

From Tablets of Stone to the Human Heart

“... You are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.” 2 Corinthians 3:3

I think most people instinctively know right from wrong. What they don't all know is that it is not in their best interest to do wrong. Somehow, the physical, animal brain must be reverting to pre-evolutionary patterns of thought relating to the struggle to survive, often at the expense of those with whom we compete for scarce resources. As individuals and as a species, we are evolving and learning to overcome our baser instincts and replace them with the godly instincts of our indwelling spiritual natures. The Apostle Paul got it right when he described this as warfare of sorts between our spiritual and fleshly natures.

Erecting an artificial set of rules and regulations and trying to enforce them by applying external force (ie. the criminal justice system) does not work very well. It is the inner man that needs to be addressed, not the outer. The external restraints are necessary for the protection and well-being of society. The long-term solution involves a painful, and slow evolutionary process of trial and error. As we experience evil, as both victims and perpetrators, and consequently experience God's love and forgiveness, then over time we each individually gain victory over our lower natures. Sometimes it seems as though as a society, we are losing this battle, but actually, if you study the history of mankind, some sort of progress seems evident, but it is not quick and certainly not steady.

May the Lord's prayer be our prayer as well: *“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”* (Matthew 6:10)