

Eisenhower Church of Christ

“Choice”

We hear a great deal concerning the causes, results, and punishments for crime. Our world (particularly the experts on criminal behavior) would have us believe that all criminals are acting out mental illnesses as a result of the influence of society or improper parenting. They say the criminal is not responsible for the behavior; in fact, the criminal is the victim and should be treated as the innocent sick party. “The poor criminal had no control over the obsessive character trait which blossomed into a criminal act. He must be rehabilitated not punished.”

While it may be true that environment influences can alter behavior and encourage certain character traits, it is a misconception that such a situation absolves the criminal of responsibility. In Ezekiel 18:10-32, God states that the son of an evil man will bear responsibility for his own actions whether they be evil or good. In verse 13, he states of the evil son: “he shall surely die; his blood shall be upon him.” In verse 20, we read, “The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father; neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”

Some might say that it is unfair for an individual to be held responsible and accountable for actions and behavior that were caused by others. The misconception here is that “influence” and “cause” are considered equal. Behavior may be influenced by many factors but the final action is by choice. The “cause” of the behavior is the reasoning and mental processes used together, with the philosophical, ideological, and religious beliefs of the individual. This “choice” is by the individual; it is not by society or the parents. Therefore, it is not unfair for the one making a choice to be held responsible and accountable for that choice.

Of course, others want to argue that there is really no choice. It is a forced behavior from ingrained character traits. But, the very fact that the son of verses 14-18 is able to do good while having an evil father suggests that the son had and made a choice. In verse 21, states that the wicked can “turn” away from his sins and “do that which is lawful and right.” The same holds true for the righteous man, in that he can “turn away” and commit iniquity (v. 26). These turnings involve choice and that choice requires mental processes (v. 28), “Because he considereth and turneth away.”

So, choice demands responsibility and responsibility requires accountability. As noted earlier, the evil son “shall surely die” (v. 13) and the good son “shall surely live” (v. 17). If the wicked will turn from his ways “he shall not die, but “shall surely live” (v. 21), and if the righteous turn from his ways he shall die (v. 24).

Is all of this unfair? Not according to God. “Yet ye say, the way of the Lord is not equal. Hear now, O house of Israel; is not my way equal? Are not your ways unequal?” (v.25). God gives us the rules and regulations of life. He also set up a system of retribution and reward for the adherence or non-adherence to those rules. Since God is Just, it is without question that He will mete out justice (justice being the carrying out of the law).

Some would argue that justice including punishment is against God’s nature. But proper and real love requires justice, for if one is not consistent in reward and punishment, then one fosters confusion and resentment. Since God is Love and is Just, then justice with punishment is not against God’s nature. God does not have joy that some will require punishment (v. 32), “For I have no

pleasure in the death of him that dieth". But by His nature He must "judge you...every one according to his ways."

All of this brings us to the point that if God says we have choice, responsibility and accountability in eternal matters, He must also expect such in our daily matters. As a society, we must require accountability for actions and behavior that do not conform to the will of God. That is the purpose of government as given in Romans 13. We must return to the proper concepts of sin, righteousness, reward, and punishment.

—Mark McWhorter

Response

Eva Wells responded to the invitation Sunday evening, June 12th. She has requested our prayers because she feels that she has given in to certain temptations that are unbecoming of a Christian. Please keep Eva in your prayers that she will be able to stay strong in the Lord and avoid all temptations.

Prayer Requests

Ora McAfee was scheduled for cataract eye surgery Thursday, June 16th in Midland.

Judy Wells, grandmother of Josh Wells, was hospitalized for pneumonia last week. She received medical treatment which worked very well and was able to go home the next day. Please keep Judy in your prayers as she recuperates at home.

Eddy Chavez, father of Ashley Carson, had a surgical procedure done in Midland. Plans are being made to go to Houston for a follow up procedure.

