

THE ISAIAH 5:20 SYNDROME

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil;
that put darkness for light, and light for darkness;
that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

The difference between a syndrome and a sickness.

- Syndrome is a set of symptoms occurring altogether, but a disease is an abnormality in normal functioning of the body.
- *A Syndrome may indicate a disease* or even a combination of diseases.

In Isaiah 5:20 the syndrome, set of symptoms occurring together are: calling evil good, and good evil; putting darkness for light, and light for darkness; putting bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter. The sickness herein is sin!

Sin in the lives of God's people results in moral confusion, the corruption of moral distinctions, which in this case overtook the nation of Israel. Sounds like the condition in the America today, **which also exists in the church!** Why is this an important message to hear from the pulpit?

The Apostle Paul admonished believers, the church, to “Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified” (2 Corinthians 13:5) – In other words, the church must be introspective and honest with itself in identifying and addressing sin within ourselves. We must examine whether we are true Christians. Whether we have true faith in the gospel. Faith in Jesus Christ, and in the promises of God. Whether we are aligned with him, obeying the Gospel of Christ. **Read Luke 6:46-49.**

James 1:22-25 tells us:

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.
²³ For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: ²⁴ For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. ²⁵ But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Now, it is important to note and acknowledge that Isaiah chapter 5 is about six woes that are pronounced upon Jerusalem and Juda (Is 5:3,6) – in other words, these woes are pounced upon the people of God, resulting from their sin against God – documented in chapter 5:8-23 (see similar teaching by Christ in **Matt 21:33-40**, notice words **servants and tenants**).

Accordingly, please accept the fact that Isaiah chapter 5 speaks explicitly about God's judgement coming upon the people (**Isiah 5:25**) in the form of very sorrowful calamities brought by God Himself. Why mention this. Because the people in Isaiah 5 thought likewise (5:19), as do many in the church today that teach that God does not execute judgements upon people for their sin, that ministers must not preach about judgement or discipline for sin (**Satan's lie to Eve – Gene 2:16-17, Gen 3:4**), in fact, the pastor of one of the largest churches in America, that has an average weekly attendance of 43,500 – that's 172,000 a month - says he will not preach about sin and hell because "[People] already feel guilty enough... (and they should – **John 16:8**), So I want them to come to Lakewood or our meetings and be lifted up, to say, 'You know what? I may not be perfect, but I'm moving forward. I'm doing better.' And I think that motivates you to do better." Is that in the gospel – John 3:16-19, 1 John 1:5-10. Above all there is this: **Matt 22:36-40, which is not emphasized enough in the church today – many ignore this and only preach God loves you!** If you purposely do not preach about sin, how can you preach the cross and salvation – 1 Peter 2:24 – speaking of Jesus, "who bare our sins on the cross that we might be dead to sin and alive to righteousness."

- I am going to make what may sound weird or strange statement about the love of God, but it is 100% biblical: Here it is – God’s love for you does not save you – if it did, the whole world would be saved. John 3:16 could be used as a proof text. But no, it is faith in Christ - as the manifested expression of God’s love for you - that then motivate you to love God (1 John 4:9-10), which is the first and greatest commandment – **Matthew 22:36-40** – not that God must love you, but that you must love God!
- Do not misunderstand, God’s love for mankind is unconditional, but it does not universally or unconditionally save – John 3:14-16, Acts 16:31, Ephesians 2:8 and others...The fact that God loves you does not excuse the fact that you reject Jesus, do not believe in Christ.
- Lets now get to the heart of the Isaiah 5:20 syndrome because all that I have already spoke of – the lack of love and commitment to God’s Word culminates in the Isaiah 5:20 Syndrome.

