

Christ Community Covenant Church
Spirit filled living in a broken and fallen world: Arrogant Sin VS Bold Brokenness
Pastor Dave Scherrer - October 9, 2016

“Less talk more action” - 4Cs Cares Day Video

What’s going on here?

- Man with his step mother – what makes matters worse is the pride shown here and exceptions made for the wealthy,
- The church is making excuses and even approving,
- Pride, false wisdom, name dropping, cliques – Paul is mad before he ever gets to chapter 5
- Paul uses the illustration that all good Jews would understand about Passover and Leaven, leaven representing sin that spreads and spreads throughout the whole loaf.

Two things are happening in this chapter:

- 1. There is unrepentant sin in the church**
- 2. The indifference toward and even approval of this sin**

Before we go too fast here, let’s make sure we have the basics covered when we start throwing the word sin around. Sin literally means “missing the mark,” as when an archer might miss their target and the official would call out “sin” to indicate falling short of the goal. Sin is what separates us from a Holy God, the thoughts and attitudes and behaviors that bring God sadness and anger and cause a Holy God to turn his face from us. Isaiah 59:2 states **“but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.”** One of the easiest truths to verify in scripture is that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. No one in all of my life has ever said to me, “Dave, I’m perfect. I have never sinned and I’m very proud of that fact.” Of course that statement alone would disqualify them. But we all seem to understand that we have an internal moral compass that has been built into us and we have willfully disobeyed those internal directives.

1 John 1:6, 8-10

⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

⁸ **If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.** ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

This verse reminds us that we are sinners, but it also gives us hope. **“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”** When a Christian sins, God tells him to immediately confess the sin to God and ask for forgiveness. God says he has already forgiven all our sins when He saves us, but by confessing our sins, when we commit them, God helps us to not be complacent over our iniquities and promises to stand with us as we strive to overcome them.

The process of confessing our sins to God shows we acknowledge our wrong doing and God works in our lives to keep us from committing the sin again. God loves it when we are broken and contrite and recognize who is God in our relationship and that we are willing to yield our will to Jesus’ rule and reign in our lives. In this case brokenness is a good thing!

Now this is important. This does not mean that God condones sin in a believer’s life. Sin is dangerous and costly to forgive. It cost our Savior His very life; we are saved not just by silver and gold but by blood; as the song says, the beautiful saving blood of Christ that washes away our sin. Sin is to have no place in our lives . . .

Romans 6:1-4

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ² By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Surely, God is telling the believer that he should live for Christ and not be indifferent to sin in his or her life. Remember, what we just learned - **"If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not tell the truth."** In other words, when a believer sins, their relationship or fellowship with God is weakened or cut off.

We are in a war it seems! A war against my old selfish nature, what the Bible calls "the flesh," and with our new "born again, God first" nature." Remember every Christian when he or she is saved gets a new nature.

2 Cor. 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

This new nature is the nature of God, and comes when the Holy Spirit of God indwells us at the time of our salvation. This new nature, which is the nature of God, makes us hate sin. It draws us to God and makes us want to live godly righteous lives. It also gives us the ability to resist sin and live for God.

Thus, a believer has two natures - they have the old carnal nature they were born with (Romans 6:6) that all humanity shares and when they were saved they received the new nature that only born again Christians have.

Christians have two natures and they are at war with each other. The one we yield to is the one that controls us. The answer is to give in to God's nature by obedience to God. As we obey God and fight sin we overcome it and sin becomes less and less powerful in our lives.

I have gone to some detail about this because so many have misunderstood the Bible and thus are teaching people false things. It is this attitude of indifference toward sin that has Paul so upside down in this passage. He of course is angered and saddened by the sin of this man who is sinning so brazenly and still confessing a relationship with Christ.

But the fact that the church has winked at this behavior, and even seemingly approving of it that has Paul upside-down. Indifference is a big deal. Indifference to the poor, indifference to injustice, indifferent to sin, God is deeply saddened by it all because it is all so unchristen-like.

"Science may have found a cure for most evils; but it has found no remedy for the worst of them all... the apathy of human beings." ~ *Helen Keller*

"The opposite of love is not hate, its indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference."
~ *Elie Wiesel*

"We're a nation of Biblical ignoramuses! We do not know the Word of God today in this land!"
~ *J. Vernon McGee, commentary from Hosea*

Let me give you an example that the church in Corinth gave into and we have a problem with today as well. Have you heard this phrase before . . . ?

