

We Are Far Too Cavalier About Sin

Promise: He forgives so we might be empowered to live for Him

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Ezekiel 33:7-9; Psa 32:1-7; Romans 13:1-10; Matthew 18:1-20

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“And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire.” – v 8

Lead In – Christ’s death atones for our sins. That our sins are forgiven and taken away by our merciful Savior does not mean that we can afford to be cavalier about sinning. No, we are called to a life-long strong against sin. But being lax in this regard and taking forgiveness for granted is a temptation that has long existed in the church, right from the very beginning. That is the Apostle Paul could write in Romans 6...

I. The Duty and Calling of God’s Watchman

- A. Warning God’s people to turn from their wicked ways!
- B. There is an ongoing need for the believer in this age...
- C. We do not move beyond the cross in this age...

II. Hear Jesus’ Words As to the Seriousness of Sins

- A. The leavening effect, especially upon children...
- B. Woe to the one by whom temptation comes...
- C. Better to have an amputation and loss of an eye...

III. Contemplate the Crucifix

- A. He bore our sins for a purpose! That we might....
- B. Sin always causes separation and alienation...
- C. The gift of faith receives Resurrection power for...

Final Word – The experience of the highly regarded saints of all ages is that of the Apostle Paul in knowing himself, in his words, to be the foremost, or chief, of all sinners. The more we mature in our walk with the Lord the more we discover the insidious nature of sin deep within. This is something far worse than the vices that we were first aware of and gave up early on. It takes the light of God’s presence to extend to the far reaches of our personality to discover the dirt. In true discipleship we will hardly be cavalier about this, but ever more vigilant and dependent upon God’s grace and promises. “Forgive us our trespasses as we...” “Knowing the price paid for our redemption our love and appreciation will only grow...”

Ro 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

Ez 33:9 But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

1Jn 1:8-9 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Popular Sayings: I’m only human. The Church is a hospital for sinners. Salvation is where I do the sinning and God does the saving. I am a forgiven sinner. Please be patient with me, God is not finished with me yet.

Ga 5:9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

Matthew 18:1-20 ESV

Who Is the Greatest?

¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ² And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³ and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵ “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶ but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

Temptations to Sin

⁷ “Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸ And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹ And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

¹⁰ “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹² What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³ And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴ So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

If Your Brother Sins Against You

¹⁵ “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

Ja 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

1Pe 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Sins Effects: To turn from and separate us from: God, others, ourselves, and the rest of God’s creation.

Ro 6:4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Heavenly Father, your gift of the forgiveness of sins and eternal life are freely given to us, and yet we would not forget the tremendous cost borne by Your Son to make them possible. Along with the forgiveness help us also receive empowerment to live for You. Lord God, may the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts... Amen.