**Do Circumstances Cause Sin?**

Prepared By Nathan L Morrison for Sunday February 6th, 2022

Text: Philippians 4:11-13

# Intro

1. Do our circumstances in life control us & cause us to sin, or do we choose to do right no matter our circumstances?
2. There have always been speculations on whether a good environment or bad environment makes us who we are, thus many experiments have been conducted on the matter.
3. Society today blames a lot on the home, the city, the school, and the friends people grow up with, even the color of one’s skin, to defend the crimes & sin people commit, or explain their blessings.
4. Movies have been made and stories have been told on role-reversals of good and bad people to see if the bad person in a good environment would turn good, and the good person in a bad environment would turn to crime.
5. Are good circumstances the cause of faithfulness?
6. Are bad circumstances the cause of sin?
7. We often don’t get to choose the environments we live in, so do we have a choice to do good or bad? (Philippians 4:11-13)
8. Paul says he “learned to be content in whatever circumstances” he found himself in!

## Is A Good Environment The Cause Of Faithfulness?

* + - * 1. Does living under the perfect circumstances create perfect people?
1. **Eden? (Did Adam & Eve sin or stay faithful?)**
	1. Some long to return to the Garden of Eden!
	2. *Genesis 2:8:* In Eden was every necessity, and the most beautiful place on earth.
	3. That would be the best situation, to return to the way God created man. The perfect surroundings where man could keep from sinning and remain faithful to God…right?
	4. *Genesis 3:1-19:* But even the Garden of Eden did not guarantee that man would not sin.
	5. Genesis 3:6-7: The fall of man. They became aware of right and wrong and they knew they had done wrong (Sinned!).
	6. Sinned! A Paradise Environment does not cause one to be faithful!
2. **Riches? (Did Solomon sin or stay faithful?)**
	1. Solomon had a magnificent environment. He had wisdom, power, & wealth *(I Ki. 10:23).*
	2. He received 666 Talents of gold a year in tribute *(I Kings 10:14).*
	3. *I Kings 11:4:* Solomon’s surroundings and environment did not make him a faithful man!
	4. *I Kings 11:4-10:* Even with all his wisdom and power he allowed his heart to be turned away from God who had given him all the wealth he enjoyed.
	5. People with good jobs and who enjoy blessings of wealth today often allow Satan to tempt them away from God, from whom their blessings flow *(Js. 1:17)!*
	6. Sinned! Wealth and riches are not the cause for faithful living!
3. **A Good Home? (Did the young son sin or stay faithful?)**
	1. *Luke 15:22:* The young son had a “good home.” He had a loving and devoted father, money, servants and all he wanted. He lived under the best of circumstances, according to most people’s thinking even today.
	2. *Luke 15:11-13:* But the good home did not keep the boy faithful and from sin. He became known as the “Prodigal Son,” which means “reckless and extravagant.” “Loose living.”
	3. Many today are shocked when people from “good homes” go and do bad things.
	4. Many times it even makes headlines. Christians who grow up in the church and know better fall away, and sometimes never return.
	5. Sinned! Good homes do not cause one to be faithful!
4. **Heaven? (Did Angels sin or stay faithful?)**
	1. Heaven, in the presence of God, might be considered the one place where those who abide there would not sin.
	2. *II Peter 2:4:* Angels who sinned were cast into “Hell” (G5020: Tartaros: The deepest pit of Hades), into pits of darkness and reserved for judgment! “God did not spare…”
	3. *Jude 6:* Angels, who are also created beings, living in the presence of God Almighty, have sinned and have been cast out, placed in chains, and reserved for judgment!
	4. Sinned! Even in Heaven, there have been angels who sinned and were cast out!

## A so-called “good environment” is not the solution to sin.

* 1. Proverbs 30:15-16: When we seem to have everything in the eyes of man, and yet want more, we are like the leech, or a famined earth, or an all-consuming fire.
	2. Even under the best conditions man and angels have sinned.
	3. If one is foolish & rebellious, the best surroundings can still lead to sin *(I Timothy 1:8-11).*
1. Temptation and sin arises when one is not content and covets more! *(James 1:14-15; 4:1-3)*

