
RELEVANCE OF CHRISTIAN ETHICS IN ADDRESSING CORRUPTION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES IN INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

Abstract: Basically, if a Christian who serves in government lives outside the control of absolute norms, then he tends to break the rules when carrying out his duties and responsibilities. The Bible teaches that sin is the greatest violation of God's law, so that humans are considered guilty before Him and deserve punishment (Romans 3:23 ; 6:23; Isaiah 59 :2). Acts of corruption are regarded as evil deeds in God's eyes, because they do not meet God's standards in leading (cf. Romans 13 :1-4) and should be God's servants who serve the interests of the people. In principle, followers of the Christian religion are called by God to sit in government with the aim that they can carry out their duties and responsibilities in accordance with the teachings of the Bible. To achieve this, adherents of Christianity are expected to prepare themselves to live in faith and holiness according to the teachings of the Bible. According to the author's opinion, it is very important to build faith from an early age before someone plunges into the world of government. This is so that they can be formed and matured in their faith so that they can become witnesses of Christ in community service. Saint Augustine once said, as Price explained, that if Christians live according to the values of the Bible, then they will show genuine love for others .

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INTRODUCTION

In the Bible, the basis of Christian ethics shows that human success is not measured by success in worldly possessions, but by the fear of God. As exemplified by Solomon, despite having attained all human values in success such as wisdom, power, material wealth, and many life partners, he declared all of them in vain, except the fear of God. In the end, most people who love God will judge that success is measured by the fear of God, not by material wealth and position.

People who seek wealth without fear of God, often commit acts of corruption, are selfish in enriching themselves, not even a few people do it by oppressing others, are materialistic (buying luxury goods to increase self-worth in the eyes of society), commit plagiarism by tearing each other down, getting a job, and much more. In essence, humans become worthless and destroy human life and this earth, when success is measured not by the fear of God.

It seems that corruption is still a trending topic today. Even in today's era, corruption really worries many people, especially people who are Christians. Sulistyo (SULISTYO, 2020, p. 3) discusses a corruption case involving Juliari Batubara, the former Indonesian Minister of Social Affairs who attracted public attention for accepting bribes from social assistance funds worth tens of billions of rupiah. As a Christian, Batubara should be a good example for the nation and state, but instead he became a shameful person. This case needs to be criticized from the point of view of Christian ethics. Geisler (Geisler, 2021, pp. 80–82) explains that ethically, lying is very detrimental to Christian witness. This creates problems for Christians related to power, materialism, popularity, greed, hedonism, and worldly pleasures which lead to acts of stealing development funds for personal gain.

Historically, corruption has been a moral problem faced by all mankind for thousands of years until now. Handayani (Handayani, 2019, pp. 1–8) classifies Hofni and Phinehas as dishonest people by taking offerings that should belong to God. This dishonest act can be categorized as corruption. In this modern era, corruption cases are still a rampant problem. The corruption case at the end of 2020 involving the former Minister of Social Affairs Juliari Batubara who accepted bribes from a third party in a social assistance program to overcome the impact of Covid-19 attracted the attention of the Indonesian people. The latest news related to corruption is about Johnny Gerard Plate receiving funds for the Bakti 4G BTS project at the Ministry of Information and Communication (Kemenkominfo). Johnny G. Plate allegedly enriched himself by Rp. 17.8 billion. This allegation was conveyed by the prosecutor when reading out the indictment at the Central Jakarta Corruption Court (Tipikor), (Nufus, 2023) . As much as Rp. 17.8 billion was obtained by Johnny in stages.)

In terms of Christian morality, both Juliari Batubara and Johnny G. Plate are Christian officials who are easily tempted by worldly possessions, thus destroying their morality. This data raises moral issues in corruptors that need to be considered in Christian morality.

Corruption is an act that is contrary to the truth of God's word, driven by greed, greed, and ignoring personal responsibility as a believer. The problem of corruption not only violates state law (juridically), but also contradicts absolute truth (morally, especially in the context of Christian ethics and God's word). Basically, corruption is a crime that is against the Christian faith and the testimony of the Bible. Acts of corruption are driven by certain motives and goals that are contrary to the truth of the Bible ab.

