

2015-07-11

## **Why God is involved in...#1**

Hi all,

With a recent ruling in the US I wanted to share some thoughts from a perspective I've not seen yet, which I hope will provide some insight as to the ways of the Lord.

I could list any number of sins and works of the flesh from the New Testament - strife, adultery, witchcraft, hatred, drunkenness - But in none of these is it said God becomes directly involved. They are just a person being a sinner, or struggling disciples doing what disciples in process do. (Galatians 5:19-21 list works of the flesh, and he is talking to believers, not the unsaved)

### **When God does become involved: Not all sins are equal**

But in Romans 1:18-32 Paul lists a classification of sin God does become directly involved with, which explains why discerning people can sense there is a spiritual battle taking place. The context is the lowest form of revelation about God: People who see Him or evidence of Him in nature, yet reject Him.

"Who hold the truth in unrighteousness...because that which is known about God is evident within them, for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse." v18-20

### **Not ignorant of God**

Paul lays out the case that the most basic, foundational way of realizing and knowing God is through His creation - in nature His nature and eternal power can be seen. He says the same in Acts 14:17, that "He has not left Himself without a witness, in that He did good, and gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our lives with food and gladness."

But for people who reject evidence of Him in nature, and **THIS** is the key, he says: "For even though they knew God (some translations say 'knew about God'), they did not honor Him as God nor give thanks, but they became futile in speculations and their foolish heart\* was darkened." v21

### **What God expects**

God has an expectation within Himself that when someone sees nature they at the very least will acknowledge there is a Creator, and perhaps give thanks to Him for His creation. This group of people see Him in the natural world, but refuse to honor Him as God nor give Him thanks to Him for nature.

"Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man, and of birds and animals and crawling creatures." v22-23

This speaks of idolatry and the principle that this group of people begin purposely giving homage to creation rather than the Creator - the core root of idolatry is elevating creation to the level of Creator thus elevating the rule of man rather than the rule of God - in other words, it becomes a personal effort against God.

### **Now watch what God does when they decide to reject knowing Him and purposely - that is the point - purposely do things to deny Him:**

"Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worship and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error." v24-27

Paul restates yet again in conclusion: "And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind to do those things which are not proper." v28

**Understand that context:** Because they rejected God in nature, He allows them to experience the ramifications of what rejection of nature means - living the opposite of what is natural. God promises that what we sow is what we reap. Therefore to reject creation in proper context of Him as Creator opens a person to the opposite of that nature.

### **Un-believing the lie**

In principle it isn't different than a person who rejects the sanctity of his or her marriage vows, which opens them up to the opposite of the marriage vows they forsook, divorce. It isn't any different than a person who rejects sound financial practices as outlined in scripture opening themselves to the opposite of sound handling of money, and encountering financial hardship.

**The difference is** this sin involves people who know or know about God as seen at the most basic level possible, in nature, and still reject Him - therefore by rejecting nature they experience the opposite of nature. They don't want Him, so He turns them over to what they want.

### **Don't make the mistake**

If a Christian doesn't know the spiritual root of this class of sin they could easily get caught up in the politics or emotions of the day.

Paul concludes by listing sample behavior that follows such a rejection of God and His turning them over to their own minds to pervert nature as they have already settled in their hearts to do, but the list isn't meant to be all-inclusive, and concludes that they "..give hearty approval to those who (also) practice them."

### **The reason I am writing this essay**

I see churches divided over the issue, caught up in the emotion and wanting to demonstrate their love to all, completely oblivious to foundational spiritual context. The issue is that SCOTUS (Supreme Court of the United States) has elevated a sin which is the result of the rejection of all that is God as seen in nature, to Constitutional right status.

The NT lists many 'works of the flesh' in Galatians 5:19-21, but he doesn't say God became involved in turning people over to those sins. In I Corinthians 3:3 Paul tells them because there is envy, strife, and divisions among them they are living like un-born again people and are mere babies in Christ - but He doesn't say God became involved to turn them over to that sin.

The issue Paul brings up is that when people see God and evidence for Him in nature, and then reject what they see of Him in nature, He allows them to live out the rejection of the very nature they rejected, which results in perversion.

Sin, all sin, is like fruit on a tree. You can pick fruit all day long but not affect the root of the tree. As defined by the Bible, sin is the throwing off of the government of God, therefore the issue is first acknowledging God as God, even at the most basic level of seeing Him in nature, and then, 'Who is Jesus?'

Next week - what about Christians in this category, and where is the USA headed?

Blessings,

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2015-07-18

### **Why God is involved in...#2**

Hi all,

Last week I shared how a category of sin at its core has to do with the purposeful and withfull knowledge, rejection of God and all that is His natural order. The US Constitution states rights are

given by our Creator and government's job is to defend and define those rights. But some reject that, believing government gives rights and can define them. Therein lies the spiritual battle.

### **On a practical level**

The rejection of God produces anger. Revelation 12:12 says Satan, the ultimate rejecter of God, has 'great wrath' he is spreading to the nations, and we are subsequently told in 11:18 'the nations are angry', so from here on out we will see anger being a part of society as we've never seen before.

