

Lesson 2: MAN'S WAY AND GOD'S WAY

The Biblical Model of Man's Failure

God's Word is the only true source and authority for living (*based on Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17*). It reveals man's failure, the subsequent consequences, and the effect that man's original sin has on today's world (*based on Genesis 1:26-27; 3:1-4:12; 5:1-3; Romans 5:12*).

- I. Mankind was created in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27).
- II. Mankind sinned and has borne the many consequences of that sin unto the present day (Romans 5:12).
- III. Man's primary need is to be justified (declared righteous) by God and reconciled through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans chapter 8).
- IV. A regenerated person is called to holiness (purity, without blame) and sanctification (set apart for God) (1 Corinthians 6:9-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:7; 5:23; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 1:16, 2:9).

The Biblical View of Self

The wisdom of this world deceptively teaches that believing in the inherent goodness of one's "self" is foundational to a fulfilled life. However, this erroneous viewpoint overlooks the devastating results of Adam and Eve's failure to obey God. Scripture teaches that a fulfilled life is not dependent upon having a "good self-image" or "higher self-esteem." Instead, fulfillment in living depends on your relationship to God and a biblical response to the problem of "self" (*based on Proverbs 14:12; Matthew 10:38-29; Luke 9:23-24; Romans 5:6-21, 7:15-25, 14:7-8; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; 2 Corinthians 10:17-18; Ephesians 2:1-9; Titus 3:3-7; James 4:14-17*).

- I. Sinless self to sinful self (the fall of mankind)
 - A. Adam and Eve sinless
 - B. Adam and Eve sinful
- II. Scripture speaks of the natural man's self-importance
 - A. Nothing and no one compares to God
 - B. The state of those who reject Christ and salvation
 - C. The futility of trusting in yourself
- III. The image of God in man has been marred by sin (effects of the fall of mankind)
 - A. Our natural bent is to sin
 - B. God's image plus Adam's image
- IV. Only God can and does enable a person to re-acquire the perfect image of God (restoration after the fall of mankind)
 - A. God the Son
 - B. Saved to be a new creation
- V. You can be more than a conqueror in Christ by dying to self (living victoriously after the fall of mankind)

God has graciously provided for you so that you may give glory and exaltation to Him and not to yourself (Psalm 115:1; Romans 1:19-21; 5:1-2, 6-11; Ephesians 2:8-9). Your example in giving glory to God and disregarding yourself is Jesus, who did not seek His own glory (John 7:17—18; 8:50, 54; Hebrews 5:5). Instead, Jesus lived to do the will of the Father (John 4:34, 5:30, 6:38) as a servant who learned obedience from the things which He

suffered (Hebrews 5:8) and remained obedient even to death (Matthew 20:26-28; Philippians 2:5-8).

- 1) The error of man's way concerning "self-worth"
 - 2) The error of man's way regarding "self-dependence"
 - 3) The error of man's way in "self-love"
 - 4) The error of man's way related to "self-assurance"
 - 5) The error of man's way pertaining to "self-confidence"
 - 6) The error of man's way regarding "self-esteem"
 - 7) The error of man's way regarding "self-righteousness"
 - 8) The error of man's way concerning "self-exaltation"
- B. Remember your identity in Christ

Basic Approaches to Solving Personal Problems (Isaiah 55:8-9)

- I. Man's Way (Proverbs 14:12; 1 Corinthians 3:19-20; Colossians 2:8)
 - A. Instinctual
 - B. Behavioral
 - C. Humanism - Positive Potential
 - D. Integrity Theory - Positive Potential
 - E. New Age Philosophy
- II. God's Way (John 10:9-10; Romans 11:33-36)
 - A. Heart Transformation (Psalm 51:10; Ezekiel 36:26; Acts 15:6-9)

Examples of Man's Way Compared to God's Way

Knowing the Difference Between Man's Way and God's Way

You must be firmly rooted, built up, and established in the Lord. Only in this way can you avoid the empty deception, philosophy, and elementary principles of the world (*based on Colossians 2:6-10*).

- I. The basics of knowing God's way
 - A. 1 John 4:1-3
 - B. 1 Corinthians 3:10-11; Colossians 2:8
 - C. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12
- II. The importance of following God's way
 - A. Matthew 16:27; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10
 - B. Psalm 119:89, 160; 1 Peter 1:24-25; Deuteronomy 11:26-28; Psalm 119:118; Isaiah 55:8-11; Hebrews 4:12
- III. The hope in going God's way
 - A. Romans 6:6-7, 14, 18; Galatians 2:20
 - B. Romans 8:31-39; 1 Corinthians 10:13
 - C. Hebrews 4:15-16; 1 John 2:1
 - D. Romans 8:28-29; James 1:2-4
 - E. John, chapters 14-17; Romans 14:17
 - F. Ezekiel 18:20; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 1:6
 - G. Psalm 103:12; Colossians 1:13-14; Hebrews 10:17; 1 John 1:9
 - H. John 5:24, 10:10