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Who Decides What's Right and Wrong?

“Every man’s way is right in his own eyes, But the Lord weighs the hearts” (Proverbs 21:2).

In the Garden of Eden, satan (by the serpent) told Adam and Eve that if they but ate of the forbidden fruit, they would *“be like God, knowing good and evil”* (Genesis 3:5b). How would this knowledge make them like God?

In all creation, God was judge. He measured between the good and evil, right and wrong, light and dark—He determined what you could and couldn’t do. His judgments were to be obeyed without question, because He had made judgment. The temptation for Adam and Eve was the opportunity to “sit in God’s seat” and make their own decisions about what was right and what was wrong in their lives. They wanted to see as God sees and decide for themselves if they agreed with Him or not. They took the fruit and their eyes were unnaturally opened to see good and evil as “shuffle-able” quantities. Now Adam and Eve could *“call evil good, and good evil,”* and try to *“substitute darkness for light and light for darkness,”* and *“bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”* (Isaiah 5:20) What freedom, right?

But there were two problems with satan’s “gift” to mankind. First, “knowledge” without the ability to discern what is good means you just make bad judgments—your choices are evil. Neither Adam nor Eve were capable of judging good, because *“no one is good except God alone”* (Mark 10:18). The second problem was that “knowledge” without power is pointless. What good is it to say, “This is good,” if you don’t have the power to make it good? Evil is still evil. Only God could discern *“the light was good”* and wield the power that *“separated the light from the dark-*

ness” (Genesis 1:4). He alone has the power to hold everyone accountable to His judgment: *“He it is who reduces rulers to nothing, Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless”* (Isaiah 40:23), *“for God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil”* (Ecclesiastes 12:14). It was because they came under the power of God’s judgment that Adam and Eve hid themselves.

Just like Adam and Eve, their descendants today hate the idea of accountability to God. Like Adam and Eve, they want to decide what is “good” for themselves and be accountable to no one. How fitting that modern Satanism’s motto is “There is no law beyond do what you will”—this was satan’s booby-trapped “gift” to mankind. Now in this life, God *“sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous”* (Matthew 5:45b), so that if people desire to do evil, they can make it seem right in their own eyes, but after death *“comes judgment”* (Hebrews 9:27b) — God’s judgment. It is precisely because God claims the final word on what is good and evil that people don’t want to accept accountability to Him, because they love their “shuffle-able” ways (what God calls sin). This is why non-believers want anything other than God to judge what is right and wrong in their lives (science, government, political parties, social movements, themselves).

But Believers know that Christ alone *“will judge the world in righteousness; He will execute judgment for the peoples with equity”* (Psalm 9:8). When Believers repent of their sins and put their trust in Jesus, they acknowledge *“the Lord is our judge, The Lord is our lawgiver, The Lord is our king; He will save us”* (Isaiah 33:2). Jesus warned that *“he who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day”* (John 12:48). The Word of God judges all. Amen.

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