

Not Much Done To Improve Man Himself

by Bill Crews

Most of the efforts (which includes the use of money, time and energy) of individuals, organizations, and governments are expended toward improving mankind's lot in a purely material or physical sense. Concern is had and shown in regard to **human needs** from the standpoint of food, clothing, shelter, education, job skills and jobs, health and medical needs, and even such "creature comforts" as entertainment and recreation. But little is done toward *improving man himself* from the standpoints of **character, integrity, morality, and spirituality**. We need to be more concerned about our morals than we are about our manners; more concerned about our righteousness than we are about our rights; more concerned about our integrity than we are about our interests; more concerned about our character than we are about our capital; more concerned about the pollution of our minds than we are about the pollution of our environment; more concerned about our spirituality than we are about our success. We need **better people** far more than we need *better things* for people. And we are foolish and blind indeed if we cannot see that regenerating and reforming individuals with the gospel of Christ will solve most of the problems whose symptoms alone we usually focus upon. Notice how revealing the following passages are:

"Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing that is good, that he may have whereof to give to him who hath need" (**Ephesians 4:28**). A parasite becomes both a productive worker and a helper of others in need.

"Or know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye were washed, but ye were sanctified, but ye were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God" (**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**). See how the gospel turned lives around in ancient Corinth.

See also **Colossians 3:5-10, 12-14; 1 Timothy 6:7-19; and Titus 3:1-8**.

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