
Words of Truth

Being A Respector Of Sins

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When we chose to become disciples of the Lord our way of thinking was supposed to change (Isaiah 55:7-9, Romans 12:1-3, and Ephesians 4:22-24). Once in Christ, right and wrong is no longer defined by us. You are not your own moral compass. In Christ, we have accepted the fact that the Lord's will is what governs us (Matthew 28:20 and Ephesians 5:10). As saints, we should have all come to learn that what mankind thinks about something doesn't mean God sees it the same way (Luke 16:15).

The world has a very inconsistent set of laws. Our country says that people have the right to the pursuit of happiness. Under such thinking, if a person desires to have sexual intercourse with a person of the same sex, their happiness makes that right. However, if a person would be happy by having sexual intercourse with a child their happiness is no longer the standard which makes that right. Our country says that a person can consume alcohol and certain other drugs of entertainment that impair judgment and harm their bodies. However, a person will be cast into jail for using certain narcotics. How come someone can get "drunk out of their minds", but not "trip out" with a mind altering drug?

On the other hand, we serve the living God who is consistent and whose law simply makes sense. As the Psalmist said: *"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple"* (Psalms 19:7). God doesn't have a list of bad things, really bad things, and really; really bad things. God sees things as either darkness or light (Acts 26:18-20 and I John 1:5-7). To illustrate this, consider how God sees and will judge the murderer in the same way He will judge the liar: *"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death"* (Revelation 21:8).

Everything we have covered thus far should be a very basic review for any Christian. Your mind should be warmed up and your thoughts should be headed in the right direction. What we need to do now is apply the things we have considered thus far in this study to ourselves. We know that the world views things differently than God. We know that we are supposed to follow God instead of the world (Ephesians 5:1). The question for all of us, in this study, is whether or not we are a respector of sins. Do you view some sins greater or lesser than others? Whatever your initial response is to that question, take the time to really consider it and examine yourself as we all ought to regularly (II Corinthians 13:5).

Are You A Respector Of Sins

When you or someone else has transgressed the law of the Lord, thus committing sin (I John 3:4), have you ever thought or said, "It's not that bad?" Consider this, if someone forsakes the assembling of the saints, just once, is it that bad (Hebrews 10:22-25)? Consider this, if someone erred in leading a prayer by praying to Jesus instead of the Father (Ephesians 5:20), is it that bad? If a brother or sister in Christ came before the congregation and confessed being a liar seeking our help (James 5:19-20); would you tell them not to worry that it's not that bad? If the congregation errs, through ignorance in some way, would we all just excuse ourselves because we are more right than wrong on things (Acts 17:30)?

I could go on and on, but such should not be necessary. You do that in your own mind. Ask yourself if there are things that you, someone else, or we all could do that you would downplay the seriousness of. Be honest. Learning about these things requires serious and honest self-evaluation.

Now, to further help us think down the road of applying some things relative to this study, consider the following illustration. Let's say a brother in Christ has been caught fornicating with a non-Christian woman in his neighborhood. Knowing that all manner of fornication is sinful (I Corinthians 6:18, Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 5:3, and I Thessalonians 4:3), how would you react? What if the erring brother downplays his actions by saying he rarely does it? What if he continues by promising he'll "try hard not to do it again" but keeps failing? What if he begins fornicating with another sister in the congregation? How would you treat both of them? What if he gets another woman pregnant, his wife whom is our sister in Christ keeps trying to repair the marriage, and yet he continues to "sleep around"?

Have you honestly thought this through? Have you honestly considered and concluded that right and wrong is decided by God and not by you? Are you ready to think this through to it's conclusion? If not, stop and think some more. If so, let's make the application. Since one sin is no greater than another and you shouldn't respect persons (James 2:8-12), isn't the person who violates Hebrews 10:25 the same as the fornicator? If the excuse for telling a lie on occasions isn't a big deal, how is fornicating on occasion not the same? Since homosexuality is rightfully appalling to us all (Romans 1:16-32), shouldn't a person divorcing their faithful spouse be equally troubling (Mark 10:1-12)?

Conclusion

The Lord is consistent. He hates all workers of iniquity (Psalms 5:4-5). He is angry with the wicked every day (Psalms 7:11-12). We are supposed to abhor that which is evil (Romans 12:9). We are supposed to depart from evil and do good (Psalms 34:14 and II Timothy 2:19). There are no "gray areas." There is right and wrong. God defines the lines that should not be crossed. Woe be unto us when we cross those lines (Isaiah 5:20).
