

Last week we set specific attitudes for a Christian to have in response to someone who does not choose to live like what we think is correct

Abortion, Homosexuality, not paying tithe, anger, even handling snakes: there are a thousand actions that we can be against. These actions cause us to experience frustration, judgmental attitudes, hurt feelings, rejection of relationships and even depression.

Three things that must be part of our response to bad behavior (sin).

1. From the parable of Jesus and the Good Samaritan. Our first reaction to sin is love. We have to first separate the sin and the person. We are commanded, exemplified, asked, cajoled to, FIRST love. No excuses, no postponement, no reluctance, no separation, JUST LOVE
2. Realization there is no difference between your sin and their sin. There is no hierarchy of Sin. Any time you start to judge your sins as not quite as bad as someone else's sin, you are wrong. All sin is wrong. All sin is against God. All sin separates you from God. It does not matter if it is murder, or rejection of someone who is a murderer. We are all saved by grace. We all deserve condemnation. It is only the action of God that mitigates the punishment. "What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus."
3. Thirdly which is a little harder. We must live according to our own submission. We are to live our own lives according to the life that God designed us to live. And the first step to his place in life is to discover the "owner's manual of life": the Bible. Our actions our lives are to be lived by the Book and its precepts. It is not the church that defines our behavior, it is not the Sunday School teacher, it is not even the preacher of the hour. It is the Bible.
 - a. If your life is dictated by the designer (God) as revealed in his owner's manual (Bible), then we will live like God wants.
 - b. The hard part is to realize, just because you live according to your understanding of God's will and design for you, it may not be exactly the same as someone else.
 - c. Lastly this submission to God and His Word allows no condemnation for other's behavior by me or you.

Last week's lesson was to first understand that judgment on our part is wrong.

This week's lesson is the way of judgement – God's righteous judgement

Broken down into three sections: It is according to truth (2:2-5), it is according to our deeds (2:6-11), and it is according to the Gospel (2:12-16).

- I. It is according to truth (2:2-5)
 - a. Truth is absolute – I Sam 16:7
 - i. God does not see as man sees. All we can see in the nature and actions of others. We see is what we perceive as sin. We see through a glass darkly. We want to compare our sin to someone else's sin. We see actions. We cannot see into the motives, the submission levels, light

they are living in. God can and God does look at us differently that we can. Because man looks on the outward appearance. We only see the effect.

- ii. God looks on the heart. The inner life, the reasons for our behavior. We can put a great front, put on a fake smile, dress the appropriate way, hold our heads at the pious angle, clap in church and even say amen once and a while but if our heart is not right, then God will see it. We can fake out people but not God. We can deceive man but God is not mocked.
 - iii. God already knows that our hearts by nature are desperately wicked. Jerimiah 17:9-10 "I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings."
 - iv. God has a supreme desire for man and that the outside is the same as the inside. "truth in the inward parts" Psalm 51:6.
- b. Just because God has not sent his wrath on all that sin does not mean He is so loving that he will not. Just because God is good and He is delaying great lightning bolts from on high does not mean he will always restrain His judgement.
- i. His judgment is mingled with His mercy, He waits for us to make a change, I John 1:7-10. "if we walk in the light (of His holy revealing's) and confess our sin (acknowledge the sin that God sees), the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleans us from that sin"
 - ii. If we refuse to acknowledge God's truth, we are just telling God that He is wrong. Truth is having its way. To harbor our inner lack of self judgement is to reject God's truth.
- II. Secondly God's righteousness judgment is according to our deeds. In as much as God's judgement is first on the inner truth of our inner life, second it is also placed on the outer life. Romans 2:6-11
- a. We do not live in a duality were our inner life never is affected by our outside life. (Antinomianism) Confusion of liberty with license. "But my motives were pure!" Good motives are not an excuse for bad behavior.
 - b. Well doing is a sincere response to God's grace. We do, not because we want "a participation trophy". Well doing is a reaction or an attitude in response to God's grace. We do because He did. Not, we do because he will do. Doing has nothing to do with the law.
 - i. We live in response to grace
 - ii. Not because we are earning grace.
- III. Finally God's righteous judgement is *according to the gospel* - Romans 2:12-16
- a. Again this is about light. God judges according to the individuals understanding of God's will for his own life.
 - i. My requirement for living is determined not by anyone else's light but only my light. "I just will not study so I will not have any more light!"

- ii. How about those who don't live in my light? Back to lesson last week. Your light is your light.
- iii. You are only responsible within the limits of my ability to respond.
- iv. Individuals are not condemned for limited light but for the rejection of the light they have.
- v. There is a fairness of the truth of God.
- b. Does not release the requirement to reveal light to others.
 - i. Not a question of the unsaved can be saved without the Gospel
 - ii. It is a question can a saved continue to be saved without obeying the great commission.

We are not judges.

We are not lawyers.

We are servants.

God (not you or I) shall judge the secrets of men

When we see a brother or sister in sin, there are two things we do not know: First, we do not know how hard he or she tried not to sin. And second, we do not know the power of the forces that assailed him or her. We also do not know what we would have done in the same circumstances.

A story is told of two monks on a pilgrimage who came to the ford of a river. There they saw a girl dressed in all her finery, obviously not knowing what to do since the river was high and she didn't want to spoil her clothes. Without much discussion, one of the monks took her on his back, carried her across, and put her down on dry ground on the other side.

The monks then continued on their way. But the other monk started complaining, "Surely it isn't right to touch a woman. It's against the commandment to have close contact with women. How could you go against your rules as monks?"

The monk who carried the girl walked along silently, but finally he remarked, "I set her down by the river and hour ago. Why are you still carrying her?"