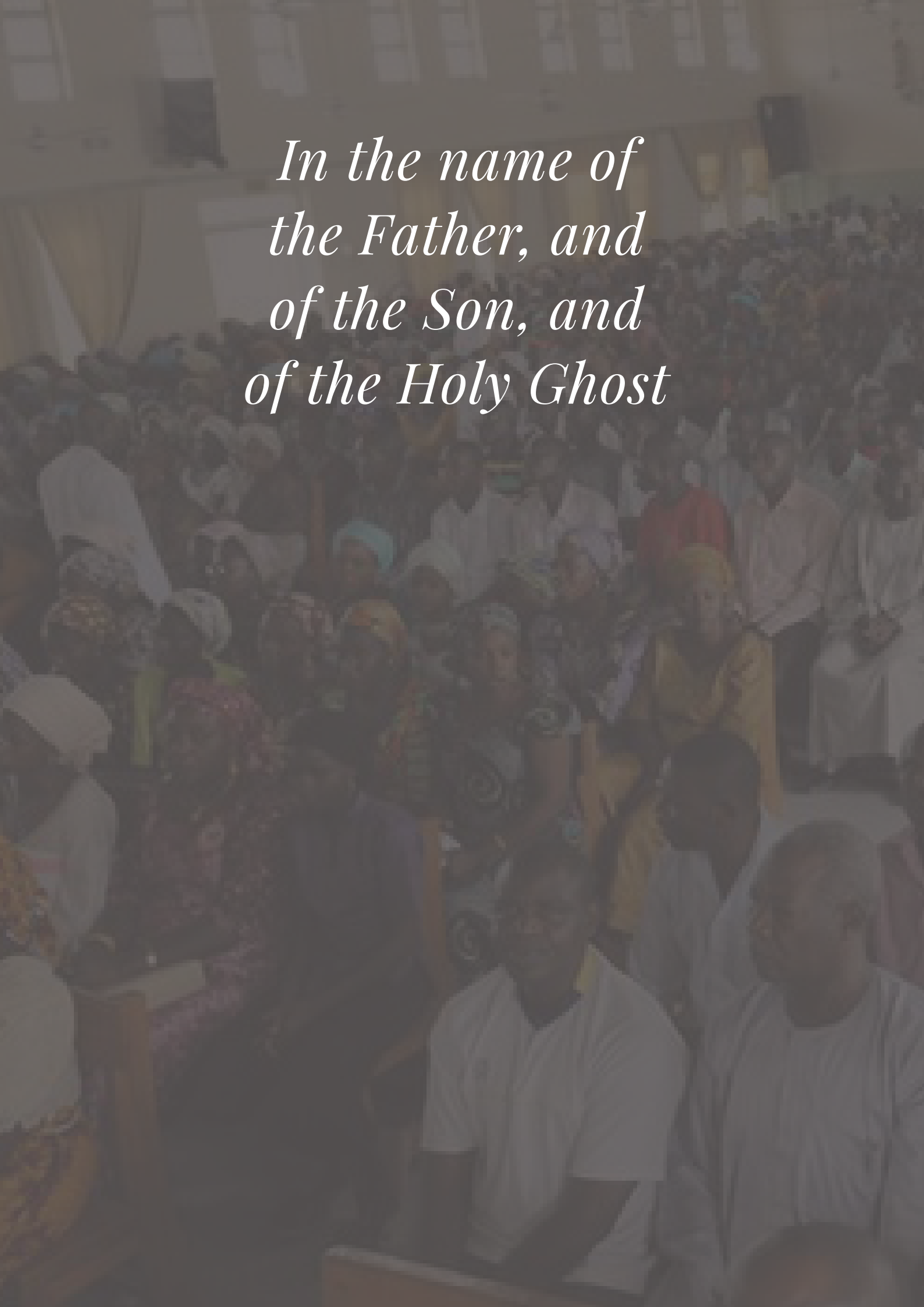


# Christian Perspectives *on* Corruption

**UP** RIGHT  
FOR NIGERIA  
★★★★★  
*Stand against Corruption*



A large, dimly lit church congregation during a service. The image is heavily faded and dark, showing a dense crowd of people seated in pews. The text is overlaid in the upper center in a white, elegant serif font.

*In the name of  
the Father, and  
of the Son, and  
of the Holy Ghost*

# Introduction

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**C**orruption can be defined as an act of destruction of data, due process, agreement or dynamics either by deliberate or accidental human action or by imperfection in storage or transmission. Corruption is ruining many countries like Nigeria. Poverty, poor and deteriorating health services, poor quality of education are all linked to corruption in our society.

Corruption could be described as diversion of public funds for personal benefit or gain, or a form of dishonesty often exhibited to acquire

wealth. By and large, a gross abuse of power by delegated authority. In Isaiah 10: 1&2, the bible describes corruption as

*“...to keep the poor from getting fair treatment and to deprive the oppressed among my people of justice...and looting...”* (NET translation)

Today, many do not know that failing to talk against corruption is corruption. It is corruption because it would not allow corrupt people to know what chaos they are injecting into the society.

## Biblical View on Corruption

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We can trace the advent of corruption to the fall of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3, where they were both lured into eating the forbidden fruit, so they could be like God. Isaiah 1:4 which says *“Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, A brood of evildoers, children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked to anger, the Holy One of Israel, they have turned away backward”* -NKJV.