Preventive measures against corruption cases are increasingly being discussed lately. Prevention is one way to protect state finances from the hands of criminals with ties. According to the book *The Story of Our Corruption*, the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) states that to prevent corruption, it is necessary to study the motives of corruptors and how corruption practices occur so that an effective prevention formula can be found. (Corruption Eradication Commission, 2017, p. 171) This task is one of the goals of the KPK as part of the state's efforts to limit the activities of corruptors. In addition, refusing gratuity is also considered an effective way to prevent corruption, as stated by Sulistyo (SULISTYO, 2020) . This means that someone who refuses a gift that is not appropriate should be appreciated because they are trying to prevent leakage of state finances. Apart from that, firm attitude and personal integrity are also important

to avoid corrupt practices. From these two quotes, it can be concluded that there needs to be a joint effort to fight corrupt practices in this country.

In Law No. 20 of 2001, corruption is defined as illegal behavior with the aim of enriching oneself, other people or corporations that harm the state or the people's economy. The definition of corruption emphasizes that acts of corruption are contrary to the laws and regulations in force in Indonesia. Therefore, this detrimental behavior has hampered the national development plan. The Indonesian International Transparency Society (TII) (Transparency International, 2006, p. 3) also defines corruption as an act of abuse of power by public officials to enrich themselves. The motivation of corruptors is to accumulate wealth and enrich themselves. Waluyo (Waluyo, 2014, p. 180) said that corruption cases require firm efforts from the authorities to eradicate them. He responded to the high number of corruption cases that have caused losses to state finances. From the explanation above, it can be understood that corruption is an illegal behavior that harms state finances for personal gain. Power is used as a means to embezzle the development budget. This action is a betrayal of the oath or promise made before taking office.

Efforts to prevent acts of corruption experience obstacles because corruptors try in various ways to commit acts that violate the law. The Nusa Bhakti Pledge, as mentioned in Our Corruption Story, highlights that those in power tend to be involved in acts of corruption and that those in power absolutely must commit acts of corruption. (Corruption Eradication Commission, 2017, pp. 170–173) . That means someone who refuses a gift that is not his right should be appreciated because he is also trying to prevent leaks in state finances. Courage and personal attitude are also important in order to avoid corruption. These two quotes emphasize the importance of joint efforts to counteract corrupt practices in this country.

According to experts, corruption does not only occur in our country, but is a global problem for the entire nation. Turksen (Turksen & Chauhan, 2018, pp. 43–91) states that corruption is an act of crime that has hit the whole world. Every government around the world, both developed and developing countries, faces the same challenge, namely the problem of corruption. The nature of corruption has disturbed the financial stability of all countries, even the Vatican State itself has a serious corruption problem. Corruption is a global scourge that worries all parties, as shown in the short film *The Secret of Tracking Corruption*. Corruption is not an ordinary enemy that is limited to the domestic or regional level, but is a disturbing global crime.

Apostasy practices are featured almost throughout the Old Testament. The criticisms and judgments in these books are not only based on social reasons that harm many people, but also theologically because God has a nature that cannot be bribed or deceived. God is always fair and of course always on the side of the truth. In these books, fraudulent practices mainly occur due to abuse of authority or position, especially by judges in the judicial process. In fact, this position should be done for the sake of justice and truth for everyone, but it is used to enrich oneself for personal satisfaction which leads to abuse. Allah expressly states the punishment for the perpetrators of disobedience.

Meanwhile in the New Testament, the practice of corruption occurs because of the urge of lust that comes from the human heart, as in the case of Ananias and Sapphira. The New Testament firmly opposes the practice of perversion, because apart from deceiving people, it also denies God or the Holy Spirit, as happened in the case of Ananias and Sapphira. Apart from that, the New Testament also states the grace and salvation that God has provided for the perpetrators of apostasy who want to repent, as happened in the story of Zacchaeus who expressed his repentance to Jesus. Jesus said, "Today salvation has come to this house" (Luke 19:9) (Simons, 2020) .

The issue of corruption raises concerns in the perspective of the Christian faith that corruption is considered an act that is disgusting, dirty and despicable. This does not reflect the behavior of faith as a person who claims to be religious or believes in the existence of an all-powerful God. State leaders are still committing acts of dishonesty, immorality, and deceit, by seizing rights that should not belong to them. Social assistance for small communities has caught their attention. This action actually makes no sense because it is seduced by funds intended to help people in need during this pandemic. Even though they are given the opportunity to do good for others, they abuse power instead. They only think about their own satisfaction, without regard for others. Their actions are very evil because they only want to gain profit and are purely selfish.

