

27. Social Lunacy Part 2

(Hated for Mental Differences)

Though human brains look like abstract cantaloupes, they are the known universe's most complex structure. (22,23) Consequently, many things can malfunction chemically, electrically, or structurally. There are learning disabilities, various mental deficiencies, autism, dyslexia, speech impediments, nerve damage affecting one's balance, and others, ranging from subtle to severe. What causes the great prevalence of mental handicaps isn't fully known, but the results are.

Most conditions cause one to act differently, making people uneasy and offending them. Reactively, many people are cruel, which cruelty is often worse than physical assault and much longer lasting. Besides destroying someone socially, mental handicaps prevent some from financially supporting themselves, devastating their whole life. Most social outcasts have mental conditions of various types or radically different thinking patterns. Hundreds of conditions exist, varying wildly. So often one never finds another who experienced someone like themselves, who can adjust accordingly.

Mental "Illness"

People are rarely born with conditions considered "mental illness." Rather, these conditions strike people with average to above average intelligence later on. Though society progressed in treating various groups of people better, there's been little progress with "mental illness." Over half a million patients were in mental institutions in 1950, while in 2004 there were only one tenth as many, some now integrated into the community.(24) However, deinstitutionalization often causes trans-institutionalization: former patients suffer in jails, prisons, homeless shelters, flophouses, or on the street.

Some conditions such as schizophrenia can be extremely traumatic, making everyday functioning a monumental task. Medications, although a significant step, don't help everyone, and their side effects can be overwhelming to someone who is already feeling unbalanced. Psychiatry never cures anybody; it just helps put conditions in check. Since those who suffer from severe conditions exhibit strange and offensive behaviors beyond their control, many severely troubled people suffer complete ostracism. For a fuller treatment of this subject, see 19.Psychiatry.

Asperger's/Autism Spectrum Disorders

Most cases of extreme mental slowness are obviously incurable, and various individuals with childlike minds cannot possibly function like adults. However, others with mental slowness like myself are intelligent in other ways. Sickeningly, a fast-learning twenty year old can become a fifty year old man's boss because companies regularly throw out old ways of doing things. An intelligent, hardworking, yet slow-learning man could be dedicated to his company for forty years, yet be pushing a mop for a living.

Instead, we should accommodate our people who have special needs and respect them as best we can. Quite a few mentally handicapped men collect disability checks, but check amounts are only a fraction of what it takes to support a wife and children. By taking mega-millions away from lottery prizes, the winners of which earn none of it, societies could finance living wages for numerous handicapped citizens. And in these cases being handicapped does not mean nonproductive or incapable. Such people are simply incapable of performing in accordance with unreasonable expectations.

Asperger's syndrome and related autism spectrum disorders are the latest commonly diagnosed conditions. People with such conditions continue to be misunderstood, misdiagnosed, and mistreated by professionals whose help is often useless or harmful.(25) Since living for decades with an undiagnosed condition, I diagnosed myself with Asperger's. Perhaps autism, savant-ism, ADD, ADHD, or a combination of several conditions would be more appropriate, since I subsequently failed to relate to Asperger's subjects. Regardless, these conditions are more alike than different. People are born with these conditions, akin to those with mental slowness. We initially appear normal while others with mental slowness, such as those with Down's syndrome, do not.

However, our apparent normalcy quickly falls apart. Since people believe we have mental superiority, not disability, they expect superior functioning and social interactions, never saying or doing what they don't like. This awkward pseudo-intellectuality is sometimes mistaken for arrogance; people assume we're purposely offensive. Tragically, Asperger's is mistaken for Narcissistic Personality Disorder, even by so-called professionals.(26) So my speaking off-key is excoriated while those with immediately obvious mental disabilities receive sympathy. Those who've detected my disability have been rude about it such as angrily saying, "Do you have brain damage or something?" or "You can't do anything right." So interacting by never mentioning any disability has failed, because others, assuming I have high functioning, have lectured me that I should hold certain jobs, get advanced education, date certain people, and get my own place. Being upfront about my situation helps somewhat.

