



CAN YOU NAME THE FIVE WORST SINS?

If you tried answering the above question, you need to read today's "words."

As Christians, we seem to try to sort sins out according to how bad they are. Most of us do it subconsciously, some actually make lists!

I believe one way to sort sin according to how bad it is is to group sins into three categories: bad, real bad, and terrible. A "terrible" sin is one committed by someone we don't like. A "real bad" one is one committed by a friend. The simply "bad" group are those we commit. You think I'm joking, but, in the back our minds, this is how it often works. Perhaps this is what the Lord was speaking of when He said,

And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?

Matthew 7:3

These words were preceded by,

"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

Matthew 7:1-2

In the Old Testament, there are certain sins which are listed as *abominations* (**tow'ebah,to-ay-baw'; properly something *disgusting* (moral), i.e. (as noun) an *abhorrence*; especially *idolatry* or (concrete) an *idol*) One might think these sins as being worse than others. Several such sins are:**

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.

Leviticus 18:22

If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them.

Leviticus 20:13

The seem to make homosexuality a really bad sin. But, sprinkled through Leviticus are verses such as:

*For whoever commits **any of these** abominations, the persons who commit them shall be cut off from among their people.*

Leviticus 18:29

So, really, all the sins mentioned in Leviticus are "abominations" to God. If one really wants to rank sins in some way, there is one way it might be done. This is to ask the following three questions:

1: What did (does) this sin do to my relationship with God?

2: What did (does) this sin do to my brother's relationship with God?

3: What did (does) this sin do to my walk before the unbelievers I am witnessing to?

You say, "since Christ has forgiven all of my sins, they have no affect on my relationship with God!" This is true, but some sins have ongoing consequences that are not erased with God's forgiveness. If we have consumed too much alcohol in the past, God's forgiveness will not (usually) remove the sclerosis of the liver we now have to live with. These sins we most need to avoid.

Sins in the second group may not normally be regarded as sin. Is it wrong to eat a t-bone steak which was previously offered to idols? Not normally, but Paul says, *Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.*

I Corinthians 8:13

If you are doing something that causes a less enlightened brother to stumble, it is wrong. *It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.*

Romans 14:21

Similarly, we need to avoid things which may weaken our testimony before unsaved friends and loved ones. So, the severity of a sin can only be measured by how badly it hurts us in our walk with God, hurts our brothers in their walk with God, or hurts our testimony before the unsaved. What the actual act is is not important, all sin is falling short of God's best for us.

Wayne

