

Next, I would suggest we all take a look at the cross. What did Jesus do for us? Are we willing to do for others what He did for us? Even those who hurt us or do something we don't like. Do we think Jesus liked being on the cross? Do we think He had nothing better to do that day? We need to stop wasting our time and mental energy trying to figure out why someone did or said something. It'll drive us crazy. If we'd all do what Jesus did, then we'd have our answer.

Therefore, be longsuffering, kind, do not envy, or be puffed up. Do not be selfish, nor rude. Do not be easily provoked, nor harbor wrongs. Delight in what is right, and weep over wrong. Bear all things, believe all things, hope in all things, and endure all things. Love never fails. Try it!

Rickie Jenkins

Campbell Road church of Christ (Facebook Page)



Sin: The Problem and Solution

If there is one point in history where society has been the worst off, it would have been the time right before the flood. Genesis 6.5-6 tells us “the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thought of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth.” What a sad state. God who created mankind and called him good, was now sorry He had made man. Even though society today is filled with wickedness, it has not reached this point. Our perception of society is viewed through the lens of the time we are living. But it's hard to not feel like people are as casual and comfortable with sin as they have ever been. There is nothing causal or comfortable about sin. It is important to recognize the danger of it, and not take part in it.

What is sin? Romans 3.23 says “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” While Vines dictionary defines sin as “a missing of the mark.” Combining the two, it is a missing of the mark by falling short of God's glory. The “mark” is the commands God has given in His word to which all are accountable (Romans 3.19). When we act in a way that is in direct opposition to what God's word says, it is sin. Romans 3.23 makes it known that sin is not a “Christian” problem but a “world” problem, all have sinned. A person doesn't begin to sin when they gain a knowledge of God's word, only a realization of the sin in their lives, but sin is there regardless of the knowledge or not.

Why is sin so bad? Sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59.2). While a person is in sin, they cannot have fellowship with God or Christ. 1 John 1.5 says, “God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.” Light and dark are polar opposites, the two cannot exist together. This separation from God, if not corrected, leads to spiritual death. Death is the just recompense for sinful actions, it is what we deserve. God is just to lend out this punishment.

Marietta church of Christ

8150 Driggers St.
Jacksonville, FL 32220

Times of Worship

Sunday:

9 am - Bible Study / 10 am - Worship / 5 pm - Worship

Wednesday:

7 pm - Bible Study/Worship

Evangelist: Devin Barber

www.mariettacoc.com

What is the answer? God did not leave us without an answer to the problem of sin. The answer is the blood of Christ. This plan was orchestrated before the beginning of the world (Ephesians 1.4-6; 1 Peter 1.19-20). God sent His only begotten Son into the world, to live a perfect life, and to become the perfect sacrifice. Christ became sin to pay the debt of our sins in order that we might be reconciled unto God (2 Corinthians 5.21). One of the most beautiful passages in the Bible is Romans 5.6-10 because it details both the state of man and the love of God. Three words are used to describe the state of man when Christ came, “ungodly,” “sinners,” and “enemies.” Yet God loved us when we were unlovable, sending Christ to die for us, to provide us with the opportunity to come back to Him.

God has given mankind this great gift, now how do we respond? Once a person believes that Christ is the Son of God, and came to save mankind, it is necessary for them to be baptized. Through baptism we access the blood of Christ and wash ourselves clean of the former sinful man, and begin our walk with Christ, putting to death the old man of sin (Romans 6.3-4; 1 Peter 3.21). Isaiah 59.1 says, “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; not His ear heavy, that it cannot hear.” No person is too far gone that God will not grant forgiveness if they are willing to respond to the gospel call. After becoming a new creature, we are to no longer return to the old life of sin, that person and those things are now dead to us. Instead, we pursue the things of God, and obedience to His commandments (Colossians 3.1-4). But this doesn’t mean we have become perfect; we will still sin from time to time. There is a difference in continuing in sin, and a single misstep. If we are striving to live as God commanded the blood of Christ will continue to cleanse us when we ask for forgiveness for our sins (1 John 1.7-9).

Sin is a serious problem that many people take to lightly. Cleansing ourselves from sin and living a life according to God will, is the only way we will make it to heaven. Let us do our part to both keep our own lives clean, but also alert others of the cleansing that is available through Christ.

Written by; Derek Steen

Our Story

We each tell ourselves a story. We often replay that story over and over. However, often the story is either incomplete or incorrect. We are not objective. We are subjective individuals. If we could be 100% objective, we might be correct. But no one is.

For example, someone says or does something we either don’t like or that hurts us. Now, just because someone has done something to us that we don’t like, doesn’t mean that they hurt us. That person may have no intention of displeasing or hurting us. What was said or done is filtered through my interpretation, my thoughts, and my prejudices. Then, because we are so sure of our own interpretation, we form hard and fast conclusions. “I know why they said that. I know why they did that.” As a result, we begin to write our own story and each version often drifts farther from the truth.

However, we are missing something. We are missing a key piece of information that completes the story. We don’t know why they said what they did, or why they acted the way they did. Just because we think we know, doesn’t mean we know. See, it goes like this. In the past, we had an experience with a person who really hurt us or betrayed us. Ever since then, we look with a jaundiced eye toward everyone and interpret everything done through that filter. That becomes our story. We tell and retell it to ourselves. It changes with every telling, not for the better either.

True, we may be absolutely right in our story. Although, mostly likely, we have edited and added pieces of our story. Now the story is even further off than when it was first written.

What can we do? Forgetting is not an option. Our minds are such we will remember. I wish I had a nice, neat, quick and simple answer. It sounds so trite, but we will have to change the way we think. We’ll have to stop interpreting information we don’t have. We need to stop comparing present information with past experiences.

We have to write it in our minds, “Love does no harm to a neighbor” (Romans 13:10). If we take a look at the list right above that, it includes bearing false witness. If love does no harm, then we need to stop bearing false witness to ourselves. Every story we tell is not true. It may be partially true. We may be thoroughly persuaded it is true, but we are probably missing a key piece that completes the story. So, love does no harm, even to us.

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