

18th September 2016

## The nature of Man – Pt 3 Man's heart, his mouth, and his way are froward.

We previously established that the nature of man is inherently sinful. None are righteous, none understandeth, and none seeketh after God. Man does that which is right in his own eyes, and rejects instruction. In this teaching we establish that the way of man is naturally froward, as are his lips and his heart.

### Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

#### 1. The way of man is naturally froward.

"The way of man [is] froward and strange: but [as for] the pure, his work is right" (Prov.21: 8).  
See also: Prov.2: 15.

The word "froward" means "perverse" – see "He that hath a froward heart findeth no good: and he that hath a perverse tongue falleth into mischief" (Prov.17: 20 & Prov.4: 24).

The word "perverse" means "wickedness" – see "We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness" (1Kg.8: 47).

The froward man is an abomination to God (Prov.3: 32), as is the wicked (Prov.15: 9). The men of Sodom were an example of men that were exceedingly wicked and froward before the Lord (Gen. 13: 13). And Israel, God's chosen people were worse than the men of Sodom (Lam.4: 6), and were called a "very froward generation" (Deut 32: 20). Hence the way of man is naturally froward.

#### 2. Man's heart and lips are naturally froward.

"Frowardness [is] in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord" (Prov.6: 14).  
See also Prov.11: 20 & Is.57.17.

C.p. – "A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth" (Prov.6: 12 & Prov.10: 32).

God Almighty of the Bible **hates** a man who has a froward, perverse, wicked mouth (Prov.8: 13).

Additional comments on our two points.

When a man is saved, when he believes the gospel of Christ crucified (1Cor.15: 1–4) he does so in his heart, and he confesses the Lord's name with his lips (Rom.10: 10). Which makes sense given that "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matt.12: 34).

Hence the transformation of a lost sinner into a saved man **ONLY** takes places when the heart and the lips, that are naturally froward change and express to God belief in His Son, instead of frowardness or wickedness.

### Applying the teaching to our life today.

A man who is saved from "the midst of a crooked and perverse nation" is to "shine as lights in the world" (Phil.2: 15) and can therefore be seen by those who are in the darkness, and those who are also in the light. Our families (that are not saved) should see a difference, between our lips, and their own, between what we will accept and what they will.

### A question to think about.

If you were sitting down watching a movie with your family (and they are non-believers), and the Lord's name is used in vain in the movie, do you

- a) immediately turn to another channel, or leave the room, or
- b) sit there until it happens five times then leave, or
- c) sit there regardless of how many times the Lord's name is used in vain?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

At different times in my journey I have adopted all three actions in our question. What signal does it send to the non-believers if we are prepared to listen to blasphemy without saying or doing anything? Are we doing everything possible to "shine as lights in the world", or are we showing that we are no different in accepting blasphemy? A natural man will know no different because his heart and lips are naturally froward, but let us as Christians be encouraged to be different, to shine as lights in the midst of a crooked and naturally froward nation.