

# The Perilous Bypaths of Posturing and Pretense



*"The good way is one; by-paths are many"*

*~Matthew Henry*





# Posturing

“behavior that is intended to impress other people and that is not sincere”

~Britannica

A younger man

Good looking  
("strapping")—tall  
(and imposing)

A Benjamite (the  
tribe decimated at  
the end of Judges)

Obedient to his  
parents

Not familiar with  
Samuel the seer

Enabled by God to  
be king

Who was Saul?

*A dependent  
posturing  
(1 Samuel 13)*

*A worshipful  
posturing  
(1 Samuel 14)*

*An obedient  
posturing  
(1 Samuel 15)*

Saul's posturing

# Saul

His obedient *posturing*  
masked a heart  
unsubmitted  
to God's will and words

He "inquired of" God (1 Sam. 28:6), but  
he did not "inquire of" God (1 Chron.  
10:14)

# Getting Saul (and us) back on the “good way”

- Don't blame circumstances
- Don't blame others
- Seek *God*, not just His help
- Embrace the heart (purpose) behind God's commands



# Pretense

“a false reason or explanation that is used to hide the real purpose of something”

~Britannica

Watch  
David  
cover his  
tracks  
(1 Samuel  
11)

- He sends for Uriah and inquires after the battle (v. 7).
- He sends a gift home with Uriah (v. 8).
- He detains Uriah an extra day and makes him drunk (v. 13).
- He commands Joab to “sacrifice” Uriah (v. 15).
- He “poses as Joab’s mild and understanding superior” (Baldwin quoting Fokkelman) [v. 25].

# Getting David (and us) back on the “good way”

- Allow God-given exposure (i.e., Nathan the prophet) to bring you to heartfelt repentance
- Submit to whatever consequences God deems best



## Psalm 32:9–10 (NKJV)

9 Do not be like the horse or like the mule,  
Which have no understanding, Which must be  
harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will  
not come near you. 10 Many sorrows shall be  
to the wicked; But he who trusts in the LORD,  
mercy shall surround him.