger in when you are alone. Burglars and rapists may pretend to be salesmen. Don't let a stranger use your phone. If you expect a repairman, verify his identification **before** letting him in.



## MARK AND RECORD VALUABLES

Unmarked valuables are easy for a burglar to sell. Mark your driver's license number on all valuable property with an electric engraving tool.





## PROTECT YOUR CAR AND YOURSELF IN IT

- Check the back seat before entering your car.
- As soon as you enter your car, lock all doors and keep them locked.
- Don't carry identification tags on key rings.
- Don't carry car keys and house keys together.
- In a public parking lot where you must leave the key, leave only the ignition key.
- Never leave keys in the ignition no matter how short the stop.
- Never pick up hitchhikers.
- Whenever possible, travel on well-lit, well-populated streets.
- Park in well-lighted areas at night.
- Always keep your car in good working order with the gas tank at least a third full.
- When approaching the car, have your keys ready.
- If your car stalls on the highway, open the hood or tie a white scarf to the door handle or antenna. Get inside the car, roll up the windows and lock the doors. If a stranger offers help, ask him to call a repair service or the police for you. Do not go with him.
- If someone tries to break into your car, honk your horn repeatedly and drive away if possible.
- Remove standard door lock buttons and replace them with tapered ones.



### MAKE YOUR CAR MORE THEFT-PROOF

**Alarms** can be wired to go off if any door, the hood, or the trunk is opened. Or you can add a device to the system which will detect any movement of the car—even when the car is being towed. Unfortunately, many alarm systems are easily shut off by the thief by merely cutting a wire.

Other anti-theft devices include:

**Hood locks.** A cable travels from an integral lock mounted under the dash into the engine compartment. At the end of this cable is a pin that engages a hasp mounted on the underside of the hood.

**"Cane"-type steering wheel locks.**

Metal "cane" hooks around the brake pedal on one end, and around the steering wheel rim or spoke on the other. The device is drawn tight and locked with a key.

**Fuel and electrical cutoffs.** Devices can be installed between the tank and fuel pump to shut off fuel to a vehicle engine shortly after starting, if the vehicle is stolen. Hidden switches can be wired to prevent starting a car with a stolen key or to help deter easy jump starting.

**Temporary snap locks** fit over the bulge in the steering column of late-model American cars, where the ignition lock is, and prevent ignition from being turned on.

**Car immobilizers.** Mounted in a hidden place somewhere inside the car, it acts as a time-delay ignition cutout in its *on* position.



## DON'T WALK INTO DANGER

- If you must walk alone, walk briskly and look confident. Criminals look for preoccupied, less alert, less threatening victims. Your body language counts.
- Plan your route carefully and know where you're going. Vary your route when possible. Be aware of locations and situations which would make you vulnerable to crime.
- When approaching alleys or doorways, walk near the curb to avoid surprise. Be aware of what is happening around you. If you think someone is following you, do not hesitate to turn and look. You may wish to cross the street or change your pace. Be alert as to where help may be, should you need it.
- Travel with a companion whenever possible.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash anywhere. Do not flash money or wealth. You are asking for trouble.
- A woman's loose dangling purse is easy to snatch. Carry smaller purses with a cover, or clasp it next to the body. Never put a purse in a market basket or on the floor in a restaurant, restroom or theater. It can be easily snatched when you're distracted.
- Men's rear hip pockets are easiest for pick-pockets. Front coat or front pants' pockets are harder to pick.
- Keep credit cards and identification separate from money.
- Avoid laundromats and isolated public buildings if you are the only person. Avoid stairwells under the same circumstance.
- In elevators, if you are at all suspicious of another passenger, wait for the next car, or get off at the next floor.
- Don't allow your actions, speech or dress to evoke danger.



## IF YOU ARE ATTACKED

Money can be replaced. So can possessions. Your life and health cannot. Most police suggest the best defense against harm from a confrontation with a criminal is to comply with demands for money and valuables. Do not move suddenly or insult, threaten or provoke an assailant. Only if your life is in danger by a vicious criminal attack should you attempt physical restraint. Then, if possible, scream and try to get away.

