

Attitudes Toward Error and Sin

(2 Timothy 4:3-4; Romans 6:23)

Introduction:

1. In 2 Timothy 4:3-4 Paul warns:

2 Tim 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

A. There would come a time when sin and error would have free course in the lives and hearts of men.

2. The wages for this free course of sin is death.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. The question that we need to consider during this study is, "What is our attitude toward error and sin?"

A. When faced with this question one has four possible ways to deal with error and sin.

We Can Deny Them

1. The Pharisee would not admit that he was guilty of sin.

Luke 18:11 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.

A. He was quick to see sin in the lives of others, but not in his own life.

1) **He trusted in his own self, while despising others.**

B. Outwardly he appeared righteous, but his heart was not right. His attitude was wrong.

C. John tells us that we lie if we deny that we are sinners

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

2. Ahab was not about to admit his wrong. He blamed the trouble on someone else.

1 Kings 18:17

A. Many today, when asked for book, chapter, and verse for what they practice, get mad and angry and admit no wrong, but brand others as trouble-makers and church-splitters. Often blaming others to get the attention off of themselves.

B. James admonishes all sinners to confess their sins - not to deny them.

James 5:16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

We Can Ignore Them (Or pretend they don't exist)

-- **(Daniel 5) - Discuss the situation**

1. Belshazzar ignored the fate which his father had suffered because of sin and was overcome by sin himself. His life was taken and his kingdom given to another.

A. We can ignore sin now but we will face it in the judgment.

Num 32:23 But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out.

2. Some of the Jews of Christ's day ignored their sins and closed their eyes and ears to the truth.

Matt 13:15 For the hearts of this people have **grown dull**. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.

A. Paul instructed Timothy to take heed unto himself.

1 Tim 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

1) This is good advice for all children of God. We need to continually examine our lives to ensure we are not living in error and sin.

2) We can't just ignore our sins and pretend they are not there. We must seek forgiveness.

We Can Live with Them

- 1. Pilate knew he was guilty of sin when he refused to free the sinless Christ. (Matthew 27:15-25)**
 - A. This attitude and practice reflects a greater desire to please men than God.**
 - B. To live with sin and error is to become a party with them.**
 - 1) To know sin occurs yet still going along with it.**
2 John 9-11
- 2. Members of the church in Corinth were unconcerned about the sin among them. They were condoning it by living with it. (*Guilty by association*)**

1 Cor 5:1-2 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles--that a man has his father's wife! And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.

- A. There is error and sin in some congregations today, yet many live with it. They do not approve of the things being done, but like Pilate, they don't have the courage to resist the evil.**
- B. There are many congregations that need to withdraw themselves from the evil ones, yet no action is ever taken.**
- C. We cannot live with sin and still be pleasing to God.**

2 Cor 6:17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

We Can Oppose Them

1. Paul was never afraid to stand for truth and oppose error and sin.

Gal 2:4-5 And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage), to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

A. At the close of life Paul could truthfully say he had fought the good fight of faith.

2 Tim 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

B. We can, and should, have the attitude that we are going to fight against error and sin with all our being. This is the only way God will approve us.

2. Christ, the greatest champion of truth and righteousness was constantly opposed to all evil.

A. He pulled no punches when dealing with the Pharisees or any other sin or sinners.

-- **Relate Matthew 23:13-23**

1) (Hypocrites!) Called them *Fools, Blind*

Matt 21:12 Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.

B. We must also oppose sin in our lives, in the lives of others, and within the Lord's church!

