

THE GREAT
AMERICAN
BACKSLIDE AND
OUR SILENT
PARTNERSHIP
WITH
DARKNESS

Living in Opposition to Evil's Influence

M. Rene Lauzier

This document is a PDF sample of excerpts from Chapter 1 of the title:
The Great American Backslide and Our Silent Partnership with Darkness -
Living in Opposition to Evil's Influence

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The manifestations of the cancel culture paradigm that are driving the Great American Backslide are all around us and are observed primarily in the form of rampant negativity, judgmentalism, and personal attacks on others who have opposing viewpoints. Our acceptance of these behaviors is spiritually driven, with the dominion of darkness influencing the levers that have molded our inter-personal attitudes. A passive-aggressive state of mind makes it quite easy to ignore our own depravity, which leads to spiritual compromise on much greater matters, like matters of absolute truths. And yet we often cannot see or don't understand our own behavior's spiritual roots.

We would rather identify a group of people who think mostly like we do and jump on their destructive and shallow bandwagon. At that point, when hard-thinking, dialogue, and the need to occasionally compromise and collaborate is the best option necessary to resolve a complex matter, we take the moral shortcut. We do what's easiest and most convenient for us. That can be deceiving the other side to get what we want or a classic move to power and dominance. Because we're now so quick to judge and oppose those who think differently, our approach eventually leads to cancellation, conflict, and destruction.

The summer of 2020 is a perfect example. Some leaders sided with evil influencers in many cities where rioting was allowed free rein rather than addressing the conflict in a responsive and responsible manner as if there was a rule of law. Responsibility requires obedience. Obedience requires a standard. The Rules of the Race? Those are being rewritten. I will explain how in chapter 10.

The backslide that America is now in represents the spiritual direction of society and the moral arc of the universe trending away from obedience, away from fellowship with human beings, away from the eternal, and away from absolute truths of any kind. The new rules we are being taught are all about moral relativism. One great resource for truly understanding this unholy and evil direction can be found in John MacArthur's book, *The Truth War*. Because it was written quite a few years ago, I think MacArthur would see

a worsening condition in not only the ethos of America, but also in how we think and feel about one another.

Comparatively, to the days at hand, I observe a more comprehensive backslide in all aspects of our thinking, not just our *ethos* (morality), but also our rationality, described as our *logos* involving absolute truths, our integrity, logic, and reason. Even how our minds process our social interactions, the *pathos* element of thinking is being incrementally reconfigured through our use of technology as the primary means of communication. All aspects of our thinking are under attack by the cancel culture paradigm that is driving the Great American Backslide. Not only is our conscience vanishing, but we are also simultaneously devolving as far as our spiritual, logical, scientific, and rational thinking processes. Pathos and the cancel culture paradigm are driving logos and ethos.

Although most cancel culture battles that you personally experience are small and insignificant in the greater picture, these battles are indicative of the moral direction of society in general. The dominion of darkness is the greatest instigator toward the creation of this new cancel culture paradigm. These forces are creating a world of confusion and relativism where truth varies with the circumstances. This creates a harsh world lacking in empathy and understanding regarding others, resulting in the reinforcement of a self-centered, me-first mindset. If you haven't yet been cancelled on social media by the artificial intelligence robots looking for words and phrases that the system has banned, you are not trying hard enough to stick to the truth or to be salt and light in this fallen world.

Society and the powers that be now support the antithesis of goodness and virtue, doing the opposite of God's plan for each of us. The evil team involved in instigating individual and systemic backsliding that is damaging America's worldwide reputation as well as humans who knowingly or unwittingly participate in evil schemes have caused us to have to deal with regular episodes of extreme chaos. Chaos sucks for those who have concern about the crumbling of our moral foundations.

The impetus for undertaking my endeavor to attempt to understand how evil works was centered on understanding the core con-

cept of one strange word found in the footnote of my Bible. It had to do with the explanation of the verse in Romans 7:5. The footnote was referring to the original Greek translation of the word *sarx*. The footnote provided the following clarification of the term: In contexts like this, the Greek word for flesh (*sarx*) refers to the sinful state of human beings often presented as a *power in opposition to the Spirit* (emphasis added).¹⁰ My fascination centered on the concept that we all carry a spirit in opposition to God's spirit of power, love, and self-control, and in my mind, that spirit belonged solely to the evil one, not to people.

