

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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July 15, 2018

“The Nature of Sin Part 2”

By Brian Meade

The Bible gives us the nature of what sin really is by example and scripture. It is the Christian’s goal to abstain from sin to the best of our ability, but all have missed the mark (Rom. 3:23). But by a better understanding of what sin is, we can avoid sin’s power over us through the help of God.

(3) Sin is Ugly & Contemptible Behavior.

The world is not honest about the nature of sin. It gives only the attractive parts of sinful behavior. But if we honestly look at the nature of sin— it is vile, repulsive, ugly, and contemptible behavior! God calls it an abomination in Proverbs 6:16-19, and something called an abomination is a *“loathsome, detestable thing.”* Sins such as pornography are detestable and wicked (Psalms 101:3) and belong in the trash.

In the world today, adultery and fornication is portrayed to be a beautiful thing committed by consenting adults, but such is not the case! Hebrews 13:4 teaches us that, *“Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”* It can never be a beautiful wedding—if it is a perversion of what God calls undefiled!

Murder is the brutal, violent, and bloody actions that take the life of another person (Genesis 4:10). God made our bodies in such a way to be shocked and horrified at the sight of someone committing murder. If we treat as precious the life made in God’s image, we would not desire to see it acted out before our eyes, but be repulsed by it!

The drinking and drug abusive lifestyle should not be glamorized by the world, but it is! But, the world doesn’t show you the ugly side of the party life.

The world doesn’t show you the violence, vice, and vomit that go hand in hand with such dissipation. It is a fact that violent behavior occurs from people who drank to get drunk and then their families suffer for it! When people are under the influence, they will sometimes do things they never would while sober and in their right mind. Not to mention that later on, while one is drinking, comes the vomiting. It is then that we would say, as Bill Cosby so eloquently put it, *“You’re the only friend I have, my wonderful toilet bowl”*

In Psalms 29:2, God calls us to worship Him in holiness, *“Give unto the Lord the glory due His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.”*

What a wonderful contrast that the holy, pure life is to the ugliness of sin!

There is a beauty and attractiveness in desiring to be free from the pollutions that defile us to serve God! It is only when we repent and obey the gospel, that we can finally serve God without the hindrance of sin dominating our focus and attention. When Sin is no longer the emphasis and the driving force of our conduct, we are free to live our lives as God intended.



(4) Sin Has Pleasures and illegitimate Benefits.

In Hebrews 11:25, Moses made a choice “to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;” (KJB)

I believe we all can attest to the fact that sin has pleasure. The main appeal of temptation is the fact that sin is pleasurable. And if there were no sense of pleasure from sin, the world would not be as attracted to sin as it is! (I John 5:19) Paul speaks of some as being, “lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.”

(II Timothy 3:4)

We must remember that sin’s pleasures are empty, hollow, and fleeting (Hebrews 11:25 “fleeting pleasures of sin” ESV) compared to the true joy found in Christ (Matt. 5:12). The pleasures of sin lose their appeal when we soberly count the cost of losing the eternal for the temporary! (Matt. 16:26) Sadly, many will be lost because of the obsession they have sin’s pleasure!

(5) Sin Can Be Habit forming and Addictive.

One of the greatest problems with overcoming sin is its addictive nature. Sin can become a habit that we form in our lives that is very difficult to overcome. The apostle Paul spoke of some “Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.” (Eph. 4:19)

Paul aptly describes those who are completely addicted to the pleasures of sin! Sins such as drinking and drug abuse (Gal. 5:20-21; Eph. 5:18) are habit forming and hard to repent of.

The addictive nature of gambling lures souls by covetousness and the love of money (I Tim. 6:9-10). Not to mention the sensual or sexual sins of pornography and fornication that the world is given over to in today’s culture (Romans 1:26-29). The addictive nature of sin can be overcome only by God’s help out of such bondage (John 8:31-32; Rom. 6:17-18).

(6) Sin Is Very Selfish Behavior.

