



## Clanking Chains: Self-Righteous Arrogance: Unhappiness, Iconoclastic, Client Nation, 2 Peter 1:1-2

- 5) *The Arrogance of Unhappiness.* We have seen this expression of arrogance associated with Authority Arrogance. The unhappy person is also self-righteous and is preoccupied with self. If he finds himself in a circumstance that causes him to be fearful or angry or both, he has an intense desire to be free of these things.

Fascism and Nazism caused the founders of the Frankfurt School to first be afraid and then to become angry. They were unable to evaluate the historical circumstances surrounding the Third Reich from establishment viewpoint let alone biblical viewpoint. Unable to analyze these historical events as the ultimate act of fallen men driven by self-righteous arrogance, they chose instead to analyze them from the viewpoint of the West's corrupt culture and authoritarian traditions with Christian theology being one of the major contributors.

Fearful of a future repeat performance of fascism, the Frankfurt philosophers switched over to anger in their search for a solution. Implacability is locked-in anger that leads to bitterness. Bitterness is an expression of self-pity which expresses frustration that they can find no solution to their unhappy circumstance. Frustrated, self-righteous people never see their own faults but only the faults of others. These perceived faults may be real or imagined. And the Frankfurt fellows imagined that the causes of their frustrations were Western culture and Christian theology. This entangled them in:

- 6) *Iconoclastic Arrogance.* Whereas the arrogance of unhappiness comes from subjective preoccupation with self, Iconoclastic Arrogance comes from subjective preoccupation with others.

The word "iconoclast" is a compound noun taken from two Greek words, the noun **εἰκὼν, eikōn**, which means "idol," and the verb **κλάω, klaō**, meaning "to break." These two words were combined in Modern Greek to form the compound noun **εἰκονοκλάστης, eikonoklastēs**: breaker of idols. It was coined in the eighth and ninth centuries to describe a supporter of a movement in the Byzantine Church that sought to abolish the veneration of icons and other religious images. It was brought into the English in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries as the word "iconoclast" to describe the Puritans who were opposed to idolatry – the worship of idols – in the Catholic Church.

In the cosmic system of arrogance, iconoclasm occurs when a person has unrealistic expectations about a person, an organization, a religion, a nation, or even a culture. As long as the object of veneration lives up to his expectations then it will continue to be an object of his respect, loyalty, worship, support, and favoritism. However, when expectations are not met the arrogant individual will become disillusioned and disenchanted with the object of his veneration and in iconoclasm seek to destroy the idol.

The Frankfurt founders had an illusion about not only mankind but also Western culture. They believed that man was an evolving creature and thus moving toward an inevitable state of perfectibility. They identified authority, war, and religion as impediments to this advance. When World War II Germany revealed the evil, hatred, and prejudice of fascism and Nazism they turned on the culture they perceived had spawned, nurtured, and reared such a monster whose most grievous crime was anti-Semitism.



By rejecting the existence of the sinful nature and believing the Darwinian lie of evolution, these men were unable to perceive the actual nature of man and thus had unrealistic expectations for both them and Western culture.

Sometimes when people are disillusioned they are forced to see things as they actually are. But when they prefer the illusion rather than the reality they strike out at the reality for having disappointed them.

The ideal of the perfectibility of mankind was dealt a vicious blow by betraying all the preconceived ideas of those who later accumulated at Frankfurt. They identified the problem as Western culture and Christian theology. Man was not the problem, his environment was. Iconoclastic Arrogance never sees people as they really are but as they would like them to be. The Frankfurt philosophers believed that mankind was still perfectible but the “icons” of Western culture had to be destroyed before they could be led to the Golden Age of utopian democracy.

The decision to destroy the West was driven in part by Iconoclastic Arrogance. In order to institute true democracy the Frankfurt School’s faculty resolved to deconstruct all the institutions of the West: its political structure, capitalism, all authoritarian structures, Christianity, the divine institutions, and in order to accomplish this as soon as possible the children of America became their first and most important targets. To destroy the culture of the West meant they must destroy the thought of the West. Thus the culture of the West would fall from within by means of its own children.

We will observe some of the techniques the Frankfurt School introduced to achieve this objective in a future paragraph of *The Clanking Chains*. However, the indoctrination of children into the philosophies of the Frankfurt School will eventually result in:

- 7) ***Client Nation Arrogance.*** Satan may rule this world but Jesus Christ controls history. One of the ways He does so in the Church Age is through the function of Gentile client nations. They form an enclave that allows for the free exchange of doctrinal ideas among its citizens and the resultant ability to fulfill the essential responsibilities of a client nation: (1) preach the gospel of salvation: faith alone in Christ alone; (2) teach doctrine to the saved; (3) preserve, defend, and protect the Word of God; (4) send out missionaries to heathen nations; and (5) offer a haven of refuge to the Jewish Diaspora. As long as these activities are up and functional then client nation status continues. However, the number of believers who have advanced to spiritual adulthood determines the historical trends of client nations in every generation of the Church Age.

Prosperity in a client nation during uptrends and discipline to a client nation during downtrends are directly related to the inventory of ideas circulating in the streams of consciousness of its believers. We note prosperity in:

**2 Peter 1:1 - (ETL) Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have attained a faith equal to ours by the virtue of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.**

**v. 2 - May grace and prosperity be multiplied unto you in the sphere of the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.**

Peter’s salutation contains a wish for the grace and prosperity that is possessed by these believers to be multiplied through spiritual growth. They are not told to multiply these things by emotion, rationalism, or empiricism. They are to do it by acquiring *epignosis knowledge* of both God and Christ. The assets required to move toward that objective are mentioned next in 2 Peter 1:3-11.