

The Law of
UNINTENDED
CONSEQUENCES



The Law of Unintended Consequences

TO DEFINE

- ◆ “Unintended consequences” are outcomes that are not the ones intended by a purposeful action.
- ◆ Unintended consequences can be roughly grouped into three types:
 - ✦ A positive, unexpected benefit (*usually referred to as luck, serendipity or a windfall*).
 - ✦ A negative, unexpected detriment occurring in addition to the desired effect of the policy or action.
 - ✦ A perverse effect contrary to what was originally intended (*when an intended solution makes a problem worse*).

The Law of Unintended Consequences

To DEFINE

A perverse effect contrary to what was originally intended (when an intended solution makes a problem worse).



- ◆ Medication
- ◆ Politics
- ◆ Child Discipline
- ◆ Career choice
- ◆ Where to live

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HOW WE ARRIVE AT WHERE WE DO NOT WANT TO BE:

- ✦ Deception - [*Eve*] - (Gen 3:1-19)
- ✦ Immediate interest, without considering long-term interests - [*Lot pitching tent towards Sodom*] (Gen 13:11)
- ✦ Impatience - [*Abraham, Sarah & Hagar*] - (Gen 16:1-12)
- ✦ Worry / unbelief - (Number 13,14)
- ✦ Secret pleasure - [*David & Bathsheba*] - (2 Sam 11; 12)
- ✦ Presumption - [*David & the ark*] - (1 Chron 13; 15)
- ✦ Error - [*Jeroboam's calves*] - (1 Kings 12:25-33)



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LESSONS GAINED FROM THESE EXAMPLES

- ✦ The consequences of sin are not ONLY experienced by the ones who committed the sin -
 - ✦ Sincerity does not inoculate the sinner & others from the consequences of his/her sin
 - ✦ Ignorance doesn't prevent one from experiencing the negative consequences of sin -
 - ✦ Secrecy does not prevent others from being negatively effected by sin -



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PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE:

- * Defend against deception - (Heb 3:13; 2 Pet 3:17),
- * Focus on long term, spiritual rewards instead of the passing pleasures of sin - (Heb 11:25)
- * Be patient - wait on God's promises- (James 1:1-5)
- * Don't worry / trust God - (Mat 6:19-33)
- * Realize we can't hide anything from God - (Heb 4:13)
- * Follow God's revealed will - (Col 3:17; Jn 4:24)
- * Humbly seek God's truth - (Mat 6:33; 15:7-9)



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*We Cannot Act Contrary to
God's Will and Expect a
Positive Long-term Result.
The Only Sure & Certain
Course Is to Live Wholly in
the Will of God.*

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Hell will be full of people who
did not intend to wind up there!

**WHERE WILL YOU
BE FOR ETERNITY?**

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1 Chronicles 13:1-12 (NKJV)

¹ Then David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, *and* with every leader. ² And David said to all the assembly of Israel, "If *it seems* good to you, and if it is of the LORD our God, let us send out to our brethren everywhere *who are* left in all the land of Israel, and with them to the priests and Levites *who are* in their cities *and* their common-lands, that they may gather together to us; ³ and let us bring the ark of our God back to us, for we have not inquired at it since the days of Saul."

1 Chronicles 13:1-12 (NKJV)

⁴ Then all the assembly said that they would do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people. ⁵ So David gathered all Israel together, from Shihor in Egypt to as far as the entrance of Hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kirjath Jearim. ⁶ And David and all Israel went up to Baalah, to Kirjath Jearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God the LORD, who dwells *between* the cherubim, where *His* name is proclaimed.

1 Chronicles 13:1-12 (NKJV)

⁷ So they carried the ark of God on a new cart from the house of Abinadab, and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart. ⁸ Then David and all Israel played *music* before God with all *their* might, with singing, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on cymbals, and with trumpets. ⁹ And when they came to Chidon's threshing floor, Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, for the oxen stumbled.

1 Chronicles 13:1-12 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzza, and He struck him because he put his hand to the ark; and he died there before God. ¹¹ And David became angry because of the LORD'S outbreak against Uzza; therefore that place is called Perez Uzza to this day. ¹² David was afraid of God that day, saying, "How can I bring the ark of God to me?"