

THAT IS JUST THE WAY I AM

Job 14:1 ... "Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble."

Have you ever said: "That is just the way I am," when defending yourself against someone who was hurt by something you said or did? Have you heard others say that? This statement is a natural product of our self-justification for bad behavior. When pushed into a corner, we defend ourselves, often very poorly.

We are each born with a unique personality that contains both good and bad characteristics. As we mature, it is wise to evaluate our personality, listen to the observations of other people around us, and watch how our words and actions either bring joy or pain to others. With God's help, you can correct the bad parts of your personality, more fully develop the good parts, and add additional characteristics to make yourself well-rounded, emotionally balanced, likable, and responsible. However, if you believe the personality you were born with is good enough, you will probably cheat yourself and others out of blessed relationships.

God created you with a body, mind and soul, but it is up to you what you do with them. You can break your body, overfeed, starve, pollute, or poison it. You can fill your mind with positive and good information, or indulge in immoral thoughts and bitterness. Your soul is the property of God, but you can force God from your soul by denying him. God does not intend for you to remain in the state in which you were born. We are all born in sin and need the Savior to rescue us from that state. We are born weak, but with exercise and proper diet we can become strong. We are born with an absence of God in our souls, but we can let God into our souls with a simple and painless decision.

If you tend to have a quick temper, foul mouth, hurtful attitude, selfish desires, greedy spirit, or envious manner, you can change. You need not live in that state, which will hurt you as much as it hurts others. Claiming "That is just the way I am," is the worst possible response you can make. Instead, consider the accusation, review your personality, and determine – with God's help – what needs to change. For most of us, the personality and character we were born with is not the way we should remain. Your mind should be in a constant state of remodeling and improvement, which will influence how you think, what you say, and how you say it. Maybe today, just days before the new year, might be a good time to evaluate and begin adjusting how you think and behave.

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