As an adolescent I got along fine until I opened my mouth. However, silence caused abuse. Therefore I became vocal; but consequently, much of what I said or did offended people. So people spew hate on certain unique individuals no matter what. Most of us aren't purposely offensive; rather, we're angry, saddened, and bewildered as to how to function socially. Although most people willfully avoid social faux pas, people with acute Asperger's or similar disorders cannot change certain behavior patterns. Many with unwanted conditions offend continually, both by words and actions. It cannot be pinpointed; perhaps brain wave conditions or missing sensors fail to differentiate between what is or isn't socially proper. We cannot but see things differently.

Another major problem is that Asperger's and related autism spectrum disorders predominantly affect males, a ten to one ratio. Unlike men with other mental conditions or those without any condition, most men with Asperger's or autism cannot find similar mates.

Worse yet, others with similar conditions have been antisocial and non-supportive. Perhaps having both parties in a friendship with the same condition seems too difficult. Support groups for these conditions are centered in big cities and are often unavailable in suburbia. Available groups are often attended by and dominated by angry parents of young people with these conditions, the parents causing chaos and disruption of such meetings, requiring most groups to have moderators.

The author of an Asperger's book geared towards youngsters understood that they often give offense inadvertently. The author thought that Asperger's sufferers should apologize whenever they give offense, even though they feel no need. Yet you're attempting to burden someone with constantly apologizing for something natural for them, besides the burden of mental disability they already bear. Asperger's books are either written by parents about their children or by those with an extremely mild case of Asperger's, who brag about their social and financial success. These books aren't worth the paper they're printed on.

Also, Asperger's or mid-high functioning autistics are often dishonest about who had these conditions. Albert Einstein and Thomas Edison allegedly had Asperger's merely because of childhood difficulties; labeling them as such supposedly creates respect. That's offensive; now they are expected to be Einsteins or Edisons; they cannot.

Those with acute Asperger's or autism have used two general coping strategies. One is being completely withdrawn; by not interacting or communicating, you cannot offend anyone. Yet one cannot enjoy so-

cial interactions, and people often bully quiet people. Another strategy is being bombastic. This prevents others from dominating you and makes you feel good, but doesn't win friends. Maintaining a balance between the extremes can be as difficult as walking while holding a board with a marble atop, and keeping the marble centered.

Two famous people who apparently had Asperger's syndrome were world chess champion Robert J. "Bobby" Fischer and famous artist Andrew "Andy Warhol" Warhola. Andy's silence and feigned ignorance lowered people's expectations of him; it was primarily effective. Andy almost singlehandedly created pop art and popularized alternative music. However, he offended thousands of people, never married, and was critically wounded in an assassination attempt by a woman.

Bobby Fischer adopted aggressiveness, which also helped in some ways while hurting in others. Besides becoming world chess champion, he became rich and world famous, making relatively obscure professional chess lucrative and popular. However, he was arrested on suspicion of being a bank robber, then charged with destruction of a mattress while in custody. He was often socially backwards, did not marry until age sixty, was eventually kicked out of the United States, bounced from various countries which he was kicked out of, jailed again, kicked out of the chess federation, ended up spewing hateful sentiment towards America, and died prematurely.

Such individual's antisocial and sometimes hateful behavior is understandable. Being super judgmental, my grandmother expressed intense dislike and condemnation of Fischer although she never met him and before he ever became antagonistic. Others often try to outsmart socially inept intellectuals. Trying to intellectually defeat people as intelligent as Fischer only makes them increasingly angry. Fischer's stepfather published a book that said Bobby "didn't have a sane bone in his body." A television special on Fischer showed a slapstick routine of people doing spastic motions, insinuating that he was crazy.

I shared some of Bobby and Andy's situations but had it worse. Bobby and Andy lived in New York City, with unlimited numbers of people to associate with, and both had siblings. I was an only child in suburbia. Besides, my multifaceted situation is more complicated, including a bad memory which prevented me from success. I've often exhibited certain idiosyncrasies such as inappropriate smiling. Instead of the true cause, my mind wandering, some people assumed I was being diabolical. Instead, why not do something incredibly radical and unheard of, showing love and compassion towards awkward individuals, and when you're wrong, admitting it. You might be shocked by being shown love, compassion, and sympathy back.

