

Job 31

On What Does Your Righteousness Stand?

Why do we say that such-and-such is “a good person” or “a righteous person”? What do we base that description upon?

The reality is we often have a conscious or sub-conscious listing of “righteous deeds.” The question such a list raises is, “is that list complete enough?”

A. Job’s Reputation

- A. There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was **blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil.** (1:1)
- B. When the days of feasting had completed their cycle, Job would send and consecrate them, rising up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, “Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus Job did continually. (1:5)

B. Job’s Problem

- A. The LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a **blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.**” Then Satan answered the LORD, “Does Job fear God for nothing? “Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. “But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face.” (1:8–11)

C. Job’s Righteousness (Read passage with each topic)

- A. Chastity - in thought and deed 31:1–4
- B. Truthfulness - in dealings with others 31:5–8
- C. Respectful - of other men’s wives 31:9–12
- D. Just - in dealing with servants 31:13–15
- E. Generous - to the poor, the widow, and the orphan 31:16–18
- F. Compassionate - to the needy 31:19–23
- G. Faithful - trusting God rather than mammon 31:24–28
- H. Sympathetic - toward enemies 31:29–30
- I. Hospitable - toward strangers 31:31–32
- J. Clear Conscience - regarding sin 31:33–34

D. Job’s Perceived Attitude

- A. But the anger of Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram burned; against Job his anger burned because he justified himself before God. (32:2)

E. The Basis for Righteousness

- A. What does God say?
 - A. Job is “blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil”
- B. Blameless = “complete, morally innocent, having integrity”
- C. Upright = ethically appropriate
- D. Fearing God = “a respect or reverence for the divine will”
- E. Turning away from evil = keeping to the path of wisdom and making choices to avoid evil pathways

F. His Life’s Accomplishments were not the basis for his righteousness.

Are you Basing your Righteousness on External Qualities visible to others?

“The essential element found in this new life in the spirit demonstrates God’s foundational character: unity. Those who live in the Spirit experience life as one body possessing differing qualities. *This mode of life contrasts life in the flesh which requires uniformity, an imposing of identical qualities on each individual.* Such unity only exists in the Messiah who calls both Jews and Gentiles, and directs how each person fits and participates in this new unified body. *The righteousness of God is revealed even more fully when diverse individuals and antagonistic people groups are unified from the inside out,* not when they are separated on the basis of a list of external qualities they do or do not possess.”

Are you Basing your Righteousness on the Declaration made by God – who surpasses our understanding?

The righteous nature of God has now been revealed ... through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ to all believing individuals. God makes no distinction—although everyone sinned and fell short of God’s glory—those who are believing are justified as a gift by his grace through the redemption made possible in Jesus Christ; God displayed Jesus ... in order to demonstrate in our time God’s righteous nature by showing himself righteous and declaring righteous the one from the faith of Jesus.
(3:21-26)

We are not righteous because we behave in a certain way.

We behave in a certain way because God’s righteousness is being revealed in us.

We are righteous individuals simply because we trust the declaration by God.