

No One Is An Island And No Sin Is Private !

We all like to feel we are in total control of our lives, but we are all mainly the product of our past, our present environment, and our nationally controlled education.

For some, a strong family religion is a very powerful force in their lives, causing them to isolate themselves from others outside their faith and blending into those of the same beliefs.

Romans 14:7-8 [NIV] *“For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.”*

Paul is reminding us here that it is impossible to live an isolated life.

Nobody can detach themselves from people or God.

We cannot detach ourselves from the past

We are part of all we have met.

Tradition, Heritage, and Heredity.

We do **not** start our lives with nothing, we start life with all that the past has made us.

Numbers 14:18 [NIV] *“The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.”*

This influence of the past effects us on the physical and mental level.

I personally experience this of both levels; one to my detriment, the other to my advantage.

My father was a very heavy smoker and I was born into a smoke-polluted environment, which caused me to suffer from bronchial infections and weakness from a very early age.

I am still debilitated by this early physical weakness.

But my father was also a man who was dedicated to his church and a very hard worker, sacrificing his time to help others in need.

For me this was a great example to follow and has influenced my life from a very young age, I struggle to fill the giant footprints he left behind.

My mother, right up to her death at the great age of 103 years, constantly *“cried and sighed”* for all the pain and evil she saw in this world.

What a wonderful example to have before my eyes right into my mature years.

Psalms 51:5 [NIV] *“Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.”*

King David understood the influence that the society around him had shaped his life even before he was born.

Science has now proved that the lifestyle and relationship of both parents can have an effect on their child even while it is in the womb of the mother.

Ezekiel 18:2 [NIV] *“What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel: ‘‘The fathers eat sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge?’’*”

National or religious animosity is easily passed from parent to child as we can see worldwide in this generation and as it has been in past history.

We cannot isolate ourselves from the present

There is nothing we do that is without its effect on others, we have a frightening power to make others happy or sad by our conduct.

Proverbs 27:19 [King James] *“As in water face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man.”*

The way we conduct our lives is going to powerfully influence others who come in contact with us on a day-to-day basis.

It is very true that our conduct speaks far louder than our words, and can expose our hypocrisy if the two are not in harmony.

We cannot escape this influence and we are in part being judged by God on this influence (how we use it).

We are all bound up in a bundle of life with no escape.

We cannot isolate ourselves from the future

As we receive life we also hand on life.

We all influence the future generation, we physically give our children strong and healthy bodies or otherwise.

But more importantly we influence the future generation spiritually, not only our own children but all young people we meet.

We cannot escape influencing the future generation by our own conduct, this is an awesome responsibility.

Our sin or our righteousness starts a new “chain of events” in this society.

We need to consider ourselves as a “link in a chain” and ensure we are a good strong link.

We cannot isolate ourselves from God

God is “omni present” [He is everywhere]

2 Chronicles 16:9 [NIV] *“For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.”*

The Eyes of God run to and fro, **not** missing anything.

Psalm 139:7-13 [NIV] *“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,” even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.”*

We can never find anywhere in the universe where God isn’t present.

There is no place we can go and leave God behind.

There is nothing we can do, say or even think that is not known by God.

Psalm 139:1-6 [NIV] *“O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. You hem me in, behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.”*

Not even death breaks the presence of God

Death is the gateway to God, either by resurrection or change.

1 John 3:1-3 [NIV] *“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for **we shall see him as he is.** Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.”*

There is going to be a time when we will see the present invisible God, actually be in His presence.

God is present already in every moment in the life of a Christian.

John 14:15-18 [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for **he lives with you and will be in you.** I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”*

John 14:20, 23 [NIV] *“On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.” ... “Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and **we will come to him and make our home with him.**”*

God lives in us.

No human being can follow a life policy of isolation.

We are all bound to our fellow humans and to our Creator for eternity.

No sin is private; it may be secret but it is not private.

Some people believe that their conduct is their own business unless their acts infringe on the rights of others.

Such a belief is a gross error.

“*My liberty ends where yours begins*” is true but **not all the truth.**

No-one ever has the right to commit an evil act, no matter how secret.

God desires all people to be free, but not free to commit sin, for such an act only brings pain and slavery in the end.

Sin is three-dimensional in consequences:

a) **Towards God:-** For it alienates us from God.

Isaiah 59:1-2 [NIV] “*Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.*”

b) **Towards self:-** For it degrades us, in eyes of God.

Isaiah 59:3-4 [NIV] “*For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken lies, and your tongue mutters wicked things. No-one calls for justice; no-one pleads his case with integrity. They rely on empty arguments and speak lies; they conceive trouble and give birth to evil.*”

c) **Towards society:-** Brings injury to others.

The history of the world proves this over and over, from Adam and Eve to modern day dictators who leave a trail of blood behind them.

Such people as Nero, Napoleon, Hitler, Stalin, just to name four, dramatised the destructive social results of personal sins.

But every sin and sinner injures society, though the effects may be milder and less noticeable, than some leaders in past or present society.

Have you ever considered what the world would be like today if **Napoleon** had become a Christian when in his teens?

Or if **Hitler** had learned to control his temper?

Or if **Stalin** had been tender-hearted?

Or if **Himmler** had fainted at the sight of blood?

Or if **all businessmen** should suddenly turn honest?

Or if **every politician** should stop lying?

Theoretically, if **Hitler** had been a good and gentle man, 6,000,000 Jews would have lived a normal length of life instead of it being violently cut short.

Had **Stalin** been a Christian, several million Russian farmers would be alive who now moulder in the earth.

Thousands of little children die of starvation; millions become displaced people because of leaders who have hate in their hearts.

Nearer to home, how many wives will sob themselves to sleep tonight because of their husband's savage temper.

How many bewildered, heartbroken children will cower in their dark bedrooms tonight, sick with shock and terror as their parents curse and shout at each other in the next room.

Is theirs a private quarrel?

No!

Children to the third or fourth generation will be injured, psychologically if not physically, because one man and his wife sinned inside four walls.

No sin can be private.

We Christians should know that our un-Christian conduct **cannot** be kept in our own back yard.

Sin committed in the privacy of the home will have its effect on those in our workplace, or those in our local community, the whole church congregation where we worship, whether we realise it or not.

Why?

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 [NIV] *“Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good.”*

The Holy Spirit cannot work, firing up enthusiasm, when the evil of sin is within a congregation.

Ephesians 4:30-32 [NIV] *“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”*

The special anointing presence of the Holy Spirit leaves the person or congregation where the sin of bitterness, rage, anger, slander or any other sin is found to be present.

The effect of the sins of one person can, as time passes, pollute the whole community or church congregation.

But thanks be to God there is a cure for this plague of sin.

1 John 1:8-10 [NIV] *“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.”*

When we humble ourselves before God and confess our sins, they can be cleansed and the Work of the Holy Spirit can then continue to bring us all to maturity.

**Allow such knowledge to change our lives ! . . .
BEGINNING NOW !!!**