

Why I Don't Want To Sin

Introduction:

- A. Text: Heb.11:24-26 – Moses recognized the sins he passed up in Egypt were pleasurable.
- B. We continue to practice sin today because we find them in some way pleasurable.
- C. Sin wouldn't be a continuing problem in our lives unless there was some kind of pleasure in it.
- D. Because of the pleasure of sin, we find it difficult to not want to engage in sin.
- E. What we want to do in this lesson is to talk about reasons why I don't want to sin.
 - 1. We must learn to think on a higher plain about sin, rising above the pleasures sin brings to our flesh.
- F. So let's think for just a few moments about "Why I Don't Want to Sin."

I Don't Want To Sin Because...

I. I Know Sin Hurts The One Who Loved Me So.

- A. We often lose sight of the fact that God is a person.
 - 1. God made us in His own image? (cf.Gen.1:26)
 - 2. The feelings God gave us are the very feelings He has Himself.
- B. How would you feel if your wife or your husband went out and gave their body to another person?
 - 1. Don't you know that would hurt?
- C. That's the kind of portrait God gives us of His relationship to His people throughout the Bible.
- D. A good example of this is in the book of Hosea.
 - 1. God makes a comparison between what Hosea went through with his wife of whoredom and what He goes through with His people – Hosea 3:1.
 - 2. He loves His people as a husband loves his wife.
- E. When we go out and sin God is hurt, just like the unfaithfulness of your mate would hurt you.
- F. We've got to reach the point where we avoid sin because we know how much it hurts the Lord.
 - 1. cf.Jn.3:16 – He loves us so much that He gave us the greatest gift we've ever seen, and then we hurt Him over and over again by transgressing His law.

II. It Cuts Me Off From God.

- A. It separates me from God; makes it impossible for God to listen to and answer my prayers.
 - 1. It's not that He's not able to do so, but that He refuses to do so until I am in a proper relationship with Him – cf.Isa.59:1,2.
 - 2. When He doesn't listen to our prayers we are missing all the power and all the help and all of the strength we need to overcome the problems and troubles and sins of life.
- B. When we realize the importance of prayer in the life of the Christian, then we see the importance of maintaining that fellowship and relationship with God – cf.1 Jn.1:6,7.
- C. Prayer does not bring material prosperity--all these things we have in our homes.
 - 1. What prayer brings to us is peace of heart.
 - 2. It brings strength and ability to deal with our spiritual lives and to live acceptably before God.
- D. I would hate to think that the point would come where my prayers could not get above this ceiling and that God would not listen to me.
- E. If you are going to live in sin, then you cannot pray to God and you get cut off from God, and when you get cut off from God that brings the 3rd point of the lesson.

III. The Consequences Are Eternal.

- A. It's not just that God won't answer my prayers today, it's not that He won't answer my prayer tomorrow, that's not the totality of it.
- B. What's important is that when I sin, I face eternal consequences – 2 Thess.1:7,8.

1. When we sin we put ourselves into a situation of having to face the wrath and vengeance of the God of Heaven.
- C. I can read you passage after passage where it tells us that:
 1. God is a *"consuming fire."* (Heb.12:29)
 2. God said, *"Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense."* (Heb.10:30,31)
 3. *"I will cast you into a lake that burns with fire and brimstone."* (Cf.Rev.21:8)
 4. *"Depart from me, ye cursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels."* (Matt.25:41)
- D. I don't want to sin because I don't want to face the vengeance of God, perhaps this very day.

IV. I Don't Want to Miss Heaven.

- A. cf.2 Thess.1:8,9 – When I continue in sin I'm facing the eternal destiny of being cut off to where I'll never see God's face, to where I'll never be able to see the majesty and the glory of God, where I'll never be able to see the face of all the righteous men and women who served God so faithfully.
- B. I don't want to sin because I don't want to miss all the glorious things awaiting us in heaven.

V. Sin Destroys My Peace of Mind.

- A. I have enough knowledge of God's word that when I sin it destroys my peace of mind – it gives me guilt feelings when I transgress the Law of God – I knew better than to transgress in that way.
- B. I can't sin anymore without it bothers me – it becomes a burden to my soul.
 1. I think that's what Jesus was talking about when He said, *"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"* (Matt.11:28).
 - a. He's talking about the person who has the burden of sin on their soul – that's the only person that can come to Christ.
 - b. Jesus said "come to me all ye who feel the burden and guilt of sin."
 - c. If you don't feel the guilt of sin you don't feel the need of a savior, and if you don't feel the need of a savior what do you need with Jesus?
 - d. As Jesus said, *"28 Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."* (Matt.11:28,29).
- C. When we sin it disturbs our soul – creates anxiety and turmoil within – because we know from God's word that it is wrong.
 1. Some have had serious mental problems because they sinned.
- D. I don't want to sin because I don't want to loose the peace of mind I have when I obey Him.
 1. I want that *"joy unspeakable"* which Peter spoke of in 1 Pet.1:8.
 2. I want that peace that *"passeth all understanding"* which Paul spoke of in Philip.4:7.
 3. The **ONLY** way to have that peace and joy is to stay away from sin.

VI. I Know That Sin Breeds More Sin.

- A. I know that if I let myself get by with just one sin it won't take very long before I allow myself the pleasure of two sins.
 1. And pretty soon I'd allow myself the pleasure of three sins.
 2. Before long I'd be like David in 2 Sam.11.
- B. If there is just one sin in your life that you are refusing to give up, then it's just a matter of time before it's going to breed more sin.
 1. You may have to lie or steal or any number things to cover up for it.
 2. Eventually it is going to cause you to neglect your prayer life and your Bible studies and all these other things God expects from His children.

VII. I Know If I Sin I'm Going to Influence Others to Sin.

- A. Obviously I'm most concerned with the influence I would be having over my own family.
 - 1. If they see their own father allowing himself the pleasure of sin, what are they going to think when faced with temptations to sin?
- B. Someday I'd like to be able to stand before the Judgment seat of Christ with my entire family gathered around me and one by one hear the Lord say, "*Well done, good and faithful servant . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord*" (Matt.25:23).
- C. But my influence will not lead them to heaven if I allow myself the pleasure of sin.
 - 1. And this is true not just of my own family, but anyone who might know me and see me from day to day, I want to be able to influence *ALL* of them to obey the Lord and join us in heaven.
- D. I don't want to sin because I don't want to be the *cause* of one person going to hell.

Conclusion:

- A. These are some reasons why I don't want to sin.
- B. They are valid reasons which we need to give some serious thought to, because I'm afraid sin really isn't that serious to many of us.
- C. We take for granted that we live under a system of grace, we take for granted that we can have forgiveness any time we want it, that the grace of God is always available, and so we go out here and we sin.
 - 1. We don't stop to really think about sin on the higher plain we've looked at it in this lesson.
 - 2. We go on and sin because we want to satisfy some selfish desire for a little while with the idea that some day I'll repent of it and by the grace of God I'll be forgiven.
- D. I hope this lesson will cause us to stop and really look at what sin is and what it really does.
 - 1. I hope it will help us to not want to sin.

(I thank L.A. Stauffer for much if not most of the ideas in this lesson)