

# Right In His Own Eyes

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Proverbs 16:2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits.

Proverbs 16:25 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Proverbs 21:2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.

Acts 26:9 I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

Proverbs 30:12 There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

- I. Every human being is driven to know what is right, to do what is right, and to be right in his knowledge and views of others and the world around him.
  - A. To resist the temptation to do what is wrong is too hard for him without the Spirit of God to guide him and the grace of God to teach him.
  - B. To continue in what he knows is not right is too painful for his conscience to bear.
  - C. So sin has snared him and he is in a predicament.
  - D. He must embrace the truth and turn from that which is wrong, or he must redefine what is right and what is wrong.
  - E. So the common course of action is to run it through your mind over and over and keep working the problem until the answer comes out like you want it to, and you discover that you are right in doing what the Bible says, and everyone else says, and what has always been considered to be wrong.
  - F. The doom of the human race is that people aid and support one another in this self-deception.
  - G. Very early in life each person becomes very skilled in justifying themselves – no matter what they do or think.
  - H. By the time they are young adults they can be told nothing and cannot be corrected or made to see any error in what they believe, what they are doing, or where they are headed.
  - I. As life progresses and we get older, it becomes very nearly impossible to see anything wrong with ourselves.
- II. Besides the many Scriptures about this matter, we have the example of Saul, who was adamant in maintaining that he had indeed obeyed the Lord when he had absolutely NOT obeyed the Lord.

1 Samuel 15:10-14 Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying, It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night. And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and

gone down to Gilgal. And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD. And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

- A. Saul contradicted God himself in claiming to have obeyed when he did not obey.
- B. Saul had partially obeyed, so he therefore justified himself claiming to have obeyed.
- C. He blamed others for the part that he did not do – justifying himself.

1 Samuel 15:15 And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.

- D. He claimed that the reason for not doing what God had said was so they could sacrifice them to God – another justification of his disobedience.
- E. When presented by Samuel with what God had said, accusing him of blatant disobedience, Saul became even more insistent that he HAD obeyed and done what God had told him to do, and again blamed the part that wasn't done on the people.

1 Samuel 15:20-21 And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.

- F. Saul was responsible, but he would not bear the responsibility.

### III. Being right is about being clean.

Proverbs 16:2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits.

- A. There is so much in the Bible about those unclean spirits, and uncleanness is directly related to sin and wrong.
- B. Sin defiles and pollutes – our minds, our hearts, and our bodies.
  - 1. Our sin defiles us ourselves.
  - 2. Our sin defiles others, and the sin of others defiles us.
  - 3. The sight of it, the knowledge of it, the presence of it – defiles those who see it, know about it, or are there when it is done.
- C. Every person knows that sin defiles, so it must be sterilized (made clean) so that it does not defile or pollute us.
- D. This is a truth you can rely on: the degree to which a person is concerned with cleanliness is a pretty good gauge of how concerned they are about sin.
  - 1. People who have filthy habits, live in filthy conditions on purpose, are not concerned about cleanliness in their bodies, their food, their habitation – will not be careful or concerned about the defilement of sin, either.
- E. People get used to being unclean – obviously.
  - 1. They just give up on the idea of being clean.
  - 2. They just become apathetic about cleanliness, period.
  - 3. They just say, “This dog is clean.” “This food is clean.” “I’m not that dirty, just because I haven’t showered in a few days.”
- F. Cleanliness becomes a relative term instead of an absolute thing.
  - 1. As long as you can find something more unclean, then what I am doing, or what I think, is not so bad, and is, in fact, alright after all.

- G. So people just simply justify what they think, what they say, what they believe, and what they do, to try to keep from feeling unclean.
- IV. By always finding a way to justify ourselves we are in fact usurping God's authority and thinking of ourselves as gods.
- A. We have no right to judge ourselves by the standards we make up ourselves.
  - B. The only way to be right is to know what God says is right and obey what He says.
  - C. There is no way to know what God says is right and what is wrong without knowing the Word of God and becoming acquainted with the mind of God.
  - D. Our conscience is not good enough to determine what is right and wrong.
    - 1. It can be seared from abuse.
    - 2. It's influence can become so weakened by our continued refusal to heed it's warning that it is as if we do not have a conscience any more.
  - E. So what kind of being does one become when he has rejected the Word of God, and also silenced his conscience?
    - 1. He will be the kind of person who can do any kind of evil and claim he is doing what is right.
    - 2. Not only that, but he can actually believe that he is doing right himself, when he is in blatant disobedience to what is really right.
  - F. Beware of yourself that you do not let your pride and selfishness ruin your life and destroy your soul forever.
  - G. Realize that you cannot find the right way without God, and that in your own wisdom you will surely lose your way.
  - H. Face the reality that you might be, and almost certainly are, wrong about many things.
  - I. Never be so sure of yourself that you will not listen to counsel and be corrected.

Psalm 36:2 For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful.

Luke 18:9 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

- J. Don't register your name in heaven among the fools of the earth:

Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

Proverbs 26:12 Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

- K. Be careful, or you will do what Saul did with your children.
  - 1. You will be so sure you are doing right while you are not, and will in the end try to blame the consequences on others.
- L. Same thing with your marriage.
- M. Same thing with your Christian profession and your service to God.

Galatians 6:3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

- N. It is all too easy to do, since we all have this overwhelming tendency to always think we are right and we are doing what we are supposed to be doing.
  - 1. And if we know we are not, we figure out a way to make ourselves think we are anyway.
- O. Nine times the Bible says, "Take heed to yourselves."