Since middle age, I've gained an extraordinary memory of certain past events. Other people I've known for years claim no memory of such events, causing conflicting views of the past. I spot things that others don't notice (until I point them out), and hear things others can't hear, such as identifying songs on a radio, then turning it up so others can also identify them. I've felt things others can't feel and have acute senses of smell and taste. I can also read upside down. Unusual abilities are often counterproductive, and make people think you're weird and resent you instead of helping you.

Ironically, I often cannot remember what I did yesterday, am clueless to which direction is north, south, or west, cannot sleep properly, cannot focus my mind, and never remember verbal directions given in multiple steps. People never stopped telling me what I could or could not do as if they were omniscient and knew me better than I knew myself.

As for employment, I was unable to relate to co-workers. Slowness in opening doors for people outside angered them. Slowness in closing doors let cold air in or dogs out, causing conflict. By closing a garage door which nearly came down on a driver's truck, he became irate. By disposing of what I thought was useless junk, there were uproars about company sabotage. While working security, I didn't react to a medical emergency I was unaware of. Besides being fired for incompetence, I was accused of being a potential murderer. Outside of work, I left a handicapped friend at a shopping mall with another friend because my mind

failed to register that he needed a ride home. Both friends accused me of being a monster, and his mother held a perpetual grudge.

Because people were bothering me or treating me unfairly in social groups and special interest groups, I began to protect myself by being overbearing. Yet that had consequences. I joined various groups with a certain number, say thirty. Typically the group dwindled down to twenty, then ten, and then five. I left groups for three months and then returned. The groups went back up to thirty. The dwindling process repeated as long as I was there. By leaving for another three months, the group is back to thirty.

An older person I knew was bombastic and offended people in church. So a special meeting was called, where he was tearfully and angrily confronted with facilitating the group's depletion. Evidently, I've done likewise. However, after vocalizing this observation to express myself, alleviate my frustration, and improve the situation, I encountered abrupt and vehement denials to the contrary. Not only are my feelings negated, I'm accused of arrogance in thinking I have power over such groups (I actually do), adding insult to injury. Now I wisely avoid the vast majority of people.

I also interacted with people averaging twenty plus years older than me (my father, a church lady, a minister, and a counselor). All were happily married, had loving families and friends, jobs they enjoyed, and no handicaps. I however was single, a loner with social dysfunction, had a menial job I despised, and averaged twenty years younger. By inadvertently offending these people, they shunned me; in the minister's case, for years. I inquired about this issue with the offended counselor. She said I should use my intelligence and encourage others, which I viewed as misguided pontificating. Such sentiment is outrageous; older people with no handicaps and abundant social reinforcement should support and encourage people like me. They should be the bigger person.

Besides, "Spiritual people never cherish resentment or harbor a grudge against anyone--even though deserving of hatred for their conduct" (Clement of Alexandria's *Stromata or Miscellanies Book VII Chapter 11* AD 195). Also, thinking bad about someone becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. As long as society views intelligent people with mental handicaps or personality quirks as evil geniuses or diabolical sycophants, the cycle of conflict and rejection perpetuates. An excellent movie about someone with Asperger's is *Ben X*.(27)

Supposedly, famous autistic savant twin sisters Flo and Kay Lyman have personalities so unique, they can only connect to each other; anyone else cannot stand them for long, only for short periods. If that's true, as I'm unique, and also an only child, NOBODY else on Earth can stand me at length. Actually, that's 99% true, but shouldn't be. If God was as narrow-minded and couldn't tolerate connecting with someone very different for long periods, He'd have to condemn absolutely everyone to rot in Hell.

For those who share some of these conditions, you're not alone. Pseudo-educated psychologists, medical doctors, PhDs, landlords, bosses, peers, friends, ministers, priests, teachers, and my own parents have betrayed me. I forgive and forget as best I can. Thankfully, my Christian faith teaches that we'll all be judged by a perfect, loving God, not other people. The saying "God plus one is always a majority" resonates wonderfully.