There was no better place to begin my attempt at an in-depth study of evil, its derivation in *sarx*, and the frightening concept that there is a power in opposition to the Holy Spirit inside of us than starting with one of the greatest teachers/leaders/warriors in Christendom today, John MacArthur. In his book, *The Vanishing Conscience*, MacArthur states:

“Flesh” refers to the sinfulness that remains in us while we are on this earth. It is a corruption that permeates and influences every aspect of our being—body, mind, emotions, and will. It is what makes us susceptible to sin even after we are made partakers in the divine nature... “The flesh,” then, is not the body, or the soul, or any other part of our beings. It is a *principle* that works in us. It is the source and stimulus of our sin. Though deprived of its dominion, it has not been divested of its potency, passions, or persuasive ability (emphasis added).¹¹

MacArthur explains that the stubborn flesh-principle, or sin-principle, remains in us and exerts its continual influence until we are transformed to heavenly glory. *Sarx* is, therefore, tyrannical. It has us incarcerated in a sinful flesh orientation. It focuses us on us. I can say one thing with absolute certainty, *sarx* sucks. Because it has an unseen power and influence on us all, it can be leveraged into

the power of *Supernatural Suck*, which I will define later in detail. Knowing that, we all have the affliction of *sarx*, and that it is also a power in opposition to the Spirit within us, has massive implications for ourselves and the world we live in. It certainly helps me to reconcile “what in the world is going on?”

Explaining how Satan leverages people in order to influence the foundational systems of society would take some investigation. Unfortunately, all that was really needed was to watch the response to the COVID-19 pandemic unfold and to diligently pursue answers to the human experiment that was undertaken. In hindsight, even a surficial look at the results and observations related to the pandemic response with three years of hindsight allows us to make several solid connections: (1) systemic corruption is influenced by evil, (2) *sarx* within people make us prone to actions that oppose God, and (3) the backslide in America is reflective of the spiritual direction of the world we live in.

My research for this book was both secular and non-secular, the former an attempt to gain a more scientific explanation of evil's influence and whether or not it is actually a thing at all. I found that both the spiritually leaning and non-spiritually leaning resources were focused on observing what is going on and/or what might be the root causes. Even though non-secular, spiritually leaning sources of data acknowledge that Satan exists, there were no offerings on how he works this world nor any analysis of the approaches he uses to manifest influence upon the world in general. The non-secular resources focus did not go beyond well-understood factors such as deception, accusation, division, and dissension. But Satan is pure evil, and since *sarx* makes us all prone to be evil, we can easily be leveraged by our propensities toward darkness in regard to evil/selfish intentions. Suggesting that we should, therefore, be cautious and strive to be virtuous does absolutely nothing to explain how we might be gamed in the process of trying to be good on our own.

Human strivings toward virtuosity and righteousness are fruitless when right and wrong is being redefined by society through Satan. Satan influences our societal systems of this world immeasurably and nobody is warning us to watch out for Satan and his

schemes. As America backslides further, more people will be asking questions like “*How did this happen?*” and “*How did we get here?*” I can only hope the next Great Awakening will occur as a result. Many of the sources I used to try to understand how evil works were produced by the titans of Christendom. These writings are timeless because of their source in truth. Many read like they were written yesterday but were over ten years old. However, conspicuously absent from these resources were explanations about the intricacies and subtleties of how evil is imperceptibly working us individually as well as working to control societal systems in this postmodern global community.

Satan is quite satisfied doing his thing without our knowledge or understanding. But it is our own evil hearts and the moral murkiness instigated by the power of *sarx* (the precursor of Supernatural Suck) that hinder us from seeing and understanding how evil gets done. MacArthur writes:

The Subtlety of Satan. The devil works hand in hand with our own deceitful lusts. He labors to blind us to our own faults. He continually endeavors to lead us into sin, then works with our carnal minds to flatter us with the idea we are better than we are. He thus blinds the conscience. He is the prince of darkness. Blinding and deceiving have been his work ever since he began it with our first parents.¹²

The current backslide that America is in today demonstrates very significant foundational decay. Decay that is out of view but foretelling of imminent destruction whether we notice it or not. We often fail to recognize the outward behaviors of the spirit of pride in the arrogance, disobedience, fear, greed, and hate that is prevalent in today’s world. This prevents us from seeing the scope of decay in our moral foundation. We are condoning and normalizing sinful if not outright evil behaviors. They are very well hidden, and this book seeks to root out how they get created as we progress in this thesis.

