

## SOCIETAL EVIL

A study of Genesis 4-11 reveals that once sin entered into humanity, it built up steam and embedded itself into every area of human society.

**A tale of two stories:**

1. Joe and Bobby Sue live in middle America. They meet their junior year of college and fall madly in love. He is studying to be a doctor. She is studying to be a teacher. Joe saves up all his money, empties his saving account, and buys Bobby Sue a half-karat princess cut diamond ring. One evening, he gets down on one knee and asks Bobby Sue to make him the happiest man alive and marry him.

Does there appear to be sin in this story? No. This story seems as pure, innocent, wholesome, and good as it gets.

2. During the Cold War, the Soviet Union entered into an arms race with the United States. But after the Cold War, the Soviet Union broke up and the resulting countries began to sell these arms to arms dealers in order to make their fledgling nations more financially solvent. Many of these arms made their way down to Africa to countries like Sierra Leone. There, arms merchants were bankrolling local armies that attacked villages killing all of the men and women and enslaving children. These children were trained and forced to fight for local warlords. These children armies existed for one purpose – to fight for control of diamond mines. Jusu Lahia was a 15-year boy who was forced to fight in one such army, the Revolutionary United Front. One day in battle in April 2001, his body was ripped to shreds by shrapnel from a rocket-propelled grenade. The picture was taken while this young 15 year old boy lay dying.



Sin is obviously present in this story. Who is responsible? The arms dealers and warlords? The leaders of countries that sold arms to them? Diamond corporations who profited from the sale of diamonds from these mines? How about Joe and Bobby Sue? Yes. All bear some responsibility.

**Even the very best and pure things we do may be contributing to and tainted by societal evil.**

**EXAMPLE:**

Check the clothes you are wearing. Do you know where they originated from or the conditions where they are made? Actually the truth is that unawares, we may be contributing to all variety of larger societal evils. Sin, once unleashed has built up steam and entangles all area of society making it virtually impossible that we do not participate.