



SOLVING THE RELATIONSHIP RUBIK'S CUBE

Small Group Questions Week 7

1. Many people throughout history have believed that mankind is inherently good and only does evil when forced to by their circumstances. Do you agree with this? Why or why not? Read the following verses and discuss what the Bible says about why people do evil things. Jeremiah 17:9, Ecclesiastes 9:3, Romans 3:23, and Romans 1:9-18. According to the Bible, where does the evil that men do reside?

Answer: The Bible clearly teaches that men do bad things because they have a sinful nature. Although circumstances can either promote or hinder evil, the source of evil is inside of man, in his heart, not his external circumstances.
2. If it were true that people only do bad things because of their external circumstances, what would be the solution to crime? If it is true that people do bad things because of the sinful nature that we are born with, what is the solution to crime?

Answer – If the first idea is true, the solution to crime would be to change the circumstances that people live in that force them into a life of crime. If the second idea is true, the only way to prevent crime is to make the cost of committing a crime so high that it would cause people to tamp down the desires of their sinful nature.
3. What does the word “justice” mean? What does it mean for a person to “get justice”? Read the following passages: Psalms 9:16, 11:7, 45:6, and Proverbs 21:15. What is God’s attitude regarding justice? Now read Romans 13:1-5. According to this passage, what is the role of government? Would you say this is the same as providing justice for all? If providing justice is the role of government, what role would police play in providing justice? Do you think justice could prevail in a society that had no police? Why or why not?

Answer – Very simply put, justice is to get what you deserve based on your actions. The Bible says that God is in favor of justice because one of his attributes is that he is just; he will one day hold everyone accountable for their actions and everyone will receive his justice. Hell is actually a function of God’s justice because he has said the payment for sin is death, separation from him for eternity. Romans 13 very clearly spells out that the main reason that God created the authorities that exist was to execute justice, to reward those who do good and punish those who do evil. Without police in society, there would be no justice except perhaps vigilante justice, and that never ends well.



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4. If God is for justice, then why do some people escape hell if all men are sinners by nature?

Answer – Although God is just, the Bible says he is also loving and merciful. Mercy is when you do not get what you deserve, the opposite of justice. The reason why we escape hell is because God extended mercy to us through the cross. But even as he did this, he satisfied his own justice by bearing the penalty of sin himself: God says the payment for sin is death so he came and died so that the penalty was paid. That way he is still just but can be merciful to us. He did not suspend his justice to save us, he fulfilled his own demand for justice at his own expense, he paid the price demanded by his justice on our behalf.