

## Psalm 100v2

### Bible study questions and application

1. Can you think of any other reason than the sinful nature in people is the reason why men and women and children are so selfish with the desire to be served rather than serve? Discuss the responses urging members of the group to base their view on what the Bible teaches.
2. Are human beings basically good or basically evil? Consider *Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

RC Sproul: Despite this verdict on human shortcomings, the idea persists in our humanistically dominated culture that sin is something peripheral or tangential to our nature. Indeed we are flawed by sin. Our moral records exhibit blemishes. But somehow we think that our evil deeds reside at the rim or edge of our character and never penetrate to the core. Basically, it is assumed, people are inherently good.

This is not what the Bible teaches. The Bible teaches the total depravity of the human race. Total depravity means radical corruption. We must not see the difference between total depravity and utter depravity. To be utterly depraved is to be as wicked as one could possibly be. Hitler was extremely depraved but he could have been worse than he was. I am a sinner. Yet I could sin more often and more severely than I actually do. I am not utterly depraved, but I am totally depraved. For total depravity means that I and everyone else are depraved or corrupt in the totality of our being. There is no part of us that is left untouched by sin. Our minds, our wills and our bodies are affected by evil. We speak sinful words, do sinful deeds, have impure thoughts. Our bodies suffer from the ravages of sin.

...it is because sin is at the core and not merely the exterior of our lives that the Bible says:

*Romans 3:10 as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."*

It is because of this condition that the verdict of Scripture is heard:

*Ephesians 2:1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins*

*Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin.*

*Romans 7:23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.*

*Ephesians 2:3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*

Only by the quickening power of the Holy Spirit may we be brought out of the state of spiritual death. It is God who makes us alive as we become his craftsmanship  
Ephesians 2:1-10.

3. Read and discuss 1 John 1:8-10

4. Apply the Biblical truth of the depravity of man with trying to serve the Lord with gladness apart from being a new creature in Christ (*Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*)

5. Urge the group to see that if any person in the church is to be a humble, righteous, active and joyful servant he or she must be born of the Spirit.

6. Discuss Jesus response to James and John regarding greatness in Mark 10:32-45

7. Discuss the 2 points of application in the sermon:

- **Serving the Lord with gladness applies to all believers**

At Central we have **people from different** cultures, backgrounds, classes, wealthy, education...

- **Serving the Lord with gladness applies in all of life's situations**

At Central we have **people in different stages** and phases and seasons of life.