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The Fundamental Core of Human Nature.

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

The Fundamental Core of Human Nature.

The apostle Paul wrote:

- When we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world (Galatians 4:3).
- But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? Galatians 4:9).

Here Paul speaks about the “elementary and fundamental principles of the world” the expression applies to the basic and fundamental principles of human nature and the human heart, but what does it really mean? What are the fundamentals principles of the human heart? Is the human heart at its basic core good or evil? (Gal 4:3). This article seeks to find the answer to this question.

If we focus on the evil in the world: wars, the black-market human sex trade, drugs, murders stealing, human abuse and oppression of the poor, etc., we could not be blamed for arriving at the conclusion human nature and the human heart is fundamentally evil at its core.

But; if we focus on the good in the world: nations rallying together to help countries that have suffered extreme natural disasters, or supplying food in a crisis of famine, youth groups, famous people and strangers trying to raise money to help the poor and a friend comforting another. Families and even total strangers risking their lives to help those in danger and the Australian people who raised hundreds of millions of dollars to help suffering people who lost their homes in the worst bush fires in Australian history. Multitudes of good and selfless deeds are being done in the world every day. Sadly, we don't see them because they don't make money for the global News Media. Nevertheless, if we focused on these, we would arrive at the conclusion human nature or the human heart is fundamentally good.

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SO, WHICH OF THE TWO SCENARIOS IS CORRECT?

Elementary: from the Bible dictionary means the first or basic essential fundamental principles something orderly, it embraces words such as faith, godliness, morality, chaste, goodness integrity, uprightness and justice, it means to walk in virtue. This means that the expression the, “Elementary and fundamental principles of the world” apply to good and not evil. The Bible says, humans in general are servants to the elementary or fundamental principles of the world, meaning they are servants to self-effort, good deeds or some form of spiritual self-improvement or to religious works, to make themselves feel that they are accepted or approved of by God.

The elementary or fundamental principles of the world in the context of the Bible are the good things people do to make themselves feel they are accepted by God. Human nature at its fundamental core desires to do good or is good, but the flesh (self, ego, pride and greed) is constantly craving to have its own needs satisfied. Self, ego and pride have contaminated human nature it is this contamination that causes us all to do wrong. The motivation behind all wrongdoing is the desire to satisfy self in some way, physically, financially, emotionally or spiritually. The majority of the population desires to live in peace, and be able to raise their families in safety, but human nature is contaminated with a virus that the Bible calls sin and the flesh today we would call it, self, ego, pride and greed. These affect every human to a lesser or greater degree. When the flesh, (self, ego, pride and greed) is fully in control of a person and

cannot get something lawfully, it will sin, lie cheat steal and abuse and oppress others physically, financially verbally mentally or spiritually to get what it desires and use people to achieve its own selfish desires. Self, ego, pride and greed start wars and kill thousands of innocents to achieve its own goals and destroys marriage partners who once loved each other. It breaks up friendships and families, it murders, rapes and steals, and all to fulfil some selfish desire of the flesh, but the good news is that not all humans are dominated or controlled by the flesh to this extent, but we are all contaminated with it at some level. It is like a cancer, in some people the cancer runs rampant in their body, while in others the cancer lays dormant and only certain circumstances will inflame it. In most humans the flesh (self, ego, pride and greed) is in an inactive state and only manifests in the smaller issues of life, a child's rebellion to its parents, an argument between husband and wife, divisions in groups and churches etc., but people with less control over this human virus are more likely to erupt like an explosive volcano and inflict pain and harm on others.

The elementary or fundamental principles of the world in the context of the Bible are: good deeds, works or religious things people do to try and be righteous and win or earn God's favour, but the Bible calls these the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world. You may wonder why, especially since they are all good and harmless things in themselves, but when a person thinks they can achieve righteousness by doing good and win or earn God's approval they are useless, simply because they have no power to save a person.

