

“AUTONOMY”

(autos + nomos) Self Governed or Independent or Self-determined

Philippians 2:21 For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus.

James 2:8 ...royal law, according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

1 Corinthians 10:33 just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the [profit] of the many, that they may be saved.

I. AUTONOMY was never to be a part of the essential character of man.

- A. Man was not completely created until the woman followed him (Gen. 1:27, 31; 2:18).
 - 1. They were created for fellowship (dependence) on God and one another (Gen. 2:23; 3:8).
 - 2. Fellowship has a price, faithfulness. They were unfaithful to God's word (Gen. 3:1-7).
 - 3. Cain, the eldest son of Adam and Eve, followed suit (Gen. 4:1-8).
 - a. Cain uttered the most heartless thing spoken by newly created man ever (Gen. 4:9 *"am I my brother's keeper?"*). Yes he was as a matter of fact!
 - b. Cain's ancestors for a thousand generations would follow this model.

II. AUTONOMY was firmly established on the face of the entire earth in the heart of every man.

- A. The pre-flood world was wholly given over to this corruption (Gen. 6:5).
- B. The people would clamor for a king and seek freedom from the restraints of God (1 Sam. 8:1-7).
- C. The King of Kings would also be deserted as a possible ruler and guide (Luke 19:14).

III. AUTONOMY first rejects God and eventually every man.

- A. All selfish autonomy seeks to be absolutely free from all restraints. *1 John 3:4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.* One can shirk all responsibility from everything.
 - 1. They begin by falling in love with themselves (2 Tim. 3:2).
 - 2. They abandon God in part or in whole (Rom. 1:21-22).
 - 3. They abandon the Lord and His church wholesale (John 6:66).
 - 4. They abandon their families (Mal. 2:14-16).
 - 5. They abandon their jobs (2 Thess. 3:10).
 - 6. They abandon the preachers of the gospel (Matt. 25:45).
 - 7. They abandon the support of the work of God in this world (Mal. 3:8).
 - 8. They abandon the needs of others less fortunate (Pro. 21:13; 28:27; Ecc. 5:13; James 2:16; 1 John 3:17). Their cry still is, *"charity begins at home."*
 - 9. They abandon sinners with heartless indifference (Mt. 27:4). *"They said, "What is that to us?"*

IV. AUTONOMY, the remedy.

- A. Realize that we were created in the image of God to conform to the character of His selfless Son.
 - 1. Embrace the Lord with all your heart (Acts 4:13; 2 Cor. 5:14-15).
 - 2. Embrace the church Christ shed His blood for with all of your heart (Acts 20:28).
 - 3. Embrace your families as well as your jobs (Eph. 5 and 6).
 - 4. Embrace preachers and elders of the gospel as they keep watch over your souls (Heb. 13:17).
 - 5. Embrace the financial support of the church and others as well (Mal. 3:10; 2 Cor. 8:5).
 - 6. Embrace "The Royal Law," that says, "you shall love your neighbor as yourself."
 - 7. Embrace sinners as did our Lord before us (Luke 15:1-2; 1 Cor. 10:33).
- B. Remember, when you think that you're the best thing going, you're probably not.