

## “In the Midst of a Crooked and Perverse Generation”

### I. Introduction

- A. The Holy Spirit through Paul noted that the Philippian brethren were living “in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.” He didn’t excuse sin because of this or promise that life on earth would soon be a utopia. Instead, He showed the need to shine bright in the midst of such wickedness. **Philippians 2:15**

### II. Consider Bible Examples

- A. The Philippians’ environment exemplifies the principle that living in the midst of unrighteousness is nothing new. While we can be tempted to think that being faithful to God is more difficult in our society than it’s ever has been, the Bible is filled with examples of people who pleased God while living in societies that were just as immoral as what we face. **Genesis 6:5, 8; 18:32; 19:28-29; 2 Peter 2:5-9**

### III. Control Oneself

- A. While we can (and should) influence those in darkness for good, we cannot obey God on behalf of anyone else. Each of us *can*, though, control our *own* actions. We must not neglect responsibility for doing right based on the actions of society. **2 Corinthians 5:10**

### IV. Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

- A. To do what’s *right* in the midst of *unrighteousness*, we must *hunger* and *thirst* after righteousness. **Matthew 5:6**
- B. Throughout history, God’s people have often sought, instead, to “fit in” with the majority, allowing the world to determine how they think and behave. **1 Samuel 8:19-20**
- C. This is the opposite of what God commands. **Romans 12:2a**

### V. Distinguish Between What is Crooked and What is Straight

- A. To be what God wants in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, we must allow *Him* to shape our thinking, instead of shaping our thinking to fit societal norms. **Romans 12:2b; Ephesians 5:22**

### VI. Don’t Be Ashamed

- A. The contrast between the lifestyle of God’s faithful children and the world is *not* cause for shame on the part of God’s servants. **Luke 9:26**
- B. When a Christian is different in a way God desires, he or she need not apologize or feel guilty for such. Rather, he or she can use these differences for God’s glory and the benefit of others. **Matthew 5:16**

### VII. Trust the Lord

- A. Those who choose to please God instead of conforming to the wickedness of the world can lean on the Lord for help. He *knows* the challenges each of us faces, He *cares*, and He can be *trusted* to provide all that we need to serve Him faithfully. **Revelation 2:10**

### VIII. Conclusion

- A. No matter the wickedness of the nation or society one lives in, life on earth always includes the option of doing what is right. This is the path we must choose to be a light in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. **Philippians 2:15**