

## Genesis 6:1-8\_ When Wickedness Goes Wild.

Sermon text read.... Prayer of illuminations

>>>>You just heard [Genesis 6:1-8](#). Let me show you what that looks like in 2026.>>>>

Several years ago a high school held a "Senior Assassin" game—a tradition where graduating seniors use water guns to "eliminate" each other over several weeks. It was supposed to be harmless fun.

But that year, students began stalking targets late at night, breaking into homes, ambushing players in parking lots.

The school shut it down.

When administrators interviewed students afterward, one senior said:

"It started as a game, but we stopped caring about the rules. We just kept pushing further."

Here's the thing: no one started that game planning to terrorize people. But step by step, boundary by boundary, the game became something monstrous. And the scariest part? The students didn't even notice it happening.

That's how wickedness works. It doesn't announce itself. It starts small—a little compromise here, a little justification there. And before you know it, what used to shock you now entertains you.

[Genesis 6:5](#) says: "The LORD saw that human wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every inclination of the human mind was nothing but evil all the time."

Here's the question:

What if as a culture we are further gone than we think?

What if the reason you don't see wickedness is because you've been calling it something else?

**This morning, I want to show you five truths about the danger of wickedness and the mercy of God.**

And the first thing Moses shows us is this: Humanity is addicted to sin."

### **Humanity is addicted to sin. v1-2**

Having just come out of chapter 5—the genealogy of Seth's bloodline—we now enter a section that explains what was happening to Cains during the same time period.

The first thing we see is that there's a population explosion

"When mankind began to multiply on the face of the earth..."

And with that multiplication came the multiplication of sin.

It multiplied in number, type, frequency.

I say that b/c of what was happening in the second half of v1

"The sons of God saw that the daughters of mankind were beautiful, and they took any they chose as wives."

This refers to, the godly line of Seth intermarrying with Cain's line—the Godly, compromising with the godless.

Just like when a Christian yokes up a non-believer

Mankind broke their God-ordained boundaries and intermarried.

Notice the progression: they saw, they wanted, they took.

Not a few. But any they choose.

No pause. No restraint. No ability to say no.

Just desire being fed until desire became their master.

And here's the thing about addiction—it's never satisfied.

That's why the text says they took ANY they chose.

Indiscriminate. Insatiable. Unstoppable.

That's what unchecked sin does.

It promises freedom but produces slavery.

You start off controlling it. Then it controls you.

And when a person is enslaved to sin, they stop asking, "Is this right?"

They start asking, "How can I experience this more and more?"

And here's the thing about sin addiction—it's never satisfied.

That's why the text says they took **ANY** they chose.

Not one woman. Not two. ANY.

Sin is a voracious beast that demands you keep feeding it.

And it forces you to reorder your life around it.

Where you live to indulge your sin.

**[PAUSE]**

So here are my questions for you.

What are you telling yourself you can quit anytime?

What desire have you been feeding without boundaries, convincing yourself it's under control?

**[PAUSE]**

Now, here's what makes sin addiction even more terrifying....

**Sin is limitless but God's grace is not. v3**

In v3 God says... "My Spirit will not remain with mankind forever, because they are corrupt. Their days will be 120 years."

This is both judgment and mercy.

Judgment because God is saying, "I will not keep restraining evil forever. Your day of reckoning will come.

Mercy because God does not bring the flood immediately.

He gives time. He gives warning. He gives 120 years.

You know one of interesting things about sin is that it has no natural stopping point.

Sin doesn't say to itself you've had enough of me, how about you go do some good I'll be here when you get back.

Sin is like a black hole.

Once you cross the event horizon, there's no escape.

The gravity is so strong that not even light can break free.

Everything gets pulled in. Everything gets consumed.

That's what sin does.

It will take your mind. Your marriage. Your children. Your integrity.

It will bleed you dry until there's nothing left.

And if God did not set a limit, sin's inescapable gravity would keep consuming humanity until there was nothing left.

God says, "My Spirit will not remain with mankind forever."

He's going to remove his grace from their lives.

Think of it like a dam holding back violent floodwaters.

Behind the dam, the pressure is building.

God says, "I am the One holding it back."

But should humanity refuses to turn—the dam will break.

