

Understanding Cause and Effect

Pr 6:23 *"The commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life."*

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, July 2nd

The Preamble of the Declaration of Independence opens with the statement: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created..." How is it that truths that were once

"self evident" are now considered either lies or simply irrelevant? Because we fail to recognize the nature of the "thief" of Jn 10:10 and/or the cycle of history. History has a way of repeating itself, because "behind" human history are forces at work seeking to shape it. (Rev. 12:9) God chose Israel and uses their history to teach the world about God's Nature, as well as Satan's. While not every Jew was a "believer" God grew, guided, and guarded the nation for specific purposes. Particularly to become a "kingdom of priests" to reveal God's nature to the rest of the world. (Ex 19:4-6)

God's purposes haven't changed, and they apply to us! (2 Cor 1:20; 1 Pt. 2:9, 10)

1Cor 10:11 *"these things happened to them for ensamples and they are written for our admonition"*

1. God's blessings are tied to obedience. Deut. 11:26,27

"I set before you a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commands of the LORD your God..."

A. What does God "require" for His blessing? Dt 10:12-13

"what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to:

- 1) *"fear the LORD thy God," (Revere His Power)*
- 2) *"walk in all his ways" (Pursue the Path of life Ps 16:11)*
- 3) *"love him, (A Personal Relationship)*
- 4) *"serve the LORD (A Purposeful Relationship) with all thy heart and with all thy soul" (Passion)*
- 5) *"To keep (shamar: Protect {guard, value}) the commandments of the Lord."*

B. Why should we do this? Vs 13 *"for thy good"*

1) The nature of Satan (the beast) is:

- a) Deception Rev. 12:9; 2 Cor 4:4; Jn 8:44
- b) Division/Rebellion Rev. 12:3-7; 1 Sam 15:23
- c) Disease/Corruption Rev 12:9; Eph 4:22; Gen 6:12
- d) Destruction Rev 12:4, 13-17; Rev. 9:11; Jn 10:10; Mt 7:13

➤ Satan's nature has infected the world! 2 Cor. 4:4

1 Jn 5:23 *"the whole world lieth in wickedness" (Poneros: disease)*

➤ God's word (commands) are the cure. (entole: His authoritative prescription)

2) The nature of the Lord (and His law) is:

- a) Clarity/Truth. Jn 17:17; Jn 8:32; 14:6
- b) Unity/Peace. Jn 17:21; Ps 119:165; Is. 26:3
- c) Cleansing/Correcting (Jn 17:17; 15:3; 2 Tim. 3:16)
- d) Renewing/Reviving. (2 Ch. 7:14; Ps 23:3; 119:9)

Psalm 19:7-11 *"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward."*

2. God's curse is tied to Disobedience. Deut. 11:28

"and a curse, (qelâlâ': vilification) if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God"

God doesn't directly curse us (make us vile). We do this by our sin! He does remove the blessings of his word and its effects/protection in/on our lives. (the if/then of Ex. 19:4-6)

A. Understand Cause and Effect

1) The Cause (of the curse): Disobedience

a) We choose to rebel against God and His word/ways. 1 Sam. 15:22,23

b) We "distance" ourselves from God and His people. (Gen. 3:8; Heb 10:25)

2) The Effect/Consequences 1 Sam. 15

a) Deflection (*Blaming others*) 15 *"the people spared the best ...,"* 21 *"the people took..."*

b) Rationalization (*Justification*) 15,21, *"to sacrifice unto the Lord"* 24 *"because I feared the people"*

c) Rebellion (*Demonic influence*) 23 *"rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft!"*

d) Reprobation (*Stinking Thinking*) 20 *"I have obeyed the voice of the LORD"* (See Ro. 1:28; Gen. 3:1)

It's a bi-product of

(1) Incomplete (surface) Repentance! *Sorrow for the consequences, but not the cause!"* vs 30

(2) Satanic deception. 2 Tim. 2:24-26 *"oppose themselves...snare of the devil"* (Lk 15:17; Ro 1:18)

Eph. 4:26,27 *"Be angry and sin not... Neither give place (topos: opportunity) To the devil!"*

B. An Example of "cause/effect" from Mt. 18.

After telling about the lost sheep (11-14) Jesus gives tells us how to resolve offenses/personal conflicts. (13-17) *"How often should I forgive?, til 7x?"* (21) *"Jesus answers...until 70 x 7!"* (22)

Then he tells the story of an incredible debt (offense) that was forgiven Vs 23-27 (10,000 talents!)

This servant refused to forgive a much lesser debt imprisoning the one who owed him. (28-30)

When the King discovered this act of ingratitude:

1) He Confronted the ungracious servant. Vs 32-33 *"O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt ...shouldst not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow servant, even as I had pity on thee?"*

2) He Condemned the ungracious servant. Vs 34 *"And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him."* See Mt 7:1-2

Then Jesus applied this to all of us! Vs 35 *"So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."* (parap'tōma: errors, faults)

Conclusion:

Who/what are these Tormentors? The spiritual/emotional/relational effect caused by our disobedience and rebellion! 1 Sam. 15:23; Eph. 4:27; Heb. 12:15?

Why does God allow this? Pr 6:23-24 *"For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: To keep thee from the evil..."*

See Pr. 1:23-33 29-32 *"For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, (Turning away from what/who?) And the prosperity (shalwâ: false security) of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, (betāḥ: have refuge, confidence, hope) and shall be quiet (shā'an: peaceful) from fear of evil."*

Application: Cause and Effect

Ps 33:12 *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD"*

Ps 16:4 *"Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god"*

Which will you choose?