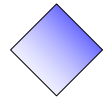


# The Voice of Truth



July 6, 2014

## What Is Your Attitude Toward Sin?

By Jimmy Pettigrew

There is a trend to believe that the possibility of offending someone in teaching the Bible is to be avoided. In our society people are taught to get along with everybody. We don't want to hurt anybody's feelings. Brethren, we are to preach the word, not pamper the world (**2 Timothy 4:2**). We are to reprove, rebuke, not relax in sin, approve it, deny it, mock it, minimize it or exonerate it!

Brethren, there is an attitude, a stance, which has crept in the Lord's church; it's our attitude toward sin, the tolerating of sin. First, I want to say that the Lord desires that His church be pure. "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (**Ephesians 5:26-27**). Knowing we are to keep the church, a glorious church, pure, why do my brethren minimize sin? Let us stop treating sin lightly. Don't my brethren realize, when we treat sin lightly, we are treating the cross lightly!

I will say this, we will cease minimizing sin when we **(1)** call it what it is, **(2)** see what it is, **(3)** consider what it does, and **(4)** think where it ends. Instead of tolerating, minimizing sin, we are to reprove it (**Ephesians 5:11**). Tolerance of sin is condemned (**Revelation 2:20-21**). And toleration of sin leads to a love of sin, the love of sin leads to a practice of sin, and the practice of sin leads to spiritual death (**Romans 6:23**). The church is wounded when we fail to reprove and rebuke sin. A single sin which is permitted to remain in the body will destroy the whole body (**Revelation 2:1-5**). When we cover up sins in the church, we corrupt the morality and virtue of the church and destroy its efficacy to honor God or to save men. Sin must be exposed and purged out of the church. God cannot be honored by covering up evil in the church. To expose sin is to proclaim to the world that they seek truth, purity, holiness, and godlikeness.

What am I talking about? I am talking about smoking; I

am talking about one brought under the power of any chemical substance, legal or illegal; I am talking about alcohol. I am talking about addiction! These things are addictive. Paul writes, "...but I will not be brought under the power of any" (**1 Corinthians 6:12 ASV**). One version reads, "but I will not be enslaved by anything" (**RSV**). The word of God teaches that the Christian is to be God-controlled. While the Christian is a new creature in Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:17**), he is also a **servant**. "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey the lusts thereof." "For sin shall not have dominion over you." "But thanks be to God, that, whereas ye were servants of sin, ye became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching whereunto ye were delivered; and being made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness" (**Romans 6:12, 14, 17-18**). The Scriptures boldly proclaim that man cannot serve two masters (**Matthew 6:24**). The Christian is to be under the power of divinity, first, last, and always. It is an undeniable principle in the Bible that the Christian, as a servant of God, is never to be brought under the power or control of anyone or anything.

When a Christian becomes addicted, enslaved to smoking, alcohol, or brought under the power of any chemical substance, legal or illegal, he is attempting to serve two masters and forfeits the servant-master relationship which exists between himself and God. The Christian, as he serves the eternal Master, must be free from **ALL** enslavement! The child of God is to be God -controlled (**Ecclesiastes 12:13**).

Nicotine is the drug in tobacco that causes addiction; alcohol is a drug, an addictive drug; legal and illegal drugs are also addictive. Being controlled by these is in conflict with **1 Corinthians 6:12**. Also smoking, alcohol, legal and illegal drugs goes against the teaching of the Scriptures that teach your body is a temple, that you are to glorify God in your body (**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**). Those who engage in these things use their bodies for carnal pleasures,

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and are in sin. Jesus Christ cannot live in the individual who is walking contrary to the principles set forth in His word. To be cleansed by the blood of Jesus the Christian must walk in the light as Jesus is in the light (**1 John 1:7**). Jesus tells us that we are: "*So let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven*" (**Matthew 5:16**). Question: Can a Christian's light shine when he disobeys God? Can a Christian's light shine when he lives to fulfill the lust of the flesh (**Romans 13:14**)? Can a Christian's light shine when he is intoxicated (**Galatians 5:21**)? Can a Christian's light shine when he is controlled, mastered, by a chemical substance (nicotine etc. ;) (**1 Corinthians 6:12**)? Can a Christian's light shine when he destroys, harms, the temple of the Holy Spirit which is the physical body (**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**)? If a Christian's light is not shining he deprives God of glory, the world of godly influence, is this not sin?

