

Ongoing Freedom From Sin

With Strong words and actions, Jesus showed that Sin is Serious

Matthew 18:6 "If anyone causes one of these little ones--those who believe in me--to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. (parallel Mark 9:42, Luke 17:2)

Matthew 18:8-9 If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell. (parallel Mark 9:43-47; also Matthew 5:17-30)

John 8:10-11 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they [who had caught her committing adultery and brought her to Jesus]? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

John 5:14 Later Jesus found [a man He had healed] at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you."

Matthew 16:23 Jesus turned and said to Peter [after Peter said Jesus would not have to suffer], "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." (Parallel Mark 8:33)

Matthew 23:25-28, 33 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

... "You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?"
(See also Luke 11:37-53)

John 2:13-17 When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." (also Matthew 21:12-13)

The sin we should take the most seriously may be the sin in our own lives.

2 Chronicles 7: 13-14 "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

When we have little sin showing on the outside there may still be greater sins within.

Luke 18:9-14

We take sin seriously by calling it what it is.

Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.

We address our sin by bringing it into the light of Jesus' healing love.

1 John 1:5-10 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

We overcome our sin when God changes our hearts and gives us power over sin.

Romans 8:1-2 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. (See more in Romans 7:14-8:17)

“Deeply and most fundamentally Christianity is a new birth — a deep, profound transformation of what we treasure, what we love.” –John Piper

Prayer:

God I acknowledge my sin, I do not hide it from you.

God continue to change my heart, replacing my love for sin with a deep insatiable love for you.

Please give me your heart for others.