

The Dangers of Sin
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“From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.” (James 4:1–4)

Intro. We live in a world full of sin. That’s a fact. And its been that way since the fall. Nothing has changed there but what has changed is the way we as the people of God view sin. But no matter how you view it today, there are some very clear dangers of sin. And I bring you a message on the dangers of sin. Notice our text. They were sinning and asking. But the Lord was not answering. Oh, unanswered prayer is one of the dangers of sin!

WHAT IS SIN?

“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.” (1 John 3:4)

Sin is the transgression, or the breaking, of the law. So, in order men to understand what sin is, they must understand what the law is and who the Lawgiver is. And there is a lot of confusion about this isn’t there? No matter what folks may say, there is an objective set of rules for all of mankind to obey. And when those rules or laws are broken, folks, it is sin. No matter what men say, the Ten Commandments still apply today and when those laws are broken, even one of them, you have committed sin! (James 2:10)

“All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.” (1 John 5:17)

All unrighteousness is sin. Not only does God have a set of laws that He expects us to obey, but He demands righteousness. He is judge not only of our actions but also of our intentions and the reasons behind our actions, and he demands righteousness. All unrighteousness is sin!

“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” (James 4:17)

Not only are there sins of commission, but there are sins of ommission. When we know we should be doing something and yet we do not do it it is a sin! You know you ought to be witnessing to folks, or be attending church each time the doors are open and if you aren't doing those things you are sinning!

“And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” (Romans 14:23)

Whatever is NOT of faith is sin! The only way to please God is through faith and if we are doing something apart from faith it is sin! Without faith it is impossible to please God! (Hebrews 11:6).

Wow, most of us would only consider only the transgression, the breaking of God's law to be a sin. But how many of us think about the others? Some folks feel they have liberty to do anything that God doesn't outright forbid. Many professing Christians seem to enjoy walking on the edge of the cliff, wanting to be as much like the world as they possibly can, and so they justify watching very sketchy movies, going to parties, bars and rock concerts just like their non-Christian friends, etc. If someone ever tries to speak to them about the wisdom of their choices, or question the condition of their heart, they will instantly throw out terms like, “Don't judge me!” or “That's just your interpretation of Scripture!” or “You are being legalistic!”

In this modern age of God's people wanting to live on the edge, that alone, just knowing what the Bible defines here in these 4 verses ought to pull folks back from the edge. But let's move on.

THE JUDGMENT OF GOD

“But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die. Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal. Hear now, O house of Israel; Is not my way equal? are not your ways unequal? When a righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die. Again, when the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive. Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die. Yet saith the house of Israel, The way of the Lord is not equal. O house of Israel, are not my ways equal? are not your ways unequal? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord God. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I

have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.” (Ezekiel 18:24–32)

When we consider the dangers of sin, we must start here with the coming and ongoing judgment of God against sin. Sin is a dangerous thing. Sometimes we might get comfortable with it. We might accept it. Maybe we will just try to ignore it.

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:10–15)

Oh how we ought to hate sin! Oh how we ought to weep over it. Left untreated, unrepentant sin will lead to judgment and an eternal hell. The judgment of sinners is harsh, just, and final.

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)

THE CHASTISEMENT OF GOD

“Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the Lord thy God chasteneth thee. Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.” (Deuteronomy 8:5–6)

Sin can affect our relationship as the people of God with our Heavenly Father. The Bible (and experience) teaches us that this is truth. Just like rebellion and disobedience got us in trouble with our earthly father so it gets us in trouble with our heavenly Father!

“Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now

no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.” (Hebrews 12:4–13)

Though we have been saved by grace and although we have been adopted in the family of God (I’m a child of the King), we are still sinners in the flesh. As sinners in the family of God we will be chastised for those sins.

Sin is dangerous. Because of sin we will have trying times in this life. These trying times may very well be the chastening hand of God coming down on us.

“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.” (1 Corinthians 11:28–30)

I’m here to tell you that its sin that caused many in the church at Corinth to be sick and weak and dead! And it’s sin that has caused many of the sicknesses and health problems and yes deaths that have happened in our churches today. I know its not popular to say that, but its the truth!

A SEARED CONSCIENCE

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.” (1 Timothy 4:1–3)

Sin is so dangerous that the conscious of mankind can be seared. There is a dangerous that even the conscience can be seared (or hardened). The seared conscience is no longer effective. It can no longer protect men from sin for it is participation in sin that causes it to be seared in the first place.

The old advice “Let your conscience be your guide” is horrible advice for the conscience can be seared. Think about a particular sin in your life- maybe it is missing church or working on the Lord’s Day. In the beginning you couldn’t imagine committing the sin and now it is very easy you hardly even blink an eye.

First it was abhorred, then it was tolerated, then it was embraced. Lord help us!

A POOR TESTIMONY

“And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place: For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the Lord; and the Lord hath sent us to destroy it. And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.” (Genesis 19:12–14)

Sin is very dangerous in that it can ruin the testimony you have with those around you. Lot was a saved man but he had allowed so much of the world around him to creep into his life that when he tried to warn his family, they would not believe what he had to say.

“Blessed is the man That walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; And in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, That bringeth forth his fruit in his season; His leaf also shall not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: But the way of the ungodly shall perish.” (Psalm 1:1–6)

Our witness should not be one associated with the counsel of the ungodly. It ought not to be one that is in the midst of sinners, but rather there should be a difference in our lives. Our witness should be of God and heavenly things.

An example here of a potentially wrecked testimony is with alcohol. The Bible surely doesn't forbid it. But in the world we live in, one can ruin their testimony and witness very very quickly with alcoholic beverages. The Bible tells us to abstain from the appearance of evil (I Thessalonians 5:22) and there are a number of Biblical commands for us to be sober.

A USELESS SERVANT

“He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.” (Luke 13:6–9)

Here is a parable of the lord who threatens to cut down a tree that is not bearing fruit. Unrestrained sin in the life of the child of God can cause that person becoming barren and useless to the God they claim to serve. Sin is very dangerous. Sin can make us useless servants so that we prefer sin before God, His Word, His church, and

His people!

CONCLUSION

“Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” (1 Corinthians 9:24–27)

Oh, child of God, sin is very dangerous. And Paul knew it. Bringing the body into subjection is not easy, but necessary lest you become a castaway. Let us consistently be aware of the dangers so we may not be contaminated with sin!