- If you are apprehensive about a situation, it is better to move or run away (if necessary, into a street or public place) if you can. If chased, scream if possible. Some authorities feel yelling "Fire!" will tend to cause more people to respond.
- Carrying firearms or injurious weapons for use against criminals not only frequently injures innocent people but could be used by an assailant against you. There are also risks of legal problems if you improperly use such a weapon.

**P**RISONS—we like to label them correctional institutions—are hotbeds of racial strife, homosexual rape, drug trafficking and violence.

One prison official expressed it this way: “These aren’t ordinary people. . . . There are people in here who like to see blood—they like to hurt people. They practically foam at the mouth when they see blood.”

Persons guilty of less serious offenses are frequently thrown in with hardened criminals, where they themselves may become hardened criminals. Penal institutions have become schools for perfecting the “art” of crime. Many consider getting caught as merely an occupational hazard.

A prison psychiatrist in France complained: “When I talk with them they tell me: ‘Let’s not kid around. The only thing I know to do is burglary. I am here because my technique is not what it should be. I am here to improve it.’”

Prisons, in short, are generally anything but correctional institutions. Men have tried to make them work, but have failed.

Shorter sentences have not worked. They have given rise to complaints of a “revolving-door” justice system. And longer sentences often harden the convict and contribute to the problem of overcrowding. The blunt fact is that prisons can no longer cope.

Where did the idea of keeping people in prison come from anyway?

One thing is certain: God is not its author.

### **The God-given Penal Code**

The Bible contains the civil and penal code given by God to a physical and unconverted nation—the ancient nation of Israel. God gave this nation the opportunity of being a showcase, so all the other peoples on earth could see the national benefits of obedience to God’s laws.

Ancient Israel’s God-given legal and penal system would, it was promised, make Israel the envy of all other nations. Notice how Moses explained it to the people:

# Are Prisons the Way to Deal With Crime?

Is imprisonment the way to deal with the crime problem? Where did the idea of keeping people in prison come from in the first place? You may be surprised at the answers.

“Here am I teaching you,” Moses declared, “as the Eternal my God ordered me, the rules and regulations for what you are to do . . . keep them, obey them, for that will prove your wisdom and intelligence to the [other] nations; when they hear all these rules they will say, ‘This great nation is indeed a wise, intelligent race!’ . . . What great nation has rules and regulations as just as all this code that I am putting before you now?” (Deuteronomy 4:5-6, 8, Moffatt translation).

The civil laws that followed in the book of Deuteronomy were for the nation of Israel. They would in fact, though, work for any physical nation that would diligently apply and enforce them. These laws formed the most perfect civil code ever devised for a physical, unconverted people.

