

September 2023

Dear Brethren:

Common sense might be defined as *an average degree of ability* to recognize facts without need for sophistication or special knowledge. "Common" implies something that can be possessed by the masses, in opposition to the idea of *special wisdom* bestowed only upon a few who are highly educated or uniquely experienced.

An example of common sense would be the resistance to putting one's head into a lion's mouth. You do not have to be a rocket scientist to figure out that this would be a foolish notion. Any "common" person of sound mind would have *the sense* to know that this would be a stupid act. *Common sense* tells us that.

Related to this is the idea of *natural laws* that exist upon this earth which are *easily verifiable by the common people* of the world. We commoners might not figure out on our own that all physical matter is made up of sub-atomic particles (protons, electrons, neutrons, etc.), because that takes special intellect, education and training. But none of us needs special training to figure out, for instance, that gravity is "a real thing." From early childhood we each experience the force of that law pressing down upon us. When we fall down, we experience an immediate physical response and become convinced that *something is there* which we need to heed. It can be a rude awakening when we suffer pain from an injury as a result of gravitational force. Gravity is a law because its influence is consistent, automatic, predictable, and immutable. Our common sense very quickly teaches us to respect that force—a natural law—and to take it into consideration in every physical movement that we make. Any man who denies that gravity is real and acts to ignore it is one who lacks common sense. In other words, he is a fool. And he has no justification for such ignorance!

Natural Law vs. Spiritual Law

There is a whole body of Law existing upon this earth that human beings cannot comprehend or fathom without divine inspiration from God. This would be His Spiritual Law:

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2:14).

These spiritual laws are real, but man cannot readily identify them by use of his own personal experience or scientific methodology. An example of this would be the Sabbath Law. The seventh-day Sabbath is indeed a Law (Genesis 2:3; Exodus 20:10–11)—just like gravity—that is real, exerting its influence upon human beings automatically either to generate blessings for recognition or else curses for disregard. No one, not even the called people of God, can point to any automatic physical consequence for violation of the Sabbath, but we know that it is there, because God made it so. We accept that fact in faith and become the recipients of blessings when we simply obey that Law, even if we cannot physically connect the dots to verify specific causes and effects. This is an example of a *real Law* that nevertheless can be only "spiritually discerned."

By contrast, there is an entire body of law that does not need to be spiritually discerned. The law of gravity is merely one of them. There are many such laws that can be proven by godless human beings to actually exist, because they can indeed be verified by use of the scientific method. It requires no "religious faith" to acknowledge many such physical laws that exist upon this planet. We are subject to them, and it takes only "common sense" to see it. Human beings may not like being restrained by such forces, but they are real nonetheless. This entire category of principle is included under *Natural Law*.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them (Romans 1:18–19) [emphasis mine throughout].

How has God shown part of His Truth to them? And how is *God's wrath* poured out upon these ones who are called ungodly? Is it always some *personalized curse* that God sends down like a lightning bolt of revenge upon the guilty? It certainly could be, but in many cases, it is not. No, many of God's Laws contain *built-in penalties* which are unleashed on autopilot, releasing an immediate *negative reaction* in response to our sins.

Newton's Third Law of Motion states that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. Man has figured this out by experimentation within his physical realm. This principle carries Sir Isaac Newton's name, but it is actually one of God's created Laws which has been "shewed unto them" within the natural world. One need not be called into a special relationship with God to learn these basic natural laws. Because anyone and everyone can recognize these particular laws, it also means that no one is excused from guilt for dismissing them.

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse (verse 20).

. . . The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God (Psalm 53:1).

So, even the very *existence of God* should be acknowledged by *every human being*. Why? Because an intricate and *complex Creation* could never exist unless it was set into motion by some *purposeful Creator*. Order never comes out of chaos! Human beings can be excused for not knowing a lot about this Creator God—including His intents, purposes, and character—but there is no excuse whatsoever for denying that *some kind of God* exists. Anyone who denies that God exists is in the very same category as one denying that gravity exists. He is foolish, and absolutely without justification. It simply goes against "common sense." It is all part of *Natural Law*. So said God Himself.

Furthermore, when the uncalled of this world choose to recognize this natural law—to respect it and seek to work within its structure—they become *way better off* than those who fight to deny what should be obvious:

For when the Gentiles, which have not the [spiritual] law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another (Romans 2:14–15).

This is simply saying that when the uncalled of the world (gentiles) at least use their common sense enough to acknowledge the natural laws in force upon this earth and seek to respect them, they are able to make those laws their own (become a law unto themselves) and they derive the blessings that automatically come from doing so. When you respect the existence of gravity and learn to avoid foolhardy acts which cause injury, you make gravity your friend (a law unto yourself) and then you *bear witness to that law*, written in your heart. This requires no spiritual conversion, just common sense! And the more of God's physical laws that one recognizes and respects, the more one will receive automatic benefits and avoid automatic curses. It is simply a matter of *cause and effect*.

