

Rationalization

“For we are each responsible for our conduct” (Galatians 6:5).

We are prone to rationalize ...shifting blame for our actions on to someone else. This tendency began when Adam and Eve committed the first sin. Genesis 3 spells it out. When God came looking for Adam He said to him, “Why did you do this thing?” And Adam said, “Well, it’s the woman you gave me. It’s your fault.” And when God said to Eve, “Why did you do it?” She responded “It was the serpent. You let him talk to me so it’s your fault.”

Think about a situation or a circumstance in which you rationalized your actions in the same way as did Adam and Eve. In essence were you not saying to God ...”It’s your fault, not mine. These circumstances that you’ve allowed me to get involved with make it impossible for me to obey You. Therefore, you’re to blame. I want to do it. You know my heart. You know that I really want to be what I ought to, but because of these circumstances, I can’t, so it’s really our fault!”

Make no mistake, all of us must be on guard against rationalization! What makes it so difficult is that not only it is painful to be honest with ourselves, but we can be deceived without even knowing it! And that is precisely why one of the most important acknowledgments each of us can make is to agree with the prophet Jeremiah when he stated: “the heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.”

Which is precisely why it would be most prudent to be honest with the Lord “*I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind” (Jeremiah 17:9-10)*. God knows our heart and He wants us to know our heart as well. “*The word of God is alive and active sharper than any two-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12)*.

Can you handle the truth? Fact is sometimes we do not like our circumstances. We do not like where God puts us. We do not like the people or the pressures we have to live under, we do not like the circumstances that surround us, and we refuse to accept them. That is the real problem. So we rationalize our behavior by saying we cannot help ourselves. What a crock!!!

Stop it already! Lean on God for the strength and the courage to do what is right! Christ found a way below, around and above our circumstances. He can reach us despite the pressures and through Him we can rise above our circumstances.

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