




**Why Do Good
People Do
Bad Things?
Romans 7:14-21**



This Is Not a Private Thought!

- ▶ **It crosses the minds of congregations whose “beloved” minister has stolen money for himself**
 - ▶ **It crosses the minds of children whose father has left them and their mother to pursue other desires seemingly less noble than home and family**
 - ▶ **It crosses the mind of young adults who come to the realization that their parents, whom they hold in high esteem, were not the spiritual giants that they are now when they were their age**
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Strictly Speaking, None of us is “GOOD!”

- ▶ A young man came to Jesus, and started his question with a courteous compliment, *“good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”* Mark 10:17
- ▶ Before Jesus answered the question, He questioned the young man’s use of the term “good.” *“Why do you call me good?”* *“there is none good but God alone.”*
- ▶ Jesus was God and should be called “good,” but the point stands that there is none “good” but God



Father

Mother

Close Friends

***So Don't Be Surprised
With What You Find Out
About People!!***

Spiritual Leaders

Husband

Wife





Observations

- ▶ If we are honest with ourselves, we will admit that the potential for evil exists in all of us (Paul talks of himself in Romans 7:14, (*“the law is spiritual, but not me!”*))
- ▶ For example, we tend to compare Sis. A with Sis. B
- ▶ If we stop comparing ourselves with ourselves, and compare ourselves with God, who is the **ABSOLUTE STANDARD** for goodness, the differences between Sis. A and Sis. B are a lot less obvious

NOBODY IS GOOD BUT GOD!



Observations

- If we would admit it, all of us are tempted to submit to untamed desires, and not to reason, or the commands of the scripture
- Many times, a series of “*small concessions*” or “*steps*” taken in the wrong direction eventually leads to a **SPIRITUAL BLOWOUT!**
- “*Why do people leave the Lord, the Church, the kids, the marriage?*” (see *bullet 2, James 1:13*)



Several Lessons About That Trip are Life Lessons!

#1 A Wrong Turn Can Cause Us to Lose Time That Can Never Be Regained

- Some of us lose years of our lives because of personal sin (*alcohol, stealing, prison time, pornography, addiction to drugs*)

- Misplaced Priorities

Something else more important than your job

Something else more important than your family

Something else more important than your body

Lesson #2 - Our Failures Can Leave “Ruts” That Damage Others We Love

- ▶ By the time they Get this car out of the mud, they have made an impassable ditch for others behind them
- ▶ Now what about the folks coming along behind us?!





What About The Children Coming Behind You?

Are You Digging a Moral Ditch For Your Children?

- ▶ King David's sin of adultery affected four of his sons negatively—by their father's ditch (Amnon, Adonijah, Absalom, Solomon)

The Ditch of anger and abuse

The Ditch of disrespect for your wife (adultery begins with the sin of disrespect for God, then your wife, then yourself)



Observations:

*Immanuel Kant: “How Can
a Man Who Is By Nature Bad
Become Good?”*

*Jeremiah’s Question is Similar
“Can the Ethiopian change his
skin or the Leopard his spots?
Neither can you do good who
are accustomed to doing evil.”
Jeremiah 13:23*

Observations

- ▶ Jeremiah says that there are some things we can do, **AND THERE ARE SOME THINGS ONLY GOD CAN DO**
- ▶ There must be something implanted in within us to change us
- ▶ Imagine a Leopard hating his spots because he wants to look like a Lion!
- ▶ He can't change his Skin and we can't Change our hearts without God!





The Apostle Paul Is a Great Example Of What God Can Do to You and Me

Paul Underwent a Spiritual Transformation

- He authored most of the New Testament
- He was a man of great integrity
- He was a man of great faith
- He was a man whom God used

But HE WAS NOT ALWAYS THAT WAY!



In 1 Timothy 1:12-13, Paul Talks About Himself!

“I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to His service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief”



Observations

- He was a blasphemer- spoke against Jesus, denying that He was the Messiah (*many of us are guilty of the same thing by our actions*)
- He was a persecutor-He was an enemy of Jesus and would threaten those who served Christ
- He was a violent man and injurious (one who would hurt people and like it) Some of us stress others of us to make our point



But Two Things Happened To Paul On The Damascus Road In Acts 9!

**#1 He had to change his mind about who Jesus was
(not just the option of a clean way to live)**

He Was The Son Of God! (Acts 2:36)

He Is In Control!

He Decides My Future!

#2 Paul's nature was transformed

- If the seed of God is planted in a receptive heart, it will bring forth fruit**
- For a person who is bad to be made good, they must turn from their love of evil to love of God**



***PAUL UNDERWENT
A HEART
TRANSPLANT
OPERATION!***

Colossians 2:12



The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins Acts 17:30

Confess Christ Acts 8:37

Be Baptized Acts 8:38