And when it does, the floodwaters won't trickle out. It won't be a controlled flow

They explode. They burst forth. Destroying everything in their path.

That's how much mercy is operating in the world right now.

Without it we would be wiped off the face of the earth, both the righteous and the unrighteous.

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But it would be foolish of us to think that God's patience is unlimited

He says... "Their days will be 120 years."

God is saying my grace has an expiration date.

The 120 years reveals the nature of a patient and loving God who delays judgment because He delights in mercy.

Providing ample time for people to turn to God.

And here's the beauty of it all.

You're on the other side of the cross now.

The flood, the judgment you deserved? It already fell—on Jesus.

The countdown to judgment? It ran out at Calvary.

The Spirit who was striving in [Genesis 6:3](#)? He now indwells those of us who are in Christ.

You're not under the 120-year countdown to judgment.

You're under eternal grace.

You've been sealed by the Spirit until the day of your resurrection.

That's the position of every believer.

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However, if you're here this morning and you haven't come to Christ—if you're still running from God, still feeding the addiction, still crossing the boundaries—hear me on this.

God extended mercy. But He also drew a deadline.

He gave humanity 120 years. But eventually, their time ran out.

Imagine a doctor diagnoses you with terminal cancer.

The cancer will kill you.

The doctor says, "There's a cure.

Take this treatment and you will be cancer free."

The man says, "I feel fine today. I'll think about it later."

The doctor says, "You have 120 days.

After that, the treatment will no longer be available."

Here's the moral of the story...

Cancer doesn't wait.

And sin doesn't wait either.

So here's my question for you.

How much time do you think you have to get right with God?

Everyone thinks they have more than enough until it's too late.

Tomorrow is not promised and later might be too late.

Now is the time to give your life to Jesus.

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Sadly, the story gets worse.

Because sin doesn't just enslave you. It Corrupts everything it touches.

### **Sin is a plague, corrupting everything it touches. v4**

V.4 says...

*The Nephilim were on the earth both in those days and afterward, when the sons of God came to the daughters of mankind, who bore children to them. They were the powerful men of old, the famous men."*

Now, we need to understand what Moses is showing us here.

The word **Nephilim** likely comes from a Hebrew root meaning "to fall."

Fallen ones. Or those who cause others to fall.

Either way, these guys are: violent, oppressive, dangerous men.

We know the name carried terror, because in [Numbers 13:33](#), when the spies returned from the promised land, they said they saw the Nephilim there.

Moses calls them powerful men—warriors, champions, mighty men.

But here, the word is filled with irony.

These men were mighty, but not righteous.

They were celebrated, but not holy.

They were anti-heroes.

Then Moses calls them **famous men**—literally, **men of the name**.

They had a following. They had renown. They had a name people knew.

But they were famous for violence, exploitation, & rebelling against God.

Here's what Moses is showing us:

**Sin had reached the highest levels of society.**

Not just the back alley. Not just private homes.

Sin had infected the powerful.

Sin had infected the famous.

Sin had infected the people everybody else looked up to.

The corruption continued. It spread. It metastasized.

What started as boundary-breaking in verses 1–2 became civilization-wide corruption by verse 4.

**That's how sin works: it spreads like a plague.**

It infects families. It infects culture. It infects power. It infects entire civilizations.

You know scientists measure how fast viruses spread—by how many people one infected person will infect.

Some viruses spread slowly. Some spread quickly - like Measles & whooping cough.

But sin?

Sin has no containment unless God intervenes.

One person's compromise, doesn't stay with the initial person.

Watch the progression.

Cain killed Abel.

One murder.

Five generations later, Lamech is bragging about killing a man and a boy.

By [Genesis 6](#), the whole earth is filled with violence.

One act of rebellion became a family pattern.

A family pattern became a cultural norm.

A cultural norm became civilizational corruption.

And here's the principle you need to burn into your mind:

**What one generation normalizes, the next generation naturalizes.**

That's what's happening in [Genesis 6](#).

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Now, some of you are thinking, "Pastor, you're making too much of sin thing and others of you are stuck on the Nephilim?"

Let me attempt to kill two birds with one stone.

**In our context the Nephilim are the visible symptoms of a world infected by sin. And they are very much still here, they just go by different names.**

**They're the entertainers** who groomed young girls, trafficked women, built empires on exploitation— and for decades, we played their music and filled their stadiums.