Prayer List

Lee Roy Bell, Susan Bosse, Mack Bradford; Betty Branson; Bobbie Braun; Neva Carrigan; Steve Chavez; Zane Chism; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; John Ford; Bill Gibbons; Hattie Gilmore; Kelsey Gomez; Anna Groves; Linda Horton; Natalie Hudson; Bobby Hunt; Bryan Jernigan; Charles & Helen Jones; Tracy Leeth; Connie Lowe; Jill McAfee; Elder McCarty; Anna McGlothlin; Patty Montgomery; Russ Montgomery; Juan & Estella Morolez; Carolyn Morrison; Julie Munoz; Laura Olivas; Earlene Poses; Elvia Ruckman; Montrella Ruffner; Andrew Schwarz; Brenda Simmons; Charles Simmons; James Singleterry; Bob Spurlin; Meta Troutz; James Weaver; Lisa Wells; Toya Zambelli

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Neva Carrigan; Ruby Davis; Roberta Hamil; Janice Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Maxine Newton; Janelle Shirley; Wilma Squire and Lester Whisenant.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

Which people worshipped a god called Dagon?

Last Week's Bible Quiz answer...

Aaron was three years older than his brother Moses.

FYI

Watch “*In Search of the Lord’s Way*” every Sunday morning at 6:30 am on KOSA, channel 7.

Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the “**Speaking the Truth in Love**” program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

New Baby Girl!

Congratulations to Mark and Stacy Ruckman on the birth of their new baby girl, Maci Lee. Maci was born at 4:12 a.m. Monday morning, June 13th and weighed 6 lbs. 12 oz. and was 20 1/2” long. Again, congratulations to the Mark & Stacy. Maci’s very proud grandparents are Randy & Patsy Mitchell and Elvia Ruckman.

Baby Shower...

A “**Diaper Shower**” is being hosted for Cameron and Alyssa May who are expecting a baby girl July 21st. The diapers will help curtail the expense of a new baby. A crib has been set up in the foyer for our convenience. Your continual generosity is so very much appreciated.

Office News

The “**Odessa Christian School**” is in need of a degreed classroom teacher. They are not concerned with the grade level of teaching expertise. If you qualify and are interested, please contact Nancy Campbell at the school 362-6311.

The next food drive for “**The New Mexico Children’s Home**” is Tuesday, August 30th. They are requesting **Canned Peaches and Canned Apricots**. The home also accepts monetary donations.

Note: Allen, Christy, Hannah and Josh will be at the **Pecos River Family Encampment** this week. Logan Summers will be filling in for Allen both Sunday and Wednesday.

It Doesn’t Take Long

For gossip to assassinate a reputation;
For conceit to spoil a future;
For envy to make unhappiness;
For chickens to come home to roost;
For boys to learn their father’s vices;
For grudges to become hatreds;
For an audience to detect insincerity.

–Bulletin Digest

June 19th, 2016

Announcements
Song Leader
Sermon
Opening Prayer
Scripture
Second Prayer
Closing Prayer

A.M.

Jeff Wesson
Denny Wilson
Logan Summers
Jeff Wesson
Dex Dennard
Charles Wood
Bill Ryan

P.M.

Jeff Wesson
Craig Wesson
Logan Summers
Jeff Wesson
Isaiah Armendarez
Josh Wells
Bill Brown

Lord's Supper

West...

Jacob Carson

Rudy Ochoa

Isaiah Armendarez

East...

Richard Siler

Larry May

Josh Weakland

Don Easlon

Communion

(In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Jeff Wesson 556-5547; *Deacon*: Don Easlon 288-5834; *Pulpit*: Chris Butler 362-7486; *Table*: Don Easlon 288-5834; *Song Leaders*: Denny Wilson 325-340-2291; *Recording Duties*: Tommy Garcia 638-2702; *Collections*: Tommy Garcia 638-2702

Sunday AM

"TBA"

Sunday PM

"TBA"

Our Records

Bible Class... 69

Morning Worship...140

Evening Worship...87

Wednesday...95

Contribution...\$4,110.45