

These Perilous Times

Vol. 7 No. 22 Nov. 21, 2016

What Do God's People Believe? Part VII

If you have earned a college degree in any discipline, you most likely were required to take at least one course in psychology.

I remember studying early "Childhood Development," which was required for all education majors. The psychologist Piaget's "four developmental stages" of cognition was paramount for all Ed Majors.

He and other psychologists conducted research concerning **nurture** versus **nature**.

Their study, generally speaking, concluded that one's **environment**, {**nurture**}, and one's **genetics** {**nature**} do impact one's cognitive and social development to a greater degree than once realized. What about Christian growth? We should not consult secular psychologist concerning Spiritual matters. We will look at what God's Word says about this in a later issue of TPT.

What does this mean for us?

Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season

The Lord warned Israel that when they went into the land {another environment/culture} that He gave them, not to adopt the heathen practices of those nations. ¹

If other churches are doing it, {especially other **SDA churches**} it must be okay, right?

God's remnant people need to be weary of that old cliché, "When in Rome do as the Romans do." **Especially** today.

By beholding we become changed.

"Now the Lord is that Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." II Corinthians 3:17, 18 {Emphasis supplied}

¹ Deuteronomy 8:9-18

From the **Bible account in Genesis** we find that Adam, and Eve couldn't blame **nurture**, {**their environment**-the garden of Eden-A Paradise on Earth} or **nature**, {**their genetics**-Created sinless, in God's Image} for their fall from grace! So they began pointing fingers.

The greatest "pseudo-scientist," "alive, Satan, came to their paradise home environment and carried out his deceitful plan of death. Believing a lie does not make it truth, **no matter who propagates it.**

Question: Do humans have to **choose to sin** because of **our fallen human nature?** Absolutely not! The Lord is on our side Friends! Please notice these "**victory in Jesus,**" texts: I Corinthians 10:13; Philippians 4:13; I John 5:4, 5; Jude 24.

Seventh-day Adventists Believe...

7. The Nature of Man

"Man and woman were created in the image of God with individuality; the power and freedom to think and do. Though created beings each is an indivisible unity of body, mind, and spirit dependent upon God for life and breath and all else.

When our first parents disobeyed God, they **denied their dependence upon Him** and fell from their high position under God. The image of God in them was marred and they become subject to death.

Their descendants share the fallen nature, {us} and its consequences. They are born with weaknesses and 'tendencies' to evil. But God **in Christ reconciled the world to Himself** and **'by His Spirit restores in penitent mortals the image of their Maker.'**

Created for the Glory of God, that are called to **love Him and one another**, and **care for their environment**," {Emphasis supplied}. ² Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7; Ps. 8:4-8; Acts 17:24-28; Gen. 3; Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:12-17; II Cor. 5:19, 20; Ps. 51:10; I John 4:7, 8, 11, 20; Gen. 2:15.



² Seventh-day Adventist Believe, "A Biblical Exposition of Fundamental Beliefs," 2005, pp. 91-111.