In the perspective of Christian beliefs, Paul emphasizes the importance of each individual to stop the desires of the flesh in him (Col. 3 :5). According to Friberg, the Greek word νεκρόω nekroō (nek-ro'-o) can be interpreted as killing, removing, removing power, and destroying power. (Friberg, 2005, p. nek-ro'-o) . This indicates that figuratively, one must try to get rid of bad habits, negative desires, and harmful traits. These traits can trigger even more heinous acts. Paul condemned greed as the root of a self-focused mind. The desire to live in luxury often seduces humans. This attitude was criticized by Paul because it can produce other sins. He also warned that greed can lead to death (Ephesians 5 :5) and that greedy people will not inherit God's kingdom. According to Paul, a greedy person is the same as an idol worshiper. People who worship idols are clearly against God's will. Therefore, people who are involved in corruption are considered as idol worshipers who prioritize material things. Money is at the center of his life; money became an idol for him. He no longer worships Allah, but worships inanimate objects, namely matter.

Unfortunately, places of worship such as churches are also affected by corruption. Several cases of corruption scandals involve religious leaders, as happened in churches in America, Canada, Japan, and South Korea (Muhammad Radityo, 2016) . In Indonesia, several churches have also been involved in corruption cases, such as allegations of corruption in the use of grant funds for the construction of churches in Sintang District in 2018 (Uun Yuniar, 2021) , allegations of corruption in the use of funds for the construction of the Kingmi Mile 32 church in Mimika Regency (Irfan Kamil , 2022) , as well as the case of the crime of embezzlement of the GKI Serpong church funds committed by Herry Susanto (HS), former General Treasurer of the GKI Serpong Congregational Assembly, South Tangerang will be sentenced to eight years in prison and a fine of IDR 800 million, (Mega Permata, 2016) and Unun Hardinansi Neno, suspects in the alleged case of embezzlement of money belonging to the GPIB Maranatha Church, Denpasar were also finally thrown into the detention cell at the Bali Police Headquarters. (Pratono, 2021) . Even though only a small proportion of corruption cases in the church were uncovered, most of the other cases were resolved internally for fear of embarrassment if they became known to the public (Wibowo & Kristanto, 2017) . This is very concerning because behavior in the church should reflect high moral values, but in fact it is the opposite. Internal control should be a solution to prevent corrupt practices in the church, but in reality, internal control in the church is often rejected or debated, so the opportunities for corruption are wide open (Wibowo & Kristanto, 2017) .

According to Ibn Khaldun, the attitude of hedonism that triggers the corrupt behavior of officials is caused by the urge to live in luxury. Groups in power or governing, who have a desire to live in luxury, tend to commit acts of corruption. A luxurious lifestyle can corrupt people by instilling all kinds of ugliness, lies, and bad behavior in their lives. As a result, noble values can disappear and turn into evil values which signify destruction and extinction (Gule, 2021) .

Looking at the past, during the New Order era, two government figures emerged who openly rejected corruption. These figures are the incomparable former Attorney General Baharudin Lopa

and the phenomenal former National Police Chief in Indonesia, General Hoegeng Iman Santoso. The two high-ranking state officials are known as law enforcement officers who are clean and have high integrity in carrying out their duties. They dare to oppose the mafia that surrounds them and do not care about pressure from political opponents. They even risk their capacity and integrity to refuse to compromise with unscrupulous people who wish to use them for evil purposes. Lopa and Hoegeng's life stance as a living example with integrity that every Indonesian citizen must emulate. Hoegeng himself is known as an honest and simple person and can be an inspiration for today's officials to prioritize personal integrity over greed. (Lukman, 2021) .

The principle of contentment adhered to by Christians can protect themselves from the temptation to commit acts of corruption. One who lives by this principle will not be swayed by the appreciation of men, for wealth is not the yardstick of his reputation. A sufficient life is actually very enjoyable and the principle of contentment is the essence of true humanity. The Lord's Prayer taught by Jesus to the disciples actually emphasizes this principle of life. By holding the principle of contentment, a person can close himself from the temptations of the world. By fulfilling existing needs, everyone will be free from the temptation of greed, and the corrupt nature will disappear. Living with enough salary is a life principle that contains Christian values that can ward off corruption.

