



General Topics :: Five Sins That Jesus Hated the Most

Five Sins That Jesus Hated the Most - posted by moreofHim (), on: 2004/4/5 21:19

~Five Sins That Jesus Hated The Most~
by Zac Poonen

As we grow spiritually, we will discover the righteousness of God is not primarily external, and that sin too is not primarily external. When we talk about righteousness, most people think of the standard mentioned in the Ten Commandments.

But righteousness under the new covenant is measured by the life of Jesus and not by any written Law. When we consider the sins that Jesus spoke against the most, we will discover what he hated the most. As we consider five such sins, we will see that none of them are listed in the Ten Commandments!

1. HYPOCRISY

To be a hypocrite is to give others the impression that we are holier than we actually are. It is the same as being false, or telling a lie. Jesus pronounced a curse on hypocrites seven times in Matthew 23:13-29. It is possible to tell a lie without even opening our mouths. Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit without saying a word - when he pretended to be a wholehearted disciple of Jesus (Acts 5:1-5)

Jesus told the Pharisees that their inner life was "full of self-indulgence" (Matt.23:25 - "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites. For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish (for show), but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence", which meant that they lived only to please themselves. Yet they gave others the impression that because they knew the scriptures well and fasted and prayed and tithed their income, they were very holy. They appeared very pious externally. They prayed lengthy prayers in public, but they did not pray at length in private - just like many today. It is hypocrisy if we praise God only on Sunday mornings, but do not have a spirit of praise in our hearts at all times. God looks at our hearts. The wise virgins had a hidden reserve of oil in their vessels while the foolish ones had only enough to light their lamps externally and have a good testimony before men (Matt.25:1-4). When we hear of a Christian leader suddenly falling into adultery, we must realize that that was no sudden fall but the final result of a long period of unfaithfulness in his inner life. He had been a hypocrite for a long time!

2. SPIRITUAL PRIDE

Spiritual pride is the most common sin to be found among those who pursue after holiness. We all know the parable of the self-righteous Pharisee who despised others even in prayer.

Luke 18:9-14 - The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, "God, I thank you that I am not like other men - extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess." And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, "God be merciful to me a sinner!" I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

It is more than likely that 90% of all prayers offered in public by believers are primarily meant to impress others who are listening and not prayed to God at all. The Pharisee in the parable may not have been evil like other sinners in his external life. But Jesus hated the pride with which he thought of his spiritual activities and with which he despised others. It is spiritual pride that makes believers constantly judge other believers.

The tax collector however, who saw himself as The Sinner- worse than all others- was accepted by God. All who have come face to face with God will have seen themselves at some time, as the chief of sinners. Jesus taught that the greatest person in heaven would be the humblest.

Matthew 18:4 - ...whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom...

The greatest virtue found in heaven is humility. We see in the book of Revelation that all those who receive crowns in heaven are quick to cast them down before the Lord acknowledging that He alone deserves every crown.

Rev. 4:10-11 - the twenty four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive honor and power;...

Jesus said that even if we managed to obey EVERY SINGLE commandment of God, we would still be unprofitable servants who have not done anything more than what was expected of us (Luke 17:10). Then what shall we say about our condition when we fall so often!

3. IMPURITY

Impurity enters into our hearts mainly through our eyes and our ears. This impurity then comes OUT from our hearts and expresses itself through the various members of our bodies - primarily through our tongues and eyes. Anyone who seeks to be pure must therefore be especially careful about what he sees and what he hears.

(This is also true for children, who's hearts and minds should be developing pure character.)

Jesus hated impurity so much that He told His disciples that they should be willing to pluck out their right eye and cut off their right hand rather than sin with those members.

(Matthew 5:27-29)

When do doctors recommend the amputation of the right hand or the surgical removal of an eye? Only when things have become so bad that without the removal of these organs, the whole body will die. This is what we need to understand in relation to sin as well. Sin is so serious that it can imperil our very life. Most believers have not realized this and that is why they are careless in the way they use their tongues and their eyes. We must be as blind men and as dumb men when tempted to sin with our eyes and our tongues. This is the implication of Jesus' words.

