

The Goodness of Unregenerate Man

1. Introduction

- A. Unregenerate Man is good because He is made in the image of God.

In Evangelism 101 we find that the first message preached to the Gentiles was to a good and righteous man in the sight of God. It is important for us to not assume that God thinks mankind is evil. If we have that attitude it will show in the way we treat those who are not yet sons and daughters of God. It is even more obvious because in some cultures mistrust is endemic, with an attitude that other people are bad or evil.

2. Unregenerate Man is created very good

- A. God made man in His image
B. In Hebrew, the word image is a kind of shadow: h6754. **שֶׁלֶם** *šelem*; from an unused root meaning to shade; a phantom,

GENESIS 1:26

THEN GOD SAID, "LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE, ACCORDING TO OUR LIKENESS; LET THEM HAVE DOMINION OVER THE FISH OF THE SEA, OVER THE BIRDS OF THE AIR, AND OVER THE CATTLE, OVER ALL THE EARTH AND OVER EVERY CREEPING THING THAT CREEPS ON THE EARTH."

- C. And, He said what He created was very good

GENESIS 1:31

THEN GOD SAW EVERYTHING THAT HE HAD MADE, AND INDEED IT WAS VERY GOOD. SO THE EVENING AND THE MORNING WERE THE SIXTH DAY.

3. Unregenerate Man is created in His Likeness

- A. Not only is he made in God's image, He is made in His likeness

- B. In Hebrew the root word is different from image, h1819. **דָּמָה** *dâmâ*; a primitive root; to compare; by implication, to resemble, liken, consider

GENESIS 5:1

IN THE DAY THAT GOD CREATED MAN, HE MADE HIM IN THE LIKENESS OF GOD.

- C. Therefore we are much more than just a physical shadow of Him. We are comparative to Him and resemble Him. Compared to the rest of creation, we even think like Him (for example awareness of self, others, creativity).

4. Unregenerate Man Carries the Glory of God

- A. Mankind carries the glory of God,
This following verse was written under the Old Covenant:

PSALMS 8:5

**FOR YOU HAVE MADE HIM A LITTLE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS,
AND YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR.**

- B. Sin destroys that glory

ROMANS 3:23

FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD,

- C. Being a New Creation restores and magnifies that glory.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

**BUT WE ALL, WITH UNVEILED FACE, BEHOLDING AS IN A MIRROR THE GLORY OF
THE LORD, ARE BEING TRANSFORMED INTO THE SAME IMAGE FROM GLORY TO
GLORY, JUST AS BY THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD.**

Therefore, under the New Covenant we are no longer sinners, and a brand new creation,
our glory is greater than that of the angels.

5. Unregenerate Mankind are also Children of God

- A. Paul talking to the philosophers and others at Athens:

ACTS 17:29

**THEREFORE, SINCE WE ARE THE OFFSPRING OF GOD, WE OUGHT NOT TO THINK
THAT THE DIVINE NATURE IS LIKE GOLD OR SILVER OR STONE, SOMETHING
SHAPED BY ART AND MAN'S DEVISING.**

- B. All mankind are children of God in the natural sense. However they have not yet entered
the family of God until they have belief in the death, resurrection and enthronement of
Jesus.

6. Unregenerate Mankind is capable of showing God's love

- A. Even those who have not entered the family of God are good enough to show love

LUKE 6:32

**"IF YOU LOVE THOSE WHO LOVE YOU, WHAT BENEFIT IS THAT TO YOU? FOR EVEN
SINNERS AGAPE THOSE WHO LOVE THEM.**

- B. The word used here is agapao which is the same love Jesus showed as He died on the
cross for us.

7. Job is an Unregenerate Man who is Good

- A. Job is one of the first people in the Bible, perhaps from the time of Abraham's call to leave his home country.

JOB 2:3

THEN THE LORD SAID TO SATAN, "HAVE YOU CONSIDERED MY SERVANT JOB, THAT THERE IS NONE LIKE HIM ON THE EARTH, A BLAMELESS AND UPRIGHT MAN, ONE WHO FEARS GOD AND SHUNS EVIL? AND STILL HE HOLDS FAST TO HIS INTEGRITY, ALTHOUGH YOU INCITED ME AGAINST HIM, TO DESTROY HIM WITHOUT CAUSE."

- B. GOD is saying Job is blameless and upright, fears God and shuns evil.

8. Cornelius is an Unregenerate Man who is Good

- A. Cornelius is the First Example of a Gentile to Accept Christ. Cornelius' good works had been noticed in heaven.

ACTS 10:1-4

THERE WAS A CERTAIN MAN IN CAESAREA CALLED CORNELIUS, A CENTURION OF WHAT WAS CALLED THE ITALIAN REGIMENT, A DEVOUT MAN AND ONE WHO FEARED GOD WITH ALL HIS HOUSEHOLD, WHO GAVE ALMS GENEROUSLY TO THE PEOPLE, AND PRAYED TO GOD ALWAYS. ABOUT THE NINTH HOUR OF THE DAY HE SAW CLEARLY IN A VISION AN ANGEL OF GOD COMING IN AND SAYING TO HIM, "CORNELIUS!"

AND WHEN HE OBSERVED HIM, HE WAS AFRAID, AND SAID, "WHAT IS IT, LORD?" SO HE SAID TO HIM, "YOUR PRAYERS AND YOUR ALMS HAVE COME UP FOR A MEMORIAL BEFORE GOD."

- B. In Evangelism 101 you will find the keys to evangelism found in this conversion of Cornelius

9. Believing Unregenerate man is good will empower your evangelism

In our evangelism we must not assume that all people are bad, and that all people will respond to a message about repentance. In some cases repentance comes after they believe as is indicated in the case of Cornelius.

The goodness of man is not the issue. The issue is entrance into the kingdom of God and the family of God through the New Covenant.

Jesus said this:

MATTHEW 5:20

FOR I SAY TO YOU, THAT UNLESS YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS EXCEEDS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, YOU WILL BY NO MEANS ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

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Goodness of
Man 101



Man's righteousness cannot save him because righteousness is a free gift that comes from a covenant made by Jesus with any person who believes - the New Covenant.