

Series: Questions Unbelievers Ask
Can't A Person Be Good Without God?
Despicable Me

¹⁷And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

¹⁸And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.

Mark 10:17-18

¹⁷Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

James 1:17

1. Truth is like medicine. Sometimes what we need so desperately to make us well taste so bad.
2. If we attempt to twist it to make it more palatable or negate it because it is offensive to us, what we produce is no longer the truth and it's power to change us is gone.
3. Today's question deals with the Christian doctrine of what we refer to as Original Sin.
4. Adam and Eve's sin affected the whole human race in devastating ways:
 - A. We lost fellowship with God, our Creator.
 - B. We lost the moral likeness of God within us.
 - C. We experience the consequences of sin or the curse.
 - D. The curse affected all creation.
 - E. Peaceful relationships were now marked by strife.
 - F. All of Adam's offspring were infected with the virus of a sinful nature.
5. If a stream gets polluted, everyone downstream has to deal with the pollution. Adam was the spring from which all humanity came. His sin affects us all.
6. Selfishness is our curse. Pride is our inability to recognize it in ourselves.
7. In all of our sinfulness God the Holy Spirit works to draw us to what is right, yet one of the characteristics of sinful people is they, "always resist the Holy Spirit."
Acts 7:51
8. As long as we live in this condition nothing we do is acceptable to God except repentance and surrender.

9. We tend to view life as a segregated series of good and bad choices.

10. God views life holistically and judges us on the basis of our heart condition and whether our actions flow from faith or unbelief.

11. From God's perspective, our lives are like a stream that flows from our heart. If our hearts are clean, by our faith and repentance and renewal by the Holy Spirit, then our deeds are good and acceptable to Him.

12. Just as Adam did something that affected us all negatively so Christ did something that affects us all positively. He provides a reversal of Adam's consequences upon us.