

What We're Against

(Romans 12:9)

- Introduction:
1. This morning we talked about what this church is for - And the answer was "sinners."
 2. Tonight, what I want us to identify is what we are against.
 3. In the military, Article 133 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, actions that fall below the expectations of the military are called, "Conduct Unbecoming of an Officer and a Gentleman."
 4. In Christianity, actions that fall beneath the expectations of Jesus are called, "sin."
 3. The answer to our question tonight. What are we against? "Sin."

I. The Separation of Sinner & Sin

- A. Some might suggest that this is double talk.
- B. Some might say, "we are what we do" and therefore no separation can be made.
- C. The Bible teaches otherwise.
 1. (Psalm 25:7).
 2. (Romans 7:15-17).
 3. We do it with our families all the time.
- D. So we can love the sinner and hate the sin at the same time.

II. The Disappearance Of Sin

- A. Dr. Karl Menninger wrote a book entitled, "Whatever Became of Sin?" (1988)
 1. In support of his proposition that sin has disappeared, he noted that the last time sin was mentioned by a President in the annual National Day of Prayer was by Eisenhower in 1953 - and his words were borrowed by Abraham Lincoln's from 1863. Menninger observed that as a nation we officially ceased sinning 55 years ago.
 2. It's as though we have raised, and may ourselves have been raised, in a generation that has no idea of sin. Oh, we know how to sin well enough, we just don't have any idea of what constitutes sin.
 - a. Ills. of Girl who didn't know cheating was wrong.
 - b. Ills. Of boyfriend and girlfriend coming to church, asking us to pay for their motel room for the night.
 3. We now employ euphemisms to salve our conscience.
 - a. Lying - Disinformation, fibbing.
 - b. Gossip - Sharing news.
 - c. Fornication - Love.
 - d. Homosexuality - An alternative lifestyle.
 - e. Adultery - An Affair.
 - f. Cursing - Colorful language.
 - g. Murdering Babies - Choice.

- B. Typically, whenever one attempts to talk about sin, someone will invariably bring up John 8:7 and Matthew 7:1.

III. The Malignancy of Sin

- A. Cancer is a scary term that often invokes a sense of despair and even hopelessness. If left untreated, it will spread.
- B. Likewise, sin, if left unchecked will spread throughout our lives.
- C. Writings from the 17th Century.
 - 1. The Sinfulness of Sin, The Mischief of Sin, The Anatomy of Secret Sins, The Evil of Evils or the Exceeding Sinfulness of Sin.
 - 2. Ralph Venning - "The Sinfulness of Sin" - in only a few pages (first six pages) he describes sin as vile, ugly odious, malignant, pestilent, pernicious, hideous, spiteful, poisonous, virulent, villainous, abominable, and deadly."
 - 1. (Jude 15) "ungodly" used 5 times in one verse.
- F. Do we abhor evil (Romans 12:9).
 - 1. It's easy to find 100 people who say they love Jesus, but it's not nearly as easy to find 100 people who hate sin.

IV. Called To Be Saints

- A. (1 Corinthians 1:2).
- B. "Saint" - literally means one who is separated unto God.
- C. Separated by the gospel; from the world; for God.

- Conclusion:
- 1. While it is true that we will never rid ourselves of sin, that doesn't excuse us to wallow in them (Romans 6:14).
 - 2. Are you in sin this evening?
 - 3. Do you need to get with the agenda and mission of Jesus' church?