

Pushing Back the Darkness!

Part 2: "Removing the ICK Factor, Opening the Way!"

"Beginning with John and continuing with Me, the kingdom of heaven advances by forcible entry and the ones whose minds are made up to advance it take their objectives by force..." **Mt 11.12**

This is the progression from shining the light in passive forms to pushing back the darkness!

Last week... Pushed back on racism! All prejudice! From the word of God we found we were all in the same mess... Orphaned by sin and disinherited in the promises... Adopted by God thru the salvation in Jesus, restored to full heir status! Then baptized into His death and life, and therefore, His "habits!" So now there **CAN NOT BE** any discrimination in the church...

But that doesn't mean we live *indiscriminately!* Unable to discern... Not making careful assessments, based on Godly distinctives! We are called to assess the nature and character of believers! But cannot entertain *discrimination*: treatment/ acceptance based on category/class rather than merit/performance!

To live our lives with racial, socio-economic, educational, age, biases... *obvious or hidden...* Is to deny our common DNA/Noah! To deny the bloodline we share in Christ! And to make ourselves the enemy of God by befriending the "habits" of His enemy!

Color is transient, our DNA fundamental, our accuracy is intelligent, our bloodline eternal, our graciousness is necessary... And we need to believe it, heed it, and live it, to remove the "ick" factor from our lives!

Today... Open up on the topic of sexual immorality in our world... And nowhere is there as much as an "ick" factor in the Body of Christ as there is in... Same sex relationships! Not only is there a lot of prejudice... But it is a major distraction in the issue of Biblical morality! ***Need to push back the darkness!***

Homosexuality... Is not "rampant" in our society! It is only more visible because of the media backing... Because of the same-sex marriage battles/lawsuits... But a definitive 3% **MINORITY!** **It's not an infectious disease!** Not going to infect anyone! ***It is a sexual sin, not unlike any other!*** Hetero: different in kind, homo: same in kind, *outside design...*

Homosexuals... Deserve an apology from people of faith... We haven't wanted to deal with the issue: too explosive, emotional... We haven't told the truth in love... We haven't been "reconciling" in cases where they aren't saved... Haven't been prayerful, helpful, encouraging, where they are...

Yes, there are Christians who are practicing sexual sinners! Catch it? What makes two cohabitating hetero's, two coital adulterers, less "ick-y" than two con-sensual same-sexers? It's all the same irresponsible use of the sexuality we have been given by God!

Is it right? That we cry over same-sex sin when it's in our own family and shake off the dust when it's not? That we shun people in same sex sin but treat it lightly when it's opposite-sex sin? That our ways are not equal? That we discriminate against people who are fallen, like us?

Before we can ever convince same-sexers about lifestyle choices, we have to talk to Christians about bad lifestyle choices so that our words are not cast aside!

Christian Sex Sins... Adultery: *a married person* having sex with someone who is not your mate! *A single person* having sex with someone who is someone else's mate! *Two married people* having sex while being married to someone else! *Double adulteries!* Collateral damage all around: mate, children, church, *world!* Let's see it for what it is! **Fornication:** singles having sex before, or after, marriage... ***Isn't it okay, since once we have sex, we "know" each other and are "married" in the Biblical sense?*** Not the same thing in Bible! ***Isn't it okay if we love***

one another? If you love, you don't drag the other into sin! If you love, you commit! If you want LOVE, you engage God who makes two, one! Without Him there is no two-into-one! **What if we have been living together (cohabitation) for years?** No two-in-one by God! Still living without the blessing! Never too late to get it fixed! You get the license, I'll do the ceremony! **Pornography:** "Whoever looks upon a woman/or man to lust after her/him has committed adultery with her/him already in his heart!" Lust is the whole point of porn!

It is the irresponsible use of the sexuality we have been given by God! [In case unconvinced: Gk: porne: fem: prostitute, pornos: male: fornicator... both cases: sex sins]

What is the point?

Until we let go of our kategoros: categories: prejudices: speaking against certain sinners we show the habits of the enemy of God!

Until we let go of our kategoros: categories: prejudices: of sin we cannot speak to all sinners as the Church that Jesus built and left behind!

Jesus lived a friendly, social life, innocently, among people broken by all sins, covered in "ick..." and they came to Him by multitudes!

Jesus... And Jesus went teaching and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, *and healing all kinds of sickness and disease among the people. With increasing fame, they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. And great multitudes followed Him... Mt 4.23-25* He healed them: "If you will, you can make me clean. I will, be clean!" **8.2, 5, 14, 16, 28** He forgave their sins: **9.1-8** Included them: "Matthew, follow Me!" **9.9** Ate with them: "And many publicans and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples!" **9.10** And more just kept on coming, needing a shepherd! **9.36**

Jesus... "And then He empowered His disciples to do the same!" **10.1** Then He said, "There has not been a greater prophet than John – nevertheless the least of the kingdom of heaven is greater – and from his time to now the kingdom I am bringing advances by forcible entry, and those whose minds are made up to advance it, take their objectives by force!" **11.11-12**

What about us? What if we made up our minds to forcibly advance the kingdom of God in our communities? What if we forced out the ignorant prejudices against "sin," which has no categories other than "ungodly," to open the way for all to hear and be cleansed? What if space was made, a place prepared, we were ready?

What if we lived a friendly (philos: *brotherly, familial, familiar* love) life among people of all sins? Innocently, among gluttonous (overconsumers), drunks (druggies), publicans (money grubbers: covetous, hoarding, selfish) and sinners, who miss all the marks!

Would they come by multitudes? Yes! What would they come for? Salvation! Why? Because everyone is created to respond to true love!