"God forgives and we are not to judge."

Both of these half statements are true in some sense; God does indeed forgive and I am one of his most forgiven right here. And Jesus has also said **“Do not judge, so that you will not be judged, since you will be judged in the same judgment that you make.”** Seems pretty clear, doesn't it. This verse is often misquoted and generally misunderstood. This statement of Jesus is an acknowledgement that we do not have the same depth of insight that God has; God being able to look into people's hearts and determine whether they love God with all their heart, soul and strength. We are not God and cannot judge another's salvation heart. That is above our pay grade. But in this chapter there is important, even critical teaching for the church, especially relevant to us right now in our 21st century church.

Important teaching for the Church!

Let's look carefully at our passage for this morning that put's this entire chapter into careful perspective...

1 Corinthians 5:9-13

⁹ I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— ¹⁰ not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. ¹¹ But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. ¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? ¹³ God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”

There are three observations I have about this brief passage:

1. People both inside and outside of the church sin. We have already learned this!
2. People outside the church and outside of the redemptive/transforming love of Christ are held to a different standard - sinners are expected to act like sinners. God has that under control (v 10, 13).
3. But the unrepentant, practicing sinner in the church is to be confronted and judged and disciplined. For the sake of the church and the sinner (v11).

If we live with the misunderstanding that God forgives and I am not to confront abiding unrepentant sin, then bad things can grow in the church and in the heart of our friend. Jesus said;

Luke 17:3

Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.

If we are not supposed to 'judge,' then how do we know when to rebuke our brother or sister? We can't, yet God's Word clearly tells us to do just that, so we are told to judge. It is just that our society has so destroyed the language that the majority of us do not understand the different meanings of the word 'judge.' This is why many Christians use the word 'discern,' but it still means to judge between things (*such as actions*).

You see we who call ourselves a follower of Jesus Christ are known for our desire to be like Christ. Not more like him physically, but in His love and mercy and hatred of sin we in the church have been called to a higher standard . . . Holiness!

A Higher Standard

1 John 3:9

⁹ No one born of God **makes a practice** of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.

1 Peter 1:14-16

¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

This is tough teaching isn't it. When I look in the mirror, I don't see holiness looking back at me. We would be wrong to believe that we think that we just sin once then we repent and never sin that particular sin again. We all know what it is like to struggle with anger and jealousy, and negativity and lust and envy. We tend to have a flat spot on our tires that keeps tripping us up . . . Paul experienced that sadness in his life too . . .

Romans 7:18-25

¹⁸ For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

²¹ So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

So the question indeed is a 21st century question. Am I a slave to sin or am I a slave to God and his law and love? Which is it? We have a Savior who has answered it for us, a Savior who has yielded to and acted according to the highest possible standard – God's perfect holiness . . .

The Highest Standard

Hebrews 12:4

In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

We need a sinless Savior!

2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Hebrews 4:15

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Bold Brokenness

Bold brokenness is the story of King David. David saw Bathsheba, a beautiful woman another man's wife and he wanted her for himself. When she became pregnant, David had her husband killed in battle made to look like an accident. This abiding secret sin was confronted by Nathan, who called David out on it and we read of His brokenness. He said to Nathan "I have sinned against the Lord." And in Psalm 51;

***Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.***

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

This is bold brokenness. The way of bold brokenness never loses confidence in the grace of God but boldly believes that the God of Mercy will plead our cause and bring us from the darkness of judgment to the light of life. The difference between this and "cheap grace" is that sin is taken so seriously. There is a reprehensible fall.

There is real and terrible judgment from God. There is awful darkness. There is brokenness and contrition and remorse as we bear patiently the chastisement of our God. If this is missing from the Christian life, it becomes shallow and inauthentic. But in the ashes of our regret, the flame of boldness never goes out. It may flicker. But when Satan taunts us that we are finished, we lay hold of the promises found in the words of the prophet Micah saying "Rejoice not over me, O my enemy! When I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me . . . He will bring me forth to the light; I shall see his deliverance."

Psalm 34:17-19

¹⁷ When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears
and delivers them out of all their troubles.

¹⁸ The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
and saves the crushed in spirit.

¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

**And Jesus said, "Come to the water, stand by My side,
I know you are thirsty, you won't be denied;
I felt every teardrop when in darkness you cried,
And I strove to remind you that for those tears I died."**

Prayer