

**THE CROWNING SIN OF  
THE AGE: THE PERVERSION  
OF MARRIAGE**

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The Crowning Sin of the Age: The Perversion of Marriage by Brevard D. Sinclair

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**BREYARD D. SINCLAIR**

**THE CROWNING SIN OF  
THE AGE: THE PERVERSION  
OF MARRIAGE**



THE  
CROWNING SIN OF THE AGE:

*The Perversion of Marriage.*

BY

BREVARD D. SINCLAIR,

MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL  
SCIENCE; LATE MEMBER OF THE BAR OF THE SUPREME  
COURTS OF OHIO, NORTH CAROLINA, AND OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Lo! children are an heritage of the Lord. — PSALM cxxvii. 3

Thus saith the Lord, write ye this man childless, a man who shall  
not prosper in his days. — JEREMIAN xxii. 30.

Ὁὐ φανείσκει τέκνον ἐν φθορᾷ αὐτῆς γεννηθῆναι ἀπογενεῖς. — TEACHING  
OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES, Chap. ii. 38.

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BREVARD D. SINCLAIR.  
1892.

TO  
My Wife  
THE MOTHER OF MY CHILDREN  
TO WHOSE SYMPATHY INSPIRATION AND AFFECTION I AM INDEBTED  
IN THUS PREACHING FOR GOD AND HUMANITY  
This Book is Inscribed.





## PREFACE.

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This book was born, not made! No one was more surprised than the author at the profound impression the publication of the following sermon created when abstracts of it appeared in the daily papers of Boston and New York. Although it produced a sensation, it was not in any sense intended to be a "sensational sermon." It was conceived out of a full heart bursting with indignation at a sin so prevalent that one must be conveniently blind not to see it, and a sin of such unblushing audacity, that it is becoming aggressive, and has its propagandists in the church as well as in all ranks of society, who would inoculate others with this moral cancer and satanic gangrene.

If a minister of the Gospel of Christ, in a New England city cannot himself rear a family of children without having the privacy of his correspondence and sanctities of his home invaded by the intrusion of meddlers who would pervert marriage and counsel crime, it is high time that the cry of warning and alarm be raised. And if the Christianity of the nineteenth century cannot endure the rebuke of flagrant crimes, it may be well to go back eighteen hundred years to the days of a purer faith and recall the words quoted on our title-page, from that recently discovered work: "*The Teaching of The Twelve Apostles*;" (A. D. 120-160.)—"Thou shalt not slay a child by abortion, nor what is begotten shalt thou destroy;"—and also to trace the indignant protest of the Church of Christ against the prevailing infanticide of heathendom, as seen in the writings of Justin Martyr, Tertullian, Lactantius, Hyppolytus, and the assemblies of the Church;—the Council of Ancyra, A. D. 314 having imposed *ten years' penance* upon women who "destroy that which they have conceived, or who are employed in making drugs for abortion."

If certain over-fastidious people insist that the sacred exercises and spiritual meditations of the gospel ministry entirely disqualify the preacher of righteousness for the work of discussing and rebuking the flagrant crimes and iniquities which surround him; perhaps the ordinary reader may admit that ten years previously spent in the study of the principles of Civil and Criminal Law, and in the prac-

tice of the Legal profession in the highest courts of the State and Nation, may have availed to supply some of the defects in a merely theological education, and may furnish one preacher a sufficient excuse for paying some attention to the diabolism of this world, as well as to the glories of the world to come.

Preaching as I do from Sabbath to Sabbath in a pulpit standing directly over the coffined relics of so bold and fearless a prophet of God as George Whitefield, how could I refuse to lift my voice against the crowning crime of the land and the age? With the evidence of the damning sin before me, and the everlasting Word of God behind me, forbearance here would be crime and cowardice, entailing the blood of souls upon my skirts!

One circumstance has encouraged me to be courageous and to take hope that God's Word will not return unto him void. Letters have poured in upon me by scores, from every section of New England and from many parts of the United States, urging me to lead on in this fight for the children and the American home; and blessing God that he has led me to cry aloud in this matter, when purity is throttled by iniquity masquerading as purity itself!

Already have I received word of the good this sermon has accomplished in awakening the conscience, and in bringing light and peace to disquieted homes. There are "left seven thousand in Israel which have not bowed unto Baal," and I pray God that this sermon may increase that goodly company, until the crime and vice will be not only unmentionable but unknown in Christian America.

The author takes this occasion to express his obligation to his friend and publisher, Mr. H. L. Hastings, Editor of THE CHRISTIAN, for the matter contained in the closing pages of this book. The article on "Small Families," emphasizes and illustrates points but briefly referred to in the body of the work. "Without Natural Affection" exhibits the Christian philosophy underlying this whole question, and the extracts from "The Wonderful Law," under the caption of "Practical Suggestions," make this crusade against childlessness constructive, and point out that obedience to the Divine precepts will certainly meet with the Divine blessing.

BREVARD D. SINCLAIR.

Old South Parsonage,  
First Presbyterian Church,  
Newburyport, Mass.,  
May, 1892.

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