

Wrong is Always Wrong

1 Samuel 15: 18-21

Introduction: We live in a generation that believes sin is something to be overlooked. After all, who are we to judge another? The world rationalizes that people commit sin for justifiable reasons. After all, God is so good (and oblivious) and He wouldn't hold sins against us. Didn't He send Jesus to die for our sins?

Our lesson will prove that wrong is always wrong! It does not matter if we were not caught committing the sin; if the sin was done for a good cause; if others are worse sinners than we; if we did it with a good conscience or if others consider it acceptable. Wrong is always wrong!

I. Wrong is always wrong even if we are not caught.

A. People get the silly notion that if they aren't caught there was no sin. It's a no penalty, no foul philosophy toward sin.

B. Jesus warns that people will commit sins against one another (Lk. 17:1-2).

C. The Lord watches our conduct (Prov. 15:3).

D. The Word of God will make or break us (Heb. 4:12-13). We can not hide from God. Even if man never finds out the evil we commit, rest assure... God knows and we won't get away with it.

II. Wrong is always wrong even if done for a good cause.

A. This is where the religious world draws a lot of their authority to participate in activities not addressed nor authorized in scripture. It is the ends justify the means philosophy toward sin.

B. Paul strictly warned against committing sin in hopes that God will forgive our rebellious acts (Rom. 6:1-2). Paul said people thought this way in his time. "And why not say, 'Let us do evil that good may come?'" (Rom. 3:8)

C. Remember King Saul in 1 Sam. 15:12-23. He thought he was doing well by bringing back pure animals for sacrifices. Yet, notice the Lord's response to Saul's good cause in verse 22-23!

D. We could act like the rest of the religious world if a good cause were the standard.

1. How about offering coffee and donuts before services. After all, it brings people to church.

2. How about bands, pianos, or orchestras in worship? Doesn't it improve the sound to God?

3. How about fellowship of the withdrawn? Don't they need to come

back?

4. How about buying a Lottery ticket? It lowers school taxes doesn't it?

E. We need to realize that we are lawless, rebellious and Satan's personal servants when we commit sin (1 John 3:4, 8).

III. Wrong is always wrong even if others do worse.

A. What others do is no justification for our actions. This is a everybody else is doing it philosophy toward sin.

B. To compare ourselves to others is foolish (2 Cor. 10:12).

C. Comparing ourselves to others is just our effort to cover up our wrong doing (Prov. 28:13).

IV. Wrong is always wrong even if we commit sin in ignorance.

A. Even the laws in the U.S. say ignorance is no excuse. Yet, we tell ourselves that if we didn't know any better and we committed the sin in good conscience that we are somehow justified.

B. Paul is a perfect example of this flawed philosophy (Acts 22:4-5; Acts 23:1; 24:16). He was wrong despite his sincerity (1 Tim. 1:15).

V. Wrong is always wrong even if others consider it acceptable.

A. We see this in the religious world by their acceptance of sinful deeds while calling it something different. We can call it something different all we want but it doesn't change the situation. Today, we call it politically correct. A generation ago they called it situation ethics.

B. Paul rebuked the church at Corinth for thinking this way (1 Cor. 5:1-8).

1. Notice they weren't sorry but glad (vs. 2, 6).

2. The guy had his father's wife!

3. Just because the Corinthians accepted this couple, did it make it right? (Read verse 5.)

4. We hear people say let's leave the adulterous couple alone and love them. If we withdraw from them we'll just drive them away from the Lord. Yet, the opposite is what happened (2 Cor. 2:5-11).

C. Religious bodies are accepting homosexuality while calling it an alternative lifestyle. Women are taking public positions in the church while calling it equal rights.

D. Infidelity is widely accepted today. Does that make it right? How about drinking alcohol? Gambling? Dancing? Lying? Cursing? These are all accepted by our society.

E. When the children of Israel made the golden calf to worship; did God say it was all right since the people accepted it (Exodus 32)?

F. Why didn't Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego bow down to Nebuchadnezzar's idol? Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom obviously thought it was acceptable (Daniel 3).

Conclusion: Wrong is always wrong! There are no exceptions! Perhaps you have fallen prey to the notion that your sins were justifiable. If so, you need to repent of your sins.