No human can ever attain to God's Holiness by doing good deeds, ponder the following thought for a moment: who of us is going to judge when good is good enough, next to Jack the ripper I look like a fantastically good person, but next to Mother Tersa I am left extremely lacking, who are we going to compare ourselves against for the standard of goodness. God's standard is Jesus, he is the standard the Bible requires for us to measure ourselves against, but if he is the standard none of us have any hope. Think this is not a true statement? Read the Sermon on the Mount and see how many of Christ's teachings you match up to, it is an extremely high standard and we all fail it. (Matthew 5:17-48) (Luke 6:27-38). For further information on God's standard see:

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- Perfection and True Spirituality.

In, Lectures (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Even God Himself says, if we break one law, we are guilty of breaking all laws, doing many good deeds does not exempt us from being guilty of the one law that we have broken. You may think that is unfair, but consider this, if a man murders your son or daughter, but in court says, he worked as a lifesaver on the Gold Coast Beaches and saved ten people should the judge let him go free because of his many good deeds or should he be judged on his one wrong deed? The elementary and fundamental principles of the world in the context of what Paul is saying in Galatians chapter four applies to trusting in one's own human goodness to be saved rather than acknowledging Christ. Though it applies to trusting in our own goodness to be counted righteous the elementary principles of the world have the following different aspects to Jews, the Gentiles and the Christians.

- To the Jews it refers to strictly adhering to the rules and laws of the Jewish religious leaders (especially the chief priests, scribes and Pharisees) teachings. They demanded the outward adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping Jewish religious customs and traditions before one could be accepted by God and counted worthy.
- To the Gentiles it was trusting in their own good works to be saved.
- To the Christians it can apply to keeping religious days, rituals, attending church meetings, teaching Sunday school, singing in a church choir and doing what the church expects etc., to be accounted righteous and worthy before God to maintain their salvation.

NOTICE: The Bible is not saying any of these things are wrong in themselves it is simply saying they are weak, because they have no power to save a person to eternal life. All of the elementary or fundamental principles of the world only become wrong when a person believes by doing them, they are making themselves worthy of salvation, earning salvation or maintaining the salvation they already have. This attitude is grossly wrong before God because no human can ever attain to the perfection the law demands or the perfect standard of God's Holiness. Added to this once a person begins to trust in their own goodness, they not only deny Christ's sacrifice and God's pure and free gift of righteousness that is granted to all who believe in and trust on the Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation, but also make Christ's death count for nothing.

In regards to the Christian life the elementary or fundamental principles of the world refer to religious ceremonial rites, observing holy days, and keeping religious customs and traditions etc. The weak and worthless elementary principles of the world in the context of Galatians chapter four embrace all those religious things people do to try and be righteous and win or earn God's favour. Human nature does outward religious things to feel righteous and approved of by God. Sadly, many Christians put themselves in bondage to outward religious works to earn salvation, but the Bible calls them the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world because they have no power to save a person to eternal life (Gal. 4:3-9).

SUMMARY

The elementary principles of the world refer to the basic desires in the human heart to be good, but this desire is limited by self, ego, pride and greed. Human nature at its fundamental or basic core desires to be good but self, ego, pride and greed limits it. Self-survival and self-gratification is the dominant driving force that limits humans from fulfilling God's law perfectly, because self is constantly craving to have its own needs satisfied. Self, sins to satisfy its own appetite, longing or ambition, nevertheless even though we are all contaminated to some degree or other with self, ego, pride and greed, many peoples fundamental core desire to do-good shines through and is manifested in doing good to others all over the face of the earth, but these good deeds though commended by God have no power to save a person to eternal life, thus it is in this sense the elementary principles of the world are called weak.

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For further information see:

- Galatians 4 in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MEN).
 - The motivation of Sin in, Sin (ON WEBSITE MEN).
 - Sin and Self-Gratification in, Sin (ON WEBSITE MEN).
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As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.