

What is Wrong?

*Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me”
Psalm 51:10*

None of us like to be confronted with something we have done wrong. Sometimes the reminder comes from a friend who is trying to offer helpful correction. Sometimes it comes from a person who wants to tear us down through criticism. And, sometimes it comes from the Holy Spirit who is convicting us of an area of our life that is not pleasing to God. Whatever the source, we do not like to be confronted with our faults.

Yesterday I was reminded of my tendency to justify my actions when I am confronted with something that did not go right. I had to admit that I have this compelling desire to make certain that others know what went wrong and how my actions were well intended. One of the ways we deal with sin is to make excuses. But, this is not God's way.

Sometimes we deal with our wrong doing by finding a scapegoat (someone who is punished for the errors of others). When we sin, it is our propensity to find someone else to blame. We may do this by exposing their sins to make us look better. Or, we may blame them, naming them as the cause of the transgression. (Remember the excuse Adam gave when God confronted him with his sin: “the woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.”)

When we come face-to-face with our sin, Satan gets us to justify our actions and to blame others so that we will not have to admit that we *have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)*. When the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin we need to be careful not to justify our actions or blame others for the things that are wrong, but to take responsibility and confess our sin. We need to plead with God to have mercy and *create in us a clean heart*.