

THE BIBLE - THE INFALLIBLE WORD OF GOD

What does it say about sin, righteousness, and judgement?

“...Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar...” Romans 3:4

When you come to realize that Christianity is not about living according to a standard of morality but life that flows directly from a relationship with the living God, it is hard to understand how so many Christians don't let the bible get in the way of what they believe or how they live their life. In today's society, many people say they know God but make their own judgements outside of knowing His Word; inferring for themselves His nature, character, and will and even making personal assumptions of what is acceptable to Him. Judgement is not wrong unless it contradicts the Word of God.

“What sorrow awaits those who argue with their Creator. Does a clay pot argue with its maker? Does the clay dispute with the one who shapes it, saying, ‘Stop, you're doing it wrong!’ Does the pot exclaim, ‘How clumsy can you be?’” Isaiah 45:9

No person's private interpretation of scripture should be accepted. The Words in the Bible were God-inspired or as the Greek says, “God-breathed.” **He intends for us to know Him and His will in all matters.** That is why we have His WORD. We must seek God's position in every situation and conform our thoughts and beliefs to His truth, not our own. Anyone who does not go to the scriptures personally to know what God says makes his own judgements, not God's.

This is eternal life,
that they may know
You, the only true
God, and Jesus Christ
whom You have sent.

John 17:3

I go back to my first statement: The Bible is the infallible Word of God. Most Christians won't debate that in theory, but in practice they don't revere the whole Bible, or seek to know God by it. One excuse people give is “the Bible is too hard to understand or interpret.” So instead, they accept someone else's interpretation, teaching, or are only aware of the general principles of Christian morality taught by religion.

And because of this, they latch onto general statements they've heard are in the Bible to make assumptions on God's nature, character and will; trying to reason the scriptures through natural understanding and according to their experience, with no real understanding of the Gospel; and making their own doctrines/traditions from it. Jesus Himself said, “Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.” (Mark 7:13) In doing this, they either intentionally or ignorantly, misinterpret the Word of God by taking broad statements and inferring what it means for themselves.

But the natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he is not able to understand them, because spiritually they are discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:14

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

One example of this generalization is: “God is Love.” They see tragedy, loss and sickness and assign these things to God. God either allowed it, or has a divine purpose for it, out of His love. This is completely contrary to everything the Bible teaches us about the love of God and where these things actually come from.

Others make their own judgements of how God views sin. They know Jesus came to take away our sins; but make the wrong assumption that either sin doesn't exist anymore or that God now views everything as permissible. Concluding then, that being "godly" or loving like God means accepting and even validating any/all views or actions of every individual. Many call this 'their personal truth.' But they neglect that while God is love, He is also a God of Justice (Deut. 32:4), and there are spiritual absolutes. Despite good intentions, morality isn't relative to how we feel, our personal interpretation, or to the circumstances. Have you ever thought about why Adam and Eve were NOT supposed to eat from the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil? Before they did, they were God-dependent. After they disobeyed God and ate from it, they began making judgements for themselves independent of God. They began to decide what was good and what was evil for themselves.

There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death. (Proverbs 14:12)

For example: One person might think it's okay to drink alcohol just on special occasions, others might think it's not okay to drink at all, and some don't think drinking is relevant to their morality and so drink whenever. But have any of these people gone to the Word of God to see precisely what He says about it to make their judgement and then choose to live by it?

Take this to a more serious topic. Christians in our society are passing and making their own judgments on many of the hot topics of the day, using their own criteria to determine what is good or not, acceptable, or not. And then declaring them as acceptable by God. But unfortunately, doing it in a manner that is not consistent with what the Word teaches.

You have turned things upside down, as if the potter were regarded as clay. Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, "He did not make me"? Can the pottery say of the potter, "He has no understanding"? Isaiah 29:16

People know the Bible says God is love, but cannot wrap their minds around the truth that God is also a righteous God. How could a loving God send people to hell? So, they tell themselves hell is only for the "really" bad people that "deserve" it. Or it's only wrong to abort a baby in the last trimester of pregnancy, homosexuality isn't wrong,

or white lies are okay; sin is only ascribed for the really bad things, this is just a little lie, and on and on; making personal judgements, neglecting the truth, not wanting to come into the light of the Word of God.

