

Is Man Responsible for Sin?

By

Rev. Louis Showers, Sr.
Goshen, Indiana

In the Bible in James 1:13 we read, “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.” The question we are faced with in this text of Scripture is, do we believe God and what he says, or do we trust in our own reason, or the opinions of others in our world?

In our day we hear people make such statements as, I cannot help what I am and what I do, for I am the result of the way that God made me. We put this in the file of the blaming game. We inherited this pattern of trying to excuse away our sinful activity from the first man and woman. We note that this blaming game started in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve, after they disobeyed God and brought upon themselves the guilt of sin and the fear of God. They made an earnest search to create an excuse or reason to justify what we they had done when God returned to the garden. Eve blamed the serpent who is lied to her, tempting her to sin. Adam blamed the woman who God had given him for inviting him to disobey,

Over the years I have heard this same approach used by many trying to free themselves the from guilt and the consequences that accompany their sin. Such excuses as:

- I would be a better Christian if God would have put me in a different family
- I would be a better Christian if God would have put me under different circumstances
- I would be a better Christian if God would have had allowed me better training

And the list of excuses goes on and on. I would be different than I am today if only and you can fill in the rest. All of our excuses simply declare for all who will be honest with themselves they are under the conviction of the convicting work of their conscience telling them...You are accountable for your life. Like Adam and Eve who tried to cover their sin, and tried to hide from God, we act just like our human parents.

Years ago I heard a man say, “I have no one else to blame for my fall.” Whether we want to face up to that fact of life, it is true just the same. One day after we meet God, our Creator, Who has given us His Word in the Bible to guide us in the path of righteousness, joy, and peace, we will have to give account for our lives. What we have done, what we should have done but didn’t, and for what we have become in this life. Why do you think that so many of us don’t read our Bibles or attend church, and why do you think we have thrown God out of our schools and the 10 commandments out of the law of our land?

No one likes feeling guilty for what they have done. So we think by avoiding the Bible and getting rid of the Ten Commandments, we avoid outside conviction. To rid ourselves of inward conviction, we listen to the advice of counselors and book writers who labor to tell us ways to eliminate our feelings of guilt. The sad part of all of this is that one day we all have an appointment to stand before the God of creation and the God of redemption and we can be sure that He Who is truth will not accept our excuses and our reasons for our failures. Jesus Christ who died for us will forgive us of all sin if we will repent, change our ways and personally receive him into our hearts and lives as our sole salvation and then yield to his guidance daily in our lives.