

## Don't mistake good for Good

\* It's troubling when Christians are drawn into what is openly evil, but it's far more dangerous when we're persuaded to embrace what appears good yet is evil at its core. - Mark 10:18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good — except God alone."

**God gives us serious warnings—warnings we cannot afford to ignore-** Prov 14:12 There is a way that SEEMS RIGHT to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

**When we do things based on how we see it and not based on Christ, we fail** - John 13:5-10 - 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "**Lord, are you going to wash my feet?**" 7 Jesus replied, "**You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.**" 8 "**No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."** Jesus answered, "**Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.**" 9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" 10 Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you."

**Without reverence, even our good deeds can be disastrous** - 2 Sam 6:3-7 - 3 They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart 4 with the ark of God on it, and Ahio was walking in front of it. 5 David and the whole house of Israel were celebrating with all their might before the Lord, with songs and with harps, lyres, tambourines, sistrums and cymbals. 6 When they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. 7 The Lord's anger burned against Uzzah because of his IRREVERENT act; therefore God struck him down and he died there beside the ark of God.

**"Self-righteousness" is not righteousness at all** - Rom 3:10-18 - 10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; 11 there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, NOT EVEN ONE." 13 "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips." 14 "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 ruin and misery mark their ways, 17 and the way of peace they do not know." 18 "**THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES.**"

**The only path to righteousness is through faith otherwise its sin**

**Those that are truly righteous, their faith will be their guide** - Rom 1:17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "**The righteous will live by faith.**"

**Without the guide of faith, no matter what you do you sin** - Rom 14:23 But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and **EVERYTHING that does not come from faith is sin.**

**The root of our failure to recognize what is truly Good...**

**We have grown to trust self** - Prov 28:26 He who trusts in himself IS A FOOL, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.

**We unwisely use ourselves as a measure** - 2 Cor 10:12-14 - 12 We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, **THEY ARE NOT WISE.** 13 We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us, a field that reaches even to you.

**We are blindly influenced** - 1 Cor 15:33 Do not be misled: "**Bad company CORRUPTS good character.**"

**We get understanding using toxic wisdom** - 1 Cor 3:18-21 - 18 Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a "fool" so that he may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness"; 20 and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile."

**How to avoid confusing what appears good with what is truly Good**

**If you want the answer more forceful, more theological, or more poetic, I can shape it further. Live in reverence for God** - 1 Peter 1:17 Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here IN REVERENT FEAR.

**Avoid being led by "you"** - 1 Peter 2:11-12 - 11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. 12 Live SUCH GOOD lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

**Please make sure you know your relationship with the world** - James 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

**No matter how something seems, make sure you check what it's based on** - Col 2:8 **SEE TO IT** that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world **RATHER THAN ON CHRIST.**

**We must be consciously focused on God ALL THE TIME** - Matt 16:23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! **You are a stumbling block to me**; you do not have in mind the THINGS OF GOD, but the THINGS OF MEN."

**Completely redo your life focus and life purpose** - Phil 3:7-11 - 7 But whatever was to MY PROFIT I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.