

Celebration Services (January 12th & 13th, 2008)

"Condemnation and Its Cure"

Pt. 1 ... "The Cause of Condemnation"

INTRO People Dealing with Feelings of Condemnation

“ Our culture has declared war on guilt. The very concept is considered medieval, obsolete, unproductive. ...According to Dr. Wayne Dyer [author of the 1976 mega-bestseller, “Your Erroneous Zones”], guilt is nothing but a neurosis. “Guilt zones,” he wrote, “must be exterminated, spray-cleaned and sterilized forever.” The library’s periodical catalog lists these recent magazine articles under the heading *Guilt*: “How to Stop Being So Tough on Yourself,” “Guilt Can Drive You Crazy,” “Guilt Mongering,” “Getting Rid of the Guilt,” “Stop Pleading Guilty,” “Don’t Feed the Guilt Monster”— and a host of similar titles. Even Ann Landers has written, “One of the most painful, self-mutilating, time- and energy-consuming exercises in the human experience is guilt. ... It can ruin your day— or your week or your life— if you let it. ... Remember guilt is a pollutant and we don’t need any more of it in the world.” ” **John MacArthur**, “The Vanishing Conscience,” p. 19, 20

Webster’s Def: **condemn** = 1. to pass an adverse judgement on; disapprove of strongly 2. to declare to be guilty of wrongdoing; to pass judicial sentence on

“ [concerning the culture of blame-shifting in the U.S.] If you lose your job, you can sue for the mental distress of being fired. If the bank goes broke, the government has insured your deposits. ... If you drive drunk and crash you can sue somebody for failing to warn you to stop drinking. *There is always someone else to blame.*” **Charles J. Sykes**, “A Nation of Victims” (quoted in “The Vanishing Conscience”, p. 28)

— *Is It Wrong for People to be Told Their Wrong? Is it Wrong for People to Believe/Feel They are Wrong?.....* Or do the Feelings of Condemnation have a PROPER PLACE in the Human Experience?

— *When is Condemnation RIGHT? When is it WRONG?*

– **"Condemn"** is the English word used in translating the Greek word 'krino' 3 times in Jn 3:17-19

John 3:17-21

The Cause of Condemnation = God's Righteousness + Our Unrighteousness

Rom 5:12-14 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned — 13 for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.

Rom 5:18-20 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ... 20 Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

When God's Righteousness is REVEALED— Our Sinfulness is Revealed... and we feel "condemned"

– How Can That Be Solved?

– Modern Man ...

– **POSTMODERNISM** ... is Seeking to Solve this by saying, "who's to say what's right & wrong"

Rom 2:1 Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

THE EPICENTER OF CONDEMNATION

Highlighted in Jn 3:17-21

1. UNBELIEF
2. LOVE OF SIN & ITS PLEASURE

UNBELIEF

THE LOVE OF SIN & ITS PLEASURE (v. 19 ... "People LOVED the darkness)

- **Decent People are Still Sinners**

Isa 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

– The Sin is in "Turning to your own way" — even if our "own way" isn't some form of "Socially Gross Immorality"

“ The words, “because their deeds were evil,” are very instructive. They teach us that where men have no love to Christ and His gospel, and will not receive them, their lives and their works will prove at last to have been evil. Their habits of life may not be gross or immoral. They may be even comparatively decent and pure. But the last day will prove them to have been in reality ‘evil.’ Pride of intellect, or selfishness, or love of man’s applause, or dislike to submission of will, or self-righteousness, or some other false principle will be found to have run through all their conduct. In one way or another, when men refuse to come to Christ, their deeds will always prove to be ‘evil.’ ... Human eyes may not detect the flaw, but the eyes of an all-seeing God do.” J.C. Ryle, “Expository Thoughts on John, vol. 1”, p. 166

- **The Great Sin of God Finishing 2nd**

The Great Commandment = "You shall LOVE the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength"

The 1st Commandment = "You shall have no other gods BEFORE ME"

Rom 1:21-25 "For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. 24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen."

— ***Deprioritizing God is the Most Sinful Thing Man Ever Can Do!!!***

- **Loving Sin's Pleasures Too Much to Let Go**

"People do not come to Christ, and do continue unconverted, just because they do not wish and want to come to Christ. They love something else better than the light." J.C. Ryle, "Expository Thoughts on John, vol. 1", p. 166

"(Jonathan) Edwards spoke of motives. Why is it that the mind chooses one thing rather than another? Edwards asked. He answered that the mind chooses what it does because of motives. The mind is not neutral. It thinks some things are better than other things, and because it thinks some things are better than other things it chooses what it judges to be best." James M. Boice & Philip G. Ryken, "The Doctrines of Grace", p. 84

NOTE: (For believer & Unbeliever alike) Whenever your attitude or actions have their origins in these 2 areas, the "Feelings of Condemnation" are an unavoidable consequence.

v. 20 ... Avoiding the Light

Why Do People Avoid the Light?

How Do People Avoid the Light?

Before we can get to the CURE for Condemnation, we first have to see if Condemnation is a LEGITIMATE EXPERIENCE — If so, when is it Legitimate and when is it NOT.