Listen, I do want to make my point; I am talking about how the church ignores these things, or supports these things. What do I mean? We have many in the Lord's church, who are doing these sins, and we know it to be sin, instead of reproving and rebuking these members about their sin, we will ask them to be the song leader; we ask them to serve on the Lord's Table or lead prayers. We act like nothing is wrong! These things are sin, and abomination to God, "*He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the righteous, Both of them alike are an abomination to Jehovah*" (**Proverbs 17:15**). Do you think God is happy when we allow such a person to lead us in worship to God? Do think God is happy when we give money to these people so they can buy a pack of cigarettes or some beer to support their sin? Do you think God is happy when members of the body of Christ go behind the church building and practice sin (smoking)? Maybe it's alright to commit fornication, use profanity, or drink alcohol as long as it's behind the church building?

Oh, it's just a little sin! A tiny spark can cause a great forest fire. A little member in our body, the tongue, can send us to hell (**James 3**). Remember that it was a little fruit in Eve's case, a little touch in Uzzah's case, a little bundle of sticks in the Israelite's case. Any sin, whether we classified it big or little, will keep a man out of heaven (**Revelation 21:27**). One sin unrepented of is enough to render one a sinner, and cause him to be lost (**James 2:10**). There is no little sin, because there is no little God to sin against. Sin is sin! But we allow such a person to lead the congregation in worship because we feel sorry for him, or we don't want to make him mad and run him off, these things ought not to be brethren! Smoking, alcoholic beverage and drugs has many defenders but no defense.

Brethren, these things (smoking, alcohol, misusing of legal or illegal drugs) are sin! Would we allow a man living in adultery or who steals lead the congregation in worship? Then why would we allow a person who smokes, uses alcohol, or one brought under the power of any chemical substance, to lead us in worship? Is not a sin a sin? If a congregation permits such individuals to remain unchastened within its fellowship, allows such a person to lead in worship, it thereby becomes a partaker of their sin and will also drift out of favor of the Lord (**Revelation 2**). Sin must be exposed and purged out of the church or the church becomes corrupt and a synagogue of Satan instead of the church of Christ. We need to hate every false way (**Psalms 119:140**). To ignore or tolerate wrong doing among its members is not love just because you felt sorry for that person. The question is how much do you love God, His Word, the church, your brothers and sisters? "*We ought to obey God rather than man*" (**Acts 5:29**). Let us pray that God will, "*grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word*" (**Acts 4:29**). ♦

### Just Suppose

1. Suppose that your church membership was good only for one year at a time and that renewal depended on your faithfulness in attendance, stewardship and service. Would you retain your membership in the church?
2. Suppose that membership was limited to those who could give a valid excuse for absences. Would your absences be acceptable?
3. Suppose that some parents could look into the future and see the dreadful results of neglecting the teaching of Christ. Would they be different parents?
4. Suppose members were as enthusiastic about church events as they are about sporting events. Would there be a marked difference in the life of the church?
5. Suppose that every member attended church services as much as you did. Would we need more seating, or would the building be closed and for sale?
6. Suppose that renew our dedication to Jesus Christ. Our attendance and stewardship would increase and all would rejoice in the Lord! ♦

## “A Stopped Clock”

### By Jarrod Jacobs

**A** stopped clock .....

- ◆ Is right twice a day.
- ◆ Implies that there was a clockmaker.
- ◆ Might have once run well.
- ◆ Could be started again.
- ◆ Could be such because of only one defective component.
- ◆ Could be such because of someone’s negligence.

If human reasoning could find so many “positive” lessons from a stopped clock, is it any wonder why many of our brethren can find justification for the fellowshiping of false teachers among us? Could we not justify almost any man who privately or publicly teaches falsehoods with similar reasoning as was offered on behalf of the stopped clock? See for yourself. Some might say ....

**A** false teacher .....

- ◆ Is right on most things.
- ◆ Believes in the same God we do.
- ◆ May have done many wonderful things for God in the past. (Compare: **Ezek. 18:24, 26**)
- ◆ Might change if he is given enough time.
- ◆ Generally teaches falsehood in only one area of Bible teaching.
- ◆ Generally teaches the truth on all other subjects.
- ◆ Is sometimes justified as saying he took this position because of (sins in the family, a friend, etc.) and not because he really believed it.

Some might suggest that in the case of the stopped clock, if someone would merely work with that clock, it may be possible that the clock can work correctly again. This is a true statement. So also is it true that if we will take the time to work with false teachers, (not compromising the truth, but taking the time to teach them the truth) we may be able to win them to the Lord when they repent of their false doctrine and preach the truth.

