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Viewpoints

Observing events in our modern world from the viewpoint of our ascended Savior.

Godly Resolutions ~ January 12, 2015 *Are your New Year's resolutions already toast?* [Online Version & Archive](#)

Need a smile? Check out this short [video of 13 dogs and a cat eating with human hands at the holiday table.](#)



In this scene from the video (above) one of the dogs exhibits the mannerisms of a human as he raises a glass for a toast, as if to ring in the New Year. Such a scene delights our imagination. How unearthly, how new, how wonderfully different if our animal friends were more human!

Or maybe not! Because in a following scene, one of the dogs starts stealing silverware. And then some more silverware. You see, one can't "accurately" depict dogs with human capabilities unless you also depict the sinful nature that infects all humans— that inborn trait that poisons us with the toxicity of evil desires, like coveting, that leads to wicked actions like stealing.

Seeing a dog with human hands stealing silverware is humorous, but it's also dangerous if we allow it to camouflage how serious sin really is. Only innocent blood can pay for a sin, because sin separates us from God. Christmas celebrates that God shoehorned himself into human flesh, so that Jesus' innocent blood paid for the very sins that the world toasts as natural, fun and liberating.

Sin is anything but liberating. Just the opposite, it's enslaving (Titus 3:3). Just look at how hard it is to change our behavior, let alone to stop our pet sins. And how many people rung in the New Year by making some resolutions-- and how many resolutions are already toast? Or soon will be toast?

Sin has so thoroughly corrupted our human natures that the best way to achieve any New Year's resolution is this: to believe **that improvement begins with repentance**...

- ▶ grieving that our sinful nature pollutes us and our best efforts;
- ▶ rejoicing in Christ's forgiveness that he gave us at the cross;
- ▶ letting that joy move us to constantly plead with him in prayer;
- ▶ reciting faithfully to ourselves his promises that excite our desire for God-pleasing changes.

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit is the master at making all things new. He makes us spiritually new again and again as he renews us in faith's appreciation of the bloody cross and empty tomb: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Unlike the unearthly changes humorously depicted by 13 dogs and a cat eating a festive meal, God pours out to us his life-changing truths in these illustrative words: ¹⁷"Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. ¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create... ²⁵The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox... They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain," says the LORD." (Isaiah 65)

Now that's the scene that brings the smile I needed today.

Source Material (Links may become inactive over time.)

Freshpet Holiday Feast - 13 Dogs and 1 Cat Eating with Human Hands @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhg7Xm4FXAY>

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Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz

