

What Happens When Your Family Does What's Right in Its Own Eyes?

I. Doing what is right in our own eyes is forbidden by God.

- Isaiah 5:21; Proverbs 3:4 & 7
- It should be clear to us that whatever we think is right, left to ourselves whatever we could imagine would be the best choice in any given situation . . . is going to be wrong, and God doesn't want us to do it.
- However, as we'll see later, this is not simply because God is a buzzkill. He doesn't want us following our own hearts because He knows how destructive it is and how wonderful His way is.

II. Doing what is right in our own eyes is delusional.

- Jeremiah 17:9; Proverbs 12:15, 16:2, 21:2, 26:12, 28:26
- It is delusional, crazy, and foolish to trust our feelings, lean on our own understanding, and listen to the deceitful whims of our hearts.
- Now, this is pretty anti-cultural and definitely counter-intuitive. In order to embrace this teaching, most would demand a reason. Why is foolish to do what is right in my own eyes?

III. Doing what is right in our own eyes is dangerous.

- Isaiah 5:21; Hosea 14:9; James 4:17; Proverbs 14:12, 16:25
- The Bible is clear from cover to cover that sin hurts. If we know what God says is right and choose to do our own thing, we're sinning and inviting all of the hurt that accompanies it.
- When our families waft our way through life doing as we please, we're inviting pain, destruction, and death into our homes.
- So, the next question is, why is following our hearts and leaning on our own opinions and feelings so damaging? Are we really that dumb that we can't come up with a decent plan?

IV. Doing what is right in our own eyes is a sin of worship.

- Judges 17:6, 21:25; Deuteronomy 12:8; I Samuel 8:7; Luke 16:15-17; Psalm 1
- The reason doing what's right in our own eyes destroys us and the ones we love is that it's motivated by self.
- Even when I do something that would otherwise be considered a good idea — but I do it for my own glory — that choice will backfire.
- Your family will worship God or will worship self. They'll highly esteem men and their ideas (which are detestable to God), or they'll esteem the Lord and live a blessed life.
- Leaning on our own understanding, following our hearts, and doing what's right in our own eyes is a question of worship.
- But God loves us. That's why He commands our families not to live according to what we think is right. It's delusional and dangerous because it's a manifestation of the most abhorrent sin . . . self-worship and a rejection of God.

V. Doing what is right in God's eyes is the only option.

- Ezekiel 18:29; Deuteronomy 6:18; Psalm 18:29, 119:160; Hosea 14:9; Proverbs 3:5-8; John 14:6, 17:17; Acts 10:34
- God is the final arbiter of what is right, and the comforting reality is that since He never changes, the standard of right never changes. God is Truth.

VI. The Very First Sin

- Genesis 3:6
- Adam and Eve rejected what was right. They set their own desires above God's. In their first act of self-autonomy they damned the human race to a temporal life of sin and suffering.
- Our family members are doing something right now. They're either wafting through life responding instinctually like emotional animals, or they're calculating how they can best accomplish what makes them happy, or they're consciously desiring to please the Lord in all they do. The first two are doing what's right in their own eyes. Only the third is acknowledging the Truth of the Lord.

VII. How do we parent our kids to do what is right in God's eyes?

- Romans 14:23; Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38
- Even if we could argue that when we're participating in church, family devotions, and daily faith conversations every member of our family is 100% worshipping God and walking in His Truth — which we can't . . . what about all the other times?
- It's a practical impossibility — one in which we'll fail more than we'll succeed — but what if instead of trying to have Faith Conversations we actually just lived . . . every moment, every word, every thought, every emotion, every desire . . . in faith.
- But it's more than conversations. It's faith washing dishes and faith mowing the lawn. It's faith getting ready for bed and faith homework. Its faith karate class and faith movie watching.
- We shouldn't be okay with our families doing what's right in their own eyes as long as they're doing what's right in God's eyes at other times. The Catholic concept that our good deeds can outweigh our bad is not biblical. Sin is sin. We shouldn't tolerate any of it.
- Therefore, instead of merely having the occasional Faith Conversation, how about we strive with everything in us — including the Holy Spirit — to teach our families to live by faith . . . all the time.
- We need to set the expectation that it will *never* be okay for our families to do what's right in their own eyes. We need to allow God to set the standard for what "right" is, and we have to consume ourselves with the Scriptures because that's the only place where we can know what the right choice is.
- We need to stop doing what *feels* right. We need to stop doing what the world tells us is right. We need to know God's Word, trust His Word, and live by faith.
- And this applies to everything from how we respond to the sanctity of life in the womb and out of the womb to sexuality to government to racism to pandemics to authority and to absolutely every thought, question, opinion, idea, and philosophy any human being will ever encounter.