

C a u s e vs E f f e c t

This ugly truth cannot be denied--today's world is getting more and more out of control.

Basically we embrace one of these attitudes:

- ♥ Because we do not understand the **cause**, we do not understand what to do to overcome the problem.
- ♥ Therefore, it is quite possible that we conclude "there is nothing I can do about it," (nothing could be further from the truth). Or
- ♥ We would like to help but do not understand the **cause**. Without this understanding, we do not know where to begin to reverse the current trends.

Obviously, the "**cause**" is going to have a direct "**effect**" on the outcome.
So let's identify the cause here and now.

The Bible clearly identifies it. Whether we want to accept it or not, **Hosea 4:6** provides the straight forward answer to the problem:

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..."

What knowledge is mankind lacking? The truths revealed in God's word for the purpose of providing the correct understanding of why we need the knowledge provided therein. We learn how to live in a manner both pleasing to Him and meaningful to all of mankind.

What does the "correct" knowledge include?

- ♥ Human life is the only part of creation that exists with *a direct spiritual connection* to Our Creator, the God of the Universe.
- ♥ This connection is referred to as our "soul."
- ♥ As part of this, each person has been created as a spiritual being reflecting the "image" and "likeness" of God at birth. (Genesis 1:26-27)
- ♥ Therefore, God considers each one ever born *highly valuable* in His sight.
- ♥ Just as we need daily physical food to maintain our physical body, spiritual food is required every day to feed our soul.
- ♥ Far too many are not aware of these truths:
 - *Our value as a person is **not** based upon performance or possessions!*
 - Without daily spiritual feeding, we will never gain the true depth and knowledge of our value as an individual person.
 - Without recognizing our value, we have no purpose in life.
 - Without purpose, depression sets in as the result of negative thinking.
 - When this is allowed to take root and grow deep within, it is not uncommon for people to entertain suicidal thoughts--some even to the point of completion.

And all of this will
cause a long term negative effect
on individual people, society in general and our eternal destination.

It is my prayer that each of us will become actively engaged in overcoming our lack of knowledge with fulfillment through learning and putting into practice the truths offered through His word.

Indeed,

"Depression is Reversible, Suicide is Preventable."

Onward to Higher Ground