

Genesis 3 Summary

A child does not need to be taught how to sin. He is born equipped with the inbred propensity to fulfill every desire of the flesh. Under the control of the sinful nature, the child is totally self-centered and will willingly comply with every temptation offered by his sinful nature. Every thought, decision, and action of a child finds its motivation from self-centeredness. Whenever these decisions result in the knowing commission of a wrong action, the self-centered child will be convicted by his own conscience.

Self-centeredness does not want to be found wrong of anything therefore blame must be projected to something or someone else. This is called self-justification and is motivated by self-deception, the refusal to accept blame for wrong action. This results in an ever-increasing over-emphasis upon self or self-absorption. This, in a nutshell, defines and explains the present-day system of justice in the United States of America.

Our society never holds anyone accountable for their own poor decisions. Lawyers are hired and make obscene amounts of money by convincing juries and judges that the guilty defendant is not really responsible for his actions. Tort cases are conducted on this same contorted philosophy. People who make dumb decisions can project blame on almost anyone and win inordinate sums of money. Weak-minded jurors buy the logic of self-justification presented by the plaintiff and they too enter into self-deception. There is no justice in a system of jurisprudence which functions under the three arrogant skills.

Parents must learn to recognize the function of these skills in their children. When they occur in their various applications, primarily in the violation of imperative moods, then parental restraint must be imposed.

Proverbs 29:15 - The rod of reproof gives wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.

The phrase “gets his own way” doesn’t quite nail the idea. It is the Hebrew verb *SHALAH* and means to “send away,” or to “let loose.” It speaks of a child who is sent into adult life untrained.

The principle is that a child will grow up in conformity with his sinful nature if it is not controlled by parental authority. This principle is illustrated by Eli and his two evil sons.

1 Samuel 3:11 - The LORD said to Samuel, “Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.

1 Samuel 3:12 - In that day I will carry out against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.;

1 Samuel 3:13 - For I have told him that I am about to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them.

1 Samuel 3:14 - And therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever.”

Eli’s sons had committed the sin unto death. They had insulted the Lord’s sacrifice and had performed perverted acts at the doorway of the Tabernacle.

In 1 Samuel 3:13 we see that Eli’s sons “brought a curse on themselves.” This is the law of volitional responsibility. They will die the sin unto death. But Eli is held accountable because he did not “rebuke them.”

The word for “rebuke” is *KAHÁ* and it means to make weak or ineffective. Eli should have used his parental authority to make his sons’ sinful natures weak and ineffective.

His sons made themselves vile, but Eli did not impose enough restraint upon their sinful natures while he was their authority for them to develop a conscience strong enough to restrain their evil tendencies. The sad end was that the sons died the sin unto death, Eli was fired as a judge over Israel, and his line was terminated.

The principle is that no child is born with a programmed conscience and thus has no internal control over his sinful nature. The longer such a status quo is permitted to exist the more enslaved the child becomes to his sinful nature. Thus, in order to control this process, God has delegated almost unlimited power and authority to parents over children.

Until the power of the sinful nature is broken, there can be little if any successful training of the child. Until the child can control his own desires and trends, he must be controlled by some outside force. The parents thus function as the child's conscience dictating right and wrong until the child's conscience gets up to speed. If such restraints are not imposed then the child lives a life of sin followed by unassuaged guilt. This leads to the development of a psychotic adult whose major problem-solving devices are the three arrogant skills.

Note: We have now completed paragraph 8 in our study of the Imperative Moods of the Greek New Testament which is entitled, "Child Training." This paragraph had three subparagraphs:

- A. Soul Essence
- B. The Sinful Nature
- C. The Three Arrogant Skills in GENESIS 3.