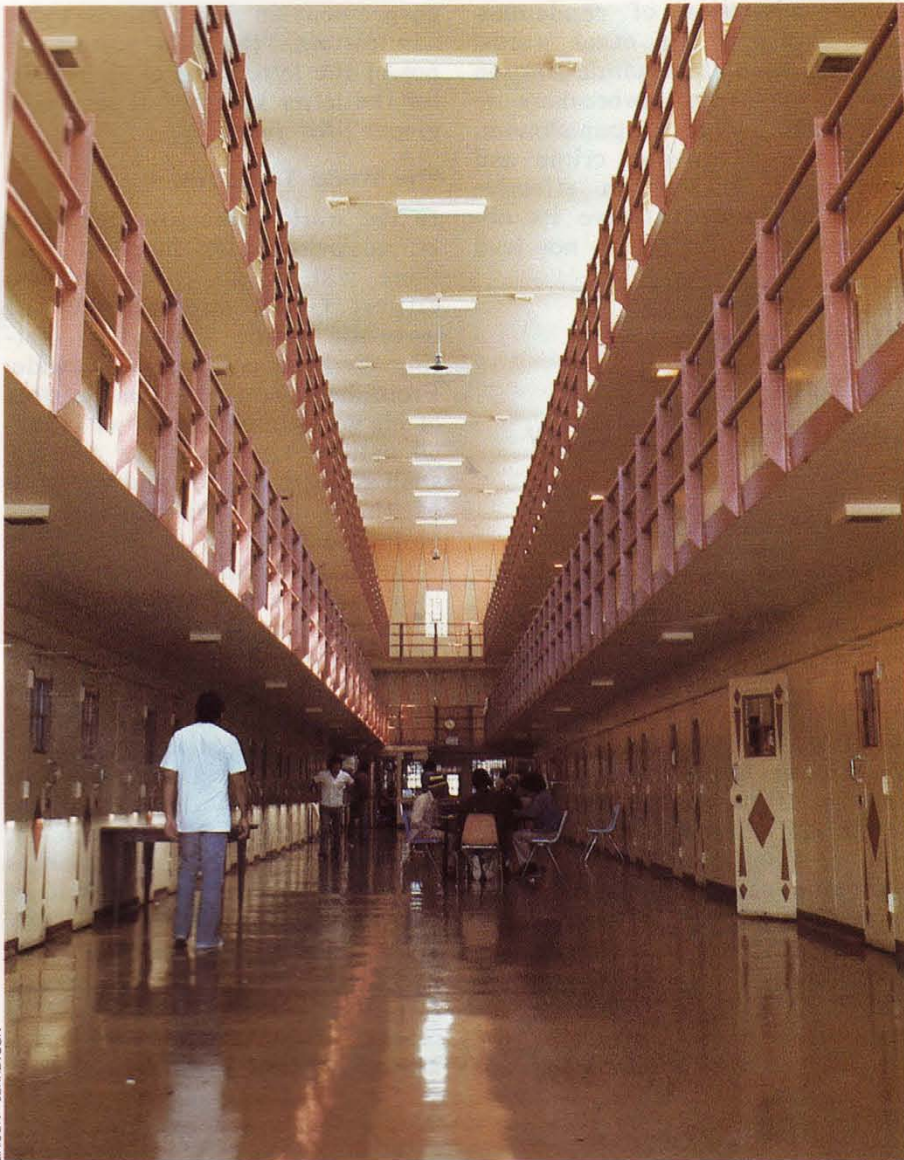
*There was no provision for prisons in God’s civil code.* Imprisonment is part of the punishment determined by God for rebellious spirit beings—Satan and his demons. They are the ones for whom this form of punishment was

designed (see I Peter 3:19; Jude 6; Revelation 20:2-3). But Satan, who has deceived this whole world (Revelation 12:9), has succeeded in foisting upon humans the form of punishment reserved for himself and his demons!

Before ancient Israel received its civil code from God, prisons were in use among the gentile nations. Joseph, one of the 12 patriarchs of the nation Israel, had been thrown into the dungeon where Egypt’s pharaoh kept his prisoners (Genesis 39:20). But it was not to be so in Israel.

Under the system God gave through Moses, suspects could be put “in ward” on a temporary basis while they awaited swift sentencing or release (Leviticus 24:12; Numbers 15:34). But the short confinement itself was not the sentence. That is an important difference.

For those judged guilty of criminal activity several forms of punishment were prescribed. Some crimes required restitution to the victim of double the amount lost. If the guilty party didn’t have the means to make restitution, he be-



LIASON—JERRETSON

came a bond servant until he worked off his debt. Sometimes a physical punishment such as a lashing was pronounced. For certain crimes the death penalty was mandatory.

And if an individual attacked another person in a fit of rage and injured him with a weapon or fists, the offender “shall pay for the loss of [the victim’s] time, and shall cause him to be thoroughly healed”—that is, the offender had to pay the victim’s health recovery costs (Ex. 21:18-19, AV).

But Israel was to be free of jails, prisons and all their attendant problems and shortcomings. Emphasis was upon deterring crime. The principle was simple: State the law; state the punishment; then swiftly and consistently punish any

lawbreakers. The rest of the people—any who would be tempted to do wrong—would “hear and fear” (Deuteronomy 13:11; 17:13; 19:20). Some criminologists may claim that such an approach is too simple, that it would not work. But they have never tried it. God says it would indeed work.

Nothing else men have tried has worked.

