



Thinking That God Is Like Man

Psalm 50:16-21

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¹⁶ But to the wicked God says: “What right have you to declare My statutes, or take My covenant in your mouth, ¹⁷ seeing you hate instruction and cast My words behind you? ¹⁸ When you saw a thief, you consented with him, and have been a partaker with adulterers. ¹⁹ You give your mouth to evil, and your tongue frames deceit. ²⁰ You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother’s son. ²¹ These things you have done, and I kept silent; **you thought that I was altogether like you; but I will rebuke you**, and set them in order before your eyes.”

Principle Established

- Identified with wicked by accepting evil ones
 - ◆ *Saw a thief and consented with him*
 - ◆ *Made a partaker with adulterers*
 - ◆ **How?** By tolerating evil rather than rebuking it
- Proverbs speak to the same principle
 - ◆ **17:15** *Justifying the wicked is abomination*
 - ◆ **24:24** *One covering for wicked will be cursed*
 - ◆ **28:4** *Praising the wicked = Forsaking the law*
- Such deception aids the wicked (**Ezek. 13:22**)
- Origin: Thinking that God is like man (**Isa. 55:7-9**)

In Nations of Israel & Judah

- Rule for any nation: *Proverbs 14:34*
- Nations accepting fornication & homosexuality
- Judah exemplifies the effect
 - Allowed it at times (*1 Kgs. 14:22-24*)
 - Later put it away (*1 Kgs. 15:11-12; 22:46*)
 - Law allowed none of it (*Deut. 23:17*)
 - Israel destroyed for continual acceptance of those practicing evil (*2 Kgs. 17:7-18*)
 - Death sentence to assure “*that there be no wickedness among you*” (*Lev. 20:10-14*)
- What is effect of a nation officially accepting it?

In the Family

- **Must seek spiritual good of others: 1 Pet. 3**
- Consent for or acceptance of evil ruins family
 - ◆ *1 Samuel 2:22-24 vs 3:12-13* Reprove vs Restrain
 - ◆ Effect of unlawful divorce & remarriage on home (*Matthew 5:32; 19:9*)
 - ◆ Effect of no respect for authority or accepting error
 - ◆ Influence of immorality brings more if not rebuked
 - ◆ What about other children, grandchildren or other relatives?
- Note demands of love (*Rom. 12:9*)
 - ◆ *“Abhor that which is evil”*
 - ◆ *“Cleave to that which is good”*
- **No true love present if tolerate immorality**

In the Church

- **Expectation of purity stated: *2 Cor. 11:2-3***
- Cases of immorality in fellowship of churches
 - *Rev. 2:20-23* Jezebel received at Thyatira
 - *1 Cor. 5:1-13* Pride in fellowship of fornicator
 - *1 Cor. 15:33* Primary application to church
- In every case of evil present in any church, **instruction was always to purge it out**
- Evil present is unequal yoke (*2 Cor. 6:14-18*)
 - Present problem of those broadening fellowship
 - See the wrong in other areas – Why not church?

Must Not Conceal Sin, But Must Expose & Rebuke It

- Dealt with severely in O.T. (*Deut. 13:6-11*)
 - ◆ “you shall not consent to him or listen to him”
 - ◆ “nor shall your eye pity him”
 - ◆ “nor shall you spare him or conceal him”
 - ◆ “your hand shall be first against him”
- Same principle seen in N.T.
 - ◆ *Romans 1:32*
 - ◆ *Ephesians 5:7-12*
 - ◆ *2 John 9-11*

Are We Guilty of Tolerating Evil?

- What do we do when we know of evil...
 - ◆ *in the society around us?*
 - ◆ *in our friends?*
 - ◆ *in our family?*
 - ◆ *in the local church?*
- Do we:
 - ◆ Consent to the sinner or support him?
 - ◆ Does our eye pity him?
 - ◆ Do we spare him or conceal him?
 - ◆ Do we justify continued fellowship with him?
- If so, we must repent & cease our acceptance
- **How?** Stop thinking that God is like man!