- As stated earlier in my comments, the Isaiah 5:20 syndrome is about the symptoms that flow from the disease of sin. Again, what are those symptoms:
- evil becomes good, and good becomes evil; darkness becomes light, and light becomes darkness; and bitter becomes sweet, and sweet becomes bitter!— this perversion of reality occurs easily when men reject God’s word and commandments (Isaiah 5:24-25), in favor of human reasoning / objectivism – (Isaiah 5:21), it is the rejection of God-given absolutes, which is making an absolute moral statement!
- Here are a few examples of the Isaiah 5:20 syndrome: These are not intended to be political remarks, *but they are what they are if that makes sense...lol*:
- **Calling evil good and good evil**: Politicians vow not to prosecute roving bands, large numbers of rioters, vandals, people that seize portions of a town or city by force, engage in arson, engage in looting, and threaten and attack police, even injuring and killing some. Then those same politicians threaten to arrest and prosecute those that gather in a church for service if more than ten people are in attendance.
- Marriage was considered a sacred institution. It followed God’s law, not to mention the laws of nature. Those who stood against marriage as it had been traditionally defined for millennia were seen as a threat to the fabric of society.
- Now it is those who seek to redefine and defile marriage that are seen as visionaries while those who support the Biblical and natural view of marriage are accused of hate and intolerance. So, you can destroy all the property and inflict serious injury or death all you want, but to gather with others to worship God must not be tolerated.

- Regarding the sanctity of human life - Natural law dictates that where a male and a female are joined it can and often does result in the creation of new life. While we attempt to control this natural process, especially where sex is taking place without a real commitment, it is inevitable that such unions can and sometimes do result in pregnancy.
- At one time It was believed that while new life may not always be convenient or even wanted, it is sacred. As such solutions were sought to protect and preserve life. In doing so – the good was honoring the Creator and the creation. Now this position is seen as outdated, inflexible and even hateful. It is those who promote “choice” through abortion, the unnatural termination of human life who are seen as good.
- God Himself created two sexes, male and female. Now that is deemed bad, intolerant, unloving, an evil form of judgmentalism. So, now man has created 112 sexes and calls that good, the right to self identify.
- **Darkness becomes light and light becomes darkness**: John 3:19 says, “this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. They claim to have eyes to see but they are blind spiritually (Mark 8:18).

- **Bitter becomes sweet and the sweet becomes bitter:** They prefer and seek out the pleasure of sin as being sweet until the bitter consequences rain down upon them.
- In view of these things, we, as Christians we must, as Pastor Tony spoke of last week, align ourselves with God, the primary means that God has provided to empower us to rightly align with him is His Word and the Holy Spirit.
- So when the word of God says that the death of an unborn child is murder (Genesis 25:23 Exodus 21:22-25, Deuteronomy 27:25), even if not intended, but man says the murder of an unborn child via abortion is to be legally protected and defended, funded/paid for by all Americans, and promoted even among teen ager girls - In the US, teenagers have the right to get an abortion with or without parental consent. However, Some states require approval from one of the parents, while some states excuse the minor from getting the consent. And if you don't want to involve your parents, then you have the option of 'judicial bypass.'
- When the word of God speaks of marriage as the union between a man and women (Matthew 19:4-6), do you approve of same-sex marriage?

- When the word of God asserts that God created two sexes, male and female (Mark 10:6), do you decide that it is acceptable and compassionate to accept the “right” of an individual to “self identify” as a gender other than their gender at birth?
- There are rioters, arsonist, looters, those injuring and even killing cops in the name of “social justice,” and many government officials refusing to uphold laws against such crime, do you nevertheless believe it is a persons right to break the law, as a criminal, in order to “get justice?” when the scripture explicitly warns address the governments rightful role in dealing with law breaking – **Romans 13:1-4.**
- These types of things are why a Christian must understand **1 Peter 1:13**, and Ephesians 4:17-24.
- In conclusion my prayer for you, if you profess the name of Christ as a child of God, is that you be not conformed any longer to this world, but be transformed **by the renewing of you mind** so that you know that good, perfect, acceptable will of God (Romans 12:2). If you are not born again, my prayer is that you accept Christ today, right now as your Savior – Acts 2:21.