Marriage and Family

With all of this in mind, what about laws in the Bible defining individual roles, like rules for males and females? What about laws concerning proper family relationships—husbands, wives, children, parents? Are these principles of *Spiritual Law only*, or are any of them also ones that God has made known *to all peoples*—called or uncalled, meaning that they are *Natural Laws*?

God gave laws stating that men should be men, and women should be women. It was considered an abomination to disregard this God-appointed distinction in sex:

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them (Genesis 1:27).

The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God (Deuteronomy 22:5).

Perhaps this is a rule that only the called of God can fathom? Maybe the gentiles (those as yet cut off) have an excuse for not recognizing this distinction in male vs. female and respecting it? Well, if so, then why was the Apostle Paul inspired to speak in terms of natural law?

Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering (1 Corinthians 11:14–15).

This confirms that the distinction between male and female and their physical appearances is not only a Spiritual Law, but is part of the body of *Natural Law* that God gave to *all human beings*, called or uncalled! It confirms that there is *no excuse in this world* for anyone to seek to blur the lines between the two sexes. God hard-wired into the human mind a recognition of the difference in male and female, even the knowledge that it is a shame for a man to have long hair like a woman! And rest assured, this concept is important to God, because violation of it without repentance will result in the loss of eternal life:

Know ye not that *the unrighteous* shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, *nor effeminate*, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9–10).

Yes, when men try to act like women—the effeminate—God hates it. The same is true for the reverse. And this distinction is one that even deceived peoples of the world should understand.

Is it not also interesting that every single nation around the globe from antiquity has recognized the concept of *marriage between a man and a woman*? There is nothing tangible in nature that proves to man that marriage is a real concept. Yet they all honor that concept in their cultures. God is the One who created marriage. Jesus Christ stated:

But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder (Mark 10:6–9).

Why do all of these peoples who are cut off from God nevertheless have a marriage tradition? It is because the concept of a man and a woman making a lifelong commitment to each other is part of Natural Law. The more detailed rules for marriage are likely part of the Spiritual Law, needing to be revealed by God in order for man to comprehend. For instance, the rules concerning divorce:

And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery (Mark 10:11–12).

It might be argued that even this is part of Natural Law, because human beings should understand that when they make a vow "to have and to hold till death do you part," it really means that failing to do just that is a breach of a commitment—lying. But even if we give the benefit of the doubt here, what is certain is that there is no excuse for mankind not knowing that the only way for human society to work properly is to encourage strong families rooted in fathers and mothers living together and raising children in a nurturing environment. Different societies may define those details in many different ways, but what they all share in common is this basic *natural law* which is evident historically in every single human culture around the globe.

Against Nature

What then do we say about the prevalence of so many today who deny that there is any real distinction between men and women, and who call biological sex a contrived convention? What about those who deny these biological differences *in nature* and who claim that gender is whatever we want it to be? Believing such nonsense is not excused just because of being cut off spiritually from God. These are ones who hate the natural laws imposed upon them and who are doing everything possible to prove that they can make their own rules in any way they want, even against scientific reality. There is nothing more perverse than a human mind deluded into denying nature.

This kind of philosophical rebellion likely is not just a new advent of our modern era. Jesus Christ said that the world's orientation in the last days would mirror that of the peoples of antiquity:

And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, *they married wives, they were given in marriage*, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all (Luke 17:26–27).

This might sound like the people in Noah's day were actually respecting the marriage convention. No, it is not that they were denying the idea of making unions, but they had perverted it and made what God commanded into an abomination:

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that *every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually* (Genesis 6:5).

If every thought of the people was *evil continually*, and Christ said they were also still making marriages up until the very Flood destroyed them, what kind of gross abominations must they have been justifying under the guise of "marriage"? How do you think they were defining "wives"? They were not just guilty of spiritual sins from being cut off from God, but they must have been denying the very *natural laws*—outright rebellion. They knew better! And Christ compared it exactly to what later happened in Sodom:

Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. *Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed* (Luke 17:28–30).

We all know what kind of lifestyles the Sodomites were justifying. They legitimized everything that God confirmed is "against nature":

Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through *the lusts of their own hearts*, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto *vile affections*: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is *against nature*: And likewise also the men, leaving *the natural use of the woman*, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working *that which is unseemly*, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet (Romans 1:24–27).

God confirmed through the Apostle Paul that there is a *natural use* in human relationships. Recognizing this *natural use* requires no special revelation from God. It should be evident to all human beings, and therefore, any act of homosexuality is unseemly—shameful and indecent.

This is not to say that it is "unnatural" for human beings to turn to perversions.

The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, *they are all together become filthy*: there is none that doeth good, no, not one (Psalm 14:2–3).