Tourette's Syndrome

People are hypersensitive about what someone says. This is fatal to those with Tourette's syndrome, whose condition causes them to frequently blurt blunt words and statements. People prefer being lied to, which is antithetical to Christianity. The movie *Liar Liar* does an excellent job of showcasing this repugnant aspect of human nature.(28) Even those who have difficulty controlling their volume should be shown more respect. Being shushed makes us feel like we're being treated like children; it's degrading. This is extremely hypocritical since we live in a noisy society; we don't shush leaf-blowers, chainsaws, and jackhammers. So stop the hypocrisy.

Perceived Intelligence and Expectations

Judging intelligence by perceived intelligence overly burdens those who appear incredibly intelligent through conversing and writing but have inferior functioning. For example, I've had a 150 IQ, yet cannot follow oral directions with multiple steps. If oral directions were used for IQ tests, I might have a 60 IQ. Also, those with mental handicaps in specific areas like myself are sometimes treated like children or someone who is mentally incompetent in all areas. Actually, both the bottom and top two percent of those on the IQ scale often have special difficulties, whereas the bottom ten percent (excluding the bottom two) are treated as normal.

Conclusion about Mental Handicaps

Despite there being distinct condition types, do not place labels on people. Society should accommodate varying situations, treating everyone with dignity and respect, not psychoanalyzing them. People act like "Whoever opposes me or is different, they're ill, stupid, evil, or weird. Whoever agrees with me is healthy, smart, good, and normal." Even "nice" people, left to their own devices, fail to righteously evaluate others and perpetuate justice. Yet by embracing Christ's principles "judge not," "turn the other cheek" (ignore minor offenses), and "treat others how you want to be treated" we can affect change here and now.

Gender Dysphoria

Despite important gender differences, society promoted harmful extremes. Ages ago, men and women were encouraged to emphasize their bad qualities and oppress and enforce gender caricatures on others. But by following original Christianity, abuses vanish; abandoning traditional gender roles is not the answer.

There are terrible misconceptions about gender. One distortion is that there is little difference between males and females, a Modernist idea with no historical, scientific, or logical basis. There are radical differences both physically and mentally. See 31. Women's Rights under Are the Sexes Unequivocally Distinct? Others confuse gender nonconformity with homosexuality, which are usually unrelated. Those concerned about sexuality should be concerned about what schools teach in sex education classes.

Another is that all males are identical, and all females are identical. Yet gender dysphoria is real; people are born with it. The terms "male or female brain" are misleading; brains in undeveloped fetuses are neutral. However, prenatal events impact fetal brains. The first stage impacts sex organ development, the second impacts mating preference, the third impacts gender identity. If something unusual happens in the third stage of development, you get a male with a female-*biased* brain, a female with a male-*biased* brain, or an androgynous persona.²⁹⁻³¹

Numerous tests determine gender identity. These tests divulge typically male or female characteristics in various categories. The vast majority of males have mostly typical male characteristics; the vast majority of females: mostly typical female characteristics; very few are 100% one way or the other. Gender dysphoria is indicated by a male having predominantly female characteristics and vice versa.

My parents and classmates hated my gender nonconformity. I disturbed people for thirty years for liking girl's toys over boy's, wearing oven mitts, holding my books like a girl, curling up with an afghan, "laughing like Suzanne Sommers," not liking sports, my belt pointing the wrong way, being poor at math, being too quiet, emotional, sensitive, and wordy, along with a hundred other atypical mannerisms. Today, people just assume I'm the typical male without getting to know me, which also hampers relationships from forming, besides my autism spectrum disorder.

But as Church father Tertullian's *On Idolatry Chapter XVI* (AD 200) stated: "I find no dress cursed by God, except a woman's dress on a man" (transvestitism). Outside of that, the concern was that men have manly qualities such as hard work, bravery, and assertiveness. Those who condemn idiosyncratic mannerisms or not liking sports (the early Church had a low opinion of sports) are ignorant. Anyway, it's been said that God is so masculine, all men are feminine in comparison.

