

My Thoughts for Sunday, 11 January 2015

"Are You Accountable?"

Accountable by definition: 1. (of a person, organization, or institution) required or expected to justify actions or decisions; responsible;
Oxford pocket dictionary of current English

Romans 5:19 (NIV2011)

"For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous."

When does one become accountable for inherited sin (that sin handed down to us from Adam & Eve)? Sins of commission (actual sins committed by us)? Sins of omission (sins committed by us through not doing as God wishes)?

I recently read this statement regarding children and inherent sin in reference to the above passage in Romans. *"In other words a child is not a violator of the law of God if there is no knowledge of the Law. The law of God is what brings the knowledge of sin. Since a child in infancy has no knowledge of God or of sin, there is therefore no accountability to God due to a lack of knowledge."*

I had a real issue with this statement and wished to clarify it in my own mind with earthly logic and examples first. I remembered being on a panel of jurors in the past and hearing the judge say, very plainly, that just because the party on trial was ignorant of the law he had been accused of breaking, that did not justify his breaking the law and being found innocent. In other words, he stated, *"ignorance of the law is no excuse for breaking the law."*

The writer, attempting to defend the sinlessness of infants, went on to say, *"Is this child accountable? No. Not until this child has an accountability to God. Accountability to God does not come by age. Accountability to God comes by knowledge of God. Innocence is lost when guilt is found. Guilt comes from recognition of the presence of God. An example of guilt is when Adam and Eve covered themselves with the fig leaf. Innocence was lost and guilt was found."* Again, I had issue in light of God's Word regarding when we acquired this sin and that Adam and Eve were not guilty until they covered themselves, *"innocence was lost and guilt was found."* We must look again to the statement by the judge in the earthly court case. *"Ignorance of the law, or truth in this case, is no excuse for being found innocent."* By this statement I believe innocence is lost when the law is broken even if no one but the one breaking it is aware of the default. The major difference here is that Adam and Eve were not ignorant of the law; God had given it directly to them. We must remember that "innocent until proven guilty" is not really the way it is. We are only innocent until we do wrong.. Let's go on with this thought as we read the following inspired Scriptures from the psalmist.

Although, in the past, I always felt that children were all born innocent of any sin or wrongdoing, I have learned from Scripture that ALL persons on this earth are guilty of sin from conception. **Psalm 51:5 (NIV2011)** *"Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me."* If this is not enough read what the Psalmist wrote in **Psalm 58:3 (NIV2011)** *"Even from birth the wicked go astray; from the womb they are wayward, spreading lies."* Since God inspired this to be written for our understanding, we must understand and believe it as His truth.

Since we are all born with sin, it is impossible to live a sinless life. We are incapable of totally resisting temptation that we regularly face from the work of the liar, the Devil, the deceiver and our own sinful nature. These are the sins of commission, those thoughts, words and actions that we confess regularly to our Lord and ask for His forgiveness. But what about the sins of omission? These are the thoughts, words and actions that we know we should be doing because of our knowledge of God and His commandments that we fail in every day. Whether we like it or not, we are accountable for all these sins as they are inherited, committed or omitted.

Thanks be to God, that He sent us a Redeemer, Jesus. Only this Redeemer could lead a life of perfection, take on all our sins, and come before His Father, our God, and say with total love that we are all clean in His blood. We are no longer seen as sinners in the eyes of God but as redeemed, righteous and holy souls. [1 Corinthians 1:30](#) (NIV2011) *"It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption."* Consider seriously the action you should desire to take to show our God and Savior that we do truly appreciate what He has done for us. Our salvation is a sure thing through Jesus, just as our prayers and actions should be expressions of our gratitude to Him.