

▶ “Is It a Sin to...? - Spiritual Check-Ups”

James 4:17

Sunday, March 15, 2009

ME: (Orientation) Sin to one, not another, culture’s “slippery slope”, “I have a right...”

WE: (Identification) Parents: “Don’t play in the street!” Kids: “Why not?” 3 ways to get things done
“Don’t jump off the roof into the pool!” WHAT IS/ISN’T SIN?

GOD: (Illumination) Eden perfect – sin (fall) messed it up
NOT SOMETHING WE DO OR DON’T DO - **SIN IS!**

▶ James 4:17 **Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.**

SENTENCE: ▶ TO GET THE RIGHT RESULTS, ▶ YOU NEED TO DO THE RIGHT THINGS

▶ **DOING RIGHT THINGS** (Mission)

- ▶ Glorify God
- ▶ Extend His kingdom
- ▶ Reconcile the world to Himself

▶ **GETTING RIGHT RESULTS**

- ▶ God in clear view and in focus
ILLUSTRATION: Eye exam (so I can see!)
- ▶ God in control
ILLUSTRATION: Driver, pilot, captain (NOT CO-)
So I don’t “crash” (people suing Sully!)
- ▶ God in relationship
ILLUSTRATION: Checking account (Goal: right result: me or the bank)

▶ **SIN IS...(period!) GETS BETWEEN US AND RIGHT RESULTS**

- ▶ 1. Anything that **OBSCURES** a clear, focused view of God as He really is
ILLUSTRATION: Rental car with high windows (nice, but you can’t see);
- ▶ 2. Anything that **REPLACES** God as “Lord and King” (life as “it’s supposed to be”)
ILLUSTRATION: My horse (head-strong: good on narrow trails; not at blind crossing)
- ▶ 3. Anything that **PREVENTS** intimacy with God
ILLUSTRATION: Close friends, relationship broken, continuing because solution is hard
Prodigal son vs. Simon the Sorcerer

Sin starts with “the thoughts and intents of the heart”

Repentance and forgiveness has to start in the **SAME PLACE** (Repentance goes beyond stopping)

“(Sin is) ...casualness and unconcern as to whether or not we please Him ...

“(We recognize sin when)...we’re confronted with truths about God and (ourselves) that (we) had not faced up to before...

“(We confess sin when)...we deliberately open (ourselves) to God to an unusual degree.”

(J.I. Packer)

▶ **SO WHAT:** (Inspiration)

- ▶ 1. **SEE:** Jesus’ “mission” was to reveal God, clearly and in focus, and it’s ours, too

▶ John 1:14 - The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. **We carry Christ to the world** “As the Father has sent me, so send I you.”

Strategies: Spiritual “eye exam” so I can see (BStudy, mentors, small group interaction, etc.)
Clean the mirror so others can see (life style, accountability partners, connection, service, “Sermon-on-the-Mount stuff).

▶ 2. **YIELD:** The path to life, health, and happiness is paved with obedience

▶ John 8:34-36 "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

John 10:10 “I am come that you might have abundant life”.

John 14:15 “You are my disciples if you do what I command”;

Strategies: “Whosoever believes...” (believes what?) if you believe that God is omni..., that Jesus is the way, t, l..., **living it out daily** should make sense;
When God-in-control works, others see it and believe it, yield to it as well

▶ 3. **BECOME:** True disciples continually grow to be more like Jesus

▶ John 17:21-23 Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Strategies: Caterpillars “morph”; die and re-live; “let this mind,” “be transformed by the renewing of your mind” Disciples become like their masters

▶ WHAT NOW

“**The root of spiritual revival** was, is, and always will be vivid realizations of God’s holiness, goodness, and mercy, and of the perversity, shamefulness, offensiveness, and suicidal folly **THAT HE SEES** in our personal sins. Grief for sin will naturally result.”

▶ 1 John 3:18-22

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us.

Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.

“**Nothing will change until we change what we care about**” (Erwin McManus)

Until Jesus comes! Maranatha!!

▶ TITLE SLIDE