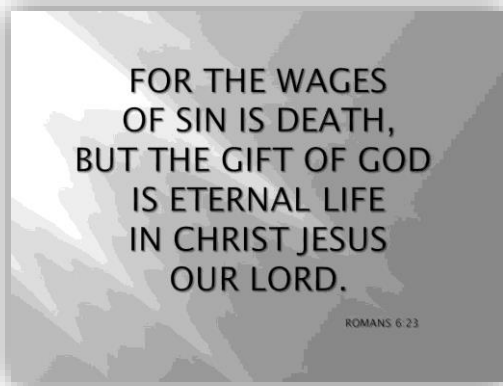
However, the righteousness of God demanded that sin be punished. To God, there is no "little sin" and His judgements are absolute. He is perfect and holy, and NO one is right in His sight on their own merit no matter how "good" they try to be.

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

Romans 5:12

God hates sin. It corrupted His perfect creation and separated us from Him. Out of God's love for us, He sent Jesus. God sent His son to suffer on the cross, die, and take our punishment that we deserved (Isaiah 53:10).

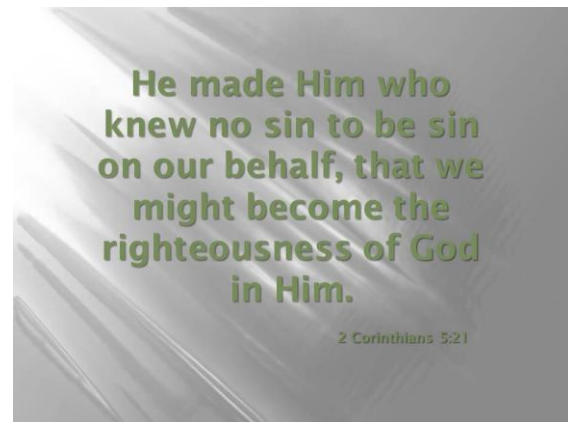
And Christ's payment for our sin took the power of sin in our lives away. When we accept Christ, we become right before God on the basis of Jesus' righteousness. Sin is still in the world (Satan is the god of this world). The difference is that by God's grace and mercy, He made a way for us to be free from it. This does not mean we



cannot sin, or that God has made “everything acceptable” that we do. God still hates anything that does not conform to his perfection; all of it is sin. It isn’t that God hates the person who sins, but he hates the sin that we do. We can choose to accept and submit to God’s judgements and we can choose not to sin.

Through faith in Christ’s finished work of redemption, we have forgiveness of sin and full restoration. But it must be received by faith in God’s grace and mercy. Again, not in our own righteousness. Grace doesn’t do away with sin, it teaches us to live free from it! Our acceptance of Jesus’s sacrifice on our behalf, and thereby destroying the power of sin, now allows a holy and righteous God to fellowship with us in spite of our inability to meet his perfect standard.

Yet we can still sin, disobey God, and submit to the devil. Sin is still in the world and will keep us from entering into the grace of Jesus Christ. Any thought, word, or action independent of what the Word of God declares, is sin, and cannot be consistent with the love or judgements of God that many profess. Those that have made Jesus their Lord and Savior in this life, have already passed from death to life (regardless of their actions) see John 5:24; but for those that have not, and for all injustice, judgement will come in the end.

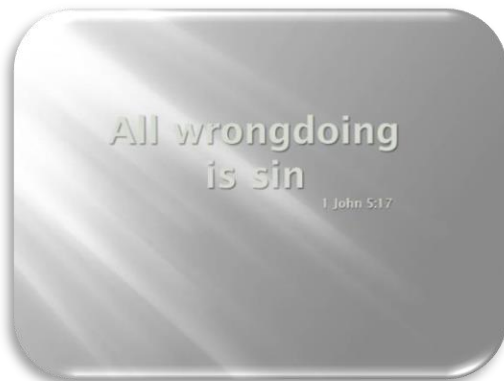


The Apostle Paul speaking to Christians says, “What then, shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” (Romans 6:15-16).