**They're the politicians** who promised to serve the people, then used their office to enrich themselves and crush the weak— and we keep re-electing them because they're on our team.

**They're the social media influencers** who make millions teaching young men that masculinity is conquest— how many women you can sleep with, how much you can dominate— and millions of boys are watching, learning, replicating.

**They're the tech CEOs** who harvest your data without permission, track your kids, sell your privacy to the highest bidder— and we call them innovators, visionaries, the future.

Powerful men. Famous men.

But here's where it gets close to home.

**They're the megachurch pastors and televangelists** who built empires in Jesus' name— then used their power to sexually exploit women, steal from the poor, cover up abuse, silence victims.

**Carl Lentz**—celebrity pastor, influencer to the stars— who used his position to manipulate women into affairs while preaching purity.

**Mark Driscoll**—church planter, conference speaker, & author— who verbally abused staff, controlled through fear, plagiarized authors, and when confronted, he ran and planted another church.

And here's what makes it a plague:

We didn't just tolerate them.

We **elevated** them.

We bought their books. We quoted their sermons.

We built our ministries on their models.

We helped to spread their wickedness.

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And that should terrify you.

Because the problem isn't just out there. It's in here.

So here's the questions you need to ask yourself:

Who are you celebrating? Who are you elevating?

What are you normalizing in your home that your children will naturalize in theirs?

Because the Nephilim didn't appear out of nowhere.

They rose in a culture that celebrated power without righteousness.

And if we keep celebrating the same things they celebrated, we're going to produce the same plague they produced.

What one generation normalizes, the next generation naturalizes. Thus further spreading the plague.

**[PAUSE]**

Now, you might be thinking: "Pastor, if sin is that bad—if humanity is that corrupt—why doesn't God just judge immediately?"

That brings us to the fourth truth.

## Sin grieves God, just like a parent losing a child. v5-6

Verse 5 is the turning point.

God looks at humanity.

And what He sees is relentless wickedness.

The text says, "The LORD saw that human wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every **inclination** of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time."

That word inclination speaks to the inner drive of a person.

Our motive before the action. Our desire before the decision.

These people are labeled wicked because their hearts were bent toward evil.

There was no should I or shouldn't I. No good mixed with evil.

Just evil. Only evil. All the time.

This is total depravity in its fullest expression.

Minds corrupted. Desires corrupted. Actions corrupted.

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Now, the secular person says, "People aren't all bad. Look at the nurse who worked through COVID."

And they're right to notice human goodness. We save lives. We show compassion.

But here's what they can't explain: why is that goodness never enough?

Why does the nurse who saves lives still gossip about her patients behind their backs.

The inclination underneath is bent away from God.

We serve to be seen. We give to feel superior.

The inclination is corrupt.

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So much so that in v6 says: "The LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and he was deeply grieved in his heart."

Sin does not just break God's law. Sin breaks God's heart.

God is not tallying violations with cold detachment.

He is grieved. Deeply grieved.

When the Bible says the Lord "regretted" that He made man, it does not mean God made a mistake.

The scripture is showing us that God experiences genuine sorrow over the evil He sees.

God is in agony over what has become of the people He created.

That level of agony. He is grief struck.

Sin has destroyed what He loves.

I need to tell you something.

The man I am today is not the teenager I was growing up.

Although my mom raised me to love Jesus, as I got older I found that sin was more rewarding than righteousness. So I thought.

My rebellion, my sin was so bad the school board told my mother one more suspension and I'd be kicked out of all Detroit public schools.

The way I treated my family, the things I was getting into—so destructive—that my mother started the process of making me a ward of the state.

Essentially terminating her parental rights.

I remember the day she told me.

She said, "I'm at my wit's end. Your father and I can't do anything else for you. I'm turning you over to the Lord. He's going to have to change your heart".

I so grieved my mother and father that they were ready to give me up.

And now that I'm a parent, I understand what I put her through.

The sleepless nights.

The arguments with my dad over me.

The prayers through tears.

Watching your child destroy himself and being powerless to stop it.

That's God in [Genesis 6:6](#).

He created humanity knowing they would fall.

He loved them knowing it would cost Him everything.

