

General Topics :: American Idol**American Idol, on: 2006/4/17 1:52**

American Idol

by David S. Kirkwood

Imagine a person taking a block of wood and carving it to look like a bearded man in a robe. At the bottom of his wooden figurine, he carves the name "Jesus." Finally, each day he bows before it in worship. Does that make him a Christian?

No, that makes him an idolater. He is worshipping something that he has named Jesus but who is not Jesus at all. His wooden god is a grave insult to Jesus.

In a similar fashion, modern American Christendom has created many versions of Jesus that hardly resemble the Jesus who is revealed in Scripture. Having created a god to their own liking, those who worship "American Jesus" are no less idolatrous and no more Christian than the woodcarver I've just described.

What are the differences between American Jesus and Bible Jesus? American Jesus comes in many varieties, but let's compare a few of the attributes of the most popular versions with Bible Jesus.

Bible Jesus said that only those who do the will of His Father, keeping His commandments, will enter the kingdom of heaven. All others will be cast into hell, even those who called Him their Lord (see Matt. 7:13-27). Bible Jesus warned that the hateful, the lustful, the unforgiving, the selfish and greedy would not be saved (Matt. 5:21-22, 27-30; 6:14-15, 19-24; 25:31-46).

By contrast, American Jesus doesn't stress holiness nearly so much. He certainly never says that obedience is essential for one to gain eternal life. Those who believe that are legalists, he says. He is always stressing God's grace, but it is a grace that overlooks and forgives yet doesn't transform. American Jesus believes that faith without works can save and that there is an entire class of heaven-bound believers called "carnal Christians" who are indistinguishable from unsaved people.

Using unmistakable terms, Bible Jesus warned His closest disciples of the possibility of their not being ready for His return if they returned to sin. He warned those closest disciples that they would be cast into hell if they weren't ready when He returned (Matt. 24:32-51; 25:1-30).

American Jesus, on the other hand, believes that once you are saved you will always be saved. You are guaranteed a place in heaven regardless of how you live your life. He often tells his audiences that he died for all their sins, past, present and future, and so there is no sin that they can commit for which he didn't die. So they are quite safe in his grace. (No one ever seems to ask if that means that everyone will be saved in the end, since Jesus died for everyone's sins, past, present and future.)

Bible Jesus, not knowing the time of His return, told His followers that they might well need to run for the hills because of the great tribulation which would arise at the time that the antichrist would enter the Jerusalem temple. Some of them would be martyred. He promised that after cataclysmic events, He would "send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other" (Matt. 24:3-36).

American Jesus promises that all his own will be taken up to heaven before any tribulation begins, because surely God would not allow the people he loves to be so persecuted. (Those who believe in American Jesus often have little idea of how much persecution is being endured around the world by those who believe in Bible Jesus. Neither do they care.) American Jesus will return twice, and His second return will follow His first return by seven years. He forgot to tell his disciples about this.

Bible Jesus commanded His followers to sell their possessions, give to charity, and lay up treasures in heaven. He commanded them not to lay up treasures on earth. He said that those who do are full of darkness (see Matt. 6:19-24; Luke 12:33). Even those who scrupulously tithe, like the scribes and Pharisees, could be lovers of money (see Luke 11:42; 16:14; 18:12).

American Jesus often tells his followers just the opposite. He wants to give them more treasures to lay up on earth and make them even richer than they already are. He promises prosperity for just 10% of their income. Interestingly, according to pollster George Barna, no more than 8% of the people who believe in American Jesus actually do give at least 10% of their income to his cause.

Bible Jesus taught His disciples to pray that His Father's name would be hallowed, that His kingdom would come and His will would be perfectly done on earth. He taught them to make request for their daily bread and for deliverance from evil (see Matt. 6:9-13).

American Jesus teaches his disciples to pray the prayer of Jabez and to claim their covenant rights to gain more wealth.

Bible Jesus told everyone to repent, and warned them if they didn't they would perish. He declared that repentance was a requirement for forgiveness (see Matt. 4:17; Luke 5:32, 13:3-5; 24:47).