So this does not single out some human sinners as being "less bad" than any others. According to the rebellious natures that God gave to each one of us (for purpose of our personal overcoming), we all push against His rules defining good behavior in some way, *by nature*. It is only a matter of *which* Laws we each choose to resist, according to our particular peccadilloes. Every sin deserves the death penalty. We all depend upon His mercy and grace for any hope of salvation.

Solomon said that there is nothing new under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9). Therefore, *every human proclivity of perversion* is anything but "new." An inner drive toward homosexuality is one of those "common" human weaknesses, and through history it has always manifested itself to some degree, affecting a certain percentage of the population, some more, some less. Its *prominence* in society at any given time just happens to be an excellent barometer of the degree of degradation. Since Jesus Christ made an example of Sodom and Gomorrah—as societies whose sins *had come to the full* and deserved annihilation—and He used those very historical cities to describe the state of society in the very last days before His next big intervention, there must be some relevance. It tells us that the degree of *justified sexual perversion*—against Natural Law—in any society is a litmus test for how corrupt that particular human society has become. If you want to gauge how close we are to the very end of this age, keep track of the percentage of the population who deny *evident natural law* and begin to embrace the most extreme sexual perversions. It does not mean that every individual will choose to partake in them, personally. But once gross perversions are "mainstreamed" as being "good"—rather than staying relegated to a small segment of the population who shamefully practice these perversions in secret—then you know that the end is very near.

Please understand, the true people of God do not qualify any sins as being "less evil" than any others, spiritually. When we break any law of God, we become guilty as if we had broken them all (James 2:10–11). Not one of us is better than anyone else who struggles

against a sinful nature. And God called many of His people out of those very gross perversions of the world:

Wherein in time past ye walked according to *the course of this world*, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in *the children of disobedience*: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, *fulfilling the desires of the flesh* and of the mind; and were by nature [native disposition] the children of wrath, even as others (Ephesians 2:2–3).

Therefore, our singling out sexual perversions in particular is not an attempt to make us feel better about our own sins, if our particular weaknesses lie elsewhere. *Any sin* that we refuse to repent of will become the unpardonable sin, if not confronted and overcome. Never forget that. We look forward to the time when God will offer salvation to *all peoples of the world* and give them a chance to come out of these sins which subject them to automatic curses.

But the way that God views *the extent* of human depravity overall seems to correspond to *the degree to which they have rejected His Natural Laws*. It is one thing to sin by keeping Sunday instead of the seventh-day Sabbath. But how *absolutely cursed* is any human society that has embraced the idea that there is no difference between men and women, and that any act between "consenting adults" is OK?

Beyond that, what about when they begin to say that children should have "the right" to change their sex (self-mutilation), in the name of "gender reassignment," and begin vilifying parents who object? In reality, this is merely a ploy to mainstream the notion that children should have "the right" to act like adults in all things, including having sexual relations. Do you doubt that? How does it make sense that a child should have the right to permanent, life-altering surgeries, but not also have the right to engage in sex? Here is proof of their intents:

"Sexual conduct involving persons below the domestically prescribed minimum age of consent to sex may be consensual in fact, if not in law," the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists wrote in March with an assist from UNAIDS and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (*Fox News*, April 17, 2023, "*New UN-backed legal recommendations normalize sex with minors, outraged critics say*").

Just wait. The justifications are already coalescing, seeking to gain public approval. The right for children to have sex was mainstreamed in many ancient civilizations, like that of ancient Greece. It is coming again. And it is all *against nature*. How cursed is any

society that will do that to its children? How will the innocent little children be saved without the aggressive intervention of a loving God? When Jesus Christ returns, it will be at the time that our nations' sins have come to the full, even as they had in the days of Noah, and of Sodom.

Natural Reproduction as Evidence of Truth

Another proof of "basic decency" provided in nature is found in the science of reproduction. Spiritually, we know that God is the One who created all that exists, and made human beings male and female. He also set into motion a plan to expand the human family to produce *many potential heirs* to salvation.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, *Be fruitful, and multiply*, and replenish the earth, and subdue it (Genesis 1:27–28).

For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing *many sons unto glory* (Hebrews 2:10).

So a key responsibility of human beings was to multiply and to expand the family of man. God wants to share His glorious Kingdom with many children:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; *but that the world through him might be saved* (John 3:16–17).

God also created the capacity to reproduce within the animal kingdom:

And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, *Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth* (Genesis 1:21–22).

With or without acknowledging God as the Creator, the *natural laws* upon this earth provide for reproduction, and reproduction of both man and beasts is still happening, nearly six thousand years after it was first set into motion. Man's life sciences have documented well the elements of this reproductive process. One truth that they can test and confirm is

that physical creatures can only reproduce within their own kinds. God made it that way, but they do not need to believe God in faith to prove that cows produce cows, horses produce horses, bears produce bears, and human beings produce human beings. It is part of the Natural Law!

