

## Attitudes Toward Error and Sin 2Timothy 4:3-4; Romans 6:23

Paul warns of time when sin & error have free course in lives & hearts

**2Timothy 4:3-4** *For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.*

The wages for this free course of sin is death.

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

Consider, "What is our attitude toward error and sin?"

### Denial

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

**Luke 18:11** *The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.*

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

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

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

**Romans 3:23** *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

Ahab would not admit his wrong. He blamed trouble on someone else.

**1Kings 18:17** *When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you troubler of Israel?"*

Many today, when asked for authority, get mad & admit no wrong, but brand others trouble-makers & church-splitters.

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

**James 5:16** *Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*

### Ignore (Or pretend they don't exist)

Belshazzar ignored the fate of father's sin & was overcome by sin himself.

**Daniel 5:22-23** *And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven. And the vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored.*

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

**Numbers 32:23** *But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the LORD, and be sure your sin will find you out.*

Some Jews of Christ's day ignored sins, closed eyes & ears to truth.

**Matthew 13:15** *For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.'*

**1Timothy 4:16** *Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.*

Must continually examine lives to ensure not living in error & sin.

We can't just ignore sins, pretend not there. Must seek forgiveness.

### Live With

Pilate guilty of sin when refused to free sinless Christ **Mt 27:15-25**

**Matthew 27:24** *So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."*

Attitude & practice reflects a greater desire to please men than God.

To live with sin and error is to become a party with them.

**2John 1:9-11** *Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.*

Members of church in Corinth were unconcerned about sin among them. They were condoning it by living with it.

(Guilty by association)

**1Corinthians 5:1-2** *It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.*

Error & sin in congregations today, yet they live with it. Do not approve of things done, but don't have courage to resist the evil.

We cannot live with sin and still be pleasing to God.

**2Corinthians 6:17** *Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,*

## **Oppose**

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

**Galatians 2:4-5** *Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in--who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery--to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.*

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

**2Timothy 4:7** *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

We should, have attitude to fight against error & sin with all our being.

Christ constantly opposed all evil. **Mt 23:13-23**

**Matthew 23:13** *But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in.*

**Matthew 23:17** *You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred?*

**Matthew 23:33** *You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell?*

**Matthew 21:12** *And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons.*

Oppose sin in our life, in life of others, & within Lord's church!

## **Invitation**

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