American Jesus rarely mentions repentance. He most often just asks people to accept him as savior.

Bible Jesus often spoke about hell and warned of its terrors (see Matt. 5:2, 29-30; 8:12; 10:28; 13:41-42, 49-50; 18:9; 22:13; 23:33; 24:51; 25:30; Luke 13:28).

American Jesus doesn't want to scare anyone by mentioning hell, as it might offend people who are going to hell, and that hinders church growth.

Bible Jesus told His ministers that their goal was to make disciples who would obey all of His commandments (see Matt. 28:19-20).

American Jesus tells his ministers that their goal is to gather the largest possible crowds on Sunday mornings.

Bible Jesus promised freedom from sin to those who would become His true disciples and abide in His Word (see John 8:31-36).

American Jesus makes no such promises. Sinners and addicts must wait until heaven for any hope of freedom. American Jesus does offer psychological counseling and support groups.

Bible Jesus believed that being a believer in Him and being His disciple were synonymous. He called everyone to take the first step in a relationship with Him by becoming His committed disciple (see Matt. 28:19-20; Luke 14:25-35; John 8:30-31).

American Jesus believes one can be a heaven-bound believer even if he never becomes a disciple, which is an optional step for believers who really want to commit themselves to him.

Bible Jesus calls for passionate devotion. He declared that we are not worthy of Him if we love our parents or our children more than Him. We can't come after Him unless we deny ourselves and take up our cross (see Matt. 10:37-38; 16:24).

American Jesus doesn't mind taking second place to more exciting things like football, NASCAR and WWF.

The chief difference between Bible Jesus and American Jesus is this: Bible Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords, almighty Son of God, and soon-coming Judge of all, whereas American Jesus is only savior and friend. The chief difference between those who believe in Bible Jesus and those who believe in American Jesus is this: Those who believe in Bible Jesus obey His commandments and love the brethren (see 1 John 2:3-6; 3:9-10, 14), while those who believe in American Jesus possess a thin veneer of holiness and don't care about the brethren. In fact, they often hate and criticize Jesus' true followers, calling them "unbalanced fanatics" or "legalists" or "holier-than-thous" (see 1 John 2:9, 11, 19; 3:14; 4:20).

But here is the most sobering fact: People are saved, not when they believe that salvation is by faith, but when they believe in a person, a divine person named Jesus Christ (see John 3:16). That being so, it ought to concern us when so many people who claim to be Christians believe in a Jesus who is so vastly different from Bible Jesus. People who believe in American Jesus actually don't believe in Jesus at all. American Jesus is an American idol.

When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?---Jesus (Luke 18:8).

Re: American Idol - posted by teamtoucan (), on: 2006/4/17 6:22

What a great post - worth reading.

Re: - posted by Onesimus4God (), on: 2006/4/17 10:37

I do not mean to be unkind about this gentleman or his article. There is much truth and validity to what he has written. However, in this article, its author keeps crossing back and forth between religion and christianity. There is even a hint of sinless perfection of the flesh. So while there are some true things to think about in the article, there are some things to be careful about.

We are saved by faith, through unmerited favor. Our faith is in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Our ability to believe is unmerited favor. Without faith (in Jesus Christ and Him crucified) all works are trashed, for it is impossible to please God without faith.

Our faith is expressed in obedience to God and the truth of His Word. Jesus Christ is our model and mentor as we are disciplined by Him to be conformed into a reflection of His glory. This includes repentance. Repentance is a change in direction. Paul said that if we walk after the Spirit of God, we will not fulfill the desires of the flesh. The walk in flesh is exactly opposite of walking after the Spirit of God. Therefore, to walk after the Spirit is to walk opposite of the flesh, ie, a change of direction of heart.

Jesus said over and over again in John 14 that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments. It is impossible to be like Jesus, and not have a desire to be obedient. But having a desire does not mean that we are always successful in overcoming our flesh and always walking after the Spirit of God.

