

11th September 2016

The nature of Man – Pt 2 do that which is right in his own eyes.

We previously established that the nature of man is inherently sinful. None are righteous, none understandeth, and none seeketh after God. In this teaching we establish that the nature of man is to do that which is right in his own eyes, and to reject instruction.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. The nature of man is to do that which is right in his own eyes.

"In those days [there was] no king in Israel, [but] every man did [that which was] right in his own eyes" (Jud.17: 6).

See also Jud.21: 25, Prov.21: 2, and Eph.2: 3.

It is the nature of man to do that which is right in his own eyes. His nature is to "fulfil the desires of the flesh and of the mind" (Eph.2: 3). Hence we are all "children of disobedience" (Eph.2: 2). It was no different for the nation of Israel when "the Lord brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm" (Deut.26: 8), and set Judges over them in the land of Israel and "every man did that which was right in his own eyes" when they had no king (Jud.17: 6).

2. The nature of man is to reject instruction.

"The way of a fool [is] right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel [is] wise" (Prov. 12: 15).

See also "A fool despiseth his father's instruction" (Prov.15: 5).

C.P. The counsel that is wise comes from the Lord (see Prov.19: 19 & 20 and Is.30: 1).

Hence, even when a man has access to the words of God as instruction the nature of man is to reject the counsel because he believes that his way is right in his own eyes. And when he does he shows himself to be a fool.

Additional comments on our two points.

Some in the world receive and obey wise counsel, but if there was no God then man's inherent desire to do what he wants would mean there would be **no** laws. But because we have laws there is a knowledge of right and wrong, and therefore proof that God exists and He gives wise counsel.

Applying the teaching to our life today.

The government of this land have made it unlawful for parents to discipline their children according to the instruction of the Lord (Prov.23: 13 & 14). Often Children get the idea that they do not need instruction, do not want instruction from their parents and so some parents find it too arduous to provide instruction to their children, so the children do that which is right in their own eyes.

A question to think about.

When a child that is raised with encouragement to do that which is right in their own eyes, which is natural for our flesh to do, and they are not corrected, not given instruction, then what is the most likely outcome when they are presented with the gospel? Are they more inclined to receive or reject the Lord Jesus Christ?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

The only occurrence of something being well pleasing to the Lord is for a child to receive the instruction of their parent, or to obey their parents (Col.3: 20). So when parents do not give instruction, do not set boundaries or consequences for their children, they are potentially setting them up to follow their natural pattern of doing that which was right in their eyes, and so reject the gospel. When a child is raised with instruction and required by their parents to obey they are encouraged away from their natural disposition of doing "that which is right in his own eyes". Consequently when offered the gospel of Christ they are more likely to receive the Lord Jesus Christ. So if you want your children to believe and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour then raise them with wise instruction, to counter their natural man which rejects instruction.