

# SIN

We all have to deal with sin. In our classroom, sin may be the matter of simple disobedience. It could be the many things we face as parents or a boss who has to deal with employees' violating company policy.

What did Paul say about our actions toward sin? What should we teach by our actions?

Romans 7:13 "...that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful."

We should not make sin acceptable, but repugnant.

We can love people and still fire them. We can love people and still move them from their position. We can love people by guarding them and by not becoming a gossip, telling the world about their trouble. But if we love the next person (let's say in employment), we had better warn the leadership of an issue of theft or whatever exists.

In our church services, I love the members enough to stop teens from being a disturbance. I may even not allow the teen to return to the service unless he sits by an adult. But the young people know I care about them. I am kind, but firm, but I am also willing to chat with them after church. It is a delicate line we draw.

Isaiah said;

Isaiah 58:1 "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins."

God wants the evil of sin proclaimed. Sin hurts people. We can not let it go unchecked. We should have rules, and those who violate the rules should have clear-cut punishment. God spends much time from Leviticus to Deuteronomy laying out clear punishment for crimes.

We need to train our young college men to thunder out against sin, not to toy with it, thinking it will not cost them anything. For this reason, we have to have Bible colleges that expel students. We can not let the next generation of preachers or their wives have a soft attitude toward sin.

Israel had preachers who had forgotten their role; “Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean...” (Ezekiel 22:26)

The preacher’s job is to show people the difference between the clean and unclean, not to blur the lines like so many churches do today.

When it comes to leadership, God often reminded the priests of their duty to teach right and wrong.

Leviticus 10:10 “And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean;”

Leviticus 11:47 “To make a difference between the unclean and the clean...”

Leviticus 20:25 “Ye shall therefore put difference between clean beasts and unclean...”

Our society is trying to teach us that we need to be tolerant, that love would embrace all, that we should not judge. But those philosophies are very foolish. Every one of those politicians or teachers is concerned about who his child’s friends are, whom they date, and what they do on a date.

Paul said we should separate from people over simple things like not working for a living,

2 Thessalonians 3:10 “For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.”

vs. 11 “For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.”

vs. 12 “Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.”

vs. 13 “But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.”

vs. 14 “And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.”

Hate them? Of course not, the next verse says;

vs. 15 “Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.”

Paul said there are Christians with whom you should not have a casual meal;

1 Corinthians 5:11 "But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat."

We are not better than others, and we are not to be hateful toward them. But we will not act as if their lifestyle is acceptable.

We are not tolerant of people who rape someone, or break into our homes, or drive drunk. No, love demands we take a stand. I think it is wrong for someone to drive uninsured unless he has enough cash to pay for every bill and every bit of damage that might be caused were he involved in an accident. I do not have to hate the people without insurance, but I think they should lose their car if caught. I love these people -- I love them to ride a bike. I also love the people they would hurt without financial means to repay.

Do not become tolerant of sin. Do not stop loving people. If you are blessed enough to have a preacher that thunders out against sin, thank God!

Maintaining the stand he takes is not easy.

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