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## Viewpoints

*Observing events in our modern world from the viewpoint of our ascended Savior.*

### Human Nature on Display - March 7, 2014

*Trying to suppress the truth about sin only magnifies our need for Jesus.*

[Online Version & Archive](#)

Controversy has erupted on the campus of the University of Iowa. The institution has been experiencing a number of sexual assaults. The latest occurred about two weeks ago-- the ninth sexual assault since August.

But the assaults did not generate as much national news as what happened afterwards. In an interview with the student newspaper, the president of the university, Sally Mason, remarked: "the goal would be to end that, to never have another sexual assault. That's probably not a realistic goal just given human nature, and that's unfortunate...." Criticism erupted over this statement and its reference to human nature. This criticism included protestors who showed up at Mason's annual presidential lecture (photo).



Mason issued a public apology, saying that she was "very, very sorry for any pain that my words might have caused." Even the Iowa Board of Regents got involved, holding a closed-door meeting to review her job performance. In the end, she was allowed to keep her position.

So why the protests, and why the near-firing of a university president who basically said that human nature is the source of heinous crimes like sexual assault? Well, at least one critic feels that Mason was making excuses for the perpetrators with a "boys will boys" downplaying of the crimes. This criticism is reflected in the message which the woman on the left is displaying: "University protects rapists not victims."

The only way I can see twisting Mason's words into a downplaying of the assaults would be if I believed that human nature is basically good, or a least value neutral. And in fact, this is the belief that the woman on the right displays on her sign, which reads: "Not in my nature,

Sally.” To which I respond: “Miss—yes, you on the right holding the sign- your knowledge is shallow. Terribly shallow.”

While this young lady may not have a specific desire to sexually assault another person, the human nature in those who commit sexual assault is the same sinful nature that resides in you and me and all people. Even non-Christians, who rely solely on observing centuries of history, know that human nature is deeply corrupt and capable of all sorts of evil. Why do you think our Founding Fathers created our government to be a government of limited powers? (Maybe something to do with corrupt humans tending to abuse power?) And why did they establish three equal branches of government? (Maybe something to do with checks and balances for guarding against the flawed character of man?) And why do you think our Founding Fathers built our nation on the Rule of Law? (Maybe something to do with curbing the sinful human nature?)

James Madison summarizes the thinking of our Founding Fathers: “The history of almost all the great councils and consultations held among mankind for reconciling their discordant opinions, assuaging their mutual jealousies, and adjusting their respective interests, is a history of factions, contentions, and disappointments, and may be classed among the most **dark and degraded pictures** which display the infirmities and **depravities of the human character.**” [Federalist #37, emphasis mine]

And so far, I’ve only shared with you from the superficial wisdom of man, which apparently a number of students at the University of Iowa are sorely lacking. But what now follows is the indepth wisdom recorded in the Scriptures by our Almighty God.

Jesus: “For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside” (Mark 7:21-22).

St. Paul: “There is no one righteous, not even one...there is no one who does good, not even one” (Romans 1:10-12). And, “I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature” (Romans 7:18).

David: “Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me” (Psalm 51:4).

Our Lutheran Confessions rightly observe that we humans do not begin to know the depth of the depravity of the sinful human nature until God the Spirit opens our eyes through the truth of the Scriptures. But even more eye-opening is learning why God would leave heaven to come down to earth to be the Savior of this world of corrupt humans. But this is the unfathomable mercy of God in Christ. “For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,” explains Paul (Colossians 2:10).

Jesus is the one and only perfect man because he is the Son of God incarnate, the only one qualified for saving corrupt humans from our sinful selves. Paul explains further, “When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ; he forgave us all our sins” (Colossians 2:13).

As political correctness attempts to suppress the truth about our human nature, it actually puts it on public display before the whole nation. Nor is this lost on Christ, who’s using it to

remind us of why we need him so much. How ironic, then, that while some at the University of Iowa are trying to give people a learning in political correctness, Christ is using it to bestow a higher education. †††

*Source Material (Links may become inactive over time.)*

[U of Iowa President Apologizes](#) @ kwwl.com

[The Federalist No. 37](#) @ constitution.org

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*Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz*

