

Celebration Services (January 19th & 20th, 2008)
"The Cure for Condemnation"

"Condemnation and Its Cure" (Pt. 2)

INTRO

I rarely read the comics in the newspaper, but a few years ago someone showed me one I had to keep. It's from a strip called Cathy. Cathy appears to be a single woman in her thirties. In this particular cartoon she's sitting at home, alone with her thoughts.

Things I should have done at work, she thinks to herself. Things I wish I'd said to Irving. Things I promised myself to never do again but I did anyway. Ways I made myself miserable that I could have avoided.

Her look of depression deepens. ... Things I could have done for my family, my puppy, my friends, my coworkers, my neighbor, my finances, my home, my closets, my diet, and millions of people in need whom I've never met.

In the final frame, Cathy summarizes her plight. "Even when I'm not going anywhere, I have three hundred pounds of luggage with me."

It's amazing how close to home a comic strip can strike. Like Cathy, we can all generate a depressing list of things undone, unsaid, and unaccomplished. Even when we're not going anywhere we can carry hundreds of pounds of luggage. ...The Bible calls this luggage "condemnation." At one time or another we all find ourselves carrying some, whether big or small.

CJ Mahaney, "Living the Cross Centered Life," p. 123

The Christian Experiencing Condemnation

(Christians actually have more potential for feelings of condemnation— because they have a larger knowledge base & list of expectations to draw from)

"My observation of Christendom is that most of us tend to base our personal relationship with God on our performance instead of on His grace. If we've performed well— whatever "well" is in our opinion— then we expect God to bless us. If we haven't done so well, our expectations are reduced accordingly. In this sense, we live by works rather than by grace. We are saved by grace, but we are living by the "sweat" of our own performance. Moreover, we are always challenging ourselves and one another to "try harder." We seem to believe success in the Christian life (however we define success) is basically up to us: our discipline, and our zeal, with some help from God along the way." Jerry Bridges, "Transforming Grace," p. 11

Beware: Striving for Sanctification can result in a Greater Focus on YOUR actions and attitudes than on the God you are seeking to be like.... Resulting in feelings of Condemnation.

— Be Careful: The Remedy to Feeling Condemned is NOT found in AVOIDING the Settings of Sanctification

.... It is in Experiencing Grace and Being Mindful of Grace while you Pursue Sanctification

“It’s only when we receive His free gift of grace and live in the good of total forgiveness that we’re able to turn from old, sinful ways of living and walk in grace-motivated obedience.” CJ Mahaney, “Living the Cross Centered Life”, p. 126

THE CURE FOR CONDEMNATION

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

Rom 8:1

“**NOW**” ... Implication = as opposed to “then” — There isn’t condemnation NOW, but there WAS BEFORE!!

Jn 3:18-19 “Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already.” 19 And this is the judgement [condemnation]: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.”

2 Thess 2:12 “in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

— **The Epicenter of Condemnation** is UNBELIEF... & LOVING SIN rather than righteousness

Eph 2:1-3 “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience — 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.”

1 Cor 6:9-11 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

"NO CONDEMNATION"

... ***NO Adverse judgement***

John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

... ***NO Declaration of Guilt/Wrongdoing***

Heb 10:11-12, 14-18 And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. 15 And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, 16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," 17 then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." 18 Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

... ***NO Disapproval***

Eph 1:4-6 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. KJV

– As Seen in The reception the PRODIGAL Son Received

"THEREFORE" — gives us the reasons behind this statement

- How many know some people promote & make use of False Remedies for Guilt & Condemnation?

- Do You Know The Reasons? Are These Reasons Your Reasons? ... Are they close at hand in your mind and understanding?

Rom 5:12-19

"IN CHRIST"

- Condemned or Not Condemned is about GEOGRAPHY— where are you located?
 - ... Everyone in ADAM is Condemned
 - ... Everyone in CHRIST is NOT CONDEMNED!!!

- *How did you "get in Christ"? ...*

... 2 Options:

- (1) By Something God Did
- (2) By Something We Did

Rom 3:19-24, 26-28

Or perhaps a 3rd Option— **"a LOT of what God did + a Little of What We Do"**

Rom 11:6

Gal 3:1-6

The Cure for Condemnation is JUSTIFICATION (Rom 5:1 ... Justification gives us peace with God)

The Basis for Our Justification is MERCY/GRACE (Rom 3:23-24)

The Way that GRACE is Received is BY FAITH (Eph 2:8-9)

... Therefore, anytime I attempt to Deal with Feelings of Condemnation, I must do so by the use of FAITH— NOT the Use of Personal Contribution, Striving, or Merit. This was the Trap the Galatians Fell Into.

"A legalist is anyone who behaves as if they can earn God's forgiveness through personal performance." CJ Mananey, "Living the Cross Centered Life", p. 112

"various spiritual activities— such as Bible reading, prayer, or sharing the gospel— that are good and vital in themselves when pursued for the right reasons. But often without realizing it, we allow a dangerous shift to take place in our mind and heart. We change what God intends as a means of experiencing grace into a means of earning grace." C.J. Mahaney, "Living the Cross Centered Life", p. 115