

3 UNDERSTANDING CORRUPTION: ITS MANIFESTATIONS IN CHURCH

A. Introduction

The church, being a community of God's people, is expected to be free of all forms of corruption, and also to set the pace for the rest of society. However, the truth is that many times, the church is a reflection of the society in which it exists and vice versa. It thus follows that where corruption thrives in the wider society, it can also most likely be found not only among Christians but also even among church leaders. An attempt by Christians at reflecting on and engaging the subject of corruption would thus be incomplete without an inward look. We would need to first of all "remove the log in our own eyes," and then we would be of help to society in tackling the evil of corruption.



B. Among Christians: Acts 5:1-11

1. Describe the circumstances leading to the death of Anania and Sapphira?
2. What do you think was wrong with what they did?
3. a. What are some similar examples in which corruption manifests itself among Christians today?
b. How have you responded to similar temptations in your life?

C. Among Church Leaders: Micah 3:5-12

1. What quarrel does God have with the various leaders, and what judgment does he pronounce upon them?
2. What could have been the consequences of the leaders' actions to the community of God's people?
3. a. Give examples of ways in which church leaders today engage in similar corrupt practices.
b. In your own life, are there times you have found yourself engaging in

similar practices and what have you done about it?

D. Memory Verse: Micah 3:11

“Her leaders judge for a bribe, her priests teach for a price, and her prophets tell fortunes for money. Yet they lean upon the LORD and say, is not the LORD among us? No disaster will come upon us.”

E. Point of Reflection

Identify at least one example of corruption that could be manifesting itself in your fellowship. Determine a specific step you are going to take as an individual or as a group to address it. Write these down and spend a few minutes in prayer about it.

Additional Passages

Acts 8:14-23, Luke 24:1-5.