The fourth problem is misusing gender dysphoria to justify interchangeable gender roles or sex changes. Again, instead of male and female brains, we have male and female *biased* brains; one's body largely controls one's behavior and determines gender. For example, as a teenager I had 70/30 female bias. By middle-age the bias reduced to 54/46. As a senior citizen my thinking might become normalized. So encouraging nonconforming children, who haven't even reached puberty, to change their sex, is tantamount to child abuse. Besides, many adults who complete their physical transformation remain unhappy; some commit suicide. True acceptance would be loving people AS IS, without their transforming themselves. And we can't have a hundred different gender roles to accommodate gender orientation percentages; two fixed gender roles is prudent. Non-conformists must try to conform; they will survive.

Although diet and exercise guru Richard Simmons "wasn't a real man," he had important things to say. Quoting his pithy sayings found on a cereal box: "There's much more to being healthy than eating right and exercising. Here are some thoughts that have helped me every single day:

"I promise myself I'll not let one person, one word, or one negative comment ruin even one second, one minute, or one hour of my day." "Whenever I find something to criticize about myself, I'll follow with a positive thought about myself." "I have twenty-four hours in each of my days like everyone else; it's how I choose to use those hours that will make the difference in my days." "I'll stop comparing myself to others and make myself the best person I can possibly be." "I'd rather be respected for overcoming the tragedies in my life than pitied for having them." "My opinion of me is more important than anyone else's opinion of me." (I'd rather say "God's opinion of me is more important than everyone else's.....").³²

Miscellaneous Differences

Note several examples of persecution of those who were different: A boy with an unusual name with negative connotations lived a life resembling a bad Twilight Zone episode. Because of his name, for a dozen years, children in line in school or at the bus stop would with one accord, pick up and move the line, forcing him to always be last. Besides always picked last for teams, he wasn't even allowed to play with other children at recess, but for years wandered off by himself, although not the worst sportsman, but average. A few times he was roped like cattle on the playground. They jumped up and down on his lunch, piled worms on it, and other such things behind his back. Because of his organizational problem, bullies, besides provoking fights, kicked his books and colored pencil bag into the air, causing it to burst open. Then others kicked his pens, pencils, and books down the hall. One time they found his schoolbook and ripped it to shreds. There were return folders for completed assignments. Other children removed his papers from those folders and hid them.

Besides his schoolwork being disrupted, his social life was pathetic; students, though not abusing him, wouldn't speak to him. His name was used in an epithetic song "Who Do You Hate?" Being an only child, he couldn't go to siblings for help. With an undiagnosed mental disability even his parents didn't understand, who shut off all emotional support, he was consequently blamed for problems that his condition caused. In fights or conflicts, teachers took the other student's side, saying: "Don't mess with so and so." If he created a special and unique project, the criticism was "Why must you always be different?" After being photographed with his cross country running team, the pictures were thrown out and re-shot without him being there. After his archenemy attacked his groin, he escaped regular High school, getting his diploma from a program located in an old mansion.

Years later, although the people around him were now older and knew better, they developed complicated and convoluted reasoning to evade their conscience. So his persecution never stopped, it only became different and more subtle. Social persecution continued on the job, at home, in the neighborhood, in church, and in special interest groups.

Though highly intelligent, he only held low-paying menial jobs; nobody gave him a chance due to his personality and learning disability. The work was either extremely tedious, dirty, dangerous, or degrading. A company had him shred paper for stuffing boxes, which paper contained used Kleenex, half eaten food with bugs circling it, corn chips spilling everywhere, and an occasional dead mouse. Although his social problems continued *ad infinitum, ad absurdum, ad nauseam*, thankfully he was able to retire early, be financially secure, use his writing talent, and escape most problems by simple avoidance. Despite his continued difficulties this made life worth living.

In 1847, Ignaz Philip Semmelweis discovered that washing hands before surgery cut patient's infection rates, and ended up saving thousands of lives. Instead of acknowledging him, the establishment got angry, blocked his promotion, and turned on him. Retreating to his homeland, he continued his work, achieving even greater verification. Finally in 1861 he wrote a book about his methods. The establishment there gave it poor reviews. Meanwhile, he kept getting more angry and polemical. In 1865 he suffered a mental breakdown from rage and frustration. Thankfully, his friend Joseph Lister continued his work, which is embraced as necessary today.