And when He sees the violence, the rebellion—It grieves Him to His very core.

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Here's my question:

What would break your heart if your child kept running to it instead of running to you?

Because that's what we do to God every time we choose sin over Him.

We break His heart.

Oh, how might our relationship with sin change if we viewed sin from God's broken heart.

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But painful as our sin is to God, His grief doesn't cancel His justice.

## God judges everyone, but he grants favor to a select few. v7-8

After expressing His grief, God announces His decision.

"I will wipe mankind, whom I created, off the face of the earth."

God is resolved in His judgment.

He's already given them 120 years.

But now it's time for divine retribution.

"He will wipe mankind... of the face of the earth"

The mankind He created in His own image & called "very good" back in [Genesis 1:31](#).

This is a Father judging what He made because it has become so corrupted that to withhold judgment would be divine negligence.

Sin has destroyed what he loves and now it's judgment day.

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But when in v8 we see a glimmer of hope.

"Noah, however, found favor with the LORD."

That word **however** is mercy breaking through judgment.

On one side, the rest of humanity—every inclination evil all the time.

On the other side, one man finds favor.

Here's what matters about Noah.

Verse 8 says he **found** favor.

Then verse 9 tells us he was righteous, blameless, and walked with God.

The order matters.

### **Grace came before righteousness.**

God's favor landed on Noah, thus producing his faithfulness.

Here's the part I want you to catch.

Like everyone else, Noah was part of fallen humanity.

[Genesis 6:5](#) already told us *every inclination of the human heart was evil all the time.*

Including Noah's

What made Noah different wasn't his nature—it was grace.

God enabled him to walk faithfully in a corrupt generation.

But here's how people miss this.

They read verse 9 first—"Noah was righteous"—and they think to themselves, "If I'm righteous like Noah and God will save me."

That's Backwards. That's putting the cart before the horse.

The text says, "Noah found favor."

Then he walked righteously.

God's favor enabled Him to live set apart from the wicked world.

God did that.

Here's the point.

We are not saved because we are righteous.

We are saved by grace and made righteous in Christ.

We walk with God because favor has found us.

**The only reason anyone survives judgment is b/c of God's grace.**

And Noah reminds us of our own rescue from God's judgment.

[Ephesians 2:8-9](#)

8 For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—9 not from works, so that no one can boast.

God did not save us because of our good deeds.

God did not save us because our hearts were pure.

God saved us by grace.

He chose to rescue us.

He opened our eyes to see Jesus as the one true Savior.

He worked in our hearts so that we could confess Him as Lord.

The fact that we are standing here today as believers in Jesus Christ, safe from God's Judgment and reconciled to God is b/c of His grace.

That should produce fresh worship in us.

Because if God had not chosen us, if God had not opened our eyes, we would still be living under judgment.

We would still be headed toward destruction.

But, we found favor with the LORD.

Glory be to God.

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As we prepare to close, I want us to feel the weight of what [Genesis 6](#) has shown us.

The world was wicked.

The text says every inclination of the human mind was nothing but evil all the time.

Sin was multiplying.

And God, in His holiness, made a decision to judge.

But before judgment came, God gave them time to repent.

He grieved over humanity b/c they chose to live against Him.

And then comes verse 8.

"Noah, however, found favor with the LORD."

One man. In a corrupt world.

And because grace found Noah, Noah walked with God.

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So here's the question!

Has grace found you?

Not "have you been good enough."

Not "have you done enough."

Has God's favor landed on you through Jesus Christ?

Because if it has, you'll walk differently. You'll live differently.

You'll pursue righteousness in a culture of wickedness.

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Remember those high school seniors?

They started with a harmless game.

But step by step, boundary by boundary, they became something monstrous.

And the scariest part?

They didn't even notice it happening.

That's [Genesis 6](#)..... That's the world you're walking into Monday morning.

- So Monday morning when you walk into that office—be Noah.
- When you're surrounded by people normalizing what God hates—be Noah.
- When the culture tries to pull you one step further away from God—be Noah.
- When you feel tempted or should you fall this week, call out to Jesus and say have mercy on me I need you Lord.

Walk with God. Live for His glory.

Not in your own strength. But by God's grace.

Because the same grace that found Noah will keep you faithful in this wicked generation.

**Would you join me in prayer?**

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