

ARE YOU A GOOD PERSON?

Greetings precious people, this week we are going to look at the very important question of whether or not you believe yourself to be a good person. We will look at this question from two perspectives, first through the eyes of humanity; secondly through the eyes of God as is revealed through the Word of God the Bible.

Man has a very high opinion of himself though he may have a low opinion of others, he overwhelmingly holds himself in high regards. He is quick to recognize the shortcomings in others while not able to see them in himself. He is also quick to condemn the actions of others that he excuses in himself. The Word of God tells us in Proverbs 20:6, "Most men will proclaim each his own goodness."

I have talked with thousands of people over the years about salvation and mankind's condition which is separated from God because of sin. At least 98% of these when I ask them if they consider themselves to be a good person will respond in the affirmative. Many will unashamedly proclaim, "Oh yes, I am a very good person." With such a high percentage of people thinking so highly of themselves, why do we continue to spend millions of dollars helping people with their "self esteem"?

The Bible holds a much different view of the condition of all of mankind. There was a man that approached Jesus one day desiring something of Him, he said, "Good master, what must I do to be saved?" Before answering him Jesus corrected his perception of who is good. Jesus said, "Why do you call me good, there is none good but God." Jesus was not saying that He (Jesus) was not good for He would prove without a doubt that He was God, rather that the man needed a correct understanding of who was good.

In Romans 3:9-18 we are given God's assessment of all humanity. "What then? Are we better than they? Not at all! For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one." "Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "The poison of asps is under their lips"; "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness." "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

Humanity has proven this true through history as he lives his life. History has recorded the sad accounts of man's failures (at least the historical accounts that have not been rewritten by the revisionists).

I know that the 98% of those thinking that they are good would disagree with this truth. But it is because of the standard that "we" use. It is "our" standard rather than God's. What is God's standard? It is the Law (Ten Commandments) as they were lived out and exemplified in the life of Jesus Christ.

It is not until man is confronted with the Law of God that he or she begins to see that their "goodness" is nothing but filthy rags in God's sight. You may at this point be one of those in the 98 percentile. Let me help you see more clearly.

How many lies have you told? Be careful not to justify or rationalize this by saying that they were just "little white lies". Is it a 100, 200, 1000 lies that you have told in your life time? What does telling a lie make you? A LIAR! All liars have their place in the Lake of fire that burns forever.

Have you ever stolen anything no matter how long ago or how little the value? Then you are THIEF! Have you ever used God's Name in vain, as a cuss word; to express anger or disgust? This is Blasphemy! No blasphemer will go unpunished.

Jesus said if you look at someone and lust after them in your heart you commit adultery. These are just 4 of the Commandments and I venture to say that you, like I, have not fared too well with these. We all are guilty before a Just and Holy God and are without excuse.

The good news is that Jesus paid the price for our sin and we can be forgiven but we must repent and surrender our lives to Jesus Christ.

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