

**THE “WHO TOLD YOU?” SERIES**  
**A STUDY IN DISCERNING THE VOICES OF OUR DAY**

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX923

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**Who Told You  
That You Were Good?**

Discerning the voices of our day and knowing what to do about what you hear.

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Development, Preparation, Maturity, Discipleship

Introduction and overview to the series

**Genesis 3:1-7**

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” :2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ” :4 Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” :6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. :8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. :9 Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” :10 So Adam said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” :11 And God said, “Who told you that you were naked?”

Introduction to the Topic of The Sinfulness of Man.

(depravity, degeneration, fall, expulsion, alienation)

**Genesis 2:16-17**

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

On that day, Mr. & Mrs. Man (Adam and Eve) committed Spiritual Suicide

If there was ever a genesis to religion, it is found here in verses 7

“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they **sewed fig leaves together and made for themselves coverings.**”

All in the effort to achieve the ultimate cover-up - the cover up of willful, known and deliberate sin

**“From that time on, man has sought to reclaim paradise lost but that original paradise was not a garden, as much as it was the relationship that man had with His Creator.”**

And so man has been arguing his case ever since:

**“that man is innately good, that man is born good, that man can become good, that man is good.”**

**The Sin of Self** \_\_\_\_\_ “never underestimate a man’s ability to justify himself”

A universal study in Anthropology (humankind) reveals that in every culture of every age there is an attempt to redeem one’s self from wrong-doing.

Universally, humans work hard at trying to justify themselves by sewing the fig leaves of excuses or association or blame  
(blame by far is the most popular form of justification)

The single most prominent theme found in the Bible is that of the Redemption of Mankind.

Man’s desire for Redemption comes from one absolute source of awareness – He has sinned and that makes man unable to be good.

When I say man is unable to be ‘good’, I mean good by nature.  
Man’s nature is not good.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

**“Who Told You  
That You Were Good?”**

**1.) When We’re Not So Good**

**“Who Told You  
That You Were Good?”  
When We’re Not So Good**

**1a.) Who are we in this world?**

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;

Genesis 2:15

Then the LORD God took the man and put him  
in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

Man was God’s expression of Himself to His Created World

Genesis 3:7-8

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; **and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.**

(a tragic intermission)

:8 AND THEY HEARD the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife HID THEMSELVES FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD GOD among the trees of the garden.

**“Who Told You  
That You Were Good?”  
When We’re Not So Good**

**1b.) Where did we come from?**

The Fact of Our Origin Proves The Existence of “Good”

Genesis 1:27-31

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” :29 And God said, “See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. 30 Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food”; and it was so. 31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was (meh-ode) very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

**“Who Told You  
That You Were Good?”  
When We’re Not So Good**

**1c.) What has happened to us?**

Genesis 2:16-17

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

“The Day” meaning in that very instant

What Happened to Us?

Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned

S.I.N. Positive

“We do not become sinners when we sin. We sin because we are sinners”

(What makes a thief a thief?)

**“Who Told You  
That You Were Good?”**

**2.) When Being Good Isn’t Good Enough**

**“Who Told You  
That You Were Good?”**

**When Being Good Isn’t Good Enough**

**2a.) By who’s standard is good determined by?**

There is a “General Good” a “Residual Good” that is within mankind which is responsible for his enlightenment, his benevolence, his reflective likeness of having been created in the image of God.

Education, Development, Humanitarian, Compassion, Technologies,  
and Discovery – These all arise from the Goodness of God.

Man, Apart from Jesus Christ is Unholy, Impure and Defiled.

Romans 1:18-20

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

**“Who Told You  
That You Were Good?”**

**When Being Good Isn't Good Enough**

**2b.) How do you achieve the status of good?**

Proverbs 20:9

Who can say, “I have made my heart clean,  
I am pure from my sin”?

In the Attempt to Re-create ourselves –  
we prove that we're still very much Adamic in nature

Galatians 2:16

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

Romans 3:19-20

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Genesis 3:7

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

There is within us all - a desire to perform "good"

Luke 18:18-23

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" :19 So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. 20 You know the commandments: "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not bear false witness," "Honor your father and your mother." :21 And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." :22 So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." :23 But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.

**"Who Told You  
That You Were Good?"**

**When Being Good Isn't Good Enough**

**2c.) How can we become good?**

The question is a flawed one.

It may be a sincere question. It may be a serious question, but it's an expired question – Adam exhausted it long ago.

There is no amount of good deeds, no noble efforts, nor sacrificial acts that can transform us into being "Good" - sorry!

The word "Good" has its origin in the Nature of God alone.

Linguistically, It has been corrupted by a common use.

**Can man become good again?**

Romans 5:1-2, 6-11,17

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God... :6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.... 17 For if by the one

man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

Good actually means morally pure; without blame; pure, worthy, virtuous.

## **“Who Told You That You Were Good?”**

### **3.) When Truth Trumps Our Reality**

It is the action and the reaction of our fallen human nature to view ourselves in a jaded or filtered light. That light is in truth a darkness that we apply to our reality.

John 3:19-20

And this is the condemnation, that The Light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed

## **“Who Told You That You Were Good?”**

### **When Truth Trumps Our Reality**

#### **3a.) What is the true effect of the Gospel upon you?**

That mankind in general is alone, lost, and in a state of perishing.  
More specifically, you are alone, lost, and in a state of perishing.

The Gospel is the only Good News That;  
even tough you're alone, lost, and perishing as a sinner –  
there is hope for you (if).

The *if* becomes the hinges that the door of hope swings upon.

Mark 1:15

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

Luke 13:5

I tell you, but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”

Acts 3:19

Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

Acts 8:22

Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.

Acts 17:30

Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

**“Who Told You  
That You Were Good?”**

**When Truth Trumps Our Reality**

**3b.) Where will you go to find release?**

**“Who Told You  
That You Were Good?”**

**When Truth Trumps Our Reality**

**3c.) How can you know that you're forgiven?**

By first coming to the natural, observable Truth.  
We all know the difference between right and wrong.  
We all have a sense of morality that comes from within.

Romans 3:24

Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Just as Adam & eve decided to reject God's word for their lives,  
You now must decide to either turn toward God for  
forgiveness and new life or continue on in rejection...

*End of Study*

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