

Saturday, March 18, 2017 - Our Line in the Sand

Disney's production of "Beauty and the Beast" drew an appropriate response from many Christians: righteous indignation. Disney's desire to promote their perverted world view on our children should move us to take action by: 1) Boycotting the movie, 2) Writing Disney of our objection to the glorification of something which is clearly condemned in Scripture. I understand that writing them will have very little affect but that doesn't give us a pass from doing that which is right.

Jesus never said that being a child of God in this world would be easy. It seems that everywhere we turn, we see sin being glorified. Christians should respond to immorality with righteous indignation because we hate sin! It should disgust us the irreverent attitude that is shown toward Jehovah God by much of His creation. The world promotes sin in spite of the plain teaching of the scriptures regarding what sin is and the eternal damnation associated with an unrighteous life. This pollution permeates our everyday existence.

The message I want to share today is one that I had repeated to me many times in response to my last article: "Why are we not moved to action by all sin that surrounds us? Where do Christians draw the line in the sand regarding sin?" Both of these are excellent questions!

Christians cannot cherry pick and categorize sin as though one is worse or more offensive to God than others. Unfortunately, there are some sins, which Christians deem acceptable to either engage in or wink at if committed. Where in scripture is that thought validated? NOWHERE!

There are over 50 sins listed in the New Testament and Scripture speaks to them in the same way...

- ***"...the transgression of the law..."***
 - 1 Jn. 3:4
- ***"All unrighteousness is sin"***
 - 1 Jn. 5:17
- ***"Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."***
 - Galatians 5:19-21

I understand the tendency to be more outraged regarding abortion and homosexuality because they seem more depraved than other sins but all sin is hideous in the sight of God. God hates ALL sin equally! How much God hates sin can be seen in the punishment of sin in the past:

In the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:15-19):

- Adam and Eve removed from the Garden of Eden
- The woman - condemned to submission and pain.
- The man - condemned to toil and tears.
- All men - condemned to death (1 Corinthians 15:22).

The Flood: In Genesis 6, we see the condition of man's heart, that it was evil continually.

- God's solution - the flood. He will destroy mankind along with the creatures. Why? All because of sin; God hates sin.

Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19).

- These cities were destroyed along with their inhabitants because of the sin of sodomy (homosexuality) and other sins (Ezekial 16:49).

Many other examples could be cited, but these are enough to show that God hates sin, and that he punishes it without mercy when men continue in it. We can see how much God hates sin by the future punishment he has promised to the wicked. Please read 2 Peter 2:4-9.

Look closer at 1 Corinthians 6:9, "Or know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived..." What deceives us? The fact that sin has a consequence! Romans 6:23 speaks clearly:

"For the wages of sin is death..."

Which sin? ALL SIN! And the cost is higher than anything we have ever experienced in this life...

- ***"go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched"***
 - Mark 9:43-48
- ***"the lake that burns with fire and brimstone"***
 - Revelation 21:8
- ***"everlasting Destruction"***
 - 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9
- ***"the Lake of Fire"***
 - Revelation 19:20; 20:10-15
- ***"everlasting punishment"***
 - Mark 25:46
- ***"...the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God"***
 - 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

But for those mired in sin, there is wonderful news. We can see how much God hates sin by looking at what he has done to redeem us from it. He sent his Son to earth to die on a cross to condemn sin and to make us righteous (Rom. 8:3-4). He sent his

Son to save his people from their sins (Matt. 1:21). He sent his son, who knew no sin, who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed (1 Peter 2:24).

These passages not only teach how much God hates sin but also how much he loves us. God hates sin so much that he commands that we turn from it. He loves us so much that he sent his Son to die for us (John 3:16).

What shall our response be?