In principle, followers of the Christian religion are called by God to sit in government with the aim that they can carry out their duties and responsibilities in accordance with the teachings of the Bible. To achieve this, adherents of Christianity are expected to prepare themselves to live in faith and holiness according to the teachings of the Bible. According to the author's opinion, it is very important to build faith from an early age before someone plunges into the world of government. This is so that they can be formed and matured in their faith so that they can become witnesses of Christ in community service. Saint Augustine once said, as Price explained, that if Christians live according to the values of the Bible, then they will show genuine love for others.

His perspective can be applied in the context of the contribution of Christianity to the general public. They represent God in the eyes of society in carrying out their duties and vocations in government. This concept is characteristic for Christian believers compared to non-Christians. Bearing a distinctive image as a representative of Christ in the midst of the world. Christians involved in government have a great opportunity to be the light and salt of the world. They are able to embody honesty and personal integrity in the eyes of the general public. Therefore, what they emphasize is dedication to the public interest, not self-interest. If they prioritize their own interests, they will blind the eyes of their hearts to others. Such a mindset is contrary to the teachings of Christ. This is why mental maturity from an early age is a requirement for every Christian before plunging into the world of government, so that church members must be educated so that they have the truth of the Gospel within them. (Raharjo et al., 2022) .

Humans live in a nature that has absolute nature. Human life cannot run wildly without any governing law, but must be within the corridor determined by absolute law in order to create a sense of justice and righteousness. According to Geisler (Geisler, 2021, pp. 79–85) , humans are not created to live freely, but must be controlled by the principle of absolute norms. This absolute norm in the Christian view is the word of God. If man lives outside of this absolute truth, then his actions will be considered as wicked and evil. Therefore, when Christian bureaucrats engage in corruption, they actually place themselves outside absolute law. This action is very detrimental to Christianity and the public interest because they do not prioritize absolute truth in their lives. Instead, they succumb to their passions, steal development funds, and harm the public interest. Geisler (Geisler, 2021, p. 75–85) asserts that absolute truth is a basic principle that comes from

the teachings of the Bible. Therefore, this norm must be upheld by every Christian. According to Brownlee (M Brownlee, 2019, p. 191), the norm requirement for Christians is to obey God's will. The Word of God is the standard of life for believers. He emphasized that in making ethical decisions, Christians need the guidance of the Holy Spirit so that their decisions prioritize the word of God and obey God (M Brownlee, 2019, p. 191). By adhering to the norms of the Bible, every Christian will be guided to behave in the right way, including in carrying out tasks in government. However, if he is found to be involved in corruption, he is seen as a rebel against absolute truth.

Basically, if a Christian who serves in government lives outside the control of absolute norms, then he tends to break the rules when carrying out his duties and responsibilities. The Bible teaches that sin is the greatest violation of God's law, so that humans are considered guilty before Him and deserve punishment (Romans 3:23; 6:23; Isaiah 59:2). Acts of corruption are regarded as evil deeds in God's eyes, because they do not meet God's standards in leading (cf. Romans 13:1-4) and should be God's servants who serve the interests of the people.

It is assumed that the perpetrators of corruption have certain motives when committing acts of corruption. Unknowingly, they are trapped in opportunistic concepts to achieve hedonistic goals. They act opportunistically by using their position as an opportunity to enrich themselves. bones (H Bone, 2020, p. 138) states that people who engage in corruption do so because of opportunities such as poor regulation, complex bureaucracy, and an ineffective legal system. The perpetrators of corruption look for ways to commit acts of corruption in these situations. In addition, as officials, they are also tempted by a luxurious lifestyle so that they are driven to commit fraud.

Brownlee (M Brownlee, 2019, p. 144) suggests that Christians should carry the cross by refusing to act contrary to the teachings of Christ, including resisting the temptation of greed. However, if the opposite occurs and he betrays his faith by committing evil acts, then ethically he cannot be considered a person following the example of Jesus Christ.

