

The Church has never been as soft on sin as it is today. Who would have thought, that in one generation, the very word would be avoided by most of the clergy. In an effort to always be "positive" the realities of sin and its consequences have been minimized. Having shoved this "Old Testament" concept into a corner, countless homes are being ravaged by a harvest of death. To be popular, a guilty priesthood of hirelings has allowed the cancer of sin to spread like a plague in the Church and now, rather than perfecting holiness in the fear of God, we have become a generation that plays with sin.

Victimized by the misnomers and soft definitions of the word, we have learned to accept sin rather than to abhor it. Taught that it is inevitable, we have learned to live with it rather than to cleanse ourselves from it.

The human heart needs anything but this. It is always ready to excuse itself. It is always ready to blame someone else for its folly. It is always ready to rationalize its behavior. As a result, without a shepherd reproving, rebuking, and exhorting us to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, we are likely to make a place for sin.

Some of it we are blind to. Like little children, we are so immature that we don't understand, don't really see the death we are planting in our lives by our misbehavior. We forget that delayed obedience is disobedience. We don't realize that our stiff-necked behavior grieves the Spirit and damages our own hearts and the hearts of all those around us.

Then too, we are taught that sin is simply missing the mark. In some instances this is true. It relates to people honestly trying to do their very best and yet failing at times because of the weakness of their flesh. However, the constant harping on this only diminishes the reality of sin and gives us an excuse to be soft on sin. As a consequence of such preaching, sin is seen as a light thing. This view of sin minimizes the sacrifice of Jesus' blood. In fact, it makes the cross seem like an unreasonable demand of an all too implacable God. The thought becomes "I can't be holy. I can't separate myself from the world. I can't. I can't. I'm a victim of my flesh." This is hogwash! It stands in direct opposition to Christ and the scriptures and yet, it is the attitude of many in the Church

today. Again, this is the fruit of soft preaching on sin and this very attitude exposes the matter to be much more than "missing the mark." **Sin is choosing against God.** It is not innocent. It is not an accident. It is not excusable. The eyes see, the heart lusts and the will of man exalts itself against the will of God. There is no missing the mark here. This is downright rebellion against God. The Holy Ghost says no, the Word says no, but the human heart says I must have my own way. We act as if we can go play in the fields of sin like a recess on a schoolyard. Then we presume on the mercy of God by "praying for forgiveness" never intending to repent and change but looking for a covering till we need another

## Playing with Sin

by Kim Josephson

"recess." We call this Christianity? God have mercy! This is a cycle in the Church that is never repudiated. Is it any wonder that even pastors are addicted to internet porn and all manner of wickedness?

This casual attitude toward sin, this playing with sin, has led to strongholds of satan and all manner of compromise in the Church today? More "Christians" are drinking than ever before. More "Christians" are swearing than ever before. Unholy lifestyles are not the exception but the rule. Just look at the Church today. Look at the way we dress. I don't want to preach the clothes-line, but our kids look so much like the world, who can tell the difference? And we call this liberty? God have Mercy.

Remember **what you do in moderation, your kids will do in excess!** And isn't that the fruit of this license in these last days? Look around you! It's Church kids getting pregnant, having abortions, doing drugs, sleeping around. It's Church kids in all manner of trouble. And it's not just the kids, **the adults are just as bad!**

Why? Because we play with sin! The temptation is to just mess with it a little. It titillates, it entices. You think you can handle it. Then it sinks its hooks in. Then it show its true colors, but then it's too late. The seeds are planted. The harvest of death is coming. O Church, this is the result of being soft on sin.

Hear the warning of Hebrews

10:26-31:

*For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living*

*God.*

Can you imagine? God is anything but soft on sin. Will you really trample over the blood of Jesus to have your own way - to be your own boss? Then you know nothing of saving faith and are yet in your sins. You must be born again.

But perhaps you read this and are convicted. Don't feel sorry for yourself. Rather, feel sorry for the God you've offended and the Christ you've dishonored. You're not a victim of anything except your own lusts, so go to God for forgiveness this instant. Ask God to give you a new heart. Ask Him to give you a heart of flesh for your heart of stone and to write His laws on your heart. Ask Him to teach you to hate sin and make no place for it in your life. Now, believe God to work this work in your and know that He is faithful. In 1 Cor 10:13 the Bible says:

*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

So you see, you can overcome - you must overcome. There are no excuses. In the name of Jesus, **NO MORE PLAYING WITH SIN.**