There is only one way to successfully overcome the desires of our flesh on a long term basis. That is by faith in the power of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. We do not change the desires of our heart, Jesus does. Paul said that it is God who places in us, both the will and the desire to do His good pleasure. Paul said that the cross (faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on Calvary) is foolishness to those who are persisting, but to those who are being saved, it is the power of God. Power of God to do what? Power of God to save us and lead an overcoming life of service to our Lord by serving the least of these His people.

To say that sinless perfection is evidence of a saved life is to me unsupported by the counsel of Scripture. This is not uncommon among modern day preachers. They are legalistic one breath, and faith through grace the next. So please be very careful when reading this article, and be careful when recommending it. God bless you as you go on with Him.

In awe of Him,

"O"

Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2006/4/17 14:20

Quote:

-----To say that sinless perfection is evidence of a saved life is to me unsupported by the counsel of Scripture.

I agree that we as Christians will never lead a sinless perfect life on this earth. However, I think the point of the article is that Christians *desire* to lead a 'sinless, perfect life' while people who profess to be Christians but serve a false 'America n Jesus' know that they will not be able to lead a 'sinless, perfect life' therefore do not try at all.

Re: - posted by ThePreacher (), on: 2006/4/18 17:57

I'm am curious, how do you explain this Scripture:

1Jo 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

1Jo 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

1Jo 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

1Jo 3:6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

1Jo 3:7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

1Jo 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

1Jo 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

Do you think it is possible for a Christian to stop sinning? If not, then how can we possibly be saved from the consequences of sin while yet continuing in the acts of sin? That would be ridiculous. Charles Spurgeon said, "Sin and Hell are married unless repentance proclaims the divorce". This is true. Therefore, if repentance isn't genuine repentance and a turning away from ALL known sin, then it isn't true repentance. The grace of God that forgives sin also transforms the nature of a person into a radically different nature; one of righteousness instead of wickedness. Why is it not possible to walk in the Spirit?

Charles Finney said, ""The fact is, the Churches are going rapidly away from God because of a lack of the true bread of life; and because the ministry have, to such an alarming extent, been guarding their Churches more against the doctrine of sanctification than they have against sin."

The power of Christ is dwelling within all true Christians, empowering them to walk as He walked; to be pure as He is pure; to be holy as He is holy. Christ was manifested to destroy the works of the devil, and sin is the work of the devil, therefore, if Christ did not destroy sin in the lives of those who serve Him then He failed His mission. God forbid!

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Rom 6:7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

THE FACT IS, YOU CAN'T FIND A SINGLE SCRIPTURE IN CONTEXT THAT SAYS THAT CHRISTIANS MUST CONTINUE TO SIN AND CAN NEVER FULLY BE DELIVERED FROM IT. But you can find many that say we are FREE from sin, DEAD to sin, have POWER over sin, and are pure, holy, righteous, and obedient just as Jesus was on this earth by the power of the same HOLY Spirit that quickened Him, so long as we abide in His love.

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2006/4/18 18:16

I have found that about the only way to come to agreement with the "sinless" "not sinless" argument is to say, "Christians turn from all known sin." A Christians does not continue in known sin.

Most that believe that you cannot stop sinning say there is "unknown" sins, so you cannot stop sinning.

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2006/4/25 13:10

Quote:
-----THE FACT IS, YOU CAN'T FIND A SINGLE SCRIPTURE IN CONTEXT THAT SAYS THAT CHRISTIANS MUST CONTINUE TO SIN AND CAN NEVER FULLY BE DELIVERED FROM IT. But you can find many that say we are FREE from sin, DEAD to sin, have POWER over sin, and are pure, holy, righteous, and obedient just as Jesus was on this earth by the power of the same HOLY Spirit that quickened Him, so long as we abide in His love.

Is there a difference between Sin and sins in this view? The problem we run into is that we are using the same terms but pouring our own meanings into them. A 'sin' for Finney would be to salt your food as to eat for pleasure and not survival.

His ideas and definitions of sins would leave very very few people 'saved' in our day and age; even the most strict Oberlin style holiness folk could not stand under Finney's definition of sins. BTW I'm pretty big on Finney, I just don't want folk to get confused here.

