

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

January 1, 2021

Criminalizing Humanity

When I was a young Christian, one of the most quoted Bible passages was *“There is none righteous, no, not one.”* Romans 3:10. People heard in these words what they wanted to hear and ignored the Apostle Paul’s explanation that this was what the Law spoke to those who were *“under the Law.”* Romans 3:19. These words, which were written to show the universal need for salvation, were misused to silence those who reminded us *“the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”* I Corinthians 6:9.

I soon realized these words had become “the great consolation” of the modern church. In a strange way its use comforted people by falsely assuring them that every believer was sinful. The thinking seemed to be, “Why should I be troubled about my iniquity? If everyone is unrighteous just as I am, then I must be alright.”

As this mindset took hold, conviction over sin evaporated from the church house. The truth that the blood of Jesus Christ delivers us from sin was discarded as churches rushed to embrace the error that the sins a believer commits are covered and hidden from the eyes of God.

In the decades since, the blindness has only increased. Churches across America now open their services welcoming visitors by declaring,

“We are all sinners just like you.” I admit that it almost seems foolish to disagree. Fornication, pornography, profanity, and covetousness fill the lives of professing believers in staggering proportions. Although we are told Christians are sinners just like those in the world, in many cases, it is worse than in the world. It is as though Paul was speaking of today when he wrote, *“It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles...”* 1

Corinthians 5:1.

It seems the only damnable sin a believer can commit today is to deny the assertion that God’s people are still sinners. That person is immediately assaulted with “proofs” they are both self-righteous and exceedingly sinful! They are told: “If you exceeded the speed limit, you sinned!” “If you got upset with your children, you sinned!” “If you had a less than perfect thought, you sinned.” Really? **The church has criminalized “being human” so they can justify being sinful.** Jesus referred to this sort of religious blindness, saying, *“Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.”*

Matthew 23:24. Yes, we are human and may come short of the full manifestation of Christ, but there is a vast difference between being human and being sinful. The Bible never says, “Those who get upset with their children shall not inherit the kingdom of God,” ...but it does say the fornicator shall not!

The “wise” among us tell us the Biblical statements concerning what children of God DO

NOT DO only mean they do not repetitiously “practice” those things. Even many Bible translations have retranslated the words “*does not commit sin*” I John 3:9 into “*does not practice sin.*” Has anyone considered how foolish that is? How many times must a man “practice” rape before he is actually a rapist? Must a person commit murder multiple times before they are a murderer? Are you a thief only if you steal on a regular basis? The things which the apostles called sin are things those who know God simply do not do. In fact, the Bible says they “cannot” do it! I John 3:9. If you cannot believe me, can you believe the Apostle John? He wrote, “***Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.***” I John 3:6.

The church desperately needs ministers who will boldly stand for the truth and say, “Yes, we are human, but we are not all sinners! Jesus Christ shed his blood ‘*to take away our sin*’ I John 3:5, and that is exactly what He has done!”