Even the wisdom of this world is beginning to realize it. *Time* magazine, in an essay on crime and punishment, concluded some years ago: “To be told the law, to be told the punishment and to be punished if one breaks the law, is a sounder and more reliable system of justice than the confusing and ineffective process now operating. A society can be subverted by a system that

appears to be not only inconsistent but almost whimsical in its workings. . . . If the law has meaning, it must carry predictable consequences” (September 18, 1978).

*Time* magazine’s essay was preceded 3,000 years ago by the simple words of Solomon: “Because sentence on a crime is not executed at once, the mind of man is prone to evil practices” (Ecclesiastes 8:11, Moffatt translation). This is why capital punishment as practiced is so totally ineffective. Long agonizing waits on “death row” and endless stays of execution based on legal technicalities that obscure the main issue render the death sentence a useless deterrent.

Crime needs to be nipped in the bud. Instead of making the punishment fit the criminal, as is the prevalent approach today, under ancient Israel’s God-given civil code, punishment fitted the crime. The “eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth” administration may be criticized by some. But it left no doubt in the minds of the unconverted inclined to do wrong as to exactly what would happen.

Some of the punishments prescribed in the biblical code may seem severe. But crime is a severe problem. It is especially severe to the victim. It should also be severe to the criminal. Under our present system we have many victims and many lawbreakers, but few punished criminals. Under ancient Israel’s civil code there were few victims and few criminals.

The ancient concept of letting people stagnate in cages for years, even for life, is, because of its near total ineffectiveness, truly cruel punishment. That any society continues to hold to the concept is an admission that it can come up with no genuine solution for dealing with people who have broken the law.

### The “Heart” of the Problem

The legal and penal code given to ancient Israel was the best possible system for an unconverted, physical nation. But it was only a step in the right direction.

The old covenant civil code could not change the human heart. And that is really where the crime problem is centered. As Jesus said,

“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies” (Matthew 15:19).

In order to do away entirely with crime, the human heart must be changed. Jesus taught how such a change is possible. He showed that it can be done through the power

the “ministration of condemnation” (verse 9). In other words, the purpose of that administration was to condemn lawbreakers to appropriate physical punishment, often capital, to stop crime and lawlessness. It was an effective system designed to serve its objectives well. But it did not lead

government in his Church today administers “the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life” (verse 6).

### The World Tomorrow

In the world tomorrow there will be no prisons for humans. And there will be no crime problem either. God’s supreme law of love—of giving instead of getting—will be enforced worldwide. From Jerusalem, the headquarters of his government, Jesus will teach all nations his ways, “for the law shall go forth of Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem” (Micah 4:2).

God’s Holy Spirit will be made available to everyone so that true conversion can take place. Instead of a climate of dishonesty, crime, and fear of crime as exists today, there will be a universal climate of righteousness, trust and security.

Isaiah foretold that wonderful time soon to come when “the Spirit is poured upon us from high. . . . And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust for ever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places” (Isaiah 32:15, 17-18, *Revised Standard Version*).

What a wonderful world. Wouldn’t you like to be there?

## The ancient concept of letting people stagnate in cages for years, even for life, is, because of its near total ineffectiveness, truly cruel punishment.

of God’s Holy Spirit. But ancient Israel was never promised the Holy Spirit—which is why they needed a civil code to punish those bent on crime.

That’s what conversion is all about. The human heart must be changed—converted—so that there is no longer even a desire to do wrong. Hatred must be replaced with love. Lust and greed must be replaced with the desire to give and share. Then criminality will be abolished. (Our free booklet *Just What do You Mean—Conversion?* explains what true conversion is.)

The apostle Paul referred to the civil administration under the old covenant as the “ministration of death” (II Corinthians 3:7) and

to a change of heart, to conversion and salvation.

True Christians are under a new administration. We have the “ministration of the spirit” (verse 8), the “ministration of righteousness” (verse 9). The purpose of this New Testament administration is to eliminate through the inner power of the Holy Spirit the desire to do evil. It involves the building of righteous character. True Christians now, through the power of the Holy Spirit, keep God’s laws according to their full meaning and intent. And when we slip and stumble—sin (transgress God’s law)—we can be forgiven through the blood of Jesus Christ who paid the penalty of death for sin. God’s