In another scenario, a man went on a date with a woman to a ballgame. Some men behind him started mocking him and harassing him. Instead of standing with him, even the woman began taunting him with the harassers. They poured sticky soda all over him, then attacked him, stripping him to his underwear. Then they chased him out for a long way, until he came into contact with an electrified third train rail, and died. At the Salem witch trials, people whom others thought were weird were tested by having a weight tied to them and being thrown into water. If they floated they were executed as a witch. If they drowned they were declared innocent. People also drowned black cats, and a thousand other outrages. Human judgments cannot be trusted. A majority at any given time could even elect to swim in nuclear waste. Contrariwise, God, according to Christianity, has perfect judgment.

Christianity

Christians are depicted as intolerant bigots, Neanderthals disconnected from "progressive" values, dangerous militia types, foolish simpletons, or dangerous psychopaths. Those stereotypes are preposterous, only reflecting the one-tenth of one percent in any society who are mentally imbalanced or disturbed. Irreligion can also be discredited by focusing on extremists such as the Oklahoma City Bomber Timothy McVeigh, an agnostic. Yet one irreligionist said "I assume he [McVeigh] was a Christian." The dishonesty is incredible.

Harming others with religion is terrible, proven disastrous time and again. Christendom's historical violence is regrettable, but others, including Buddhism, have sordid history. The overarching sociodynamic encompassing all religions has been size and power; groups without scandal are invariably tiny. Irreligion is certainly no solution, since it has bred even more atrocities. See Bruce Sheiman's *An Atheist Defends Religion*.⁽³³⁾ Jesus clarified true Christianity: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).

Many so-called freedom lovers lambaste and browbeat churches and private organizations, even attempting to enlist the government, to coerce integration of ideas and practices foreign to that organization. Ironically, this destroys freedom. Many people, conscience-wise, object to modern ideas; yet churches and private organizations have often, chameleon-like, acquiesced to popular opinion to avoid being deemed anti-social. Jesus declared that all true Christians would suffer persecution, even from their own families; the Apostle Paul reaffirmed this. However, considering Christ's promises, the price is infinitely worth it.

Additional Insight

Besides name calling, another negative is uncomplimentary labels, such as recluse, paranoid, eccentric, weird, or whatever. How would you like your idiosyncrasies, quirks, or irregularities pointed out and magnified? Sadly, some people have even bought into labeling themselves. Yet treating someone how you want to be treated requires not only refraining from labeling or diagnosing someone, it involves showcasing someone's good qualities. Besides, these negative labels are merely subjective, not objective.

Another mistake is considering oneself so different from others that you're feeling like a green Martian or Frankenstein monster. Nobody is unique in their difficulties, and underlying emotions are the same or similar in everyone. Buying into being weird alienates you from the human race. Viewing yourself as outside of humanity blocks you from loving God's other children. Despair is a liability, or on the flipside, sinful pride.

Special Notice

We're all dirty sinners, putting on our pants (nudists excepted) one leg at a time. But many expect royal treatment, and if not, they're miffed. The only reasons anybody should be imperialized are instances of great self-sacrifice and service such as courageous heroism, some great invention or idea, and suchlike. Elevating movie and rock stars provokes others to imitate their bad lifestyles. It's outrageous to magnify the average person's subtle nuances of irregular behavior while ignoring outlandish behaviors of society's rich and famous. Some women worship rock stars with their phallic guitar, or sports heroes. Yet these men are generally the most promiscuous, uncommitted men alive. This is akin to the naked pictures men plaster about; join the real world. Exalting some devalues others, like a seesaw effect.

Righteous Judgment

One of the most abused Scripture texts, poorly rendered Judge not, is Matthew 7:1. Damn not is better. (Wycliffe's 1380 translation). Denying the right to do *any* type of judging, including discernment, would be fallacious. Put simply, judging solely by appearance (John 7:24) is wrong, and even judging by words and actions without knowing the motivation behind the words or actions. But we can certainly discover the fruit of someone's words or actions.