However, if our stopped clock is beyond repair, we need not keep it around. In like manner, the Holy Spirit speaks of some who were “*past feeling*” (**Eph. 4:19**), some “*who concerning the truth have erred*” (**II Tim. 2:18**), and

some who “*will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared*” (**I Tim. 4:1-2**), etc. In such cases, we must not continue in fellowship with them, pretending as if nothing is wrong, but “*watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them*” (**Rom. 16:17**). John condemned continuing in fellowship with those in error stating, “*If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works*” (**II Jn. 10-11**).

One evident problem today is that while most people will do what is necessary to fix a stopped clock, many are not willing to do what the Bible describes as necessary to stop a false teacher (**Titus 1:11**). Another evident problem is that most people are not afraid to fix the stopped clock, and in fact are appreciative when someone calls attention to the fact that their clock not working. Yet, when it comes to false teaching and false doctrine, we find just the opposite attitude. Often, we find people afraid to speak to those in error, and those in error often becoming angry that someone might suggest that they are wrong. How sad!

Let us not be afraid to call a “spade” a “spade.” If there is false teaching being promoted, the one who is the friend to the teacher is the one who points it out; not the one who is so afraid of hurting feelings or friendships that they keep it bottled up. Jesus said, “*But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death*” (**Rev. 21:8**). Notice the first group mentioned as having their part in the torment of the second death are the “*cowardly*” or “*fearful*”! I myself have had to work on this problem, and by God’s grace I keep working at improving. What about you, dear readers? Brethren, where are our priorities when it comes to the problem of false doctrines being spread?

Credit: The Old Paths - 3/16/14 ♦

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**When an archer misses the mark, he turns and looks for the fault within himself.  
Failure to hit the bull’s-eye is never the fault of the target. To improve your aim –  
Improve yourself. ♦**

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A pint of example is worth a barrel full of advice. ♦

## The Power of a Goal By Jonathan L. Perz

One of the greatest goals set before mankind can be found in God’s word. Among His final instructions before departing this world, Jesus gave His disciples a mission. He said, *“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:15-16).*

At the time, this goal may have seemed more than challenging—even overwhelming. Some may have even thought it impossible. Indeed, preach the gospel to the whole world with twelve men and a sparse group of followers. Do this in the face of adversity, trial and even death. Preach this message to a disinterested world.

This goal is reminiscent of a similar one in a parallel period of time, where the twelve tribes of Israel were sent to go forth and take the land God had promised them. When God commanded that twelve spies search out the land they were to take, despite their initial good report, ten

of those spies clearly saw the goal that God had set as impossible for them to achieve. They proceeded to complain and rebel against the Lord. As a result of their faithlessness, they died and the rest of the people wandered in the wilderness for forty years. Only Joshua and Caleb had the fortitude and faith to move forward and achieve God’s goal (Num. 13:16-14:38).

Do we have the same fortitude and faith today that they did in the first century to meet the goal God has set for us? In their day, the disciples preached the gospel to every creature under heaven (Col. 1:23). They achieved that seemingly impossible goal the Lord had set!

That goal still stands for us in our generation. Will we preach the gospel to every creature under heaven? What other goals has the Lord set for us that— at the onset— seem impossible, but with a working faith, can be achieved? The Lord clearly sees a great power in setting a goal before His people. Do we? *Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com* ♦

### HOW TO GET WHAT YOU WANT

- If you want friends — **be friendly.**
- If you want someone to smile — **smile.**
- If you want courtesy — **be courteous.**
- If you want knowledge — **study.**
- If you want a good name — **live right.**
- If you want to reap well — **sow well.**
- If you want to be a Christian — **obey God's word.**
- If you want to go to heaven — **live a Christian life** ♦

### What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- Hear and Learn** - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3
- Believe** - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24
- Repent** - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30
- Confess the Lord** - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21
- Be Baptized** - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27
- Continue in the Apostles' Teaching** - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

### About the Hillcrest church of Christ

**Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew**

How to Contact Us	Our Address	Schedule of Assembly
<p><b>Telephone:</b> (920)499-5677 <b>E-mail:</b> hillcrestcofc@live.com</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">1621 Hillcrest Drive Green Bay, WI 54313</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bible Study:</b> Sunday, 9:00am <b>Worship Service:</b> Sunday, 10:00am <b>Bible Study:</b> Wednesday, 7:00pm*</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month</p>