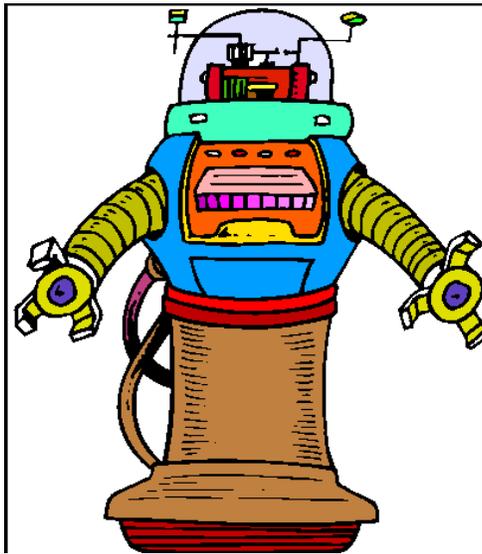


WHY DIDN'T GOD MAKE MAN SO HE WOULD NOT SIN? (17)

As I go around the world teaching the gospel, frequently I get the above question. As we see all the sorrow in the world caused by man's sin, it is hard to imagine why God would make us capable of such evil. We have taught before in these lessons that man is the only part of God's creation that disobeys. All the stars, planets, and galaxies stay in their orbits and function as they are supposed to. The animals do as nature dictates. Only man is a rebel.



God certainly had the power to make man where he would perform like a robot with perfect obedience. He could have made him where he always obeyed exactly, precisely, and promptly. However, God made man in his own image with the power of choice. God wanted to have close fellowship with each human being. Man is the crowning act of creation because God wants us to be his children. He wants us to obey him as would any parent, but he wants obedience based on love and thanksgiving, not force.

When a parent has a child, which would he choose? A robot-like child who always obeyed perfectly or a child who could be appealed to obey out of love? Does the parent want a computerized obedient child or a child who actually cares for the parent?

Parents hope that their children will respond over time to their care, concern, love, and sacrifice. Even though our children rebel sometimes and make foolish choices that hurt them, we patiently give them time to mature and gain insight and wisdom. Though they disobey, we hope our constant concern and sacrificial love will bring them to love us and know how much it hurts us to see them suffer needlessly.

When God made us with the power of choice, he knew that the potential choice of evil was real. Therefore, before he ever made the human race, he designed a plan of saving mankind from the final consequence of their rebellion and sin. God proposed before the creation to sacrifice his own perfect son in order to give us another chance. The Bible is a historical record of how that eternal plan was carried out in the history of the world. In our next lesson we will look at several places in the Bible that teach that God's plan to save us was in his heart from before creation.

But before we close we need to talk about one more thing. Many atheists (unbelievers) point to the fact of evil in the world as proof that God does not exist. They say that Christians teach that God is a God of love and that he is all-powerful. That is true. The

atheists then argue this way: (1) If God is a loving God he would not want evil in the world. (2) If he was all-powerful, he would do something to stop it. (3) Since evil does exist in the world, there is no God!

However, they are ignorant of the fact of why God made man. He made man to have fellowship with him and made him in his own image. He gave man the power to make a loving response to God. But in order to freely choose to love God, there had to be the possibility of choosing to hate God and righteousness. If we were made like robots there would be no evil or suffering in the world.

No questions to answer today.