

Ecclesiastes VII
The Wickedness of Man
Ecclesiastes 7:20-29

- I. THE INEQUITABLENESS OF THE JUST MAN (Ecclesiastes 7:20)
 - a. A Just Man That Doeth Good, and Sinneth Not (2 Chronicles 6:36)
 - i. Examples from Scripture:
 1. Adam – ate the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:6)
 2. Eve – listened to the Devil (Genesis 3:1-6)
 3. Noah – became drunken (Genesis 9:20-21)
 4. Abraham – lied about his wife (Genesis 12:10-13)
 5. Isaac – lied about his wife (Genesis 26:1, 6-11)
 6. Jacob – stole his brother’s birthright, and blessing (Genesis 25:30-34; 27:18, 26-29)
 7. Moses – was a murderer (Exodus 2:11-12)
 8. David – was a murderer and a(n) adulterer (2 Samuel 11:1-5, 14-17, 24-27)
 9. Daniel – allowed a king to bow to him (Daniel 2:46-49)
 10. Peter – denied the Lord (Matthew 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:54-62; John 18:25-27)
 11. Paul – would not listen to the Holy Ghost (Acts 21:10-14)
 - ii. The heart is desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9)
 - b. The Heart of Man (Mark 7:21-22)
 - i. The heart feigns things out of itself (Nehemiah 6:8)
 1. The heart can imagine things
 - a. The wicked imaginations of the heart is one six things that the Lord hates (Proverbs 6:16, 18-19)
 - b. The heart of the wicked is of little worth (Proverbs 10:20)
 2. The heart can contain feigned faith
 - a. Paul spoke of unfeigned love (2 Corinthians 6:6)
 - b. Paul spoke of unfeigned faith (1 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 1:5)
 - c. Peter spoke of unfeigned love (1 Peter 1:22)
 - ii. Peter spoke of feigned words that false prophets would speak (2 Peter 2:3). We understand that “out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh” (Matthew 12:34; Luke 6:45)

II. THE DECIETFULNESS OF THE HEART (Ecclesiastes 7:21-22)

a. Thine Own Heart

i. No man can say that his heart is clean (Ecclesiastes 7:22a; Proverbs 20:9)

1. No just man is completely clean of himself (Ecclesiastes 7:20)

a. David understood this truth (Psalm 51:5)

b. There is only one that justifies (1 Corinthians 4:4)

2. We can only be made just by the one who can save our souls (1 John 2:1-2)

a. We can be made just because Christ became the propitiation for our sins (1 John 4:10)

b. The meaning of *propitiation*: “to satisfy the demands for justice.”

c. Propitiation teaches us that man is a sinner and that God hates sin because God is righteous. Therefore, sin must be judged and judgment was assigned to me by God the Father. The wrath of God is on all those who do not know Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

d. However, when you trust in Jesus Christ as your Saviour, He stands between you and the wrath of God. He took that wrath upon Himself, paid the price of judgment, and gives you eternal life! It means that Jesus Christ satisfied God’s demand for the righteous judgment of sin. That is the doctrinal meaning of propitiation in simplicity.

e. For further study on this please see *David F. Reagan’s book How Your Sins Can Be Forgiven.*

ii. Thine own heart hast cursed others (Ecclesiastes 7:22b)

1. Out of the heart proceeds many evil things (Matthew 15:19)

2. The example of the wicked servant (Matthew 18:32-35)

3. The sin of Shimei (2 Samuel 16:5-12; 1 Kings 2:35-46)

4. The sin of Joab (1 Kings 2:28-34)

5. The commandment to have communication that is edifying to others (Ephesians 4:29)

b. Take No Head to All Words (Ecclesiastes 7:21)

i. The sound advice of not listening to all that is said

ii. The example of David (2 Samuel 16:5-13)

iii. Charity exemplified in David (1 Corinthians 13:5-7; 2 Samuel 19:19)