

**SCRIPTURE READING:** De 21:18-21.

**INTRODUCTION:** Stubbornman, Harry Randall Truman, and Pharaoh.

**DISCUSSION:**

**1. What is stubbornness?**

- A. Stubbornness is “having or showing dogged determination not to change one's attitude or position on something, especially in spite of good arguments or reasons to do so” (NAOD).
- B. In spite of the evidence for change, a stubborn person's battle cry is, “No I won't and you can't make me!”
- C. Synonyms for stubborn include doggedly insistent, intransigent, pigheaded, obstinate, headstrong, willful, obdurate, intractable, strong-willed, hardheaded and stiff-necked.
- D. “But shouldn't we be stubborn about some things? For example, shouldn't we stubbornly refuse to do wrong?” Righteously determined yes, sinfully stubborn no. Righteous determination is willing to change but refuses to do so when an objective examination of the evidence proves that a change is not warranted, whereas sinful stubbornness is unwilling to change and refuses to do so even when an objective examination of the evidence proves that a change is warranted.

**2. Are people stubborn?** De 9:6.

**3. Why are people stubborn?** Why do people refuse to change in spite of overwhelming evidence that they need to change? Here are just a few of many possible reasons:

- A. *Selfishness.* Je 18:11-12.
- B. *Laziness.* It is far easier to remain as we are than become what we ought to be.
- C. *Fear of change.* Mt 10:34-38.
- D. *Arrogance.* De 29:19A.
- E. *Willfulness.* Some people are stubborn because they would rather suffer horribly than give anyone the satisfaction of having made them change. The prisoner and the utensil illustration.
- F. *Power and manipulation.*
- G. *Passive aggression.*
- H. *The refusal to accept things they cannot change.* Ps 81:11-12. "Unfortunately, you may try everything when you're dealing with the stubborn person and may get absolutely no results. If the stubborn person isn't budging an inch, listening to you at all, or willing to accept another perspective though you've tried providing more information, flattering him (in a righteous way *tdn*), being firm, and showing how much the decision would mean to you, then it may be time to walk away. If you can't do any good, then you may only be doing harm, and it's better to leave the situation if you know it's not going anywhere. If you keep trying to make a stubborn person see your point of view to no avail at all, then you may end up being the stubborn one" (WikiHow).

**4. How do we overcome stubbornness?** *We must, among other things, ...*

- A. *Admit our stubbornness.* When people tell us we need to change do we always listen attentively, put what they told us in our own words until they are satisfied we understand they are saying, and then carefully consider what they have said, or do we sometimes act like the children of Israel as described in Zec 7:11-12A?
- B. *Appreciate the seriousness of our stubbornness.*
  - 1) Stubbornness curses. Je 7:23-24.
  - 2) God hates stubbornness. Zec 7:12B-13; Ro 2:5.
  - 3) God fully expects us to be reasonable. Ja 3:17A (open to reason—ESV, willing to yield—NKJV, easy to be entreated—KJV, ASV).
  - 4) Reasonableness blesses. Ps 81:13-14; Pr 28:14.
  - 5) There is no excuse for stubbornness. Eze 2:4-5.
- C. *Resolve once and for all to stop acting according to the stubbornness of our evil hearts and yield ourselves to the will of God.* Ps 78:8—NASB footnote “put right” its heart), 2 Ch 30:8A.
- D. *Pray for wisdom that we might always be righteously determined and never be sinfully stubborn.*

**CONCLUSION:** Sweet Will Of God, Verse #1, "My stubborn will at last has yielded. I would be thine and thine alone. And this a prayer, my lips are bringing Lord, let in me Thy will be done. Sweet will of God, still fold me closer 'Till I am wholly lost in thee. Sweet will of God, still fold me closer 'Till I am wholly lost in thee."