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2006/4/25 13:17

Quote:
-----Charles Finney said, ""The fact is, the Churches are going rapidly away from God because of a lack of the true bread of life; and because the ministry have, to such an alarming extent, been guarding their Churches more against the doctrine of sanctification than they have against sin."

Adam Clarke said similar statements in his commentaries. The problem with them is that it assumes that everyone who challenges the view is looking for excuses to sin. This is not the case. Sometimes it is challenged in order to come to an understanding of what the writers are saying so as they can walk in it (entire sanctification) themselves. This has been the case for me. We generally jump the rails when folk start claiming they are no longer 'tempted' to commit sins. This is impossible in this life and was not the experience of our Lord. He was in all points 'tempted' like as we yet without sin. Adam had no sin nature and he was 'tempted'. Every man IS tempted when he/she is drawn away of their own lusts and enticed, etc.

So for those of us desperate to walk in total sinlessness and yet know we are not there yet, we seek deeper revelation in to the word of God to understand what it is that we need to understand that we might walk in it. This is why I have felt statements like Finney has made and others are not particularly helpful to us.

Re: - posted by Onesimus4God (), on: 2006/4/25 14:28

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Rom 6:7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

What is dead here folks? Is it not our flesh, that is at the very core of all "sinfulness" and temptation that we battle against? In God's eyes it's already dead. So are it's works. You either have Jesus's righteousness or you have no righteousness. God reckons our flesh already crucified with Christ. We have been made (past tense) to sit in heavenly places with Christ Jesus. So why don't we start believing what God says, instead of trying to remarry flesh and spirit again?

The flesh is never regenerated. That is why it must be crucified. The flesh along with it's lusts is destined for the grave, corruption. But flesh shall not have dominion over us. In other words, it does not rule and reign in our life. If we walk after the Spirit, we will not fulfill the desires of the flesh.

It is God who places in us the desire and the will to do His good pleasure. To know to do good and not do it is sin! So we choose one of two directions, each opposite the other, after the flesh, or after the Spirit.

The just shall live by faith! That faith must have an object. The object of Christian faith is Jesus Christ and Him Crucified. The cross is foolishness to those who are lost, but to those of us who are being saved, it is the power of God. Faith births us into His kingdom. We learn to walk after the Spirit by feeding on and obeying the Word of God. God is merciful, yet chastises those who are His as we go along. His desire is for us always to do His good pleasure, walk after the Spirit moment by moment of each day.

There is no rest in living your life attempting to avoid "wrong doing". Flesh will desire and lead you as close to the letter of the law as possible, without going over. Well guess what? If you live that close, sooner or later, you will slip over. Move away from the Law and into Christ Jesus.

Jesus said, "if you love me, you will keep my commandments". Who is "you" that He speaks of? Is it not born again children of God? Obedience is the ultimate of discipleship. We train our children to obey us, so does our Father. But when our children disobey, we do not toss them out of the family. We correct or chastise them, and go on. Oh the joy of parenting an obedient child. Perfect? Hardly, but joyful none the less.

This mixing and attempting to homogenize religion and christianity has just got to stop. We are either saved by grace (unmerited favor) through faith (in Jesus Christ and Him crucified) or we are not saved at all! We either accept His imputed righteousness, or we have none. We either reckon ourselves dead unto sin and flesh, or we walk around in unbelief and hopelessness. Paul said we are saved to the uttermost! That's as saved as it gets.

I don't believe in eternal security, but I do believe I am eternally secure in Christ Jesus. As long as His finished work is my eternal hope, I'm saved, regardless of what my flesh does. Does this give license to my flesh to do as it pleases? Absolutely not. The evidence of my faith is the change of desires in my heart. These desires birth works of righteousness, not sin

less flesh.

