

San Juan church of Christ

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What Does God's Word Say About... Sin in the Hearts and Minds of Men

This past week a black man murdered five white police officers and injured many more in a hateful rage against another race. What is wrong with us as a people? Can people not see what they are doing to themselves? People are addicted to drugs, alcohol, pleasure, and materialism. You name it, and our society is addicted to it. Crime is on a rampage, families are torn apart, and fathers refuse to take responsibility for their families. We see sin all around us as we live in a free society where people seem on every hand to be wavering between suicide, murder-suicide, riotous behavior, rebellion, and outright anarchy.

Society tries to find human solutions to these problems, such as more gun regulations, or the question is asked "what was the mental state of a person who committed such a crime?" You will never hear in the news that sin has caused this evil (James 1:14-15). God's word explains that these issues are caused by sin which begins in the hearts and minds of men (Eph: 4:17-18; 2 Cor. 3:14-15). God's definition of sin is "the transgression of law as it is given in His book," the Bible. God said there is a penalty for breaking His law and that there is one reason for this penalty, and that is "sin." The wages of sin is death [eternal punishment] (Rom. 6:23).

One of the reasons that we are seeing the results of so much sin in society today is due to the break down of the family unit. Many children today are being raised in a single parent family. Moses was instructed to write "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons [children] and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up" (Deut. 6:5-7). We certainly get the impression that God wants parents actively involved in teaching their children, and that Biblical instruction should be part of their everyday life.

We are careful to vaccinate our children against all sorts of diseases. Are we also concerned about protection against the disease of sin - an eternally fatal disease (Psm. 119:11). A father would consider himself derelict if he did not see that his children were protected against polio and smallpox. But fathers should consider it of much greater importance that they do not neglect their children's spiritual health. If your children are young, do you read Bible stories to them? If they are older, are Bible principles a topic of conversation at the dinner table, or as you ride together in the car?

Children need to have a two-parent home. About 70% of juveniles and young adults who are in long term correctional facilities did not live with both parents while growing up. Fatherlessness contributes to 75% of teen suicides, and 80% of psychiatric admissions. More than 40% of births today are to unmarried women [70% in the black community]. Over 50% of children in the United States will have parents who divorce. All of this is a great prescription for tragedy. Parents are not spending valuable time with their children, or correctly disciplining them.

In the book of Ecclesiastes, written over 3,000 years ago, King Solomon tried to give solutions to common problems through human reasoning. When he found there were no satisfactory solutions to man's problems through this method, he wrote "The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil" (Eccl. 12:13-14).

Christ and His word has the answer to all of man's struggles. Get to know Him today, and you will know fulfillment as never before! He said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Because sin starts in the hearts and minds of men, if we listen to His commandments and live them daily, the war in our heart and mind is over and there is peace (Phil. 4:7).

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:
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