

Only Acknowledge Your Transgressions

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[Isaiah 5:20](#) Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

- I. Right and wrong are based upon God - not on man.
 - A. They are based not only upon the commands that God has written in his book and preserved forever, but upon the character of God and the order of his creation.
 - B. In order to have understanding and know how to discern between good and evil a person must know God.
 - C. We can only know God from his Word
 1. He has not written a book of do's and don'ts, but a book that reveals himself intimately to those who will seek Him.
 2. Any thoughts or ideas we have about God that are not based upon what is revealed in the Bible about Him are only imaginations and therefore, idolatry.
 - D. So only in an intimate personal knowledge of God are we able to rightly determine good and evil and navigate our way through life in a world full of lies and deceit.

- II. Man is determined to establish what is right and what is wrong himself, changing God to fit the system of morals he has invented, or leaving God out of it completely.
 - A. When man sets up his own system of morals they are always based upon his own lusts and desires – pleasing his selfish desires.
 - B. When the Word of God is removed as the final authority and the opinions of people become the authority, there is then no authority.
 1. Everyone does what is right in their own eyes.
 - C. When an individual or a society as a whole goes down this road they lose their moral bearings and find themselves adrift, confused, lost, discouraged, and angry with everyone and everything.
 - D. This is simply the bedrock of sin - rebellion against and rejection of God as the Lord of everything and enthroning self as the ultimate authority in the life.

- III. People do not respect moral authority coming from other people.
 - A. In fact, they use it as an excuse to make up their own morals.
 - B. There is a popular idea among those who reject God that right and wrong are man-made ideas and that if there were not people around us who judge us we would not feel guilt.
 - C. The ungodly strive hard to push the idea that guilt is imposed upon us from the society we live in, saying morals are a human “construct.”
 - D. Therefore, each person is supposed to create their own moral system and their own moral universe that is tailored only to themselves.
 1. They declare that if you live according to what you have determined is right and wrong for you then you will not feel guilt.
 2. And they preach this gospel of their own making trying to recruit others to their cause.

Proverbs 16:5 Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

- IV. But we are made in the image of God and we are moral creatures - therefore, we cannot stop making moral judgements – and especially moral judgements about ourselves.
 - A. Guilt is not something a person can blame on others.
 - B. Guilt is the result of violating the moral law of God that is written in the heart of all men.
 - C. God created us all with a conscience which witnesses against us when we do what we know to be wrong or fail to do what we know to be right.
 - D. This is why we "feel" guilty. It is the condemnation of our own conscience and it can become unbearable to live with.

1 John 3:20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

- E. In the desperation to find relief from the guilt of what they have done many people try to shift the blame for the way they feel onto other people.
- F. They entertain the notion that moral standards are man-made and not God-made.
- G. They try to make themselves, and others, believe that the only reason they feel bad for what they have done is because other people think it is wrong.
 - 1. It is not because it is actually wrong, but simply because some people think it is.
- H. This is the basic explanation for why the wicked hate the righteous with such vehement hatred.
 - 1. They think their evil conscience that torments their soul is caused by people who condemn certain behavior.
 - 2. The mere sight of the righteous enflames them because it renews that feeling of guilt and defilement about themselves.
- I. It is very easy to observe that these people are the most judgmental of all.
 - 1. They are more condemning and critical by far than those who profess to be Christians.
 - 2. People like these are continually condemning others, while justifying themselves, but they find that their conscience refuses to agree with them in all this satanic and worldly philosophy.
 - 3. They must call evil good and good evil and this puts them in direct opposition to God who made them in his own image and likeness

2 Timothy 2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

- J. They try with all they can muster to make themselves believe that the wrong they are doing is right, but there is that spark down in them somewhere that they just cannot completely extinguish that keeps reminding them they are wrong.
 - K. They find themselves in a miserable situation where there is no peace in their heart. Their own heart condemns them for the things they have done, or are contemplating doing, and they struggle desperately to find a way to escape that condemnation and continue to have what they want.
- V. There are only two outcomes in this matter.
 - A. Either a person keeps struggling against his own conscience until it goes silent and they no longer feel the condemnation for doing wrong, or they face God and his law and acknowledge they are wrong.

- B. Since turning to God is always the last resort, most people keep struggling against themselves until they sear their conscience and almost no longer feel the condemnation from their own heart.
 - 1. Usually, this is accomplished by surrounding themselves with people who share the same lusts and attitudes that they have and immersing themselves in their particular sins to the exclusion of everything and everyone else.
 - C. At that point they may begin to think they have come to a higher level of understanding than others, especially those old-fashioned people who maintain that sin is evil and will be judged by God.
 - D. But they soon find out that they have lost the capacity to feel other things also.
 - 1. They cannot trust and love and commit themselves to another in this state of mind and with this view of life.
 - 2. When a person becomes immoral, that is, casts off God's moral law, he begins to look at others as if they have no morals either, and so he can trust no one and he cannot really love someone, in the true sense of the word.
 - E. Look around us at what has happened to our society and our world.
 - 1. The so-called liberation of women, which, interestingly, was followed by the sexual revolution, when all moral standards were removed from the matter of sex, has not made people happier or more loving, or easier to get along with.
 - 2. On the contrary, the whole world is about to explode with anger and bitterness to the point of violence everywhere, and every aspect of our world and life is in disarray and confusion.
 - F. Blaming other people for your troubled conscience does not make for good will toward men. There is only one hope, and that is for men to do what the verse above says and repent and acknowledge the truth.
- VI. This is the very thing that keeps a person from being reconciled to God - refusing to acknowledge the law of God and his own guilt for violating that law.

[Psalms 51:3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.](#)

[Psalms 32:5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.](#)

[Jeremiah 3:13 Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD.](#)

- A. This is the way of the transgressor and it is hard.
- B. Every sinner continues in the manner we have described, but this is not the way of a child of God.
 - 1. He stops trying to rid himself of guilt by blaming and accusing others and acknowledges the fact that he is guilty before God and has broken the law of God.
- C. This is what the preaching of the law of God accomplishes in the heart.
 - 1. It is only by being brought face to face with the law of God and the truth that I have violated it and acknowledging that I am guilty before God that I can then be introduced to Christ and have my sins forgiven and be reconciled to God.

Galatians 3:24-25 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

- D. God so designed us that the condemnation we feel from our heart when we do wrong will drive us to God.

2 Corinthians 3:9 For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.

1 John 3:21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

- 1. But sin has so perverted the heart and mind of man that he runs from God and tries to rid himself of the awful condemnation he feels in his heart by blaming and condemning others.
- E. There is only one refuge from this condemnation that is felt in the soul and the awful condemnation that awaits in eternity, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

- F. You must give up on yourself and quit justifying yourself.
- G. You must take God's side against yourself and stop trying to act in God's stead yourself.
- H. You must step down off the throne of your life and invite Christ to enthrone himself in your heart.
- I. He must become your God and you must become his creature in everything about you.
- J. You must KNOW that He is the LORD.
 - 1. "...know that I am the LORD." - 77 times
 - 2. You WILL KNOW that He is the LORD, through his blessings or through his judgement - all these 77 Scriptures show this to be a fact.
- K. You must yield to the Spirit of God that is striving with your stubborn self will.

2 Chronicles 30:8 Now be ye not stiffnecked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves unto the LORD, and enter into his sanctuary, which he hath sanctified for ever: and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of his wrath may turn away from you.

Romans 6:13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.