The war of spirit and flesh is to see who rules and reigns in our lives, not whether we are saved or not. We have passed from judgement into life. How? By faith! When we follow after the spirit, we accrue reward in heaven. When we follow after the flesh, we quench the Spirit of God in our lives and trash blessings God has for us. But we do not lose our salvation. Otherwise, we trample the blood of Jesus under foot, saying by our deeds that His shed blood was not enough to forgive us of our sins and cleanse our spirit man from all unrighteousness. Flesh and Spirit are two completely separate beings living in the same body. One is dead, the other is alive in God's eyes. Look in the mirror. What you see is dead already. What you don't see is alive in Christ Jesus. Glory be to God!

Immersed in His life,

"O"

Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2006/4/25 14:40

I think John Gill has an excellent commentary that we all need to read concerning 1 John 3:6. If you do not know who John Gill is I recommend getting to know what a great man of God he was.

John Gill's Exposition of the Bible

1 John 3:6

Whosoever abideth in him...

As the branch in the vine, deriving all light, life, grace, holiness, wisdom, strength, joy, peace, and comfort from Christ; or dwells in him by faith, enjoys communion with him as a fruit of union to him; and stands fast in him, being rooted and grounded in him, and abides by him, his truths and ordinances, takes up his rest, and places his security in him, and perseveres through him:

sinneth not;

not that he has no sin in him, or lives without sin, but he does not live *in sin*, nor give up himself to a vicious course of life; for this would be inconsistent with his dwelling in Christ, and enjoying communion with him:

whosoever sinneth;

which is not to be understood of a single action, *but of a course of sinning*:

hath not seen him, neither known him;

that is, he has never seen Christ with an eye of faith; he has never truly and spiritually seen the glory, beauty, fulness, and suitableness of Christ, his need, and the worth of him; he has never seen him so as to enjoy him, and have communion with him; for what communion hath Christ with Belial, or light with darkness, or righteousness with unrighteousness? (2 Corinthians 6:14,15), nor has he ever savingly known him, or been experimentally acquainted with him; for though he may profess to know him in words, he denies him in works.

The New John Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible

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The Baptist Standard Bearer, 1 Iron Oaks Dr, Paris, AR, 72855

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2006/4/25 16:12

Quote:

-----The war of spirit and flesh is to see who rules and reigns in our lives, not whether we are saved or not.

What is the 'flesh'?

Re: - posted by Onesimus4God (), on: 2006/4/25 17:44

the flesh = the fallen sin nature of the earthy vessel that is destined for the grave.

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2006/4/26 8:17

Hi 'O',

Quote:

-----the flesh = the fallen sin nature of the earthy vessel that is destined for the gr

So the next question has to be, "Is death the Savior?"

BTW, I am asking these questions sincerely in hopes you could shed light on this topic as we have dead ended it in these forums many times and I keep hoping someone will come along with a piece of the puzzle that we are 'missing'.

God Bless,

-Robert

Re:, on: 2006/4/26 9:53

When I hear "flesh" for some funny reason I think of Frank Sinatra's song - "I did it MY Way."

Cain did it his way -- the Galatians tried doing it their way, etc. etc..

Flesh, may be immoral or seemingly moral - even good deeds, yet void of spirit.

Not always obvious sin, but not originating from the Spirit.

Quote:

-----Excerpts from Zodiates:

(A) Generally and without any good or evil quality implied. (1) The opposite of to pneuma, the spirit expressed.

(III) Metonymically meaning flesh, human nature, man

Simply, the physical part of the personality of man

(B) As implying weakness, frailty, imperfection, both physical and moral; the opposite being pneuma

It's been "our way" against "His way" since the garden. Strong's also mentions "flesh" to just be "human nature" just "us".

The desire to "glory in the flesh" is set against God getting ALL the Glory. The sin from the beginning. Acting autonomously from His Spirit. Spirit against flesh is not always the battle of gross sin against righteousness but can be self-fulfillment of righteousness against total dependence on Him. Wanting some of the credit. A lack of faith is flesh. A desire for praise or predominance is flesh. Even self-condemnation is flesh. All those hidden faults are flesh. Anything not like or from Him is flesh. Eyes fixed on self in Any way is flesh, whether it be shyness or seeking attention. Even depression or the desire for preeminence. So it's not always those burger-biggie sins that we think of immediately. And our flesh certainly is not "dead" --- yet.