The activities of the dominion of darkness are accomplished using both a top-down and bottom-up approach. When evil is obvious, what we are observing is a top-down method of destruction. These attacks often demonstrate clear assaults upon the belief systems and governing structures of civil society based upon the Law of Human Nature. These events are readily identifiable as evil because our God-provided conscience is aroused and made uncomfortable, be it a systemic or isolated and personal situation of our own or others.

Our individual sin is also easily identifiable to others when it’s egregious in nature and scope. It is the subtle situations that we have become blind to. The top-down attack is merely a bogey, a straw man to distract our focus away from what is really going on. The distraction strategy has been very effective at preventing us from seeing how our moral belief systems are being imperceptibly manipulated.

The fact is human nature is constantly being molded to be extremely exploitable toward an agenda of evil. When the approach is subtle and imperceptible, cancel culture tendencies induce a paradigmatic shift that Evil Inc. leverages to influence societal systems toward a greater agenda of destruction. It is most unfortunate that we have made cancelling others, using many means and methods, an acceptable behavior in the current lexicon of society. Our separation from God leads to societal spiritual decay, which ultimately results in death and destruction. A death that is not physical in nature, but a death of the soul and spirit. The challenge is to know and understand that subtle changes which lead to the normalization of worldly behaviors that deny absolute truth act to separate us from God, and this devolution in spirit and morality is intentional.

We have already introduced the concept of how demonic influencers seek to secretly nurture our fallen condition that is the implant of sin through disobedience. Sin/Disobedience is derived from our focus on ourselves and the flesh, which is our innate carnality known as *sarx*, a power in opposition to the Holy Spirit. Now we must know and understand those foundational biblical truths that provide the insight needed to perceive what is happening in our world. Too often, we have been blinded by darkness and are sometimes contributors to the dark agenda.

In the chapters that follow, I will unpack the cancel culture paradigm, a formidable weapon of systemic change that uses new tools available in our postmodern, technologically-oriented world to promulgate evil in both subtle and not-so-subtle ways. But the cancel culture paradigm is merely one of the means and methods that will lead to much darker outcomes. There is clear evidence that the cancel culture paradigm is just one of the tools in evil's toolbox.

The first step toward spiritual discernment is knowing we have a power in opposition to God in us that can be readily exploited. The second step is to acknowledge and have a basic understanding of evil's existence. When we acknowledge evil and understand it can influence us, we can finally identify the means and methods in which the dominion of darkness is rewriting the Rules of the Race. Awareness of the schemes of the evil one will allow us to perceive the power in opposition to the Spirit. Having the capacity to recognize evil will help us turn the tables in a direction that is in opposition to the power of evil as we develop our mental and spiritual game plan.

Although we know Satan's somewhere out there, we tend to focus only upon that fact while giving evil activities a wide berth when we can see them. Unfortunately, we tend to assimilate to thinking that believes if we go along with how society thinks and acts, we're doing our part to avoid evil. We completely disregard the possibility that we might be contributing to the direction Satan desires to send us in, and it is *sarx* that sends us down the path toward corruption and destruction. Not only does *sarx* send us in the wrong direction, but it also encourages thoughts that aid in internalizing and accepting paradigms in opposition to God. The cancel culture is just one example discussed in detail throughout this book.

So does evil exist and how does it work? I present the evidence of evil's existence in chapter 3. As far as how it works on us and throughout society, the cancel culture behaviors we see today are one of Evil Inc.'s subtle tools. The wiles of pure evil, Satan and his demons, attempt to win the spiritual battle by conspiring with our innate human nature to blind us and make us silent partners with darkness. We have become blind to our own personal depravity, which makes it nearly impossible to perceive Satan's workings on us,

unless we have objective and timeless standards to keep us from falling. And in the greater world he currently and temporarily owns, he wants to keep us ignorant to the standards as well as how we measure up against them.