

WHY DO PEOPLE SIN?

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No doubt you are aware of the charges of sexual misconduct of those in positions of power and influence towards those in vulnerable positions, such as Matt Lauer, Harvey Weinstein, Al Franken, and others. It is usually an action perpetrated mostly by men upon women, but not always. Although inexcusable, it is not altogether surprising that this is happening given the current degraded view of sex, women, and men, which views also lead to a degraded view of God. Attitudes will invariably and consequently result in actions, and actions will have consequences, many times unintended. While not excusing men for their conduct, women should not parade before men exposing every square inch of their body, even those parts that only their mother, husband, or doctor should see (maybe your undertaker also, provided you are dead), and not expect some reaction from men. Biology just does not work that way. Of course, women may react the same way towards men, so both would be without excuse.

I suppose mankind has always been drawn to the more lurid aspects of relationships between men and women, and between men and men and, also, women and women. But currently, it seems more perverse than ever, with men, by reason of attitude alone, declaring themselves to be women, and women declaring themselves to be men. If a man believes himself to be a chicken, he expects me to look under his seat for some eggs.

All such things should be considered in the context of the morally depraved, and functionally godless, society which presently exists. Today perversion is considered a virtue, and virtue is considered a perversion. Notwithstanding this, man's attitude toward perversion does not change its nature, nor does it compel me to adopt such perversions as virtuous, or as some say, courageous. Gender is not determined by attitude but by biology, nor is any other condition of biology determined or changed by one's attitude toward it.

Sin is much the same way. It is not determined by biology. Sin must be determined by some absolute standard of truth or else it is merely arbitrary. Your truth may say that a matter is right, but my truth about the exact same matter may say it is wrong. Such perverse and false thinking about truth says that both can be right at the same time about one truth that is in direct opposition to the other truth. It is all a matter of attitude, or so they say.

The Bible says that "sin is lawlessness" (1 John 3:4; NKJV) and that "sin is not imputed when there is no law" (Rom. 5:13). Furthermore, it says that "all unrighteousness is sin" (1 John 5:17), and that "all Your (i.e., God's) commandments are righteousness" (Psa. 119:172). And as to the matter of truth, Jesus said "Your word is truth" (John 17:17), which answers Pilate's query "What is truth?" (John 18:38).

So, it is that those who adopt, or at least accept, such present-day perversions, have rejected God. Or as the letter to the Romans says, "They did not like to retain God in their knowledge" (Rom. 1:28). At one time, everyone knew God. But, as the prophet Jeremiah said, they were "not valiant for the truth" (Jer. 9:3), therefore, apostacy prevailed. However, this apostacy does not just happen overnight. The eventual adoption of a false doctrine is a process; it does not just happen in an instance. Even the unfaithfulness that became common in Israel did not occur until the third generation of Joshua's time (Jud. 2:10). Just one church was established on Pentecost (Mat. 16:18, Acts 2:47, et al.), but today there are hundreds of denominational churches each with a different doctrine all of which developed over hundreds of years. Millions exist today who have never heard of the Bible or Gospel Truth, but the Bible says that when Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, He will take vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ (2

The. 1:7, 8). Indeed, the Lord said that “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hos. 4:6).

How did mankind, those who once knew God, come to such a sad condition? Certainly, it is because of the will. People are going to do exactly what they want to do regardless of the Will of God on High. The Lord said, “Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it’” (Jer. 6:16). It was not a matter of knowledge of the Truth; they simply did not want to do it. The same was true of Johanan and the people who were with him. They petitioned Jeremiah to inquire what the will of the Lord was concerning whether they should flee to Egypt from the Chaldeans. Whatever answer Jeremiah received from his prayer to the Lord on their behalf, whether pleasing or displeasing, they swore to obey. The Lord told them to stay in the land and not flee to Egypt (Jer. 41:16-Jer. 42). But they rejected the word they received through Jeremiah accusing him of speaking falsely (Jer. 43:2). They had their mind made up before they inquired of Jeremiah; they only wanted confirmation of what they had already determined to do, and they were mad when he didn’t give it to them.

This event characterizes the thinking of those who know God and His will but follow their own will regardless. The Psalmist asked, “Why do the wicked renounce God.” It is because “He has said in his heart, ‘You will not require an account’” (Psa. 10:13). The wicked, knowing full well the Will of the Lord, does not believe that the Lord will hold them accountable for their actions. That is not too much different from politicians, and other people in positions of prominence. Paul said that “we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (2 Cor. 5:10). The evil person just doesn’t believe it. As the prophet Hosea wrote, “You trusted in your own way” (Hos. 10:13). Whatever punishment is promised, they say this “calamity shall not overtake nor confront us” (Amos 9:10). This is delusional at its very core.

Nahum writes that “The Lord is slow to anger and great in power and will not at all acquit the wicked” (Nah. 1:3). But the wicked are wise to do evil (Jer. 4:22). They do not believe in the omnipotence of God. They believe the Lord will not do good, nor will He do evil (Zep. 1:12). He is nothing more than that old bearded gentleman signifying his avuncular indulgence of any action by a gentle pat on the head, with a consoling “Now, now, that’s alright!”

What then is required of mankind? In Micah 6:8, we read, “He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God.” Notice that is a requirement.

Micah was addressing a people who were comfortable in the belief that they were pleasing to God solely because of their sacrifices. King Saul was disabused of this notion by Samuel when Saul asserted that he had obeyed the Lord. Samuel said, “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams” (1 Sam. 15:22). This was not to obviate the necessity to offer sacrifices as required, but to offer sacrifices while being disobedient in other matters negates any good that would otherwise ensue from the sacrifice.

Amos says, “Can two walk together, unless they are agreed” (Amos 3:3). This axiom is true whether two or more are determined to obey God, such as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego (Dan. 3:16-18), or have conspired to do evil, such as Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10:1ff).

We are walking humbly with our God when we are in agreement with Him. We are in agreement with Him when we obey His commandments (John 14:21, 15:10; 1 Co. 7:19; 1 John 2:4, 5:3, et al.). However, perfunctory obedience to commandments without the proper attitude toward God (i.e., doing it in the way God said to do it, for the reason God said to do

it) makes the obedience of none effect. James says to “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up” (Jam. 4:10); Peter says that “God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time” (1 Pet. 5:5, 6). Paul says not to “set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion” (Rom. 12:16). Paul warned of those who engage in a false humility which has the appearance of wisdom in a self-imposed religion (Col. 2:18, 23).

Who can forget the example of the Pharisee and tax collector who both went to the temple to pray.

The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted (Luke 18:11-14).

Who wants to be exalted? Surely, it is those who set their minds on things above and not on things of the earth (Col 3:1, 2). Keeping things in perspective, we realize that when our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens (Col 5:1).

That is our goal in this life. Anything else comes up short of that lofty goal. But first one must be in Christ where is located every spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3). To be in Christ, one must be baptized into Christ (Rom. 6:3). And to be qualified to be baptized into Christ, one must confess that He is the Son of God (Acts 8:37). And to be qualified to confess Him, one must believe that He is the One sent to redeem man from his sins (John 8:24). And to believe on the Christ, one must first hear the word of God (Rom. 10:17). The question, therefore, are you a Christian? Are you even qualified to become a Christian?~