

Who is Righteous?

Who among us can stand before God and proclaim their righteousness with a clear conscience? How about you?

Can you withstand the scrutiny of the definition of righteousness? A definition that states you are to act or be in accordance with what is just, honorable, and free from guilt or wrong.

Can you claim unequivocally that your actions are just and honorable, freeing you from the burden of guilt and wrong? No, I did not think so. I failed the definition too.

I am certain we've all nibbled around the edges of "righteousness." In our own way we seek the pretense of an "upright" life, if for no other reason than to hide our failure at what is just and honorable.

None of us fit the definition of righteous.

If you were completely honest with yourself, regardless of your highest intentions to act upon the "right," you seem destined to act on the "wrong."

Or, are you one who is gifted with a "God-like" power to act without guilt or wrong always? I am certain, if you asked for auditions for the role of "The Righteous," you could find takers to claim the title. But, at the heart of their claim, they, like you, should know the truth. In fact, there is something downright unrighteous about their proclamation of righteousness. A grandeur stemming from the illusion of a righteousness in their own minds.

There is nothing imagined about human destruction — human brokenness. Humanity destroys itself you the soul's desires. You witness it daily in your life or in the lives of others

The truth in saying, "My own worst enemy is myself," applies to you and me. And with our souls leading us to destruction, we do not need to seek other enemies.

Isn't the most apt description of destruction - the limitation of a future?

It all hinges on "who" is willing to admit the truth that they are governed by their soul's pride and arrogance to be "right." Can you admit this truth to yourself? It's even harder to admit it when you know those around won't. But your "fallen" nature is as "forever" as it gets, as long as you remain governed by your soul and your soul's desires. What you see of your humanity won't get better, but a whole lot worse until you finally admit the truth.

Look around you. The signs of humanity's "fallen" nature are ever-present. Humanity embracing death instead of life by the human illusion that we will change one day. We stand in the Apocalypse (the end of all things) in our embrace of human destruction, regardless of any rationalization of our human "comfort zone" to go "so far and no further." Each of us stands in the "Apocalypse Now" of our human present through the soul.

The signs of the soul's governance to satisfy human desires are ever-present to your humanity. Wherever your humanity is in pain and suffering, violence and destruction, there you will find your soul. You may try to put all the "happy faces" you like on your soul's secret desires, but "Whatsoever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed upon the housetops," (Luke 12:3) If the truth be known, you have no secrets because your secrets are humanity's secrets in common. We all share the soul's desire for the right of humanity to be right.

None of us are "free" from guilt or wrong, "no, not one." Once you invest your time and energy suffering from a real or imagined pain that leads ultimately to violence by thought, word, or deed, you have become a virtual prisoner to your soul's desire for destruction.

A man named Paul wrote, "The things I ought to do, I do not do, and the things I ought not to do, I do. Oh, wretched sinner that I am." Does that sum up your life or what?

Paul recognized his human flaw of desiring to be right. Once he admitted to himself that he would never be right, that his human "willpower" would never change him into being right, he had to look

elsewhere to discover who was right. It drove him relentlessly to God to discover the answer. God's answer was simple. If he ever hoped to remedy his humanity's struggle and strife, then he must be willing to give up hope that was ever right.

He realized that any justification of his human desire to be right, by whatever human standard he chose, would still cause him to live in guilt and wrong. He could not continue to justify himself as right, when he knew himself to be wrong.

How can you balance the scale of right when your human desire governs you to think and act wrong? You can fight against yourself for as long as you breathe, if that is your wish, but the truth about you will not change. You are on the "merry-go-round" of human desire. The struggle and conflict caused by your human desires brings you pain. The pain you experience causes you to suffer. Your suffering leads you to violence by thought, word, or deed. Your violence leads to your destruction.

I encourage you not to take my word for it, but examine your life carefully. Isn't your life just one long series of trying to rationalize away your guilt and wrong? Aren't you forever placing yourself in the position of having to justify your actions caused by your human desires? Don't you judge your past, condemn your present, and forbid your future?

If you don't think you do, then I am almost certain you are doing it to someone else.

This places you upon the pin-head of a human dilemma, doesn't it?

You know that you do not fit the definition of being righteous, and you know that I, or anyone else does not. It stands to reason that your dilemma will not be solved by you and me standing together to decide what is just and honorable, as if we could erase our two wrongs by a democratic vote of righteousness.

Do you suspect, like me, that there is a flaw in our human logic? If you suspect that there is, then it will not come as a surprise to you to discover the flaw exists in all of us. It never occurs to you, until too late, that when you start out wrong, you end up wrong. You are forever trying to make the proverbial

silk purse out of the sow's ear.

There is something about our humanity that isn't quite right. We attempt to pass off wrong as right, and right as wrong with frightening ease. In fact, we accept the unrighteousness in each of us as a part of our lives. We guard against those who intend to do what is just and honorable, telling ourselves, "If they are too good to be true, then probably they are not that good."

Isn't it time to admit the truth about yourself? Doesn't the truth start with you? Maybe together we could help curb the human pretense of human righteousness.

Your humanity is constantly falling down flat on your face. Your nature is "fallen," and you can't get up by yourself. Isn't it more reasonable for you to quit while you were behind, than continuing the illusion that some day you will stop falling?

You're in life, plugging away daily, thinking to yourself that one day it is going to get better. It has to get better because it really can't get any worse. But the truth of your "fallen" nature stares back at you, stating, "Yes, it can get a whole lot worse with your human effort."

The gravest question facing you today is "who" is controlling "who" in your life? At the core of your being, you know you have very little control over your soul's desires. Yet, it seems impossible for you to admit your powerlessness against your soul.

There was a man who knew this truth because he lived our humanity. He knew how powerless we are against the strength of the soul's desire. The man's name was Jesus Christ.

I follow Jesus Christ for the simple reason that through Him, the Divine became human to be as powerless against the soul's desires as we are. In fact, it would be pointless for me to follow Christ had not God willed to take my full humanity. I follow Christ because He knew that unless He willed His soul to Divine governance, His soul would govern Him by human desire. And He, like me, would "fall" to the temptation of the soul's desire.

The purpose for His humanity was fulfilled and completed through the Divine. He lived a life "free from guilt and wrong," not because He was super-

human, but because He submitted His soul to God and was obedient to God's will. If I am to hope that I can break free of my soul's governance of my life, then I must do it by the way that Christ did it.

He "denied Himself." He proclaimed God as Divinely True and Himself as false without God. He proclaimed, as the Son of God, that the Divine Truth that He had received had come from God, the Father. He "took up His cross" for my sake and "followed God, the Father" who willed to save me from myself, my soul, and my soul's desires.

Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, is the only righteous man, because the Divine purpose for His humanity was fulfilled and completed in His obedience to the will of God.

Therefore, "Christ died for sins once and for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the Spirit," (I Peter 3:18)

I know that I do not possess a righteousness of my own. I must discover and live in the righteousness of another — Jesus Christ

The Rev. Ronald E. White



© 2004 DoveTracts, Inc.

Who is Righteous?

timeless
truths
for
turbulent
times

