

Profile of a Rebel

Wednesday, October 26, 2022

Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

1 Samuel 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

- I. What is a rebel?
 - A. One who revolts from the government to which he owes allegiance, either by openly renouncing the authority of that government, or by taking arms and openly opposing it.
 - B. A rebel is different than an enemy in that the enemy owes no allegiance to the one (or ones) he has set himself in opposition to.
 - C. A rebel finds it difficult or impossible to submit to authority ...of any kind.
 1. Children to parents; wife to husband, to the boss at work, police, game warden, laws of the land, church, ...
 2. If they can't, or won't, humbly submit to these authorities, then they certainly will not submit to God either.
 - D. A rebel seeks a place of authority, or imagines himself an authority.
 1. A humble, submitted child of God seeks to be a servant, not a master.
 2. A submissive spirit never seeks to rule over others, or to obtain a place of authority, but those are the kinds of men God chooses for the job.
 3. A rebel seeks to rule and reign over others, and puts forth efforts to capture that position for himself.
- II. Let's look at the beginning of rebellion. (turn to 2 Samuel 15:1-12 – read about Absalom)
 - A. We could also go to Numbers 16 to read a classic example of rebellion in the story of Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and On, with their 250 men against Moses, which follows all the same characteristics and patterns we are about to talk about here.
 - B. A rebel begins with envy and covetousness.
 - C. A rebel questions what is established and undermines the established authority.

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

- D. After questioning what is established he will eventually openly deny it.

Genesis 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

Matthew 21:23 And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?

- E. Then the rebel will accuse the authority he is questioning of being motivated by selfish interests, or unqualified to be in that position.

Genesis 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

- F. A rebel looks to place blame on someone.

1. He is actually looking to excuse his own wickedness by finding fault with someone else.
2. If he can't find a real fault he will attempt to invent one (or more).

III. A rebel is stubborn.

1 Samuel 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

- A. Unreasonably obstinate; inflexibly fixed in opinion; not to be moved or persuaded by reasons; inflexible.
- B. Firmly adhering to an opinion or purpose; fixed firmly in resolution; not yielding to reason, arguments or other means.
- C. It is rebellion that makes a person unreasonable and unteachable; it is not his unusual wisdom and love for truth.
- D. Rebel will defend his position with his opinions and prejudices and not the Word of God.

IV. A rebel will try to put on a face of outward righteousness.

- A. Absalom did it, Korah did it, and Saul did it; they all had to put on a show of religion and faked being devout while they were scheming in their heart.
- B. The Lord's command to Saul:

1 Samuel 15:3 Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

- C. The rebels coveted, questioned the command, and disobeyed:

1 Samuel 15:9 But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.

- D. The rebels claimed to be doing the right thing:

1 Samuel 15:13 And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.

- E. Again, the lead rebel blames the other rebels for everything, and then shows his stubbornness.

1 Samuel 15:14-15 And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear? 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.

- F. For the second time he is confronted and charged with disobeying God's command:

1 Samuel 15:19-21 Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?

- G. Again, he show his stubbornness, and casts the blame on the people:

{20} 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.

- V. A rebel will teach others rebellion.
- A. He will not go off by himself and leave everyone alone, and start his own kingdom.
 - B. He will subtly, (and maybe loudly) teach rebellion to everyone he can.
 - 1. By questioning every rule, every method, everything that has been established and tried and proven.
 - C. He doesn't have to try to teach it to others for his rebellion to spread.
 - 1. Just his attitude, and his questioning every rule, and every authority.
 - 2. His demanding that every matter be explained to his perfect satisfaction before he will agree to submit to it. (and he is never satisfied with any explanation, even if it is clear from the Word of God.)
 - D. Example is the strongest teacher.
 - 1. Children will follow example more quickly, and more surely than they will follow verbal orders, and rebels will beget more rebels.
- VI. Submission to authority is a MUST for anyone to ever get to God.

Luke 7:7-9 Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed. For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

- A. Children who are taught by example NOT to submit will have a very hard time ever getting saved, because to be saved you must submit.
 - 1. So there are lot of parents in this untoward generation who are sending their children to hell by teaching them rebellion, while thinking themselves wise.
- B. The Christian life is a life of submission.

Ephesians 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

- C. Submission is the key to life on earth and to eternal life.
 - 1. Rebellion is the devil's lie to keep you bound, ruin and wreck your life, and destroy all the souls that are within your influence.
- D. There was one rebel in heaven and God kicked him out –He isn't going to allow any more in.
- E. Let us each search our hearts honestly in God's sight and root out any rebellion that we are allowing there.
- F. It is a poison to the soul and it is very contagious and it is very wicked in the sight of God.
- G. We better be yielded to God, and if we are truly yielded to God we will be yielded to the God ordained authority in our life, and we will not resent it, resist it, or disregard it.