4. INDIFFERENCE TO HUMAN NEED

Jesus was angry when the leaders of the synagogue did not want Him to heal a man, just because it was the Sabbath day "He was deeply disturbed by their indifference to human need" (Mark 3:5-Living Tr.), "being grieved by the hardness of their hearts".

We are commanded to do good to all men, especially to the children of God (Gal.6:10).

Jesus taught that those who did nothing to help their brothers who were in need of the basic necessities of life, would be cast out of His presence in the final day.

Matthew 25:41-46 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave

Me no food: I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take

Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me'...

'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these,

you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." We may not have the gift of healing to heal the sick believers. But we can all certainly visit those who are sick and encourage them. That's all the Lord asks of us.

The rich man went to hell because he did not care for his brother Lazarus, who was a fellow Jew and a fellow son of Abraham. The priest and the Levite in the parable of the good Samaritan, were exposed as hypocrites by Jesus because they did not show compassion on their fellow brother/Jew who was lying on the roadside wounded.

The Bible says that those who see their brothers in need and who are not moved to

help them do not really have saving faith (James 2:15-17). They are only deceiving themselves when they say that they are 'born again'. They are not.

Those who do not help their brothers in need cannot possibly have the love of God dwelling in their hearts.

1John 3:17 "But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need,

and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?"

Jesus spoke out strongly on such matters because He hated the attitude that many religious people had who were concerned only with religious activities but not with helping their needy brothers.

5. UNBELIEF

The four sins that we have already mentioned can easily be identified as sins by all believers. But when it comes to unbelief, almost all believers think of it, not as a sin but as a weakness. And therefore they don't learn to hate unbelief as they hate other sins.

But the Bible speaks of an unbelieving heart as an EVIL heart.

Hebrews 3:12 "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;"

Jesus rebuked His disciples seven times for unbelief. (See Mt. 6:30; 8:26; 14:31; 16:8;

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17:17-20; Mk.16:14; Lk.24:25). It seems that He almost never rebuked His disciples for anything else!!

Unbelief is an insult to God, because it implies that God does not care or provide for His children even as much as evil fathers on earth care and provide for their children.

There is also a counterfeit faith being preached these days, as a means of getting things from God. But that is not the faith that Jesus preached. He wanted us to have faith to live by, in our daily life. Victory over depression, bad moods and discouragement can only come as we have faith in a loving Father in heaven and in the wonderful promises He has given us in His Word.

Twice we read of Jesus being amazed- once when He saw FAITH and once when He saw UNBELIEF!!

Mt. 8:10 - When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"

Mk. 6:5-6 - Now He could do no mighty work there...And He marveled because of their unbelief.

Jesus was excited whenever He saw faith in people. And He was disappointed when He saw people unwilling to trust in a loving Father in heaven.

Now that we know-

Many will read an article like this only to point out other's flaws. But what we need to do is to hate these sins thoroughly in our own lives first. As we discover these sins in our lives we must crucify them ruthlessly.-

Then we will be able to proclaim God's word with authority. Otherwise we will only be a Pharisee like so many others in the world.

Satisfied in Him alone, Chanin

Re: Five Sins That Jesus Hated the Most - posted by shazbot, on: 2004/4/5 23:09

I think hypocrisy is more than giving others "the impression that we are holier than we actually are", I think it's seeking the approval of man through acts of sacrifice to God. Someone may sincerely mean those acts and sacrifices, but if they are doing it for the approval of man, that is still hypocrisy.

Feel free to disagree, this is coming from the mind of shazbot, not the mind of God, and I am quite thoroughly fallible.

Re: Five Sins That Jesus Hated the Most - posted by crsschk (), on: 2004/4/6 9:31

Thanks Chanin,

Where do you find this?

#5!!!

This is tearing at the fiber of my faith right now,...*though He slay me*

I guess I need to humble myself and ask for help.

I am in a financial mess, I need a miracle today.