Hudson Taylor, towards the end of his missionary ministry said something to the affect that - 'In my greatest prayers or I oftist sermons, I still see the tinge of flesh'. What humility - about the same as Paul's.

Just some of the 127 times and many ways the word is used but these mostly to show that it is not 'always' the "really base things" that we think of.

Mat 16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Rom 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Rom 8:4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Rom 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

Rom 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

1Co 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

1Co 1:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

1Co 1:28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are: 1Co 1:29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

Gal 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Gal 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Gal 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Gal 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Phi 3:4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:

Col 2:20 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,

Col 2:21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not;

Col 2:22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?

Col 2:23 Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in will-worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honor to the satisfying of the flesh.

Gal 3:3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

I'm not sure if this is anything a part of this general conversation Robert but it's just your question of what is flesh that caught my eye the other day and just the thoughts I had.

By His Grace Only.

Annie

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2006/4/26 10:26

Hi Annie,

Thanks for the input.

Quote:
-----I'm not sure if this is anything a part of this general conversation Robert but it's just your question of what is flesh that caught my eye the other day and just the thoughts I had.

So do you view the 'flesh' in the born again as human-ness still corrupted with original Sin or just simply humanness in a fallen world filled with temptations?

Thanks,

Robert

Re: - posted by Onesimus4God (), on: 2006/4/26 10:55

I'm having a hard time understanding how you would conclude that the next question is what you stated Robert. Why don't you just come on out with what you are after and stop beating around the bush.

In Him,

"0"

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2006/4/26 10:58

Hi 'O',

Quote:
-----I'm having a hard time understanding how you would conclude that the next question is what you stated Robert. Why don't you just come on out with what you are after and stop beating around the bush.

OK, I'll try again. Do you believe that at physical death our struggle with Sin and 'the flesh' will be over? If so, why?

Re:, on: 2006/4/26 11:16

Quote:

RobertW wrote:
So do you view the 'flesh' in the born again as human-ness still corrupted with original Sin or just simply humanness in a fallen world filled with temptations?

Thanks,

Robert

I see it as God wanting to show all creation, including the Angels and Satan, that Freewill wins out in the end and by Love alone.

He allows us to keep our "human nature" so that "choice" is always there and the options are always there ... so that when we are judged, we are judged by our freewill choices.

If just the definition of "heresy" for one is "Choice - the opinion Chosen" ... then God must really want Freewill to be the rules behind His ultimate purpose for creation.

In the end, all that will be left is "what was of Him" and because of Love.

Satan is pure hatred - God IS Love.

Satan wants robots - God wants freewill offerings.

Cain was given the choice, but he chose the wrong way and he chose jealousy and hatred which always leads to murder in one sense or another.

Until we see Him and are "Like Him", we don't even need a "world full of temptations" to act out in our own human-nature/flesh.

We don't need outward temptations to prefer things "our way". Self-indulgence, etc. mentioned before is "human" nature - HIS Nature is His Spirit.

The provision has been given to not walk in the flesh or operate autonomously - His Indwelling Spirit is there just waiting to be included in our time and choices - and that choice between self, in one form or another or His Spirit's direction will always face us, by second by second choices of which to follow or listen to.

Lean not to your own understanding, in all of your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths. And it's funny that that was an O.T. verse at that. Even then, they had the choice.

Romans 7 and 8 are pretty good about showing this warfare but some of those other verses above, show that it's not always facing those obvious sins that He's talking about.

It's the choice of surrender of our will to His.

We are battling the world, the flesh and the devil - until we see Him.

And why we have to run this "race".

Don't know if this answers your question exactly, but just how I see how Freewill is to His Glory in the end.

All His Best.

Annie

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2006/4/26 11:56

Quote:

-----Annie's: Don't know if this answers your question exactly, but just how I see how Freewill is to His Glory in the end.

Thanks for the post. I just love to ask these questions to gain more insight into what the Lord has shown others. My questions are short because I like to take the thoughts one at a time. Maybe some other time on a different thread. I appreciate yours and "O"'s comments.