

Liberty and Sin

Review

Last week- news- negative/frightening at times.

- >loss of religious liberties,
- >brutal murder of Christians by ISIS,
- >redefinition of historic moral values.

There is the sense that all is not well in the world.

We must be careful not to allow- bad news to redefine- end of the story/rob us or our hope.

We are a people of hope who carry a message of hope for a world in desperate need of hope.

We do not have the right to despair/reason to despair- if we believe- message of the KofG.

Rom 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Persevere- to be steadfast despite difficulties.

We must stand both ...

- >uncompromisingly as far as the Gospel, but
- >we also stand hopeful because of- Gospel.

1 Peter 3:14–15

¹⁴But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled,

¹⁵but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

I am concerned w/how we give an account of the hope that is within us- gentleness/reverence
Gentleness- outward behavior-meekness/humility
Also- grace worked in us such that we accept the dealings of God without dispute/resistance.

This produces humility in how we represent God.
Reverence- to be afraid- to have a fear of God and how we represent Him to the world.

Like today- people who lived during- Great Depression thought that things were very bad. Many lost hope- could this be- end of the world. They lived in- cultural environment- overshadowed their view of the world/dictated their perspective on end of the world.

We see- same thing happen during WW1/WW2. Even during- cold war people- concerned about a nuclear holocaust/end of world scenarios. Obviously one day the end will come, but we need to be careful not to allow world events to redefine- end of- story/cause us- lose hope.

Liberty and Sin

Genuine liberty is based on a person's ability to govern themselves- self-government.

This was- important truth to our founding fathers.

Men are qualified for civil liberty in exact proportion to their disposition to put moral chains upon their own appetites ... It is ordained in the eternal constitution of things, that men of intemperate minds cannot be free. Their passions forge their fetters. Edmund Burke (intemperate- lack of self-control)

Genuine liberty stands against self-indulgence
that leads to tyranny within and tyranny without
Tyranny within- my desires control my actions.
This leads to- government stepping into to control
what man refuses to control- tyranny without.
True liberty comes from Christ giving believers
freedom from sin/not a license to indulge.

Romans 8:1–2 (NASB95)

**¹Therefore there is now no
condemnation for those who are in
Christ Jesus.**

**²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ
Jesus has set you free from the law of
sin and of death.**

That freedom can lead either to ...

- >self-indulgence, licentious behavior or
- >to a person regulating their actions
according to a renewed conscience.

In Christ- no longer slaves- but sons/daughters-

**Gal 4:7 Therefore you are no longer a
slave, but a son; and if a son, then an
heir through God. (Rom 8:15-17)**

In Christ- no longer boys/girls- but men/women-

**Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the
mature, who because of practice have
their senses trained to discern good and
evil.**

In Christ- yield ourselves to God and in obedience
to truth- and allow God to direct our actions.

**For indeed none can love freedom
heartily, but good men; the rest love not
freedom, but license ... John Milton**

Best self-government- willing obedience to God.

There is a direct connection between license and loss of liberty- inwardly and outwardly.

We can either be ruled by inward passions or govern our actions against the Word of God.

If we refuse self-government we will end up exchanging liberty for license.

Yet he who reigns within himself, and rules his Passions, Desires, and Fears, is more [than] a King. John Milton

We are seeing increasing anti-Christian sentiments coming from our own government.

Chuck Colson believed that the government feels threatened by- church, because we worship a king higher than the kings of this earth.

When King Herod heard about- birth of- King of the Jews- he slaughtered babies- Bethlehem.

We are also seen as wanting to impose our views on people. Do not let them tell you that. We do not impose anything. We propose. We propose an invitation to the wedding feast, to come to a better way of living. A better way of life. It's the great proposal. Chuck Colson

We are seeing the fruit that has come from 30 years of relativism/death of truth/absolutes- in academia and in the public square.

Our culture has been decaying from- inside/out.

Culture is shaped by the belief system of people.

Certainly one group of people that should be affecting the culture today is the church.

Problem- Christians have compromised their beliefs to align w/philosophies of this age.

The church is to be salt/light in our communities.

Mat 5:13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

Ultimately politics will not fix our nation- the church must again become salt/light.

Good behavior comes out of good belief.

We must carefully examine where we have compromised our beliefs/embraced the world.

The Issue of Sin

1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (NASB95)

⁹Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

¹¹Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

Effeminate- sins of the flesh.

Who will NOT inherit- KofG- unrighteous- those who practice ... sins listed in 1 Cor 6.9-11.

Unrighteous- those who do not conform their lives with what is right in the eyes of God.

1 Jn 3:4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.

Paul emphasizes this again ..

Galatians 5:19–21 (NASB95)

¹⁹Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,

²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,

²¹envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Practice- to do, continue in some type of activity.

God wants to bring us to repentance/to turn our hearts towards Him/away from ungodly activity.

Our salvation cannot be earned- act of faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Once in Christ there is an expectation that we will conform our lives to His righteous standards.

If we do not know Christ and practice any of the activities listed- we will NOT inherit the KofG.

But what about a Christian who struggles with covetousness/idolatry/immoral feelings?

We all struggle with desires/temptations- real problem comes when we act on them.

If we are practicing any of the sins listed here, it places us in a dangerous place spiritually.

At best we step out from under- blessings/favor of God and at worse, depending on- theology- we could lose our salvation- why risk it?

Partly- because of what is happening in the world today- tend to pull out certain sins on this list.

I would say this- if you are ...

- >single- struggling w/wanting to sleep with boyfriend/girlfriend- fornication- abstain
- >married- struggling w/sleeping w/someone who is not your spouse- adultery- abstain
- >struggling with same sex attractions- homosexuality/lesbianism- abstain

Homosexuality- I have talked to people- struggled w/same sex attractions- since childhood.

They know they are wrong/have struggled against it/at times given in- they ask why?

Why? Do not know for sure- fallen state of man?

My counsel to them is the same as the person tempted to fornicate/commit adultery- abstain.

You can apply the same principle to any of the sins listed in these verses ...

- >look away from sin,
- >do not act on your feelings,
- >build yourself up in the Lord through prayer and the reading of the Word.

Part of our problem as Christians- we have allowed the world- to shape how we view sin.

Do we believe in what Christ did for us at the cross or not?

Do we understand the mercy God has shown towards us through Christ sacrifice?

Do we believe- Word of God is true/absolutes.

Do we believe in the work of Christ?

John K- premise- Jesus accomplished everything necessary for our total redemption at the cross

Rom 8:29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son ...

Those who have responded to the call of Christ are predestined to be like Jesus Christ.

In other words, no aspect of my human experience is left un-renewed, un-regenerated, un-transformed by the power of Calvary's work- my faith in Christ crucified restores me to once again accurately reflect the image and likeness of the Godhead in the earth.

John Kempf

The Bible says- we are new creatures in Christ- old things passed away- the new have come.

At the cross, for you and I- IT IS FINISHED-

... there is no aspect of our human experience that is left un-renewed, un-regenerated, un-transformed by the power of Calvary's work.

In Christ we have been made complete and the HS empowers us to live godly lives (Col 2.10).

Titus 2:11–14 (NASB95)

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

¹²instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

¹³looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

¹⁴who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

God said- "You shall be holy, for I am holy." (1 Pet 1.16)