

Calling Black Black and White White

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 10:24-31

1. Often times individuals do things that even they would be quick to say are not completely pure.
2. Sadly, this even applies to Christians today. Some Christians want to do certain things, that they'll use various ways of trying to justify their actions even when they know it is not completely pure.
3. We need to know what is black and what is white. But before one can do this, one must understand what sin is.

What Is Sin?

1. Sin is doing anything that violates God's law of righteousness.

1 John 3:4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

1 John 5:17 All unrighteousness is sin....

Love Not the World

1. We are told that as Christians even though we must live in the world that we are not to be of the world.
 - A. Meaning - we must not get caught up in the things that unbelievers do just because they are doing it.
1 John 2:15-17

2. Everything we do contrary to Bible teaching falls into one of these three categories.

A. James tells us:

James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

James 4:7-8 Therefore **submit to God. Resist the devil** and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and **purify your hearts**, you double-minded.

Practice Makes Perfect

1. This applies to everything we do in life. If we practice good things, godly things, then we will learn godliness.

Philippians 4:9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, **these do**, and the God of peace will be with you.

Hebrews 5:14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use **have their senses exercised** to discern both good and evil.

2 Peter 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you **do these things** you will never stumble;

A. WHAT THINGS?

- 1) Those things mentioned earlier in 2 Peter, chapter 1, which we will read about in a few moments.**

2. **However, if we practice the things of the flesh, those things that are unrighteous, then we will become worldly and Satan will gain a firm grip on our life going forward.**

Romans 1:32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, **that those who practice such things are worthy of death**, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Galatians 5:21 envy, 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.**

I John 3:10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: **Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God**, nor is he who does not love his brother.

- A. **We should practice those things that are righteous, but when we fail to do so, and wilfully sin, then there remains no more sacrifice for sins.**

Hebrews 10:24-31

Some Examples

1. **Notice this chart of things placed in the black, gray and white column.**
 - A. **The things in the black and white column have scriptures in black and white telling us whether these are black or white.**

BLACK

Adultery, Murder, Envy, Strife

Galatians 5:19-21 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, **envy, 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.

Lying

Ephesians 4:25 Therefore, **putting away lying**, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.

Homosexuality

1 Timothy 1:10 for fornicators, for **sodomites** (homosexuals -NASV), for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine,

Unfaithfulness

Hebrews 10:25 **not forsaking the assembling** of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Revelation 2:10 **Be faithful until death**, and I will give you the crown of life.

WHITE

Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, Temperance, Knowledge, Brotherly Kindness, Godliness

Galatians 5:22-25

2 Peter 1:2-10

1. The things that have been placed in the Black and White columns are things which most of us do not have a problem seeing **RIGHT** or **WRONG!**
2. **But notice the gray area.** These are things that some Christians are involved in, often times claiming there's no divine guidance and therefore try to justify to themselves that these are alright.
 - A. **But are they? Are there really gray areas to Christianity?**
 - 1) **Jesus said:**

Revelation 3:15-16 I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, **because you are lukewarm**, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

2. **One needs to understand that it is either black (WRONG) or it is white (RIGHT) in God's sight. There can be no in between with God.**

GRAY?

Instrumental Music

Colossians 3:16-17 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord**. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Ephesians 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord**,

Modesty

See Chart

Note: Romanian converts quickly learned that Christianity also meant a change of life; No more mini skirts, No more days at the beach in bathing suits. **WHY CAN'T WE SEE THAT?**

Dancing

1Thessalonians 5:21-22 Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Matthew 5:28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

1. Can you control the other person's thoughts?

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

2 Corinthians 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

1 Corinthians 10:31whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Mixed Swimming

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

- **Children are innocent**
 - **But - if allowed to do it now, but won't allow it later will send mixed signals to them (Romans 13:14)**

Inappropriate Movies (bad language and sex scenes)

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are **the pure in heart**, for they shall see God.

Philippians 4:8-9

Titus 1:15 **To the pure all things are pure**, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.

Smoking

A. Influence:

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may **see your good works** and **glorify your Father in heaven**.

B. Addiction of Enslavement:

1 Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but **I will not be brought under the power of any**.

1 Corinthians 9:27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, **lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified**.

C. Offensive to Others:

Matthew 7:12 Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

D. Harmful to Health:

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Or do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you**, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore **glorify God in your body** and in your spirit, which are God's.

Social Drinking

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

1 Peter 4:3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, **drinking parties**, and abominable idolatries.

Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, And **whoever is led astray by it is not wise.**

Drinking and Alcoholism are works of the flesh - not the spirit. Therefore they are sinful (Galatians 5:19-23)

- A. When all is said and done – we see that those things that “some” may consider gray are really black!**

Conclusion

- 1. The law of God is made for the lawless, disobedient and ungodly. For all those that practice things that are contrary to sound doctrine.**

1 Timothy 1:9-10 knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and **if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine,**

- 2. Children of God, true disciples of Christ, KNOW what things are black and what things are white.**

- A. John tells us that:**

- 1 John 1:7-10**

- B. Paul says:**

Galatians 5:24-25 And those who are Christ's have **crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.** **If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**

- 3. Let us be determined to walk in the ways of light turning aside from all darkness!**

- A. True children of God understand that they are to: “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life” (Proverbs 4:23).**

