

GOD's Solutions To Life's Problems

Lesson 3 – What is God's View of Mankind?

INTRODUCTION

We as people are prone to compare ourselves with others as the standard of whether we are good or bad. But it is important for us to ask how God views mankind. In this lesson, we will look to God's Word to learn what He says about us.

I. MANKIND'S HISTORY

Genesis means origins or book of beginnings. In this first book of the Bible we learn about the beginning of the human race. In chapter one of Genesis, we learn that God created the heavens and earth, humanity, and everything that exists. Everything that was created was without sin and God called it very good (Gen. 1:31). In Genesis 2:15, we learn that God put man in the garden of Eden to take care of it. Then God gave man a command to obey. *"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."* (Gen. 2:16-17)

1. How did man respond to God's command to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

Genesis 3:6 _____

2. What were the consequences of man's disobedience to God's command?

Romans 5:12 _____

Romans 5:16 _____

[Condemnation means to declare wrong or to pronounce guilty.]

Romans 5:19a _____

II. A PERSONAL EVALUATION

1. Do you consider yourself to be a good person? If God were to judge you by the Ten Commandments (Read Exodus 20:1-17), how would you fair?

YES or NO 1. Have you always put God first in your life?

YES or NO 2. Is there anything you have put in place of God, that you have loved more than God?

YES or NO 3. Have you ever used God's name as a curse word?

YES or NO 4. Have you been faithful to worship God with the church on Sundays?

YES or NO 5. Have you always honored your parents in a way that pleases God?

YES or NO 6. Have you ever committed murder?

1 John 3:15 – *"Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer..."*

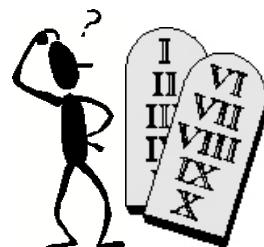
YES or NO 7. Have you ever committed adultery?

Matthew 5:28 - *"...everyone who looks at a woman(or man) with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her(or him) in his heart."*

YES or NO 8. Have you ever stolen something (even something small)?

YES or NO 9. Have you ever told a lie (even a white lie)?

YES or NO 10. Have you ever strongly desired to have something that belonged to another person?



2. What is God's standard for obeying His commands according to the following passages?

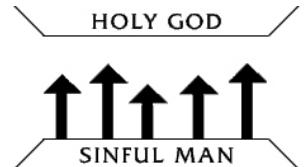
James 2:10 _____

Matthew 5:48 _____

III. MANKIND'S CONDITION

A. Understanding Man's Core Problem,

"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23)



1. How do these passages define sin?

1 John 3:4b _____

[Definition: lawlessness can be defined as disobeying what God commands in His Word.]

1 John 5:17a _____

Romans 7:7 _____

SIN is any failure to follow what God commands in act, attitude, or character.

- In other words, it is falling short or missing God's standard in any way.
- It is disobeying what God commands in His Word or doing what He forbids.
- Ultimately, it is anything that displeases God.

2. When does sin become a part of a person's life?

Psalm 51:5 _____

[Iniquity (sin) means a wicked act or thing.]

3. According to these passages, who commits sins?

1 Kings 8:46 _____

Ecclesiastes 7:20 _____

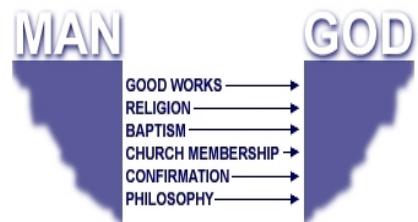
1 John 1:8 _____

4. How do these passages describe man's effort to seek God and do good (righteous deeds) to please God?

Isaiah 64:6 _____

Psalm 14:2-3 _____

Roman 3:9-12 _____



B. Understanding Man's Sin Nature

What is a sin nature? Because Adam and Eve's sin is passed down through the whole human race, every person is born a sinner. This inherited sin corrupts our nature. Therefore, each of us is born with an instinct and tendency to commit sin. Because of this inherited corruption, everyone has a natural sinful character, sinful attitudes, and appetites to sin. Just like Ephesians 2:3 tells us, "...carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind."

1. According to these passages, how is man's heart described in light of the effects of sin?

Jeremiah 17:9 _____

Mark 7:21-23 _____

2. In the following passages, write down how our sinful nature is described and the effects of sin.

Galatians 5:19-21 _____

Romans 7:18a _____

Romans 8:7-8 _____

IV. THE CONSEQUENCES OF MANKIND'S SIN

1. According to these passages, what are the consequences of man's sin?

James 1:15 _____

John 8:34 _____

Ephesians 4:18 _____

Hebrews 9:27 _____

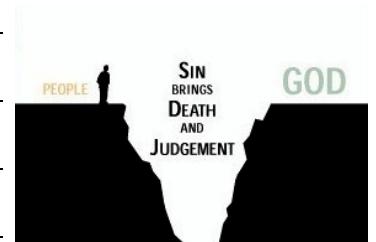
2. According to the following passages, what happens after people die and face God as Judge?

Matthew 12:36 _____

Romans 14:12 _____

Ecclesiastes 12:14 _____

Matthew 16:27 _____



3a. What does the Bible say that this judgement day will be like?

Revelation 20:11-14 _____

3b. What will be the result of those who's names are not found written in the book of life?

Revelation 20:15 _____

Suggested Reading

Certainly, a person could walk away from this study and feel a sense of hopelessness. But keep in mind that there is hope, and that hope is found in the Lord Jesus Christ. In the next lesson, you will learn about the remedy to man's sin problem. In preparation for the next study, you might consider reading as much as you desire of the Gospel of John starting in chapter one.