As we now see auditorium churches being forced to decide where they fit socially, disciples will begin more and more gathering among themselves in homes - the Father had told me earlier in June "The world is about to change again" but I think we've only seen the tip of the iceberg.

### **Christians, sin, righteousness**

As we saw last week, there is a class of sin that at its root rejects God even at the most basic level, His creation, with the result of God turning a person over to experience the opposite of nature because that's what they insist on. But then there are Christians, people who say they are born again and love God, yet embrace sin and a lifestyle included in this class of sin. Where do they stand spiritually?

There are 2 principles; First that we are to judge the fruit of a person's life, not their heart. And the second is the concept it is possible to be righteous in most areas of your life and unrighteous in another area.

#### **First**

To the church at Ephesus as seen in Revelation 2:1-4, the Lord commends them in verses 2-3 and then says in v4: "But I have this one charge to make against you..." He says similar things to the other churches, following the pattern of commending them and then bringing up 1 or 2 things they are lacking.

Many people think a person is 100% righteous or 100% unrighteous, but clearly that is not the case as seen above, and there would be no mention of having our wedding garments without spot or wrinkle on them\*. The wedding garment is clean, but there may be a spot on it. \*Ephesians 5:27

In I Corinthians 3:1-15 Paul says some believers had envy, strife, and divisions among them, revealing they were acting like mere (un-born again) people. He said that was wood, hay, and stubble that would be burned away, yet the rest would remain and they would be saved, just as having passed through fire. The gold, silver, and precious stones of spiritual reward would remain untouched by the fire of judgement.

And if anyone reading this has been a child or knows a child, you know the 'perfect child' still has flaws - yet you don't kick them out of the family. And if you work or have worked for a living you know there are employees great in some areas and lacking in others, yet they aren't fired. And remember the works of the flesh and fruit of the spirit (fruit of the born again human spirit) of Galatians 5:19-25 is written to Christians with the exhortation that if we walk in the Spirit we won't fulfill those lusts of the flesh.

And we've all been in a place where we love God and are walking with Him as best we know, yet He is dealing with us about a certain thing in our heart or life - we are righteous except in this area He is shining His searchlight on that He wants us to deal with. So settle it no person enters heaven 100% having arrived - we will stand before Christ and some things will be burned away, and some will stand - meaning we live life that way too, ever growing towards Him but not perfected.

#### **Second**

We are to judge the fruit of a person's life, not their heart. In Jesus' famous exhortation on false believers in Matthew 7:1-23 He starts in v1 saying we aren't to judge lest we be judged. That is talking about a person's heart, for in verses 15-20 He talks about judging false believers by the fruit of their lives. He said grapes aren't gathered from thorn bushes, so know that false believers will say one thing but live another way.

He continues saying to a group of people who called Him 'Lord, Lord', who claimed to have prophesied and cast out demons in His name, "I never knew you: Depart from me you who practice lawlessness."

This isn't about believers when He said "Not all who come to me saying, 'Lord, Lord', will enter the kingdom of heaven" - as He said, 'I never knew you'. Never means never - these people were never born again, and in fact He is providing a glimpse at their judgement as He sums up His teaching on false believers.

### **What is the solution?**

IF a person is truly a believer, I John 3:2-3 says "Beloved, NOW are we the sons of God, but it doesn't yet appear what we will be, for when He appears we know we will be like Him for we will see Him as He is. Everyone who has this hope in themselves purifies themselves..."

Notice - he is talking about believers who hold close and dear the fact (#1) they are a child of God, and they are eagerly looking forward to seeing Jesus (#2) - so the result is (#3) their life is one of constant purification.

If you see believers whose lives are not constant growth while holding the hope of seeing Him in glory, then you look at the fruit of their lives - aware it isn't up to us to judge their heart - but judge the lifestyle.

### **What if....?**

What if you hear of a Christian who says they just want to be accepted for who they are and love God with the rest of us?

The kingdom works by revelation, starting with the foundation of seeing nature and knowing there is a Creator, and going from there, the highest revelation is Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, as revealed to Peter in Matthew 16:16-18. Jesus called Peter a petros, a small throwable stone, but said upon the rock, the mountain, of revelation that He is the Christ, He would build His church.

Paul's prayers of Ephesians 1:17-23, 3:14-19, and Colossians 1:9-12 were all asking the Father to give them 'the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, that the eyes of your understanding would be enlightened...', 'spiritual wisdom', and to be 'strengthened in your inner man by His Spirit' so they could know the love that is beyond knowing in the natural - it is all about receiving personal revelation.

The whole kingdom works by revelation, so for those in sin we ask the Father give them revelation and that He would draw them close.

**Gather with those** who hold the truths of I John 1:1-3 close to their hearts, as they are also purifying themselves as they look for His glorious appearance. Separate from those who love the world and don't hold these things close to their hearts - even if you have to meet at home, with family, or with just 1 other person on this same spiritual page. Start a family based, home based church in your home...consider it.

Somewhere I have a quote from a Roman official from around the 2nd century writing to another official about the new wave of persecution against Christians. He said something to the effect of, "It's good to see the temples full again now that we've started this new effort against Christians." Are you ready to go underground?

Next week my spiritual dream. Until then, blessings,  
John Fenn

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