

# San Juan church of Christ

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## What Does God's Word Say About... Consequences of Sin

Recently this nation experienced another mass shooting in a school. Once again Americans are blaming this mass shooting on the "mental illness" of the shooter. Jesus would disagree with this diagnosis when He said, "That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man" (Mark 7:20-23). In other words, sin is defined as lawlessness in God's word and is a cause of these horrible events.

Paul wrote, "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law" (Gal. 5:22-23). "Realizing the fact that law [Christ's] is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers and mothers, for murderers and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever is contrary to sound teaching [Christ's law]" (1 Tim. 1:9-10).

After each mass shooting you will find people asking for prayers for the families of the victims, and will put up white crosses near the place of the tragedy. They will seek for God's comfort during these times but do not always conform their lives to practicing righteousness.

The prophet Isaiah wrote, "I [God] will destine you for the sword [instrument of death], and all of you shall bow down to the slaughter. Because I called, but you did not answer; I spoke, but you did not hear. And you did evil in my sight and chose that in which I did not delight" (Isaiah 65:12). The majority of Americans today mock, laugh at, and chastise those who love the Lord God and obey the word of the Lord. They mock the traditional family; the husband being the head of the family and the wife being subject to her husband (1 Cor. 11:3; 1 Peter 3:1). Children are to obey their "parents [plural] in the Lord for this is right." Children are to "honor your father and mother". Fathers are not to "provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline of the Lord" (Eph. 6:1-4). Listening to these principles of God's word will produce respectful children!

The principles of God's word give us, as individuals and as a nation, a moral compass. If we turn to wickedness there will be a price to pay. The Psalmist wrote, "The nations have sunk down in the pit which they have made; in the net which they hid, their own foot has been caught. The Lord has made himself known; He has executed judgment. In the work of His own hands the wicked is snared" (Psm. 9:15-16). "Bless the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance. Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope for His loving kindness" (Psm. 33:12, 18).

Solomon wrote in Proverbs, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people" (Prov. 14:34). "Because I [God] called and you refused, I stretched out My hand and no one paid attention; and you neglected all My counsel and did not want My reproof; I will also laugh at you calamity; I will mock when your dread comes, when your dread comes like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. Then they will call on Me but I will not answer; they will seek Me diligently but they shall not find Me, because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord. They would not accept My counsel, they spurned My reproof. So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way and be satiated with their own devices. For the waywardness of the naive shall kill them, and the complacency of fools shall destroy them. But he who listens to Me [God's word] shall live securely and shall be at ease from the dread of evil" (Prov. 1:24-33).

As long as this nation continues to mock God and Christianity, we can expect, according to God's word, that this evil will continue to increase and not dissipate.

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