

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Good People Doing Bad Things

August 13, 2017

Issue 324

Have you ever wondered why good people do bad things? I know it's easy to say, "We all sin," but does that get to the heart of issue? The better question might be, "Why do good people do bad things so easily?"

Dr. Muel Kaptein, Professor of Business Ethics and Integrity Management at Rotterdam School of Management, put forward seven rationalizations people use for their bad behavior. They are:

(1). *Compensation*. A person believes that if they have done so much good in their life, a little bad won't hurt anything.

(2). *Renaming*. Did you

know that fraud isn't fraud anymore? Some call it "financial engineering." Our society has always used euphemisms to soften the labels for sin.

(3). *Group thought*. This is the classic "Everybody is doing it." If enough people are doing something bad, it is easy to justify doing the wrong thing.

(4). *Group expectation*. If a person perceives that everyone else thinks they are bad, then he/she doesn't feel bad when they do a bad thing. It's what the group expects from them.

(5). *Obedience to authority*. If a higher authority—a boss, older family member, etc.—orders someone to do a bad

thing, he/she can pass the responsibility to the higher authority.

(6). *Minimalization*. Small bad acts are justified. Why would anyone care about a "white lie"?

(7). *Reactance theory*. Someone says, "There are too many rules. I am tired of those restraints. The weight of those rules forces me to rebel."

Human beings are good at avoiding responsibility. But rationalization doesn't solve our sin problem. The only thing that cures us is humble submission to the gospel and the confession of our sins.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- There will be a Bible Bowl practice today at 5:00.
- Join us on Wednesday nights for our series "Have You Ever Wondered?" concerning the existence of God.
- Your generosity every week benefits our building fund. Excess funds each week are added to the fund. Continue to be generous each week as we march toward our goal.

This Morning's Sermon: "Confess"
Men's Meeting At 5:00 Tonight; Singing At 6:00

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Hovis

Pray: Reed

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: E. Walker

Serve: D. Demonbreum, Smith, J. Walker

Pray: D. Billingsley

Pleasant View church of Christ
2500 Highway 49 East
P.O. Box 189
Pleasant View, TN 37146

Sunday School: 9:30
A.M. Worship: 10:30
P.M. Worship: 6:00
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm
Phone: 924-9714

Ephesians 1:7
“In Him we have redemption
through His blood, the
forgiveness of our
trespasses, according to the
riches of His grace.”

*“Your disbelief in God does not determine His
existence. God is. Period. Whether you believe
it or not.”*

J. Spredemann

*“The Christians does not believe that God will
love us because we are good, but that God will
make us good because He loves us.”*

C.S. Lewis

What We Put Into Our Bodies

Who among us has perfect health? No one. Physically fit people have had cardiac arrest. Thin people have had diabetes. Obviously, some of our ailments are beyond our control, but others can be prevented. The apostle Paul once wrote, “All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything” (I Cor. 6:12). What a great principle to live by! That principle can easily be applied to our health and how we treat our bodies.

So let’s do some self-evaluation: Is there anything you eat or put into your body that controls you? You might say, “How do I know if I am controlled by something?” Well,

think of it this way: If that thing was taken away from you for a week, how would your body react? Would you feel withdrawals? Would you think about that thing all day long? Would the loss of that thing distract you from other daily activities? If the answer is yes, you have at least a compulsion and at worst an addiction. I would suggest you are being controlled by that thing instead of you controlling it.

Take food for instance. We all *have* to eat. It’s not an optional behavior. But do you find yourself obsessed with junk food? When is the last time you really paid attention to how much fast food, dessert, and sodas you eat and drink? You might

be surprised how much you consume if you kept track. We already know the devastating effects of using alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. Every “Anonymous” group is trying to help people loosen the controls of many substances.

When we remember that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, we start treating them better (I Cor. 6:19). When we use our bodies the way God intended, we get to experience life the way God intended. And that’s a beautiful thing.

Be a good steward of the body God gave you.

James Hayes
