

From Our Pastor

March 16th, 2019

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Sabbath Greetings to Everyone!

When the obituary of the USA is eventually written, perhaps some popular TV stars will get more of a mention than they planned on. This past week a scandal of enormous importance and scope erupted on the college scene, revealing a level of corruption and dishonesty in a number of universities that was thought not possible. The scandal included celebrities such as Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin, who were arrested for bribery to get their kids into college.

UCLA, USC, Stanford, Georgetown, Yale, Wake Forrest, UT Austin, and UC San Diego are named in the indictment for a bribery-for-admission racket that saw parents paying bribes as high as six million dollars to get their otherwise unqualified offspring admitted to these colleges.

CNN reported, "Universities are working to contain the fallout from allegations that families with money and clout paid bribes for their children to attend eight prestigious institutions. They're facing questions about the fates of students involved and whether they knew about their parents' alleged acts. Fifty people -- including Hollywood stars, top CEOs, college coaches and standardized test administrators -- allegedly took part in the scheme to cheat on tests and admit students to leading institutions as athletes, regardless of their abilities. The college admissions scheme revealed Tuesday is the largest of its kind ever prosecuted, federal prosecutors said, and features 50 defendants across six states, millions of dollars in illegally funneled funds and a handful of the country's most selective universities.

But at its core, the alleged scheme is remarkably simple -- and braze. Cheat on standardized tests. Bribe the people who decide which students get admitted. All the while pretending that money was for charity." The scam even included photo shopping faces of students onto pictures of real athletes so they could get athletic scholarships even when they had never played the sport.

What kind of lesson is this teaching our youth? God's word says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)" Children learn by watching and imitating the examples of the parents and others. This verse implies that the lessons learned during the formative years stay with us. So, when parents teach their children to be dishonest, lie, and cheat, then are we surprised that they grow up to be dishonest lying cheaters?

God's laws and truth, which were given to us to live by, are to be taught from generation to generation. "He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children; That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare them to their children, That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments; (Psalm 78:5-7)"

Instead of obeying this instruction, as a nation we have forgotten our Creator and trodden His commandments underfoot. Examples of immorality, dishonesty, and corruption are almost daily reported among our government officeholders, entertainment celebrities, and sports stars. Virtually gone are the men and women of integrity and character that once were the heroes of our nation. Is it really a surprise that our once respected and admired universities are now shown to be infected with corruption? Perhaps fifty years of teaching the lie of evolution--complex life and creation by pure accident, and therefore no standards or accountability, has finally caught up with them. Maybe someday we will learn the lesson of Galatians 6:7 "

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."

Rex Sexton
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