

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

July 25

2021

Wrong Is Wrong

Unfortunately, there is a lot of wrong going on in our world today, and the sad part is, there are many who try to justify their wrong doing. However, the truth is, wrong is always wrong...

No Matter If The One Who Is Doing Wrong Is Not Caught.

Often, people who are involved in doing things that are wrong will make the statement, "I'll only be in trouble if I get caught." However, the problem with this statement is, they fail to realize that although someone else may not see or catch them in their lawlessness, God does. For as the wise man penned, "*The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good*" (Proverbs 15:3). We also read in Hebrews 4:13 "*...there is no creature hidden from His (God's) sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*" Therefore, my friends, always remember that God knows and sees all, even if others around us are unaware of our wrong doing.

No Matter If It Is Done For A So-Called Good Cause.

Sometimes we hear about people who commit robbery because they have recently lost their job, and these people try to

justify the robbery as an effort to continue to support their family during a time of need. Although this is an unfortunate circumstance, wrong is still wrong. As John declared in 1 John 3:4, "*...sin is lawlessness.*" You see, anytime we transgress the will of God, no matter what our intentions are, we are guilty of committing sin. For the truth is, "*All unrighteousness is sin...*" (1 John 5:17). Therefore, take heed to these words of John, and always keep in mind good intentions do not justify wrong doing.

No Matter If Others Do Worse.

There are many who try to categorize sin, but contrary to the belief of many there is no sin any worse than any other, and further more the apostle Paul says, "*For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise* (2 Corinthians 10:12). To be simply put, it is not wise to compare ourselves to others. Therefore, it is wrong in itself to believe that it is okay to do wrong, just because you think others are doing worse.

No Matter If One's Conscience Is Clear.

My friend, conscience is not always a safe guide. For although we may have a clear conscience about something, our conscience may not always lead us to do things that are acceptable. We have an example of this in Acts 22:3-8, when Paul speaks of his zeal for God, and of his clear conscience for persecuting Christians before his conversion. You see, Paul thought he was doing good by afflicting those who were converting to Christianity, and although his conscience permitted him to persecute Christians, he was engaging in wrong doing. Therefore, the fact of the matter is, wrong is always wrong, even if our conscience is clear about our wrong doing.

Remember, my friend, think before you act, and never forget wrong is always wrong!

✍️ Brad Phillips

‘Do We Have To Go To Church?’

Most parents have either already heard this from their kids, or will hear it in the future. Seems most children go through a phase in which they question the need for faithful attendance at all of the assemblies. When this happens, what’s a parent to do? Here are some suggestions:

1. Set a good example - Never let your children see you compromise your commitment to the Lord for any other thing. This means, in particular, never let them see you miss the assemblies for the activities of this world. Be careful not to allow recreational pursuits to come between you and God. If you do, you’ll be teaching your kids a lesson that you don’t want them to learn! Ballgames and golf, hunting and fishing, even vacations, can’t begin to compare in importance to serving God. Use caution, too, in regards to your work. Too often Christians let their jobs interfere with their spiritual service. And NEVER, NEVER, NEVER let them observe you staying home simply because you “don’t feel like” attending the services. In other words, be sure that you have your own priorities in order!

2. Teach them to love God - Really, there’s something wrong with the “do we have to” mentality. Anything we do for God should be done out of deep and sincere love for Him. “We love Him, because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19). Work hard to instill this attitude in your children. Any other motivation will ultimately fail. Again, be sure that you have this attitude firmly fixed in your own mind. They are watching you, and imitating what they see!

3. Bottom line: Be sure that they are present at all the assemblies - no matter what! Kids are kids - they need to be taught. They do not naturally understand all the things that are in their own best interest. For that reason we MAKE them do some things that they don’t always want to do (i.e., take baths, do homework, etc.). Learning to love and serve God is the most important lesson of all. Therefore any parent who really wants what’s best for his child will make sure he’s present even when that means forcing the situation a little. Keep working, of course, at developing the right attitudes in your kids - but get them here one way or the other!

Remember parents, it is your job to “...provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lords (Ephesians 6:4).

✍ Greg Gwin

Belleville church of Christ

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www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

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