

what God's Word says about

Man's Way Versus God's Way

The Biblical Model of Man's Failure

The Biblical View of Self

Basic Approaches to Solving Problems

Examples of Man's Way compared to God's Way

Discerning Between Man's Way and God's Way



Biblical Counseling Foundation (BCF)

MAN'S WAY VERSUS GOD'S WAY

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Man's Way and God's Way

God's Word clearly shows that man's way of living is futile. Man has very serious shortcomings that he cannot change by himself (*based on Proverbs 14:12; Isaiah 55:8-9; Romans 1:28-32, 3:10-12; I Corinthians 2:14*).

I. Man's way

A. The natural man is inadequate

You cannot live according to God's design in your own way or by your own wisdom (*Proverbs 14:12; Isaiah 55:8-9; I Corinthians 2:14*).

B. The natural man is rebellious

The natural man is self-centered and rebels against God's way (*Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 1:20-32; 3:9-18, 23; 10:1-3*). Furthermore, partial obedience to God is just as unacceptable to Him as even your deliberate rebellion (*based on I Samuel 15:1-23, esp. verses 22-23; Isaiah 1:10-20; Hosea 6:6; Micah 6:6-8; Mark 12:28-33, esp. verse 33*).

II. God's way

Man needs to be changed

It is necessary to be born again (to be born from above; to have a spiritual birth) in order to recognize, admit, and solve your problems in a biblical manner. Only God's solutions, grace, empowering, and wisdom are completely adequate for abundant living (*Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; John 3:3-8; 10:10; 14:16-17, 26; Romans 8:5-14; I Corinthians 2:10-14; Ephesians 2:8-10*).

The Biblical Model of Man's Failure

God's Word is the only true source and authority for living (*based on Psalm 19:7-11; II Timothy 3:16-17*). It reveals man's failure, the subsequent consequences, and the effect that man's original sin has on today's world (*based on Genesis 1:26-27; 3:1 - 4:12; 5:1-3; Romans 5:12*).

I. Mankind was created in God's image (*Genesis 1:26-27*).

Adam and Eve were unique, were created in righteousness, and were recipients of blessings and responsibilities.

II. Mankind sinned and has borne the many consequences of that sin unto the present day (*Romans 5:12*).

A. Spiritually (*Genesis 2:17*)

(*warning of separation from God*) "In the day that you eat ... you shall surely die."

B. Physically (*Genesis 3:6-7*)

(*Adam and Eve focused on self*)

1. They gave in to the desires of self-gratification and self-exaltation,
2. They knew they were naked, and
3. They sewed fig leaves together and covered themselves.

C. Mentally (*Genesis 3:8-10*)

1. (*deceptiveness*) They hid themselves.
2. (*fear, worry, anxiety*) They were afraid.

D. Socially (*Genesis 3:12-13*)

1. (*blameshifting, discontent with marriage by the man*) "The woman you gave me, she gave me and I ate."
2. (*blameshifting; seeking to justify sin by the woman*) "The serpent deceived me and I ate."

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- E. Environmentally (*Genesis 3:17-19*)
(*the natural realm suffers*) “Cursed is the ground because of you.”
 - F. Interpersonally (*Genesis 4:4-8*)
 - 1. (*anger*) When Abel’s offering was accepted Cain’s offering rejected, Cain became angry and his countenance fell (*Genesis 4:5*).
 - 2. (*God’s exhortation and solution to depression*) “If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? If you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door ... you must master it” (*Genesis 4:7*).
 - 3. (*God’s way refused*) Cain refused God’s solution and murdered Abel (*Genesis 4:8*).
 - G. Personally (*Genesis 4:9, 12-13*)
 - 1. (*fugitive*) Cain did not repent and was cursed as a vagrant and a wanderer.
 - 2. (*self-pity*) “My punishment is too great to bear.”
 - H. Perpetually (*Genesis 5:3*)
Adam became the father of a son, according to his own image.
 - I. Universally (*Romans 5:12*)
(*born in sin*) “Through one man, sin entered into the world and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.”

III. Man’s primary need is to be justified (declared righteous) by God and reconciled through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (*Romans chapter 5*).

- A. If you choose to recognize God’s love (*John 3:16; I John 4:10*) and accept His Truth as revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ (*John 14:6*), you must in faith:
 - 1. Believe in Jesus (*John 5:24; Romans 10:8-13*) who once and for all offered Himself as a sacrifice for your sin (*Hebrews 10:4-22*);
 - 2. Repent of your sin (*Mark 1:15; Luke 15:7; Acts 2:38, 3:19, 26:20; II Peter 3:9*);

For Your Personal Growth

God's Word can be relied upon for every situation of life. The basic principles of Scripture can help you face and deal with every problem and be able to distinguish between the folly of man's wisdom and the promises of God (*based on Psalm 19:7-14; II Corinthians 1:19-20; II Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 5:14; James 1:5; II Peter 1:2-4*).

- ☐ A. In your own words, write the meaning of *Isaiah 55:8-11* and *II Corinthians 3:5-6*. Memorize these verses.
- ☐ B. Read **Man's Way and God's Way** (Page 1). In your Bible highlight the text of each verse listed in order to gain a deeper understanding of the biblical principles.
- ☐ C. You are to examine yourself to test the validity of your faith (*II Corinthians 13:5*). One New Testament book (*I John*) specifically contains teaching to help you know how you can be sure you have eternal life (*I John 5:13*). Read through *I John* and highlight the verses that present the measurable proofs that God's gift of eternal life is yours.
- ☐ D. Study **The Biblical Model of Man's Failure** (Pages 2-6) and **The Biblical View of Self** (Pages 7-15). Note any portions that help you better understand God's view by looking up and highlighting all referenced verses.
- ☐ E. Study **Basic Approaches to Solving Personal Problems** (the chart at the back of this booklet). Mark any words in the "Man's Way" columns that you have been using and now recognize as unbiblical terms. Look up the Scripture passages listed on this chart.
- ☐ F. Read **Examples of Man's Way Compared to God's Way** (Pages 16-19). Place a check mark beside statements that apply to you.
- ☐ G. Study **Discerning Between Man's Way and God's Way** (Page 20-21) by looking up the listed verses.