

Are You a “Good” Person?

Introduction

1. A young man came to Jesus and asked “What good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?”
 - A. His question revealed his outlook on life. He viewed good deeds to be of the greatest importance. Sadly, many have the same view today.
 - 1) If a man is kind toward others and helps his neighbors, he is thought of as a good man.
 - B. Jesus revealed the importance of trust in God. Notice now the situation and what Jesus said to the young man:
Matthew 19:16-21
 - 1) “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” (V.21)
 - 2) The young man, hearing this statement, went away grieved because he owned much property.
 - a. Jesus spoke these words to that young man only, understanding his misconception, and with the intent of leading him to understand that he should have faith in God.

Having Faith in God

1. **Faith in God is the starting point.**
Hebrews 11:6
 - A. **Faith in God results in doing the will of God. With that commitment many good deeds will be done, but they will be the good deeds God wants done.**
 - 1) **Many times the good deeds we do are only the good deeds of our choice. But with trust in God we are ready to do His will.**
2. **The young man believed in God, but he had accepted the religious traditions of men and viewed his religion as a matter of good deeds.**
 - A. **In so doing he overlooked the fundamental matter of faith in God.**
 - 1) **A faith which trusts God and does His will. If he had trusted God in this manner, he would have recognized the Son of God and would have followed Him.**
3. **The consequences of the view held by the young man are seen in an illustration of Jesus. He spoke of a Pharisee and tax collector.**
Luke 18:11-13
 - A. **The person who trusts in good deeds tends to overlook his own sins.**
 - 1) **The one who trusts in God is aware of his own sin and seeks forgiveness.**

Good?

1. When the young man called Jesus, "good teacher", Jesus said:

Matthew 19:17 "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God...."

- A. The Christian realizes he is not good in the absolute sense of the word "good."**
 - 1) Jesus was saying that absolute goodness is an attribute of Deity. Man cannot be "good" in this sense because he is fallible, continually making mistakes.**
- B. The follower of Christ will try to be good. But even his best efforts will fall short of perfection.**

The Dilemma

1. **The apostle Paul expressed the dilemma in these words:**
Romans 7:18-19

2. **Even when we decide to follow Christ our actions do not always measure up to what we have decided to do.**
 - A. **This is why we need help in the matter of sin.**

 - B. **We cannot be good enough to deal with sin through our own good deeds.**
 - 1) **If I hurt my best friend's feelings, I try to make that up by some good deed. This is the right thing to do.**
 - a. **It may restore the friendship, but it does not blot out the wrong done.**

 - C. **We must realize that each wrong deed separates us from God. Sin is an offense to God.**
 - 1) **Although I may make the matter right with my friend, how can I make the matter right with God?**

 - 2) **We cannot do enough good deeds to blot out the sin in our lives.**

3. **We must realize that none of us is immune from sinful deeds.**

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

The Answer

1. **Christ came to the earth to make atonement for our sins.**
 - A. **He did this by giving Himself as a sacrifice for sin.**
 - 1) **He was qualified to pay the price for sin because He was without sin. He took upon Himself the sins of the world in order that we might have forgiveness for sin.**
2. **The Christian has acknowledged his own sinfulness and has turned to Jesus in obedient faith.**
 - A. **He does not boast of being better than others.**
 - B. **He acknowledges his own sinfulness and says to the world, "I need a Savior."**
3. **With obedient faith, the Christian tries to do the will of God.**
 - A. **And yet, while the Christian tries to serve God, he fails in many ways. But the grace of God is seen in that as the Christian repents and prays, God forgives.**
 - 1) **The apostle John writes:**

1 John 1:9 **If we confess our sins**, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Conclusion

1. In order to be “good” in the sight of God, Christ must be trusted as Savior and obeyed as Lord.
2. Will you confess Him as the Son of God?
Matthew 10:32
 - A. Be baptized for the forgiveness of sins?
Acts 2:38
 - B. Live for Him the rest of your life?
Luke 9:23
3. I urge you to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?
 - A. **Are we really a “good” person in the eyes of God?**

