

Jesus' quick response to the young ruler, described in Mark 10:18 and Luke 18:19, when He was addressed as the "Good teacher" offered a wonderful way to make His point that the only "GOOD" ever demonstrated by humanity's behavior was in response to our Creator's Spiritual input.

Conversely, I believe He was implying that any "BAD" demonstrated in humanity's behavior is sponsored by the intrusion of Satan's evil input. Let's remember, the incarnated Christ, Named Jesus, was one hundred percent God, while also being one hundred percent humanity at the same time.

God Created His humanity to experience "mutual" relationships. As stated before, all genuine relationships, either with our Lord or with each other, include three major components: (1) Mutual agape type love, a purpose driven verb, not just an emotional feeling. (2) Mutual need, each for the other. (3) Mutual joy, resulting from experiencing the relationship.

It's essential to remember that God, our Creator and Lord, in order to cultivate genuine relationships, had to allow the "free choice" to accept or avoid them. Otherwise, we would have been instinctively motivated robotic creatures.

So, as we know from chapter 3 in Genesis, Satan, to avenge God whom he could not destroy, took advantage of humanity's free choice (*The tree of knowledge of good and evil*). His plan was simple; he removed agape love and replaced it with fear! Read 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:18 again. All sinful choices originate from yielding to a temptation that began with the seed of fear.

(Read "BIAP- Temptation & Suffering" and "BIAP-Temptation & Fear" [www.skipelmore.com](http://www.skipelmore.com))

We all, everyone, almost instinctively, knows right from wrong, good from bad, greed from need, generosity from selfishness. None of would fail a test on these.

Think about it though, if we had no fear we would never be intimidated by the thought of failing. It doesn't mean we would never fail, NO!!! It only means we would be ready to try another way. If we had no fear we would not be greedy or prideful or depressed as we anticipated our future. Here is an absolute fact; to the degree that we fear we eliminate JOY!!! To the degree we possess JOY we eliminate fear. The Apostle Paul had joy while being chained to a smelly guard in a cold damp dungeon. He knew the end of the journey. He lived life minute by minute knowing his Lord was in charge. Sometimes we live life challenge to challenge, don't we???

One of Satan's favorite tricks is to cause us to reason that our ability to possess the full worthiness to receive our Lord's "GRACE" is based on a "GOOD" past performance rather than the Spiritual position and authority provided by the faith to receive it.

**PLEASE DON'T CALL ME GOOD!!! CALL ME BLESSED!!!**

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