

America We Have A Problem

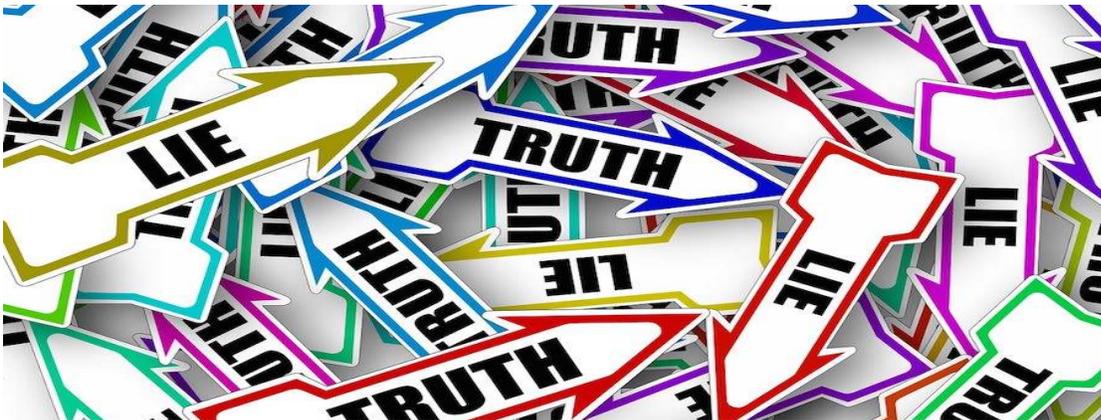


Truth offends.

It follows no fashion, nor does it respond to opinion. It has no affection for wishes and wants. Truth ignores politics, ideology, situation, or century.

I would give you a simple truth, a hard truth, evil infects us all. An examination of history, current events, friends, family, acquaintances, and my own conscience demonstrates beyond doubt that evil both exists and is pervasive. Humans are not naturally good. It requires great effort to do good, to even approximate being good. Part of that effort consists of cultural restraints, moral restraints, and legal restraints. Each of these need meaningful sanctions. A small evil can contaminate a greater good.

There were two pots, one filled with foul water taken from a ditch overflowing with sewerage, poisonous chemicals, and rotting corpses, the other was filled with purified water taken from a clear and clean mountain stream. An old man poured a dipper of clean water into the foul water, and asked, "Is the foul water clean now?" The crowd answered, "no." He then took a dipper of foul water and poured it into the clean water and asked, "Is the water still clean?" The crowd answered, "no." Then the old man said, "so it seems that the bad in water has more power than the good."



Today, in America, we are adrift. We have, for good or evil, abandoned traditional cultural, moral, and legal restraints. We have not yet replaced them with functioning alternatives. Evil has emerge triumphant, and now walks with us, and within us.

We have unchained, hate and anger, arrogance and intolerance, greed and envy. And, when things go wrong, we blame those other folk, those folk not like us. And, sometimes, we blame a tool or an idea. We blame everything but ourselves. We must first fix ourselves. I must fix me. You must fix you. We must find common ground, a common moral compass. We shall not find our way looking through glasses painted with lies. We must temper our steel with Truth.

Neither intelligence or education equates with moral or wise. I see no evidence that biological evolution tends toward the good, the ethical, or the moral. Cultural evolution is ephemeral, nothing more than fad and fashion. It does not gravitate, by natural law or necessity, toward fairness, justice, benevolence, or altruism. Change or progress is not always for the better. Evil travels those roads as well.