

Sin Is Still Sin

by John Isaac Edwards

When many sin, they try to excuse themselves of that wrong several ways. Sin is still sin...

1) **Even If You Do Not Get Caught.** Many try to justify their actions by whether or not they get caught. Occasionally you see those who do wrong, but do not get caught. Even though they might not get caught, they are still guilty! We cannot sin without getting caught. God will catch us! Adam and Eve were unable to hide themselves from the Lord (Gen. 3). “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good” (Prov. 15:3). The secrets of men will be made known at the judgment (Rom. 2:16).

2) **Even If It Is for a Good Cause.** “I know I didn’t do right, but it was for a good cause.” Paul wrote, “And not rather, (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,

Let us do evil, that good may come? whose damnation is just” (Rom. 3:8). Saul spared some of the animals for sacrifice, but was rejected by God (1 Sam. 15). Many churches seek to justify their practices by the good they accomplish. The end does not justify the means!

3) **Even If Others Are Doing Worse.** Someone might say, “Well, I can give you an example of someone doing far worse than I’m doing.” Remember Omri, who “...did worse than all that were before him” (1 Ki. 16:25-26)? When we justify our sins on the basis of “others are doing worse”, we begin to compare ourselves with others and such is not wise (2 Cor. 10:12). We must measure ourselves by God’s word!

4) **Even If It Does Not Bother My Conscience.** One might say, “I did that in all good conscience. Therefore, it must be alright.” Saul did “many things

contrary to the name of Jesus” (Acts 26:9) and “lived in all good conscience” (Acts 23:1). Have you read Proverbs 14:12 lately? It says, “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”

5) **Even If It Is Considered Acceptable.** “If you live in Florida, California or Las Vegas, it is acceptable; no one thinks anything about it!” A lot of things may be accepted by society like abortion, gambling, homosexuality, immodesty and the list goes on, but just because a thing is acceptable among men does not mean it is acceptable with God.

These are just a few principles that should help us in determining right and wrong. Sin is still what it’s always been (1 Jn. 3:4) and will still do what it’s always done (Rom. 6:23). We need to acknowledge our sins and seek God’s forgiveness.

How Readest Thou?

by John Isaac Edwards

Jesus put emphasis upon reading in order to know the law (Lk. 10:25-26). If the Lord were to ask you, "How readest thou?", how would you answer? Let's think about the importance of reading God's word.

1) Moses Read the Book of the Covenant. "And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient" (Ex. 24:7). Moses read!

2) Joshua Read All the Words of the Law. "And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and the cursings, according to all that is written in the book of the law" (Josh. 8:34). Joshua read all the

law! Have you?

3) Ezra Read the Book of the Law. A reading of Nehemiah 8 finds Ezra reading the law of God before the people of God. Ezra read!

4) Jesus Asked Folks About Their Reading. "Have ye not read..." (Mt. 12:3; 19:4; 22:31). "Have ye never read..." (Mt. 21:16). "Have ye not read this scripture..." (Mk. 12:9-10).

5) The Treasurer Was Reading. As the treasurer was returning to Ethiopia, he was found reading the Scriptures (Acts 8:30-32). He was reading out loud! Have you ever read the word of God out loud?

6) When Ye Read Ye

May Understand. Paul penned, "Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ" (Eph. 3:4). Think what happens when one does not read!

7) Give Attendance to Reading. Timothy was instructed, "...give attendance to reading..." (1 Tim. 4:12). To give attendance is to apply oneself. We must apply ourselves to Bible reading.

8) Blessed Is He That Readeth. A blessing is pronounced upon those who read the word of God. "Blessed is he that readeth..." (Rev. 1:3).

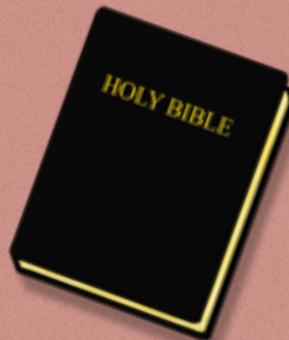
"How readest thou?" We encourage you to read and study the word of God.

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