People don’t like this. This leads people, maybe even ignorantly, to call good evil and evil good.

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Isaiah 5:20

Many people approach this word, ‘sin’ or ‘evil’ as only referring to something terribly bad; maybe for someone who has murdered. But remember, to God, all unrighteousness is sin. Anything that misses the mark, is independent of God or His word is called sin. If it is sin it is what God calls evil.



The writer of the book of Hebrews likens unbelief to an evil heart. He is speaking to Christians. “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God.” Hebrews 3:12

The Greek Word used for evil in this verse literally means, toilsome, bad and translated as evil, bad, wicked, malicious, slothful.

We are either being led by the Spirit of God, obeying His Word of truth, or by a world that has fallen under sin and unrighteousness. There is no in-between. (See 1 John 5:17). Anything you do independent of God will not have His life and blessing in it.

So how can we know the righteousness of God? What does God say is good and what is evil?

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world. Titus 2:11-12

Again, many people try to do right, act right and believe right but even if our intentions are right, if we do it by our own judgement, and not through the Spirit of God, we have fallen from grace.

You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; (your own efforts and judgements) you have fallen from grace. Galatians 5:4 (parentheses mine)

It doesn't matter if:

1. You live by and expect a standard of morality according to any principle or guideline.
2. You accept any views or perspectives, even those outside of your own in an effort to love and not condemn.
3. You do the best you can by being kind and loving while not having any specific guidelines to judge yours or someone else's actions.

If you're doing it without being led by the Word of God, His judgements and His standard, it's still eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. No matter how good our judgment might seem it is still our judgement, independent of God. We must choose to be God-dependent by His Word which is the only truth.

The Word of God and His Spirit in us teaches us. As I said, this is not through our un-renewed conscience, deciding what is 'right' or 'wrong.' The Spirit Himself teaches us as we abide in the Word and fellowship with the Holy Spirit within us.

BUT THE ANOINTING WHICH YOU HAVE RECEIVED FROM HIM ABIDES IN YOU, AND YOU DO NOT NEED THAT ANYONE TEACH YOU; BUT AS THE SAME ANOINTING TEACHES YOU CONCERNING ALL THINGS, AND IS TRUE, AND IS NOT A LIE, AND JUST AS IT HAS TAUGHT YOU, YOU WILL ABIDE IN HIM.

1 JOHN 2:27

First and foremost, we renew our mind to the Truth; the Word of God. We can NOT know the judgements of God without being in His Word and abiding in it.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:2

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:31-32

2 Timothy 3:16-17 shows us that it is the Word of God, the whole WORD that instructs us. Just as a parent teaches and instructs a child; God teaches us to walk in His ways (doctrine, reproof, correction, for instruction in righteousness). When we get off course, it is the loving guidance of our Father by His Word that abides in us that shows us how to walk in truth. This is the love of God.

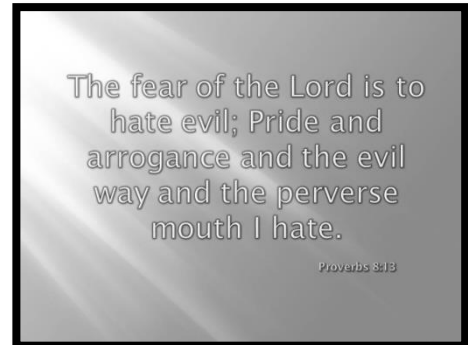
Bottom line: God loves people, but he will never change his mind about sin. Thank God He sent Jesus, so now all of our sin (and the nature to sin) is taken to the cross! And by faith, we can receive a righteousness not based on our works but stand before God without condemnation, based solely on our acknowledgment of our need for a savior, and acceptance of Jesus' sacrifice. As one song says, "my one defense is my righteousness."

So how does all of this fit into how we as the body of Christ are to react to sin? “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.” Ephesians 5:8-11

Psalm 97:10 “You who love the LORD, hate evil!”

Romans 12:9 “Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.”