Actually yesterday, in a nutshell, waiting for word on a new job as an assistant superintendent that seems likely, just a slow process of background checks and whatnot..In the interim working on Apts where I live which goes toward my rent... Problem being ...no cash flow.

Please pray that the Lord would show me what to do. April 15th is coming up...Could go to my folks and borrow....I don't know.

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Re: - posted by JKail (), on: 2004/4/6 10:00

Quote:
-----Many will read an article like this only to point out other's flaws. But what we need to do is to hate these sins thoroughly in our own lives first. As we discover these sins in our lives we must crucify them ruthlessly.-Then we will be able to proclaim God's word with authority. Otherwise we will only be a Pharisee like so many others in the world.

Amen! Jesus warned us to be aware of the yeast of the pharisees, it ruins the whole batch...How easy it is to become a pharisee if we pursue holiness without being broken by God! How easily spiritual pride can come in if we forget the humility of Christ! This calls for self-examination, honesty before God, and serious repentance...

I found this article to be a great reminder and challenge. Thanks, Chanin

-Jake Kail

Re: - posted by rocklife (), on: 2004/4/6 14:52

We are only righteous by the blood of Jesus, no works will make us clean, I'm sure everyone agrees with that. And once we have the Holy Spirit in us, God changes us from the inside out, gives us a heart of flesh instead a heart of stone. We are a new creature, Praise God!

1 John 1:8-9, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 3:9-10 "No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in Him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love His brother." John 16:13-15 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belong to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you."

As our Creator, we must love God with our whole heart. It's only right that we love the One who gave us life. That's basically what Christianity is. Then love our neighbor as ourselves, love others. God makes it even easier for us to do what's right by living in us and telling us, by His Holy Spirit and through the written word of God.

A comment about the 10 Commandments. The great preacher Charles Spurgeon has expounded about how to use the 10 Commandments, and a function it has that is effective to evangelize. Spurgeon says the Lord's 10 Commandments are like 10 great cannons aimed at the sinner to shoot down all self-righteousness. Humans are so sinful and self-righteous that it takes the work of God to bring us to himself. The apostle Paul says the Law was a schoolmaster, it taught him what sin was. We can use Paul's experience, and take the commandments to sinners, to teach God's holy standard of righteousness, if anyone thinks their goodness and good works can ever bribe God to enter heaven. If we are going to work for salvation, God shows us (and Jesus showed the spiritual nature of the Law that is even harder, ex: adultery is lust, hatred is murder). God's Law teaches that we can not ever be good enough to get to heaven, if we think good works, charitable giving, etc. is good enough and God can forgive the rest. The first commandment says "You shall have no other gods before me." Making a god in our minds that is so loving that he wouldn't punish sin, is idolatry, that person just made up a god in their mind, who is not the god of the Bible. You shall not give false testimony, You shall not steal, you shall not covet, honor your mother and father. Ever told a lie? Ever stolen anything? Even if it's small? Do not commit adultery, but Jesus says that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. God knows our thought life, He sees every secret sin. Going through the rest of the commandments just adds nails to the coffin.

We can use this schoolmaster, as a mirror, to sinners. It quickly shatters any self-righteousness, and shows them their need for a savior. Because God is a good judge, He must punish sin. The 10 commandments teach us some of what God considers sins. We already broke the commandments, we can't keep a Law we already broke. It makes sense to sinners, when the knowledge of sin is talked about before God's grace. Sinners don't really see a need for payment, until they s

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ee they've broken a law. It'd be unreasonable to tell someone "you're going to prison for a long time" without telling them anything. But a police officer says, "we found those 10,000 marijuana plants in your backyard, you're going to prison for a long time." Then it's reasonable why they're getting punished. At least with the 10 commandments, they can see why hell is reasonable. It's reasonable for murderers and rapists to go to hell, but God is going to punish adulterers, thieves, liars, idolaters, any secret sin, etc. But God in His mercy, became a man, who was perfect in thought, word, and deed, and took the punishment for our sins, and proved His power by rising from the dead on the 3rd day. If we repent and trust in Him, turn to God with our whole heart, he promises forgiveness of sin and everlasting life.

