

NO NEUTRAL PLACE

John 15:23

Introduction: From the very beginning man has tried to excuse and ease his sins by calling them something that doesn't sound as harsh as SIN. Lying is fibbing, cursing is "words spoken in emotional strain," adultery is pre or extra marital affairs, even the word "hate" is now "dislike, don't care for."

The names of sin have been changed to try to conceal it's enormity but regardless of what man calls it, sin is still in and that's what God calls it. Covetousness in God's eyes is not prudence and idolatry, a disregard for God's presence is not just accidental or careless, but it is an outright denial of God and all that God is.

To neglect or ignore God's Gospel is not ignorance or inattention but is an outright disregard, dislike of both Jesus and God the Father. Seeing things God's way, there is no such thing as being "neutral." Either a person is for God and all that is of God or else he/she is against God.

I. WHO, EXACTLY ARE THOSE WHO DO NOT CARE FOR THE LORD JESUS?

1. The first thought would be that the Jews don't care for Jesus.
 - Many think that because they call themselves "Christians" is enough to show their regard for Him.
 - Many, however, have been baptized into the name of Jesus yet remain inactive for Him.
2. Sadly, countless so called "Christians" disregard God's Gospel.
 - The gospel should have been received with great joy and excitement, yet many who call themselves "Christians" seem to have an aversion to it.
 - Some don't like the basic tenet of the Gospel of permanent salvation by faith and so they change it like they want it.
 - Some say the Gospel is old-fashioned so they change it to "update" it.
 - Many agree with the Gospel yet have never experienced it's power and are not enjoying it's promises and are not fulfilling it's principles. They don't know of it's renewing, peace bringing effects.
 - Do these so called "Christians" not really care for the Jesus they identify with? Jesus said that there would be many who would say that they were "Christians" but that they were not true followers of Him.
3. There are many Christians who neglect Jesus' ordinances.
 - Jesus promised very special attention and blessings during the observance of His ordinances but to many baptism and the Lord's Supper are a "waste of time."
 - How often do worldly things, business and pleasure keep Christians from the Lord's House?
 - When gathered in God's House, the mind roams and wanders so that they have "drawn near with their lips but their hearts are far from Him."
 - At prayer times, there is a coldness, un-interest and carelessness.
 - Family worship is a thing of the past and if conducted is boring and uninteresting.
 - Jesus left a command that Christians should partake often of bread and wine in remembrance, yet His table is shamefully profaned by those who do participate.

- Jesus plainly tells His Church that those who despise and ignore His invitations shall never taste of His glory.

4. Non-Christians persecute those who do follow Jesus.

- Persecution is not as in was in earlier times but it has not ceased.
- Enmity still exists in the hearts of those who are against God and His Children.
- As long as unbelievers exist, they shall persecute those born of the Holy Spirit.
- If a believer is not killed, then he/she will be berated and have all kind of evil things said against him/her falsely.
- Therefore, those who persecute those of God are enemies to Him.
- Saul thought he was right in persecuting Christians until Jesus showed him differently.

II. WHAT ONE THINKS OF JESUS, IS THE SAME AS OF GOD

1. There are those who reject God's authority.

- God commands all people to believe in His Son, Jesus, thus bringing honor to Him.
- People refuse to do so, saying "*who is this man that we should obey him?*"
- Anyone who rejects Jesus does so because he/she has rejected God, the Father.

2. There are those who reject God's image.

- The gospel, the ordinances, the Church, all bear the impression of God's holiness.
- The Gospel is disliked because it requires purity and self-denial.
- Worship is tolerated IF outward performances are all that are necessary but if devotion and spirituality are necessary, then unbelieving hearts rebel.
- If God's faithful tolerated such attitudes and practices, then the world's persecution of them and their offense of the cross and Jesus would cease.
- All manner of holiness is an aversion.
- It is a sure thing that not only Jesus and God are hated by their enemies but everything that is associated with them and bears any likeness to them is also hated.

3. There are those who deny God's very existence.

- How vain and blind it is to think that God is no longer, that He is dead or never existed.
- How unbelievers would rejoice if there was no God to judge them.
- The world would look forward to exercising it's sinful lusts and desires where there was no restraint.
- As enemies of Jesus rejoiced at His crucifixion, so would all the unbelievers rejoice if there were no God.
- Truly one is a fool who says "*There is no God.*"

CONCLUSION:

1. Man's heart is exceedingly wicked.

- Why does man not care that God have His Son for his/her sins?
- Why does man not care that Jesus died on a cross for him/her?
- Why does man not care that Jesus went about doing good to all around Him?

2. Rejecters of God and Jesus will be punished in Hell for all eternity.
 - In Hell, wickedness will continue.
 - In Hell, the Devil and all his fellow demons will vent their wrath on those there with them.
 - In Hell, men and women will gnaw their tongues in agony and torment.
 - In Hell, there will be no relief, no possible chance to escape.

3. How wonderful is the tender mercy of God.
 - Contrary to what human logic says that God should show nothing but contempt and judgment against such an ungrateful world, God is very gracious to people.
 - God sends offer after offer of pardon.
 - God entreats and even begs people to put away their sins and be reconciled to Him.
 - Let God's goodness lead you to repentance.
 - Throw away your excuses.
 - Bow to God on His throne of Grace.
 - Be numbered among His Children, not His enemies.

4. There is no neutral place to stand. Either you are belong to God or you don't. If you do, God is on your side. If you don't then you are an enemy to God in His eyes yet He still loves you.