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do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them” (Romans 1:21-32). Until the culture shifts to revering the Creator and submitting to His will, wickedness continues. Opposition to pedophilia is insufficient. Opposition to homosexuality is not enough either. Opposition to all sexual activity outside marriage must become the standard again. Serial monogamy in multiple marriages and divorces must be strenuously objected to, as well. The standard set forth by God since antiquity is one man and one woman for life. Morals degrade where that is not the norm.

Shrink the government. Accountability is diminished when there are too many agents who could ostensibly prosecute the offenders or direct prosecutors to do so, yet fail at this. *“If you see the oppression of the poor, and the violent perversion of justice and righteousness in a province, do not marvel at the matter; for high official watches over high official, and higher officials are over them”* (Ecclesiastes 5:8). Bureaucracy breeds corruption. The size of government must be reduced until those in power have no one left to shift the blame to. While voting is not a requirement from on high, those who choose to exercise this right ought not to ignore the need to deflate the government when it comes time to cast a ballot. The Lord established government *“for the punishment of evildoers”* (1st Peter 2:14) and all other roles assumed by the authorities are a distraction from that purpose. Voting for the authorities to assume every other project conceivable not only turns their attention away from justice, but also gives them excuses for failing in their primary duty.

Pray for all who are in authority. Christians are not doing nearly enough to facilitate justice if prayers over this matter are not persistent. *“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence”* (1st Timothy 2:1-2). Pray they will stop concealing the crimes so obviously committed. Pray they will try the perpetrators and punish them appropriately. Pray they will not be

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hypocritical in so doing. Pray they lead by setting godly examples. *“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked man rules, the people groan”* (Proverbs 29:2). Praying for **all** who are in authority means praying for the President and his advisors, the Attorney General and her advisors, every member of the House of Representatives which has the power to impeach those figures, every member of the Senate which has the power to try those impeachments, Judges at every level, as well as jurors and every single voter in the country. It means praying for Governors and their advisers, Attorneys General of the several States and their advisers, as well as the District Attorneys throughout the States.

Protect your daughters. The Old Testament records the rape of Jacob’s daughter Dinah. *“Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her and lay with her, and violated her”* (Genesis 34:1-2). Notice Dinah seems to have gone out alone.; she was not in the company of her parents, nor escorted by her brothers. Family might not have been sinfully wrong to let her out of their sight, but it was an awful lesson to learn. Instead of preventing their sister from being raped, two of her brothers chose vengeance after the fact. *“Simeon and Levi, Dinah’s brothers, each took his sword and came boldly upon the city and killed all the males. And they killed Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah from Shechem’s house, and went out. The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and plundered the city, because their sister had been defiled. They took their sheep, their oxen, and their donkeys, what was in the city and what was in the field, and all their wealth. All their little ones and their wives they took captive; and they plundered even all that was in the houses”* (25-29). As much as retaliation may seem justified under the circumstances, the fact that they looted the entire city, slew every man, and took the women and children captive proves they were bloodthirsty and greedy, rather than pursuing justice. Their father told them, at the time, *“You have troubled me by making me obnoxious among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites; and since I am few in number, they will gather themselves together against me and kill me. I shall be destroyed, my household and I”* (30), and, decades later, as Jacob neared death, he reminded them, *“Simeon and Levi are brothers; instruments of cruelty are in their dwelling place. Let not my soul enter their council; let not my honor be united to*

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**"WHAT MUST I DO
TO BE SAVED?"**

ACTS 16:30

LEARN THE GOSPEL

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

BELIEVE IN CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

CONFESS CHRIST

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 3:19; 17:30

BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

HEBREWS 10:24-25

SUNDAY

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY

Men's & Ladies' Studies @ 6:20 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard
Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.
Members Expected.

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN
ANY TRESPASS...
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

GALATIANS 6:1

CONFESS TRESPASSES

James 5:16; 1st John 1:9

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 8:22

PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS

Acts 8:22

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

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their assembly; for in their anger they slew a man, and in their self-will they hamstrung an ox. Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; and their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel" (49:5-7). Reprisal was not honorable. They should have kept Dinah from harm in the first place. That is what family is for. "If anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (1st Timothy 5:8). Safety is the foremost provision a girl needs from her father and brothers.

"WHOLE COUNSEL"

ACTS 20:27

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 8

FEBRUARY 22ND, 2026

WHAT TO DO ABOUT EPSTEIN

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Americans and people the world over are correctly furious that Jeffrey Epstein's co-conspirators who sexually exploited girls have not been brought to justice so many years after their heinous deeds were revealed. Action is appropriate.

Change the culture. Where the truth in God is rejected, immorality proliferates, as Paul wrote, *"Although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man — and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to*

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