Furthermore, they also recognize other realities of nature, like in general, that the strongest creatures of each kind are the ones that live to reproduce. There are always weak and sickly offspring, but they typically are not the ones to reproduce. Man labels that principle, "survival of the fittest," and *natural selection*. It is not just a whimsical philosophy. It is an observation of reality in nature. For many animals, it is the strongest males that "earn" the right to reproduce through besting the other suitors. It is part of the natural way of things as God created it. We often like rooting for the underdog and wish that a weaker animal could "win a mate." But the genius of God's physical creation provides a means to assure survival of these incredible creatures through physical strength.

What does this have to do with our analysis of human beings and natural law? Concerning this mainstream attempt to justify homosexuality and every other "perverse union," if you want to know what the truth is, look to nature and verify which unions in particular will produce offspring. Not all unions actually produce offspring (some are infertile), but only ones that are "right" have *the potential* of producing offspring.

Will any homosexual "marriage" ever produce children? We are not talking about contrivances of man, like adoption, artificial insemination, etc. We are talking about *the physics of biology*. What does Natural Law show us? What is "seemly" in nature is only that which has the potential of reproducing. Anything else is an aberration *against nature*. That is true for the human family as well as within the animal kingdom. The proof that homosexuality is wrong is that it undermines the opportunity to reproduce naturally. We understand that a purposeful Creator God made it this way and it is part of His Spiritual Law. But even the ungodly should be able to see that the natural world we live in rewards proper unions by providing the chance to procreate. There is absolutely no excuse for not seeing this reality. Anyone who does not see it is a deceived fool.

But in the name of idiocy, how many "experts" today are attempting to mainstream perverse unions by citing nature? Many are the modern nature shows highlighting, for example, a male bird who is trying to mate with another male, supposedly "proving" that homosexuality is "normal" in nature. No, things can go wrong in nature, like when that poor male bird gets his wiring crossed. But God's solution for this sad mutation is that he will not be able to reproduce! Only the "healthy" males will be able to procreate. Problem solved.

Now we have the transgender movement, which, beyond legitimizing homosexuality, denies that biology even dictates sex. No longer can they answer, "What is

a woman?" Their twisted re-definitions would be laughable, if it were not so very sad. On June 23, 2023, some participants in the New York City Drag March were recorded chanting, "We're here, we're queer, we're coming for your children." Some commentators objectively acknowledged that this must indeed be true. Why? Again, those who pursue these "alternative lifestyles" cannot physically produce children, so the only way to perpetuate themselves is to "convert" as many as possible from new generations of the pool of children being produced by the unions of "real" men with women. How ironic. Natural Law is against them, whether they will admit it or not. Beyond homosexuality, convincing an impressionable youth to change genders through drugs and surgeries is a sure recipe for infertility. It is not a "sustainable" way for our "species" to survive. Once again, one need not accept the Living God in faith. Nature itself is screaming the truth!

The Real Source of Confusion

The people of God understand that the real architect of these lies and confusion is Satan, the Devil. As we have already seen, human beings are hardwired to rebel, but Satan capitalizes upon that fundamental nature and amplifies those "bent" proclivities. He provides an invisible, but palpable, influence to encourage human beings to embrace every imaginable perversion. Whatever God has established as truth will be undermined and ridiculed by this enemy. That is because he hates human beings and seeks to see our destruction.

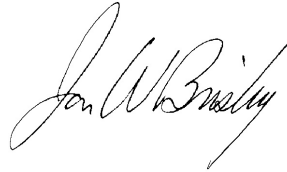
As we have seen, human beings have no rational excuse for not seeing the reality of God's Law in nature. But Satan provides ample means to disguise these realities and to distract us from acknowledging Natural Law. One day, God is going to pull back the cover and expose all of these lies for mankind to see clearly. In that day, it will dawn upon them just how perverse and injurious it all was, and how great by comparison is that which a loving Heavenly Father has prepared for His beloved children.

If you are one privileged to be called out of this world at this time, you are not better than those who are yet steeped in confusion. Not one of us deserves anything good from God. But because you have been blessed to see, not only the truth found in God's physical Creation, but also the magnification provided by the divine revelation of Spiritual Truth, you are among the most blessed peoples on the face of the earth. Regardless of any deficits of mind or body by birth, you have the gift of *God's common sense* to guide you.

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust (2 Peter 1:3–4).

This is your time to prove to God that you love what He is offering. By acknowledging *the common sense of His revealed Way of Life* and walking in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, you will show the world how to have blessings instead of curses, especially by the manifestation of real peace of mind. Your genuine faith in acknowledging God's Law will surely produce that glorious result.

Your servant in the only Revealed Way,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jon W. Brisby". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jon W. Brisby