RESEARCH METHODS

Research is an essential part of science, which aims to know more and better understand all aspects of life, so that research must be carried out systematically with scientific methods and techniques. (Soekanto, 1986, p. 3). According to Soerjono Soekanto, research is a scientific work activity related to construction analysis which is carried out methodologically, systematically, and consistently. Methodological means according to a particular method or method. Systematic is based on a reason, while consistent means there are no contradictory things in a particular essay (Soekanto, 1986, p. 5). In principle the research method provides guidelines on how a scientist studies, analyzes and understands the problems he faces. Research is a principal means of developing science and technology which aims to reveal the truth in a systematic, methodological, and consistent. Through this research analysis and construction of the data that has been collected and processed is carried out (Soekanto, 2007, p. 62).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In Law Number 20 of 2001, corruption is defined as an unlawful act with the intention of accumulating personal wealth, other people's, or corruption that has an impact on the state or the people's economy. Emphasis on corruption according to the regulations above that corruption is

related to actions that are contrary to the regulations in force in Indonesia. Thus, the bad action has caused obstacles in the national development plan. Do not miss the Transparency International Indonesia community (TII) (Transparency International, 2006, p. 3) defines corruption as an act of accumulating personal wealth through abuse of power by public officials. The motivation of corruptors is to save wealth and enrich themselves. Waluyo (Waluyo, 2014, p. 180) said that corruption cases require firm efforts by the apparatus to eradicate them. He responded to the increasing number of corruption that damages state finances. From the explanation above, it can be understood that corruption is an unlawful act that harms state finances for personal gain. Power is used as a means of embezzling the development budget. This action is a betrayal of the oath or promise made before taking office.

In Christian literature also highlights cases of burglary, Boyd, FM (1999, p. 102). explains the prophet Micah criticized Israel and Judah because of rampant breaches in society (Micah 2 :2; 3:2,9-11). Kramer also agreed with Boyd's review. He said that the Jewish leaders were blamed for abusing their power such as the judges having taken bribes, the prophets as paid people, and the aristocrats like to usurp the rights of the poor (Kramer, 2004, pp. 20–34). The nature of the break-in points to the poor ethical issues of the leaders among the Israelis (Nggebu, 2021). Hetharia (Hetharia, 2019) assessed the bad ethics of the breakers. Their behavior violates the word of God and displays an attitude of rebellion against the Lord of the worlds. The impact of the burglary causes injustice, prioritizes egoism and makes poor people miserable.

Experts say corruption is not unique to this country but a problem for all nations. Turksen (Turksen & Chauhan, 2018, pp. 43–91) stated that corruption is a global crime. The problem of corruption is a challenge for every government throughout the world. Developed or developing countries face similar problems. The nature of corruption has disrupted the financial stability of all countries. The Vatican state also faces a serious corruption problem. Globally, corruption is so frightening and worrying for all parties as shown in the short film *The Secret of Tracking Corruption*. This is not just an ordinary enemy crime that is domestic or related to a region but is a crime that involves the whole world.

Humans exist in a world that is absolute. Humans do not live freely without laws but are within the limits regulated by absolute laws so that feelings of justice and right can be created. In this context, Geisler (Geisler, 2021, pp. 79–85) illustrates that humans were created not to live as freely as possible but to be controlled within the principles of absolute norms. The absolute norm in the Christian view is the word of God. If humans live outside of this absolute truth then their actions will become evil and immoral. Therefore, when Christian bureaucrats engage in corruption they place themselves outside absolute law. This action is detrimental to Christianity and the public interest. Because they don't prioritize absolute truth in their lives.

On the other hand, obeying passions and embezzling development funds and harming the public interest. Geisler (Geisler, 2021, pp. 75–85) asserts that absolute truth is a basic principle that stems from Bible teachings. This norm should be respected by every Christian. The norm demands for Christians in Brownlee's view (M Brownlee, 2019, p. 191) is that every Christian is expected to obey God. God's Word is used as a guide for the believer's life. He emphasized that in ethical decisions Christians need the guidance of the Holy Spirit so that their decisions prioritize God's word as well as obedience to God. Upholding Bible norms will guide every Christian to behave in the right way, including in carrying out government duties. However, if he is found to be involved in corruption, he is seen as a rebel against absolute truth.

In principle, if a Christian who sits in government lives outside the control of absolute norms, then he tends to act according to his wishes in carrying out his duties and responsibilities. The

Bible states that breaking God's law is the highest sin, and because of this humans are considered guilty before God and deserving of punishment (Romans 3:23 ; 6:23 ; Isaiah 59 :2). Corruption is an evil deed in the eyes of God. This means they do not meet God's standards for them in government (cf. Romans 13 :1-4) that they are God's servants whose duty is to serve the interests of the people.

