

THE ORIGIN OF EVIL

“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.” (Mark 7:21-23)

Today’s news lamented the fact that television is more corrupt, lewd, and lascivious than ever. Some time ago a “ratings system” was devised that was supposed to correct this problem. It only made it worse. Those who produce the programs used the rating system as a road map to produce filth and at the same time avoid prosecution.

The problem of sin can never be controlled by anything that is external, for the problem of sin originates from within.

Jesus said that the things that defile a man come **“from within.”** He said in another place: **“The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!” (Matt 6:22-23)** James said it like this: **“Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. (James 1:14)**

The original sin did not take place because there was a forbidden tree, it happened because there was a problem in the human heart. The problem with Adam and Eve came from “within.” They were drawn away of their own lust and enticed.

Jesus said that whoever looked upon a woman with lust, had committed adultery already with her in his heart. Jesus saw thousands of women during the course of His ministry. They kissed His feet and anointed Him with ointment (Lk. 7:38.) They followed Him daily and ministered to him of their substance (Lk. 8:3.) They washed His feet with tears and dried them with their hair. They came early to the tomb to anoint His body with spices after He was crucified (Mk. 16:1.) They held Him by the feet after He was resurrected (Matt. 28:9.) Not once, however, did Jesus look upon these women with lust. If your eye is “single” your whole body will be full of light.

The idolaters of the ancient world looked at creation and worshipped and served the “creature more than the Creator” (Rom. 1:25.) The problem, as you know, was not with the creation. The problem was not “without” but “within.” Others could look at the same beautiful creation and worship God. Jesus, for example, reminded His followers to consider the lilies of the field. Not even Solomon in all his glory was clothed with such magnificence. He also told them to consider the sparrows. The true disciple, however, sees creation through the eyes of Jesus. He remembers the admonition of Scripture that we are to worship the Lord our God and Him only shall we serve.

Since the origin of sin is within us, this is precisely where the solution is. Outward influences do not correct the problem. In fact, the Scriptures teach that the law was the “strength” or “power” of sin (1 Cor. 15:56.) God corrects the power and problem of sin by giving us a new heart, a new mind, and a new nature. Prophets like Ezekiel and Jeremiah predicted this centuries before it came to pass (Ez. 36:26-27; Jer. 31:31-34.) The New Testament Scriptures confirm repeatedly that if any man is in Christ he is a new creation. Old things are passed away and everything is new (2 Cor. 5:17.)

Seth Wilson has correctly observed that we cannot by our own will, overcome our own will. The answer is simple. Jesus is knocking at the door of your heart. Open the door and let Him in. Jesus can make the difference, but only from “within.”