

**Simply Christ**  
Gospel Newsletter  
*Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ*

August 11, 2022

## **When Something is Very Wrong**

Many years ago, a guest minister at our annual Campmeeting shared an incident where he stumbled upon a pornographic magazine on the side of the highway. He told of picking up the magazine, and being compelled within, he began look through it to gaze upon the naked women in their erotic poses. Finally, he became fixated upon the naked woman laid out in the “centerfold.” After a bit, he forced himself to discard the magazine and continued on his way. He then followed this account with this statement: “If any man tells you he is not tempted by a beautiful woman, he is lying to you.” I knew then that this minister was struggling with lusts in his own heart. The depth of this struggle would become evident in the years to come.

I believed this man to be a man of God, but knew that he was in a snare. It was evident that something was wrong, and if he did not find an answer, this thing which was “wrong” would destroy him. The problem was that he did not view anything to be wrong. Instead, he took his struggle with lusts and declared it to be normal for everyone. In doing so, he lifted up his “experience” as being “more true” than the word of God.

It was Jesus who said, *“Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That **whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.**”* Matthew 5:27-28. The Apostle Peter also warned us of those who would have *“**eyes full of adultery.**”* II Peter 2:14. If your eyes are full of adultery, your heart is full of adultery, and, according to Jesus, you are an adulterer.

It is not my purpose to condemn this preacher. He was in a snare and needed an answer. Yet, because he could not admit that something was very wrong, he could not accept an answer. His solution was to justify it as something everyone struggles with. Those who cannot admit that sin in their heart is both destructive and damnable will never find an answer for the things which destroy them from within.

If almost everyone in your community was infected with a deadly disease would the fact that so many were dying make you consider the sickness normal? Would you be one who would seek the cure and want to discover what was causing so many to be infected? Or, would you say, “It’s OK! Everyone is dying. This is just normal around here.” In this strange way, the fact that pornography, fornication, deception, and covetousness are rampant in the modern church is often presented as proof that this is just normal for the Christian walk. No one is willing to stand up and say, “Something is very, very wrong!”

Jesus Christ did not come to condemn us for sin, but to save us from it. *John 3:17*. Yet, many are *“condemned already”* though their unbelief. *John 3:18*. Jesus gave us the basis of this condemnation when he said, *“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”* *John 3:19*. The darkness which some men love is their sin. The darkness which other men love are the doctrines which justify or excuse their sin. As long as you love either, Jesus Christ can do nothing for you.

The word of God is clear that the blood of Christ will *“...purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.”* *Hebrews 9:2*. The *“conscience”* spoken of in this passage is your *“innermost thoughts and feelings.”* When this is washed, the worshiper has *“...no more conscience of sins.”* *Hebrews 10:2*. This means the works of sin are washed from your heart and you are made free.

You can spend your life struggling, believing those who constantly tell you, *“Don’t worry! We all struggle with sin in our hearts.”* Or, you can believe God’s word and recognize that such things are both destructive and damnable to you and your eternal soul. Until you realize that something is wrong, you will never find the answer in Jesus Christ which will make things right.