This verse qualifies the act of corruption in a nation as evil. It is a form of dishonesty often exhibited to acquire personal benefit or gain. Although, corruption started since the time of Adam and Eve, people can be saved through the grace of God according to Romans 8:21- *“Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption in to the glorious liberty of the children of God.”* - NKJV

From the contextual perspective, corruption is viewed by different people in different ways. The various forms of corruption are as follows:

### **Bribery:**

The book of Exodus 23:8, NKJV says *“Do not accept bribe, for a bribe blinds those who see and twists the words of the innocent.”* Even the Lord accepts no bribe Deuteronomy 10:17, NKJV says *“For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe”* and 2nd Chronicles 19:7, NKJV says *“Now therefore, let the fear of the Lord be upon you; take care and do it, for there is no iniquity with the Lord our God, no partiality, nor taking of bribes.”* and being Christ-like, we should emulate and follow in the footsteps as he is the ultimate example set for us to live by.

### **Extortion:**

An example of this is a police officer who asks an individual to pay for bail when it is a public knowledge that bail is free. The Bible according to Psalm 62:10 NIV says – *“Do not trust in extortion or put vain hope in stolen goods; though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them.”* and Isaiah 10:1, NIV *“which says Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees”*, these qualify this act of corruption as oppressive.

### **Embezzlement:**

This form of corruption is the most common among people in positions of authority. One of the ten commandments states that *“thou shall not steal”* (Exodus 20:15, NKJV) and it is wrong and against the will of God for leaders to divert money meant for projects such as healthcare and road construction for their personal benefits. Remunerations and salaries of workers, especially civil servants, should be made at the stipulated time as Deuteronomy 24:15, NIV states that *“Pay them their wages each day before sunset, because the poor are counting on it. Otherwise they may cry to the Lord against you and your will be guilty of sin,”*

### **Nepotism**

This is also very common among people in position of authority as they use their position to award contract to themselves and their family members or friends at the detriment of citizens that actually merit the contract. However, individuals should bear in mind that Ephesians 6:9, NIV states that *“... there is no favouritism with God”*.

### **Selling votes during election**

Proverbs 29:2, NIV states *“When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.”* It is important to choose God-fearing leaders as it determines the quality of life the citizens will live. For a

leader to be chosen, he must be wise, understanding and respected Deuteronomy 1: 13 NIV, *“Choose some wise, understanding and respected men from each of your tribes, and I will set them over you.”* A politician who does not possess these attributes should not be encouraged and chosen to a position by dubious means.

### **Betrayal of trust and reduction of measures and weight:**

Betrayal of trust and reduction measures and weight are other forms of corruption. As Christians, we are informed in Proverbs 11:1 that *“A false balance is abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is His delight.”*

## **How Christians can Stand Upright for Nigeria**

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The church is an avenue for believers to learn to develop a corruption averse attitude. Groups such as Bible colleges, men and women’s fellowship, Christian men and women organizations, children ministries, youth or teenage groups including drama groups can be used to educate both the young and the old about corruption.

### **Messages that can be shared from the Pulpit**

By the standards of the words of God - kingdom standards - the children of God are not expected to be involved in any act of corruption. Christians should live exemplary lives and discourage corruption at all levels. They should refuse to give or take bribes or gratification

### **The Church**

Apostle Peter in 2nd Peter 1:4 NLT, admonishes the church not to promote corruption as seen in the world caused by evil desires, *“and because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world’s corruption caused by human desires.”* Many followers of Christ are missing the divine nature running after pleasures of the world.

### **Priests/Pastors/Leaders**

They are obligated to nurture a godly congregation and not to use their office to make undue requests for personal gains through levies that are not instructed by

God. No doubt, corruption is a sin which is punishable not just by the laws of the country but also by God- Hosea 9:9 NIV, says *“They have sunk deep into corruption... God will remember their wickedness and punish them for their sins”*. and *“the wages of sin is death...”*- Romans 6:23 NKJV. There is dignity in labour and it is not too late for anyone involved in the act of corruption to stop and do what is right. Ephesians 4:28 NKJV says *“Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labour, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need”*.

### **The Congregation**

They should be encouraged in all they do, to embrace honesty, contentment, transparency, uprightness and integrity because *“He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose work is blameless”*- Proverbs 2:7 NIV. Corruption brings about decay of the system and enslaves the perpetrators. 2nd Peter 2:19 NLT says *“They promise freedom, but they themselves are slaves of sin and corruption. For you are a slave to whatever controls you”*. Corruption also destroys lives of the citizens affected. It is our responsibility as children of God to

bring freedom to the world as seen in Romans 8:21 NIV which says, *“the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God”*.

Therefore Christians can stand upright for Nigeria by:

- Being content with what they own and should not covet other people's property. Exodus 20:17 NKJV which says *“you shall not covet your neighbour's house...or anything that is your neighbour's”*.
- Abstaining from participating in any act of corruption
- Staying away from taking bribe and gratification
- Rising up for the campaign against the act of corruption
- Being a role model
- Practicing and inculcating these values from home
- Support campaigners against the act of corruption with all your effort.

## Conclusion

This is a call to action to embrace and live a corrupt free life as the benefits out-weigh the risks involved. The human nature is a soil on which corruption can thrive. As Christians, we believe we can overcome through Christ that dwells in us. *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."*

**Ecclesiastes 12:13 KJV.**

*All Christians should  
be role models and lead  
by example.*

*Christians should  
Stand Upright for  
Nigeria and Stand  
Against Corruption.*

**JOIN THE CONVERSATIONS**

@Upright4Nigeria #Upright4Nigeria



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[www.upright4nigeria.org](http://www.upright4nigeria.org)