Notice in James 1:14, “But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.” (ESV) The very nature of temptation and sin appeals to our “own desires.” We desire the pleasures and advantages that sin offers us! Thus sin can be extremely selfish— it revolves completely around what we want and desire for ourselves. The fornicator only of the pleasure that he or she can have by sin (Proverbs 7:18; I Corinthians 6:18).

The thief only thinks about what he can steal from others and is selfish. He does not think about or consider the suffering he causes to others in his selfish desire for ill-gotten gain. He only sees people as ripe for the plunder of their goods!

When we come to Christ, we learn to be unselfish, sharing, (Eph. 4:28) and deny self (Matt. 16:24-25).

(6) Sin is Contagious.

Even though sin is not a physical disease, it has the danger of being contagious to others. For this very reason Moses commanded the people, “You shall not follow a crowd to do evil” (Exodus 23:2 NKJB).

One of the greatest challenges for Christians today is living a life of purity in a world so dominated by sin. There are many influences for evil everywhere that must be resisted! We must realize the danger of becoming a partaker of other men’s sins (I Timothy 5:22).

In I Corinthians 5:1-7, Paul warned the church at Corinth of the danger of their sin spreading like a leaven in bread. The leaven placed in bread permeates all the bread and causes a dramatic effect to the whole. It works from the inside and causes the bread to rise instead of being flat. Moral sins can cause chaos in the church, as Paul saw the church at Corinth was “puffed up” about the brother’s sin. (vs. 2)

The sin of false teaching can spread the same way, “A little leaven leavens the whole lump” (Gal. 5:9; II Tim. 2:16-18). False teachers work on members of the church to change them from truth to error. Once several members have been infected with error, it can soon spread further until the whole congregation believes the false doctrine. We must beware of sin’s leaven in both ways.

(7) Sin is Destructive Behavior.

Just like in the wake of a devastating storm, we can see the path of destruction that sin leaves behind. Sin has the power to destroy everything it touches. Sin destroys our reputation through bad conduct (Proverbs 22:1). It destroys our homes through adultery & divorce (Malachi 2:13-16; Matt. 19:3-9). It destroys our lives by addictions to gambling, drugs, & alcohol (Proverbs 23:29-35). It destroys friendships through gossip (Proverbs 16:28).

Most importantly, sin destroys our relationship to our heavenly Father (Isaiah 59:1-2; Acts 8:20-24) when we stubbornly hang onto it. It destroys our good influence (Matthew 5:13) as a Christian. It destroys our spiritual joy (Psalms 51:7-10) by guilt & shame. Worst of all, sin will destroy our hope of going to Heaven (Colossians 3:5-6).

(8) Sin is Progressive.

Paul wrote in II Timothy 3:13, “*While evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.*” (ESV) It is a Bible fact that one sin can lead us to another and another...etc. Take the case of David’s sin(s) in II Samuel 11:1-27. First of all, David lusted for Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite (verses 2-3). That sin led him to the sin of adultery (verse 4). And when he found out that she was with child, he enacted a plan to cover-up of her pregnancy (verses 5-13). Finally, when the plan to cover-up his sin failed, he had Uriah the Hittite murdered (verses 14-17).

Someone rightly has said, “*Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.*” (Unknown)

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Steve Switcher, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), Charlene Newborn, Delain & Robbie Doles, Greg Fields, June Lawson (Lisa Busby’s Mom), Clois Wright, Debbie Keplinger, Gaddy Hall, Madeline Flippo, Karey Trimble, Jerry Trimble has surgery the 25th, and Janis Johnson is in the hospital.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Russell Briggs
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: “*The Dangers of Pride*”

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service: Fred Johnson
The Book of John (Mike Willis)
Page 9, Question #9

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Paul Busby

Song Leader: Jerry Kennemur
Lord’s Table: Russell Briggs
Assisting: Nathan Meade & Chris Callahan
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: “*Time*”
Closing Prayer: Fred Johnson

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

July 18th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
1 & 2 Chronicles (Mike Willis)
Page 9, Question #1
Invitation: Paul Busby
Song Leader: Russell Briggs
Closing Prayer: Brian Meade