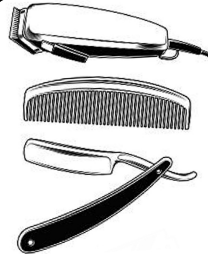




Whose Fault Is It?

John 6:31-40

The story has been told of a preacher and an atheistic barber walking through the city slums. Said the barber to the preacher:



“This is why I cannot believe in a God of love. If God were as kind as you say, He would not permit all this poverty, disease and squalor. He would not allow these bums to be addicted to dope and other character-destroying habits. I cannot believe in a God who permits these things.”

The minister was silent until they met a man who was especially unkempt and filthy. His hair was hanging down his neck, and he had a half-inch of stubble on his face. Said the preacher: “You can’t be a very good barber or you wouldn’t permit a man like that to continue living in this neighborhood without a haircut or shave.”

Indignantly the barber answered: “Why blame me for that man’s condition? I can’t help it that he is like that. He has never given me a chance to help him. If he would only come to my shop, I could fix him up and make him look like a gentleman!”

Giving the barber a penetrating look, the preacher said: “Then don’t blame God for allowing these people to continue in their evil ways when He is constantly inviting them to come and be saved. The reason these people are slaves to sin and evil habits is that they refuse the One who died to save and deliver them.”

The greatest surgeon in the world cannot help the patient who refuses to come to him and refuses to let him do his work. Jesus said, “Ye will not come to Me, that ye might have life” (*John 5:40*). All those who are willing to come to the Great Physician are wonderfully spiritually restored and eternally saved (*1 Peter 2:24; John 6:37*).

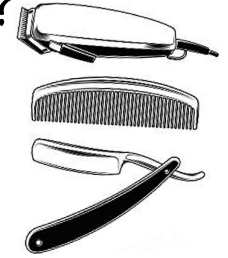
~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org



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