The corrupt serve the desires of the flesh and the desire to enrich themselves in a way that is contrary to God's ten commandments: steal (Exodus 20:15 , 16). Two of Imam Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were also involved in corruption cases. Both accept bribes and commit violence (1 Samuel 2 :12-17). Merrill (1985) states the Book of Judges asserts that at that time the Israelites did not have a king. Everyone feels free to do what they want (Judges 21:25). This also influenced the attitude and behavior of the priests who served at that time. Priest Eli, seen as a moral man. But he lost control of Hophni and Phinehas, his two sons. They did as they pleased with the burnt offerings offered to God. They take it for themselves (Merrill, 1985, pp. 434–435). In other words, their actions fulfill the element of corruption because they take God's rights for their own interests. Ethically in the Torah, the two children of priest Eli also show bad, corrupt, and evil morality (Nggebu, 2021) . Both of them committed illegal acts and were against God's decree.

The Apostle Peter also investigates the corrupt nature which is dominated by lust, physical desires like those who do not know God (1 Peter 4 :3). Therefore, Wheaton (2000, p. 864) correctly interprets that Christians who are given responsibility in government should set a good example, not abuse power and oppress others. However, they have acted arbitrarily and become bad people. They don't set a good example for society.

The presence of Christians in government is important to offer the principle of living in the Christian faith that is self-sufficient with what is in you as taught by God. Dawa (Dawa, 2015, pp. 54–78) suggests that the church should not take a non-political stance but rather open itself to play an active role in the life of the nation and state, including churches with a Chinese ethnic background. The church can also play a role in educating and nurturing people to have the right view of the concept of anti-corruption which is in line with the truth of God's word. God's Word says: "Sufficient yourself with what is in you" as the truth that protects one's life from the temptation of corruption. The idea of a simple lifestyle is not an outdated idea. But this philosophy of life is part of the word of God that lives and reigns in the hearts and minds of believers throughout world history (cf. Luke 3:14 ; Hebrews 13 :5). According to Stibbs's assertion (2000, pp. 800–801) a lifestyle of self-sufficiency with what is in you was a custom in Old Testament times that believers were taught to have faith or depend on God's maintenance (cf. Deuteronomy 31:6 ; Yos ua 1 :5). Allah's promise will be fulfilled for those who believe in Him.

So when a state official is faced with billions of rupiah in budget traffic before his eyes, the instinct of greed that has existed since birth is very tempting. So he doesn't hesitate to use various ways of working from his cunning mind to satisfy his desires without considering absolute truth – he also falls into worldly currents: corruption. Evil nature. Overwhelmed by chaos and self-interest. The Lord Jesus said “...evil people bring out evil things from their evil treasures” (Luke 6:45). People act this way because they let go of Christian morality in their hearts. Brownlee said that the nature of Christians should not be allowed to disappear from Christ (M Brownlee, 2019, p. 119) . When he detaches himself from a harmonious relationship with Christ, he falls into temptation. Regarding acts of corruption, people who leave God will act in ways that deviate from their duties and responsibilities.

DISCUSSION

Through acts of corruption, the corrupt have hurt the conscience of the people. The right of every citizen to enjoy fair and equitable development results according to the state budget has been shattered because of their crimes. Semma (2008, p. 56) said that due to corruption, the quality of goods and services is decreasing. Incorrectly used social assistance funds, of course, have an impact on decreasing the quality of services received by the people. Meanwhile Setiadi (Setiadi, 2018, p. 252) looks at the impact of corruption on the mentality of the younger generation who witness bad behavior in government bodies. They display bad and immoral behavior. The corrupt behavior of government officials can undermine their enthusiasm for a better future. They are unable to carry out their duties and responsibilities properly so that they show behavior that is contrary to the rules and norms in society.

CONCLUSION

Christian morally the nature of corruption as an act that is not liked by God because corruptors are controlled by greed. Corruptors prioritize materialism and hedonism as a form of worshiping material things as the main thing in their lives. That means God's truth has been removed from their lives. The act of corruption is understood by Paul as an evil character that has no place in the Kingdom of Christ (cf. 1 Cor. 6 :9; Eph . 5:5). In the current context, the impact of corruption has made these corruptors lose their best opportunity to become Christ's representatives in government. Their presence in government is not a blessing to the world, but as losers and thieves. They do not serve the Most Holy God, but satisfy their worldly desires.

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