## Is A Bad Environment The Cause of Sin?

* + - 1. Does living in adverse or terrible circumstances produce sinful people?
			2. **Slavery? (Did Joseph sin or stay faithful?)**
1. Although he was only 17 years old, Joseph faced tremendous burdens and temptations.
2. Within his own family he faced strife, jealousy and hatred from his brothers.
3. *Genesis 37:2-5, 8-11*: For his dreams, his brothers mocked him and hated him; and his father rebuked him.
4. *Genesis 37:18-28:* His brothers threw him in a pit and plotted to murder him, but decided to make some money by selling him into slavery.
5. *Genesis 39:11-20:* Even in slavery Joseph’s problems did not stop. He was falsely accused of rape and thrown in to prison where he remained for 7 years.
6. Yet under all these circumstances Joseph did not sin and remained faithful to God!
7. *Genesis 45:5-8:* Joseph reveals himself to his brothers who have thought him dead all these years, and he tells them, “What you meant for evil, God meant for good. God put me here to save you.”
8. Faithful! Even in captivity, Joseph remained faithful to God!
9. **Losing All? (Did Job sin or stay faithful?)**
	1. Satan even tried to apply this principle to Job’s faithfulness once.
	2. Job had it all. Everything a man could want, riches, a big family, fame, wisdom, and good health. Yet, he lost everything, even his health. (*Job 1 &2*)
	3. *Job 1:8-11:* Satan told God that Job only worshiped Him because of his good environment. Then through the book, Satan began to take from him all that he had materially, and then also physically.
	4. *Job 1:22:* After losing all that he had materially, he did not sin nor blame God.
	5. *Job 2:9-10:* After being afflicted physically, his wife tells him to “Curse God and die.” He scolds her instead and says, “Shall we not accept the good with the bad?”
	6. Faithful! In losing all he had, he still did not sin!
10. **A Bad Home? (Did Jonathan sin or stay faithful?)**
	1. So many people blame the home for crime and say, “He came from a broken home.” They use this to try and garner sympathy for the accused – Used as an excuse!
	2. *I Samuel 15:20-21:* Jonathan came from a bad home. Saul was king but not a good one. Saul looked out after his own interests and not those of his people, even blaming the people when he sinned in not annihilating the Amalekites as God had instructed him to do.
	3. *I Samuel 20:30-33:* Not only did Saul try to kill David but he tried to kill his son, Jonathan, by hurling his spear at him!
	4. *I Samuel 23:16-18:* Jonathan knew God had removed his father from being king, and was perfectly content in serving under David, showing he had faith in God.
	5. Jonathan came from a spiritually dead home, and yet, his faith in God was strong enough to allow him to see past his own legacy to that of David’s, God’s anointed.
	6. Faithful! A broken home does not cause one to sin!
11. **Stoned and Beaten? (Did Paul sin or stay faithful?)**
	1. Suppose you were stoned, beaten and imprisoned? Would that be enough to make you sin against God?
	2. Paul was stoned, beaten and imprisoned many times.
	3. *Acts 14:19*: Paul was stoned and left for dead in Lystra *(14:8).*
	4. *II Corinthians 11:23-33*: Beaten times without number by both his countrymen and enemies, five times whipped for 39 lashes, shipwrecked 3 times, countless nights without sleep, dangers around every corner, yet in all this, Paul did not curse God nor blame God.
	5. *II Timothy 4:7-8:* Living under these awful conditions did not move Paul to sin and fall away from the Lord.
	6. Faithful! Paul did not allow his circumstances to influence him to sin!
		* 1. Bad circumstances do not cause one to sin!
		1. The men above were under adversity and yet all remained faithful to the Lord.
		2. Revelation 2:13: God told the church in Pergamum that He knows they dwell where Satan dwells, here on this earth, and yet they hold fast His name*. (Faithful in persecution – Acts 8:3-4)*
		3. Temptations may be worse in adverse conditions, but temptations can also be just as strong under good circumstances!
		4. Children of God still need the right attitudes:
			1. Obedient – Rom. 6:17-18
			2. Steadfast – Col. 1:21-23
			3. Trusting – Prov. 3:5
12. Even under the worst conditions, we can keep ourselves from sin and remain faithful!

## Conclusion

1. The controlling factor in whether we sin or not is not the outward circumstances but the inward state of mind.
2. Society may make excuses for the deeds of man, but there will be no excuses on the Day of Judgment – We will give an account for our own actions! *(II Corinthians 5:10: Good or bad)*
3. We may not always be able to choose the environments we live in, but we do choose how we will live in them!
4. What about you? In your current trials and storms of life, will you sin or stay faithful?
5. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. No matter the environment you live in, you are lost if not making the decision to live for Christ. Repent and be baptized!
6. If a child of God who have let circumstances dictate your behavior, you need to choose to serve God no matter the environment you live in. Repent and place your trust in God!
7. Whatever your requests, come forward ***NOW*** and let it be known while we stand and sing.