1. We are to have no fellowship with evil (anything against His righteousness and truth).
2. We are called to expose and confront sin (evil) among our brothers and sisters in the Lord.
3. We are to hate what is evil (sin).



Why? If we are to love God and love others with HIS love, our judgement must also be HIS not ours. We love God first and His judgements, hating what He hates. Standing for righteousness, we can love others as He loves.

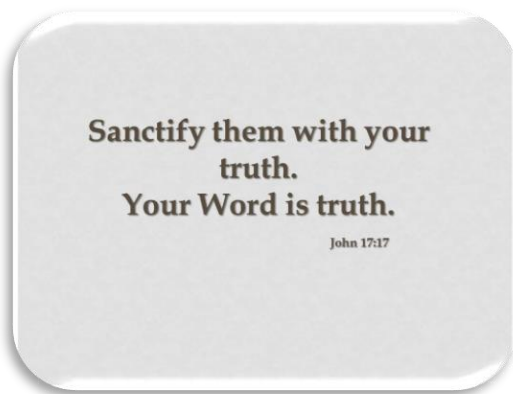
“But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” Ephesians 4:16-17

My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. James 5:19-20

The following verses are often used to say that we don't have the right to judge another brother or sister in Christ. But those that say this have only understood judgement as to mean an attack or condemnation.

“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.” Matthew 7:1-5

These verses specifically say to be sure you are considering your own actions before pointing the finger at someone else. We are not to be condemning others while doing the same thing or worse. We are not to criticize or condemn, but we are to make a judgement.



Consider what the Apostle Paul says in 2 Thessalonians 3:14: “If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame.”

This is a strong admonition. There are many scriptures that tell us to judge; discern, evaluate. We don't judge the person; we judge the sin, in hope of restoring the person. If that person will not repent (change their thinking to line up with God's righteous judgement) we, his brother or sister in Christ are to have no fellowship with him. So there is a godly judgement. A right and wrong type of judging. There are moral absolutes,

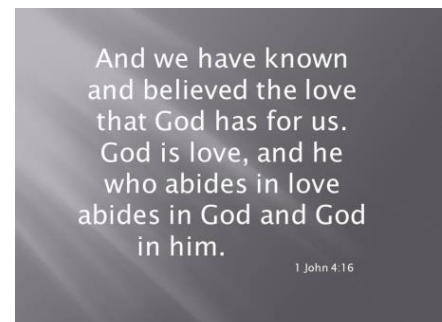
and the Bible tells us what they are. There is a reason we have the Bible. It is the TRUTH; the only truth that matters to God and should matter to us. Jesus said, “Thy WORD” is truth and that man shall live by EVERY WORD that proceeds from the mouth of God. (John 17:17, Mat. 4:4).

Those that cannot reconcile this, most often have not received the love of God for themselves. They can’t believe in God’s love for them outside of their actions. And this keeps them stuck in a loop of hiding from truth, making their own judgements and not being able to receive the love of God outside of their perceived performance. But God loved us while we were yet sinners, sending Jesus to die for the ungodly (Romans 5:6, 8). And God did not only forgive those who would accept Jesus’ sacrifice, He did it for even the worst sinner that ever lived, knowing he might not repent.

And He [that same Jesus Himself] is the propitiation (the atoning sacrifice) for our sins, and not for ours alone but also for [the sins of] the whole world. 1 John 2:2

We can wrongly believe God relates to us based on our performance, and in the way we see ourselves. If we see our actions as wrong, we think God couldn’t love us. So, people caught up in religion and legalism live life on a treadmill of do right = be right/do wrong = be wrong. Inevitably judging ourselves accepted or not, according to our own standards. But God didn’t need us to be holy before he died for us, and He doesn’t need us to be perfect to love and accept us once we are saved. He loves us!

God’s heart is not to condemn you. The love of God, agape love, cannot be measured by human standards. On the contrary, human love must be measured against God’s love to truly be love. The supernatural love of God is received in our own heart (by faith), and then we draw on the love God has given us, for the ability to love Him and others the same way. The unconditional love of God loves, in spite of our performance.



