

IS DOING THE RIGHT THING THE SAME THING AS BEING RIGHTEOUS?

By: Fountain Hendricks

(Proverbs 21:21)

It's easy to confuse doing the right thing with being righteous. When the Bible teaches us about being righteous, it is **NOT** talking about doing righteous acts. It is talking about living a **RIGHTEOUS LIFE**. If a person does the right thing it does not mean they are living righteously.

Anyone can do something right. However, everyone cannot live a righteous life. Please remember this. It doesn't take much effort to do the right thing. It takes plenty of effort to live righteously.

HERE'S WHAT I MEAN:

- It doesn't take much effort to attend church every Sunday. **HOWEVER**, it takes plenty of effort not to live in sin.
- It doesn't take much effort to be kind and respectful to other people. **HOWEVER**, it takes plenty of effort to live a holy life.
- It doesn't take much effort to make a promise. **HOWEVER**, it takes plenty of effort to keep a promise.
- It doesn't take much effort to pray. **HOWEVER**, it takes plenty of effort to deny your flesh.
- It doesn't take much effort to read the Bible. **HOWEVER**, it takes plenty of effort to keep God's commands.

FOCUS ON LIVING RIGHTEOUSLY

Proverbs 21:21

DO NOT focus on doing the right thing. Focus on living righteously. God is going to bless, honor and save the people who live righteously. He will not do this for people who primarily do the right thing. Think about it! An atheist can do the right thing but does that mean he is righteous? No. Sinners can do the right thing but does that mean they're righteous? No.

On the day of judgement many people will be disappointed and confused. Their inability to understand the difference between doing the right thing and living a righteous life will cost them their soul. Matthew 7:22 says, *"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."*

If you analyze the words in this scripture you will notice the comparison between doing the right thing and living righteously. The people who Jesus is going to reject in this scripture will claim to cast out devils, prophesy and do wonderful works. They are going to profess doing the right thing. **HOWEVER**, Jesus is still going to reject them because they decided to live in iniquity. Doing the right thing is **NOT** enough to please God!!

KING JESUS IS PLEASED WHEN YOU LIVE A

RIGHTEOUS LIFE! Proverbs 21:21 says, "*Whoever TRIES TO LIVE RIGHT and be loyal finds life, success and honor.*"

Doing what is right does **NOT** mean you have agreed to live righteously. It means you are willing to adjust your attitude.

WISDOM NOTE:

YOUR ATTITUDE DECIDES YOUR ACTIONS.

YOUR MINDSET DECIDES YOUR LIFESTYLE.

Living righteously goes beyond having an attitude adjustment. Living righteously will **REQUIRE** you to be transformed from **WITHIN**. Living a transformed life can only happen when you renew your mind. People who **DO** the right things while **VOID** of righteous character are called actors. They walk in the **FORM** of Godliness yet **DENYING** the power within. In order to live a righteous life it will force you to change your **MENTALITY**.

Your mentality determines how you believe and what you believe. Your mentality is the foundation that controls your core being. The mentality is what separates demons from Jesus. Demons can pretend to be good. Demons can do righteous acts. Demons can say the right things. 2nd Corinthians 11:14 says, *"It does not surprise us if Satan's servants also make themselves **LOOK LIKE** servants who work for what is right."*

Notice that demons can give the **APPEARANCE** of righteousness. However, they cannot be righteous. They are **VOID** of the **RIGHTEOUS MENTALITY**. Your

mentality determines your character. Your actions shape your behavior. God focuses on your character. People focus on your behavior.

If you are doing what is right while living deceitfully it will be impossible for you to live a righteous life. Doing the right thing is **NOT** the same as living a righteous life. People who do the right thing will please themselves. People who live righteously will please God.

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