Do you see how the 10 commandments can be used, as a tool in evangelism? If we evangelize using the 10 Commandments, not to tell them, "keep the 10 commandments" but to show God's standard of perfection, and that we fall short of this, and that's why He calls us sinners, this can be used to bring the knowledge of sin. If we are to keep God's laws, we might as well try to keep the other 613 He has in the old commandment (not possible). It seems this is a good way to prepare a sinner's heart, to break up the hard soil, and make it good soil for the seed to be planted and take root. Again, we can't keep the 10 commandments, it wasn't made for legalism, but we can use it as a tool, a schoolmaster, a mirror, to bring the knowledge of sin. Jesus is our righteousness if we repent and love God wholeheartedly.

Re: Five Sins That Jesus Hated the Most, on: 2004/4/6 15:38

Quote

"It is more than likely that 90% of all prayers offered in public by believers are primarily meant to impress others who are listening and not prayed to God at all. "

If this is true, why is public prayer practiced by the Church, especially given Jesus' command to "go to your room and close the door and let no one hear your words"?

Jake

Re: - posted by moreofHim (), on: 2004/4/6 19:12

Mike,

I got this article from Zac Poonen's "Christian Fellowship Center" website. I really admire his writings and his honesty. I have been reading his articles since last year.

Here is a link if Greg does not mind.
(<http://www.cfcindia.com/>) Christian Fellowship Center

You and your family are always in my prayers. I hope that your son is doing good.

Satisfied in Him alone, Chanin

Re: Five Sins That Jesus Hated the Most - posted by shazbot, on: 2004/4/6 19:16

Jake:

I believe the author of that comment meant individual prayer, not corporate prayer. But anyway, your question:

Why is public prayer practised by the church?

The reason I would offer you is edification. Praying can edify those who are weak in faith to become stronger.

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Re: public prayer - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2004/4/6 19:45

Quote:
-----If this is true, why is public prayer practiced by the Church

Jake, the Church began in a public prayer meeting, shouldn't it continue in this manner?

Acts 1:13-14 *And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.*

In Christ,

Ron

Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2004/4/6 21:37

Quote:
-----I really admire his writings and his
honesty.

Same here!
Listened to the Hebrews messages again today, excellent words...

Thanks for the link and especially the prayers!
Josh....he's O.K. Thanks.
You and your's are in mine as well.

Mike

Re: - posted by one (), on: 2004/4/7 17:14

i agree corrprate prayer is a foundation of the church. there is nothing wrong with praying with others present. in mt.6:5 it says "...that they maybe seen of men." it's not where you pray it's why. mt 6:1 says " take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them..." yet just one chapter prior it says "let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." so it's not what you do but why. motive is what Jesus is getting at. Jesus prayed both in private and in public. it's interesting that when the diciples asked Him to teach them to pray Jesus taught them to say OUR father. i think there is too much "i" "me" "my" ect today. yes the secret closet is vital but what about the intimate fellowship of Jesus and His disciples and in the eary church in the book of acts? i hate stuffy dry meetings but i love the true saints crying out to God together. remember what Jesus said...."my fathers house shall be called a house of prayer!!!"
in the fellowship of the burning hearts
one

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/4/7 17:30

Quote:
-----yes the secret closet is vital but what about the intimate fellowship of Jesus and His disciples and in the eary church in the book of acts? i hate stuffy dry meetings but i love the true saints crying out to God together. remember what Jesus said...."my fathers house shall be called a house of prayer!!!"

(<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid3986>) The Anointing Of God (video) by Jim Cymbala. I

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recommend this message highly, cymbala shows the need for ministers and followers of Christ to get back to the bible and realize the simplicity and power of the New Testament Church. He shows clearly that the Church of our generation barely is the same as the original apostolic Church of the New Testament. He makes the emphasis that **prayer** is the paramount practice and spiritual discipline that made the church what it was. The early Church was born in prayer and sustained in prayer.

Re: - posted by one (), on: 2004/4/8 0:40

i listened to this and it was awesome! it convicted me deeply.
thank you
one