

News & Announcements

PRAYER REQUESTS

Liz Barajas' dad is home from the hospital and is feeling much better. Continue to keep Liz's dad in your prayers as well as Liz and her family.

Ignacio Reyes is undergoing in Utah for PTSD and should be home very soon. Keep Melissa and the children in your prayers while Ignacio is away from them.

Beth Nebeker has not been to services for quite a while because she has not been doing well. She had a doctor appointment, but at this writing do not know what the outcome is. Keep Beth in your prayers that she will soon be able to worship with us again soon.

Keep the following on your prayer list who are either shut-in, unable to worship with us, or have on going health concerns,

Daryion and Janette Banks, Dorothy and Firman Barton, Mary and Bob Cress, Beverly Dempsey, Rachel Kidwell, Beth Nebeker, Bobbye Pounders, John Simo, and Fernando Vizcarra, Jr. in your prayers.

Mens Business Meeting will be Sunday, February 14th at 4:30 PM. All men should try to be in attendance to discuss very important issues.

TRAVELING MEMBERS

Brenda Mendoza is in Australia until sometime in March. Keep Brenda in your prayers for a safe return.

MILITARY MEMBERS

Michael Barnes and David Sims are stationed at Nellis Air Force Base.

WORD OF FAITH

Weekly bulletin of the Vegas Drive Church of Christ

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Sunday Bible Class: 9 AM • Sunday Worship: 10 AM & 6 PM • Wednesday Bible Class: 7 PM

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IDENTIFYING SIN

Not every sin is specifically named in the Bible. For instance, the list of the "works of the flesh" is not exhaustive (Gal. 5:19-21). Paul noted there are others sins ("and the like") of the same nature, left unnamed, but which also condemn the soul (Gal. 5:21).

This truth upsets the notion that we cannot be so bold as to call something sin unless it is specifically identified as sin in the Scriptures.

Just as both generic and specific authority exist in the Scriptures (by which we establish and apply Bible authority to what we teach and practice), the same can be said of sin. Some sins are specifically identified, while others are generically included and equally prohibited.

For example, "lewdness" embodies a wide range of sins, all of which are connoted by behavior that is sensual and lustful. Therefore, such things as the lustful touching of bodies outside of marriage, though not specifically identified by name, such practices are identified as sin (Mk. 7:22; Rom. 13:13; 2 Cor. 12:21). This word condemns the sinfulness of modern dancing, although "dancing" per se is not mentioned in the New Testament as sinful. It is lewd or lascivious conduct, and hence qualifies as a "work of the flesh" (Gal. 5:19, 21).

James said, "Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin" (Jas. 4:17). What form does such sin take? Is every "good" to be done specifically named in the Scriptures? If so, then every sin of omission is equally specified. If not, then we conclude there are indeed sins not specifically named, yet certainly abhorrent to the Lord.

Some wish to say the moderate consumption of intoxicants is not called sin in the Scriptures, and therefore we cannot do so. But, such is indeed specifically condemned in 1 Peter 4:3 ("banquetings" or "drinking parties"). Others object to identifying miniskirts as sinful. Yet, modest clothing that reflects godliness is commanded in 1 Timothy 2:9-10.

To be able to identify sin by using the Scriptures we must have a love of the truth combined with "knowledge and all discernment" in order to "approve the things that are excellent" and therefore, refuse what fails God's test of righteousness and holiness (Phil. 1:9-11; Heb. 5:13-14). Do not be deceived by sin. See it clearly for what it is and what it does; destroy the soul (Rom. 6:23; Heb. 3:12-13; Jas. 1:16). ❁

WHEN CHRISTIANS CALL SIN A LIBERTY

For something to be a liberty for the Christian, the law of Christ must first judge it permissible. "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 Cor. 6:12). Paul did not remove every stipulation concerning sin, thus making everything acceptable. Far from it. Instead, he affirmed that lawful things must be used in helpful ways that glorify God (see 1 Cor. 6:20). A liberty is never an opportunity to serve the flesh, "For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another" (Gal. 5:13).

The failure to distinguish a liberty one has in Christ from sin against Christ leads brethren to defend error and justify immorality. We must learn God's word and use it to train our senses to "discern both good and evil" (Heb. 5:14).

Social drinking. I just read a Christian recommend a description of drinking alcohol as a liberty (while agreeing that drunkenness is sin). The point was being made not to drink (use your liberty) in such a way as to draw others into addictive behavior (don't be so cavalier in your drinking before others). Such an approach is error. The Scriptures condemn as sin both drunkenness and the drinking that leads to it (1 Pet. 4:3; Prov. 20:1; 23:29-35). It is not a liberty in Christ to drink as long as you do not influence others to harm themselves with that which you do. Scripture does not support this view of drinking intoxicants.

Social dancing. The absence of moral restraint is the sin of lewd and lascivious conduct (Rom. 13:13; Gal. 5:19; 1 Pet. 4:3). It is self-abandonment, the lack of moral restraint. One need only look at the activities on the dance floor to see the expression of this sin. Yet, some Christians defend their "liberty" to dance, but not because the Scriptures teach it is innocent. They define it as a liberty because they approve of it. But, self-approval does not a liberty make (2 Cor. 10:12).

Immodest clothing. Some brethren believe it is a person's liberty or right to wear mini-skirts, short shorts and other body-revealing clothes. Scripture teaches the exposure of the thigh is a shameful display of one's nakedness (Isa. 47:2-3; Exo. 28:42). Our clothing is to display shamefastness and sobriety, not the absence of shame through the absence (or exaggeration) of clothing (1 Tim. 2:9-10).

Divorce and remarriage without cause. Many brethren refuse to identify the sin of putting away one's mate for causes other than fornication (Matt. 19:9). Is it because they view it to be a liberty to end a marriage without Christ's stated cause? Apparently they do. Yet, the Scriptures say that sundering what God has joined together is sin, not a liberty (Matt. 19:6).

God calls us to be holy as He is holy (1 Pet. 1:15-16). Holiness is defined and arranged by the word of God, not by the word and wisdom of men (1 Thess. 5:21-22).

Yes, we have liberties in Christ, but they are things that are pure and clean in and of themselves, being acceptable to God and free of condemnation (Rom. 14:14, 16, 18, 20, 22). We dare not approve what God condemns. Let us always "abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good" (Rom. 12:9).

By: Joe R. Price



God's Plan of Salvation

HEAR the gospel Rom. 10:17
BELIEVE the gospel John 3:16
REPENT of your sins Luke 13:3
CONFESS Christ Matt. 10:32
Be BAPTIZED Acts 2:38
Live FAITHFULLY Rev. 2:10

If you are visiting today, we appreciate your presence and hope to get to know you better. Please fill out a visitor's card so we can have a record of your attendance, and if there is any way we can serve your spiritual needs, please bring this to our attention.

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