While God’s people are inclined to corruption, God displays holiness and grace.

1. God’s people are inclined to corruption.

The progression of Judah’s corruption:

A. Corruption begins when you distance yourself from God’s people.

   **Genesis 38:1 (ESV)** It happened at that time that Judah went down from his brothers and turned aside to a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah.

B. Corruption happens when you marry outside of God’s people.

   **Genesis 38:2-3 (ESV)** There Judah saw the daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua. He took her and went in to her, and she conceived and bore a son, and he called his name Er.

C. Corruption occurs when you live in conformity to an immoral culture.

   **Genesis 38:12 (ESV)** In the course of time the wife of Judah, Shua’s daughter, died. When Judah was comforted, he went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite.

2. God displays holiness and grace.

A. God’s holiness means that He judges sinners and disciplines His people.

   **Galatians 6:7-8 (ESV)** Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

B. God’s grace means that on account of Christ, He shows favor to those who deserve judgment.

   **Genesis 15:13-16 (ESV)** Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

   **Matthew 1:1-3 (ESV)** The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, Jesus Christ, the descendant of Judah through Tamar, was born without sin through the virgin birth, so that as the spotless Lamb of God, He could die as the substitute for sinners. Thus God is able to be both holy and gracious through Christ. He is holy in that all sin is punished. God is gracious in extending forgiveness apart from human merit to every sinner who will receive it.

   **Isaiah 53:6 (ESV)** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.