

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

June 15, 2017

DARKNESS OF THE SOUL

SIN is not merely a deed. Sin is a darkness of the soul. It is a lawlessness that found refuge in the heart of man. Sin is the venom of the Serpent working in fallen humanity that pulsates rebellion against God and all that He is. Jesus describe it as the slave master that causes people to commit the acts of sin. *John 8:32-36*. This evil presence is what defiles a person. It is what separates them from God. Carnal religion restrains it. Redemption takes it away! *John 1:29*

We all have personal convictions, and so we should. I doubt that your idea of holiness is exactly as mine. As a child of God there are many things that I set aside, not because I believed them to be sin, but because I believe them detrimental to my walk with God. There are still other things that I believe would be a mar on my personal witness or would cause some soul to offend. As the apostle Paul said, *"...if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend"* *I Corinthians 8:13*. There are many such things as these that perhaps may be called sins against our testimony or against someone's weak conscience *I Corinthians 8:12*, but what the scriptures are usually speaking of as sin is what John calls *"a sin unto death."* *I John 5:16*. This *"sin unto death"* issues from the darkness of the soul and produces the manifestation of sin through our deeds. Such a

thing is always damnable and therefore is always *“unto death.”*

Sin is more than breaking a rule or even the letter of a commandment. David ate the shewbread which Jesus said *“...is not lawful to eat but for the priests alone,”* yet was not condemned for it. The disciples were condemned by the Pharisees because they broke the rules set by the elders when they ate *“without first washing.”* But Jesus responded, saying, *“those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man”* Matthew 15:18-20. Outward sin is the manifestation of a problem in the heart. It is this sin in the heart that defiles a person before God. Let there be no doubt; a person commits adultery because they have adultery in their heart. Another partakes of pornography because of the fornication in their heart. Still another person steals because of the covetousness of the heart. Even the one who trusts in their own goodness without Christ, does so because of the defilement of sin. It is this defiled heart that makes a person a sinner before God.

I was sharing with a man the scripture where Paul assures us that *“the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”* Paul included the fornicator, the idolater, the adulterer, the covetous, and doers of other similar things. I Corinthians 6:9-10. The man protested the truth I pointed out that the redeemed do not do such things. He said, “All of us are sinners.” As proof,

he said, "I was running late coming home from work and I drove faster than the speed limit. That's a sin!" I stood there in disbelief at what I was hearing, remembering the words of Jesus: "*Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.*" Matthew 23:24. Has the church come to such blindness that we believe one person surpassing the speed limit is the equivalent of, or justifies, fornication? If you are speeding, SLOW DOWN! If you are in fornication, REPENT AND BELIEVE THE TRUTH THAT WILL MAKE YOU FREE!

Immediately before Cornelius and those with him were filled with the Holy Ghost, God did something miraculous that most people are unaware of. Peter said that God *purified their hearts by faith.* Acts 15:9. Peter had just preached to them that those who believe in Jesus "*shall receive remission (freedom) of sins.*" Acts 10:43. Upon believing the gospel Peter preached, the Holy Ghost fell upon and filled them, but God in that moment had already purified their hearts. This is the work of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. It is the promise of the gospel. Jesus came, suffered, and died to wash away the darkness of your soul.