In my lifetime, though considering myself a people person, I've consistently been ostracized, made many enemies, gotten death threats, been fired from many jobs, kicked out of apartments, accused of serious crimes (though innocent), accused of being psychotic, accused of being on drugs, accused of being demon possessed, and have frequently been assailed with angry outbursts, condescension, and lies. To top it off, after reading my writings, one man said "You may not be retarded, but your opinions are." Believing that life is fine and we shouldn't complain is counterintuitive and counterproductive for socially disenfranchised people. Truth is not determined by popular vote. ****Let God be true, but every man a liar (Romans 3:4).****

How Conflicts are Usually Handled

When one person being negated or mistreated by a group, whether in schools, apartment complexes, jobsites, corporations, churches, or social groups, a sympathetic authority figure usually attempts to mediate. However, most authorities ultimately ignore the problem or blame or kick out the victim because the leader is afraid of

risking his job or business by punishing a large group of people, who pay his salary, rent, maintain his class body, or workforce. Oftentimes, the seemingly nicest people, with the power to execute righteousness, take the coward's way out and betray you. Since nobody can be trusted to do the right thing, understanding human psychology and bracing yourself for its consequence beforehand helps assuage lasting upset.

Alleviating Social Problems

Concerning social discrimination, if the marginalized person caused their condemnation by sinning, they should repent. If this discrimination is unwarranted, whoever is causing this inferior social status is sinning and should repent. And if someone says something which seems offensive, ignore it, whether one incident or a hundred. Righteousness not only entails not grieving people and ignoring slights, but going out of your way to befriend and help unfortunates. I'd first try ignoring bullies, try to befriend them, or stand up to them. However, if you're all alone and in conflict with the majority of people you're around and are completely unwelcome somewhere, you must remove yourself from that situation. To defeat an oppressive society we must connect with those who share our situation, convince others to take our side, and fight.

Today, youngsters can sometimes escape regular high school. There's been some progress, with alternative high schools available for ostracized youths, those with various learning disabilities or family or substance problems. These schools eliminate most of the violence, harassment, chaos, confusion, and social pressure of regular high school. Students can often receive individualized attention from teachers, befriend others with similar backgrounds, or at least commiserate. Fortunately, I attended an alternative high school, retired from work early, and collect a disability check. I've primarily thrived because of having well-off parents. Those in similar situations without family support and only collecting the disability check would be imperiled; they should get quadruple the disability money.

Genetic engineering could be a godsend; weeding out severe mental conditions so more people aren't born with them; we cannot wait for people to treat others fairly. Yet many parents of children with severe mental conditions and the handicapped themselves are woefully misguided in celebrating these conditions and resisting their elimination; this is counterproductive.

For example, a woman noted that more and more people are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. She therefore concluded that those with such conditions will eventually outnumber "normal" people, and so end atop the social scale instead of beneath it. However, these disorders were completely unrecognized before 1900. Those that had them were lumped together with those who had other conditions. So it's impossible to know if there truly is a historical increase in the percentage of people born with autism spectrum disorders.

Secondly, these conditions are forms of learning disability. So even with a majority, this majority would continue to have low paying jobs, while those without any condition could have high paying jobs. In my case a form of panic disorder accompanies my condition. Therefore I wish I was born via genetic engineering; God could have created my spirit and mated it with the good qualities which also resided in healthy sperm and egg specimens, simply avoiding the defects. These conditions are so serious that even eugenics is called for. (34) We mustn't get to where most people cannot learn important jobs and have panic attacks all over the place; societies would collapse. However, we still deserve to have a loving spouse and a vibrant social life.

Conclusion

Ultimately, perpetrators of nonsensical ostracism and mistreatment will receive a rude awakening at Judgment Day for negating people who are actually nicer than themselves and lose their very souls. Many that are last shall be first, and the first shall be last (Matt.19:30, Mk.10:31, Lk.13:30). It will be an extreme shock when

social status will reverse on Judgment Day. For Christians, God is greater than all your problems. Regardless, life is short, and before long, all these problems will blow away like dry leaves, and we'll go with GOD. Surely those of us with social dysfunction or other problems, if we achieve Heaven, will appreciate it more. However, just because nonsensical social distinctions can become inconsequential does not mean they are. Ostracizing others can lead to their discouragement and turning away from God. Societies CAN and MUST change.

