

Children Have a Sinful Nature and Behave Out of Their Hearts

Answer Key

- I. What the problem is not.
- A. The problem is not low self-esteem.
 - B. The problem is not ADD/ADHD.
 - C. The problem is not social or economic status.
 - D. The problem is not neighborhood or friends.
 - E. The problem is not personality type.
 - F. The problem is not poor education.
- II. What the problem is. Children are not naturally good. They are born with a sinful nature.
- A. What is a sinful nature? What affect does it have on us?
 1. “Sin nature means that all humans, including babies and children, have inherent sinful characters, dispositions, natural instincts, desires, and appetites. According to the Bible, all humans, including children, have a natural bent or orientation toward sinful behavior and thinking.” – Pastor Rowe
 2. Children are sinful from conception. Psalm 51:3-5.
 3. From the time we are born, we are controlled by this sinful nature. The Bible describes us as being slaves to it. Romans 7:5,Romans 8:8,Romans 6:16-20a.
 - B. Where does the sinful nature reside? The sinful nature resides in the heart.
 1. It is NOT genetic. When we get saved, sin’s power in our lives is overcome through a heart change, not through a genetic change. Ezekiel 36:26-27
 2. “Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child.” Proverbs 22:15
 3. Jesus consistently taught that man’s problems were internal (in his heart), not external. Matthew 12:33-37, Mark 7:20-23. The problem is with you and me, not with our circumstances or with other people.

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Answer Key

- C. What are the results of having a sinful nature?
1. Sinful actions. Galatians 5:19-20
 2. Sinful speech. Matthew 12:34b-36
 3. Sinful thoughts. Mark 7:21-22
 4. Temper tantrums, stubbornness, lying, jealousy, selfishness, laziness, rebellion, pride, blame-shifting, making excuses, disobedience, defiance, arguing, complaining, impatience, immodesty, fornication, cheating, hatred, bitterness, hitting, biting, cruelty, revenge, ...
- D. What about the negative influence of sinful peers, gang infested neighborhoods, etc?
Bad company does corrupt good character. However, they are only encouraging what is already in the child's heart!
- E. Please take this teaching seriously. We often say and do things that are sinful and then try to excuse ourselves by saying that we didn't mean it that way. The Bible says that we did mean it and that it came directly out of our hearts. Proverbs 26:18-19
- F. Your child's behavior gives you insight into what's happening in his heart.

III. Seven characteristics of parents who believe that their child has a sinful nature.

1. When your child's misbehavior is brought to your attention do you believe that your child committed the offense?
2. Do you expect your child to misbehave or does it catch you off guard?
3. Do you develop plans on how to deal with problems before they come. For example, "What will I do if (when) ...?"
4. Are you surprised by good behavior? Do you encourage it when you see it?
5. Do you spend time teaching and training morality and character into your child?
6. Do you discipline/correct your child and hold him accountable for his actions?
7. Do you witness to your child?

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Student Worksheet

- I. What the problem is ____.
- A. The problem is not low _____.
 - B. The problem is not ADD/ADHD.
 - C. The problem is not _____ or economic status.
 - D. The problem is not neighborhood or _____.
 - E. The problem is not personality type.
 - F. The problem is not poor _____.
- II. What the problem is. Children are ____ naturally good. They are born with a sinful _____.
- A. What is a sinful nature? What affect does it have on us?
 1. "Sin nature means that _____ humans, including babies and children, have inherent sinful characters, dispositions, natural instincts, desires, and appetites. According to the Bible, all humans, including children, have a natural bent or orientation toward sinful behavior and thinking." – Pastor Rowe
 2. Children are sinful from _____ . Psalm 51:3-5.
 3. From the time we are born, we are _____ by this sinful nature. The Bible describes us as being _____ to it. Romans 7:5,Romans 8:8,Romans 6:16-20a.
 - B. Where does the sinful nature reside? The sinful nature resides in the _____ .
 1. It is NOT _____. When we get saved, sin's power in our lives is overcome through a heart change, not through a genetic change. Ezekiel 36:26-27
 2. "Foolishness is bound up in the _____ of a child." Proverbs 22:15
 3. Jesus consistently taught that man's problems were _____ (in his heart), not external. Matthew 12:33-37, Mark 7:20-23. The problem is with you and me, not with our circumstances or with other people.

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Student Worksheet

C. What are the results of having a sinful nature?

1. Sinful _____. Galatians 5:19-20

2. Sinful _____. Matthew 12:34b-36

3. Sinful _____. Mark 7:21-22

4. Temper tantrums, stubbornness, lying, jealousy, selfishness, laziness, rebellion, pride, blame-shifting, making excuses, disobedience, defiance, arguing, complaining, impatience, immodesty, fornication, cheating, hatred, bitterness, hitting, biting, cruelty, revenge, ...

D. What about the negative influence of sinful peers, gang infested neighborhoods, etc? Bad company does corrupt good character. However, they are only encouraging what is already in the child's heart!

E. Please take this teaching _____. We often say and do things that are sinful and then try to excuse ourselves by saying that we didn't mean it that way. The Bible says that we did mean it and that it came directly out of our hearts. Proverbs 26:18-19

F. Your child's _____ gives you insight into what's happening in his _____.

III. Seven characteristics of parents who believe that their child has a sinful nature.

1. When your child's misbehavior is brought to your attention do you _____ that your child committed the offense?

2. Do you _____ your child to misbehave or does it catch you off guard?

3. Do you develop plans on how to deal with problems before they come. For example, "What will I do if (when) ...?"

4. Are you surprised by good behavior? Do you _____ it when you see it?

5. Do you spend time _____ and training morality and character into your child?

6. Do you discipline/correct your child and hold him accountable for his actions?

7. Do you _____ to your child?