

A Cup Of Water And An Ocean Of Grace

Mark 9:38-50 (ESV)

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. For the one who is not against us is for us. For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward. "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.' For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

The Gospel Invitation Is Remarkably Inclusive

Isaiah 55:1 (ESV)

Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Revelation 22:17 (ESV)

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

The Gospel Is For Anyone Who Thirsts

The Gospel's Work Is Decidedly Exclusive

Rather than teaching a passive reaction regarding sin, Jesus commands aggressive rejection and removal of sin from our lives

Why does Jesus take such an extreme view of sin?

Sin is addictive

2 Peter 2:14 (ESV)

They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children!

2 Peter 2:18-19 (ESV)

For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.

Sin is contagious

2 Timothy 2:16-18a (NIV)

Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have departed from the truth.

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

Sin is Lethal

Romans 6:23a (ESV)

For the wages of sin is death...

John 8:24 (ESV)

I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.

Christians Must Seek To Kill Our Sin And Pursue Purity

How did the early church put Jesus' teachings into practice?

1 Corinthians 5:4-5 (ESV)

When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

Present

Prayerful

Purposeful

Private

1 Corinthians 5:9-11 (ESV)

I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people – not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler – not even to eat with such a one.

Colossians 4:5-6 (ESV)

Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Romans 6:14 (ESV)

For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Drown Sin In An Ocean Of Grace

Isaiah 38:17 (ESV)

Behold, it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness; but in love you have delivered my life from the pit of destruction, for you have cast all my sins behind your back.

Micah 7:18-19 (ESV)

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Proverbs 25:21 (ESV)

If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.