

Do Christians Have an Obligation to Speak Against Sin?

John 7:24

Introduction:

- 1) One of the injustices that plague our society is how judgmental people can be.
- 2) Unfortunately, unjust judgments have caused people to say that no one can ever judge what they're doing.
- 3) So, do Christians have a right and even the obligation to speak against sin?

Discussion:

I. Why People Say "You Can't Judge Me!"

- A. Some are comfortable in sin and don't want it _____ (John 3:19-21; I Thessalonians 5:5-10).
- B. Some may even say, "No one but God can judge me" (Hebrews 10:31; Deuteronomy 16:18-20; Judges 2:18; Romans 13:1-7; John 12:48; Acts 17:31).
- C. Many have misunderstood Jesus' teachings on passing judgment (Matthew 7:1ff).

II. God desires for all souls to know the truth.

- A. Jesus affirmed the Scriptures to be truth (John 17:17).
- B. It is the eternal will of God that all men come to a knowledge of the truth (I Timothy 2:3-4; II Peter 3:9).
- C. God will judge the world upon truth and righteousness (Romans 2:2; Acts 17:31).
- D. The church has been given the responsibility to uphold and share the truth (I Timothy 3:15; I Peter 3:15; Matthew 28:18-20).
- E. Therefore, Christians must speak the truth about sin.
 - 1) If this isn't true, then why would Jesus give the _____ (Luke 24:47; Matthew 28:19f; Mark 16:15f)?
 - 2) We must speak the truth in the world (I Corinthians 6:2; Ephesians 5:11; II Timothy 4:2-3; Ezekiel 3:18f).
 - 3) We speak the truth before erring brethren (Galatians 6:1-2; James 5:19-20; Galatians 2:11-14; Acts 18:24-26).
 - 4) We must speak the truth to those involved in false religion (Matthew 7:21-23; II John 1:9-11).

III. How must Christians judge matters of sin?

- A. Not superficial, but _____ (John 7:24).
- B. Not hypocritical, but sincere (Matthew 7:1, 3-5; Romans 2:1).
- C. Not harsh, but in love (Ephesians 4:15; Matthew 7:2).

- D. Not self-righteous, but humble (Luke 18:9-14; James 4:6).
- E. Not false, but true (Proverbs 6:16-19; I Peter 2:1).
- F. Not slothfully, but with urgency (II Corinthians 5:9-11; Colossians 1:28; Matthew 18:15-17).

Conclusion:

- 1) Opposing sin is not wrong.
- 2) Christians must teach and preach the "whole counsel of God" including sin (Acts 20:27; II Timothy 4:2-3).
- 3) Through Christ, we can know the truth and the truth shall set us free (John 8:32).
- 4) How shall they hear without a preacher (Romans 10:14-17)?

Celebrating Marriage

Trent E. Key

When Amanda and I celebrated 10 years of marriage, someone said, "That's a long time to be married. What's the secret to such a long-lasting marriage?" Amanda and I briefly made eye contact and laughed, but then realized this person was serious. I responded with, "Always keep God in the center of your life."

There are many challenges that trouble today's generations. The acceptance of sexual sin from previous generations has influenced our current culture. Unfortunately, Millennials and Gen Z's are blamed for the laxed lasciviousness. Perhaps we are plagued with these influences because we do indeed "reap what we sow." This is no excuse for such behavior, but it helps identify that a problem has existed longer than we might like to admit.

Marriage is a sacred bond. No marriages can exist without God (Matthew 19:4-6). It is one of the most beautiful and longest lasting institutions celebrated by man. Five days after the Earth was created, man was made (Genesis 1:26-27). The glory and blessedness of this union was fully enjoyed by Adam and Eve on that sixth day (Genesis 2:18-25). And for hundreds of years, they enjoyed marital bliss (Genesis 5:3-5).

We too can experience the fruit of blissful years in our marriages. Maybe not quite like Adam and Eve, but you get the picture. Through the Scriptures, God gives us the formula for making our marriages last a lifetime.

From the beginning, God intended for a man and his wife to **leave** father and mother **and cleave** to one another (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5-6). God, who joins abled souls together in marriage, expects for

both precious souls to engage in doing their part to "become one flesh." Therefore, every man is to "pursue" his wife and be "joined together" with her.

Husbands and wives must also recognize the value in spending quality time **learning and honoring** one another. The intimacy of our marriages should be more than what meets the eye (Hebrews 13:4; I Corinthians 7:1-7). God expects for husbands and wives to understand each other (I Peter 3:1-7). When we understand each other better, it is easier to honor and praise each other in our spousal responsibilities (Proverbs 31:28). Perhaps we could learn from the principle established under the Law of Moses concerning time well spent with our spouse. "When a man has taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war or be charged with any business; he shall be free at home one year, and bring happiness to his wife whom he has taken" (Deuteronomy 24:5).

The first reason that two souls desire to spend their lives together is because the love they have for each other. **Love and respect** are two key factors that should flourish the longer that we are together (Ephesians 5:23-33; Colossians 3:19). Both require much devotion, but the rewards are so worth it. The respect that we are to have for ourselves must be reciprocated in our relationship with our spouse.

God also recognizes that **loyalty and trust** are contributing factors to successful marriages. This is true on every level. However, when Paul spoke with the Corinthian brethren, he illustrated the need for these items to exist within the marital responsibilities (I Corinthians 7:1-7). Many marriages have fallen apart because trust has been dissolved by unfaithfulness and lies.

God expects for our marriages to be the best. Longevity can be a sign of a successful marriage, but it doesn't always serve as an indicator for success. Some may acquire the years and never fully reach the potential of a successful marriage. Our marriages can be the best when we choose to apply each of these factors that God supplies. The Bible is only able to transform our marriages as far as we let it. We can't simply hear many good sermons or read all the good articles and expect change. But we must make the changes the Scriptures supply in order to build great marriages (James 1:21-22).

National marriage week is February 7-14. Take a moment to reflect on these things and commit to being the best spouse you can be in your marriage. When our marriages outshine the marriage of the world, both in longevity and quality, it creates opportunities for God to be glorified, even in a dark world where marriage is not esteemed (Proverbs 18:22; Matthew 5:16).

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