And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God in him. 1 John 4:16

But this is not many people’s experience, not truly understanding and knowing the love of God for themselves but trying to live up to either a religious standard or self-imposed standard that either judges or validates our position with God.

For example: Have you ever believed something was a “sin” (wrong) until you yourself were in that situation? Maybe you saw divorce as immoral; until you yourself were in such an unhappy situation you were sure that in your case God would excuse it? How about incarceration for drug use, as you watched the news about the latest offender; until it was your child they wanted to put away? Many people change their convictions because of their experiences, or the world tells them that if they don’t, then they don’t truly love as God commands. What about homosexuality? You might have once believed it was wrong according to God’s covenant between a man and a woman that is until your child told you he/she was gay. However, the Word of God is clear on these issues. God loves you in spite of divorce. God loves the drug addict. God loves the homosexual. But their choices are against the commandment/judgement of God.

God’s acceptance of us is NOT based on our own goodness or worthiness but solely on our faith in Jesus. God looks at us through His son’s righteousness, not our own. But as we established, sin is still sin and therefore violates His righteousness. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, but He doesn’t condemn.

So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. Ephesians 1:6
The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever. Psalm 119:160

Both of these scriptures are true! God loves us, and His judgements are true forever. This is why I say that those that cannot accept that God doesn't approve of their actions and yet they can be right with God do not understand the unconditional love He has for them. His love is not based on our performance.

In the same way, we can love as God loves. We can do this once we have received it for ourselves. We then are able to love with that same love. We first are able to love Him. And that means we love His commandments and judgements. Then we can love others with that same love.

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Romans 5:5

We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19

Beloved, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7

So, when people say that you are not being loving, or being godly when you disagree with their choices, I have to ask, "What demonstrates the love of God more? Loving you in spite of not validating your choices, or only loving you if I agree with them?" God calls us to submit to Him and His judgements, telling us not to participate or consent to evil. We cannot love God outside of it. This is where so many have misunderstood love. They believe love means accepting or excusing sin. But God tells us not to, even when it is done by a believer.

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 1 John 2:15

My hope in sharing these truths from the word of God is that you will understand the love of God for you by allowing Him to love you solely based on your acceptance of Jesus' sacrifice and not on your own worthiness. If you do not believe God can love you and also disapprove of your actions you will never truly be able to receive the fullness of His grace for you. You will be caught in a do good/get good works mentality. Go to the Bible and find out what the true judgements of God are. Submit to them; love what God loves, and hate what He hates.

Let's turn this around and look at it the other way. If you can't accept God's unconditional love (not in proportion to your performance), how can you love others outside of their performance? You might say that you don't have any absolute conviction for what is right/wrong. Whatever a person thinks or does is their 'personal truth' for them. But what about the rapist, the murderer, the thief? The truth is, even outside of these extremes, we all hold some form of judgement outside of being led by the Holy Spirit. There will always be someone who you will not be able to say their choices are right. You need to receive God's love and then you, while disagreeing with someone else's choices, can truly love them with godly love (agape).

Lastly, can you love me even though I disapprove of your choices? What if I disagree with you on abortion, Creation vs Evolution, BLM Organization, alternate lifestyles, or legalization of marijuana? If you tell me I cannot love and still have a differing opinion from you, then you have judged me according to your standards, but not according to love. And that would suggest that you are not able to love me.



I have dear friends and loved ones whom I have opposing views on these issues. We love each other. My view of their choices does not exclude my ability to love them, nor does it keep them from having the same mutual love for me. I have to ask those that say 'you cannot love me because you disagree with me', does that mean you also cannot love me, because we disagree?

Points to ponder:

1. The Word of God is the only true standard of right and wrong.
2. We, as God's children are to submit to and align ourselves with His judgement-not our own or the world's.
3. Our ability to love God and others comes as a direct result of accepting God's love for us outside of our performance.
4. A close intimate personal relationship with God is an essential component of a Christian philosophy.
5. We are to tell others the TRUTH according to God's Word in love.

Isaiah 64:8 But now, O LORD, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are the potter; we are all the work of Your hand.

