

THEREFORE, TAKE HEED

• 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-12 •

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Introduction

A) Current affairs

Introduction

B) Church attitude

One pastor from another church wrote to express his view (which I do not fully agree).

“Secular government has done evil.”

“Pray for the government to repent and change.”

“Or else our sovereign God will change them out.”

“No government is indispensable.”

Introduction

B) Church attitude

- **Our church: little on-going conversation on this current-affairs.**

Introduction

C) Cautionary advice

- **First words that the Lord dropped into my mind, “therefore take heed lest you fall.”**

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-12 (NKJV)

¹ Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, ² all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ all ate the same spiritual food,

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-12 (NKJV)

⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. ⁵ But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. ⁶ Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-12 (NKJV)

⁷ And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.” **⁸ Nor let us commit sexual immorality**, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; **⁹ nor let us tempt Christ**, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents;

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-12 (NKJV)

- 10 nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.**
- 12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.**

Introduction

d) Case authority

- **John 8:2-11**

Introduction

e) Caught in adultery

JOHN 8:2-11 (NKJV)

² Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. ³ Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, ⁴ they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act.

JOHN 8:2-11 (NKJV)

⁵ Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?"

⁶ This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.

JOHN 8:2-11 (NKJV)

7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, “He **who is without sin among you**, let him throw a stone at her first.” **8** And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.

JOHN 8:2-11 (NKJV)

9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

JOHN 8:2-11 (NKJV)

10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one, but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” **11** She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

Key Lessons

1. **Acknowledge the seriousness of sin**
(repentance needed)
2. **Avoid a judgmental attitude**
(brokenness needed)
3. **Aim for mercy and restoration**
(compassion needed)

1. Acknowledge the seriousness of sin (*repentance needed*)

- **“But what do you say?”**

➤ **Sin of adultery**

JOHN 8:4-5 (NKJV)

⁴ they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. ⁵ Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?”

EXODUS 20:14 (NKJV)

“You shall not commit adultery.”

1. Acknowledge the seriousness of sin (*repentance needed*)

➤ Sin of adultery

- **Sermon on the Mount**

MATTHEW 5:27-28 (NKJV)

27 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

**1. Acknowledge the seriousness of sin
(*repentance needed*)**

➤ **Sin of adultery**

- **He has dialled up the seriousness.**
- **Impossible for most believers to avoid the sin of adultery of the heart.**

1. Acknowledge the seriousness of sin
(repentance needed)

➤ **Sins deemed acceptable**

- **We erroneously grade sins from serious sins to acceptable sins with many grades in between.**

**1. Acknowledge the seriousness of sin
(*repentance needed*)**

➤ **Sins deemed acceptable**

- **We simply commit certain sins without second thought.**
- **For examples, sin of pride, sin of unbelief, sin of servitude to materialism, sin of unforgiveness, sin of disobedience, etc.**

1. Acknowledge the seriousness of sin
(repentance needed)

➤ **Sins deemed acceptable**

- **unconsciously accept sins of lust for things, idols in our hearts, total disrespect for God and testing and taunting God, and harbouring a complaining spirit**

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⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. ⁵ But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. ⁶ Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

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⁷ And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.” **⁸ Nor let us commit sexual immorality**, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; **⁹ nor let us tempt Christ**, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents;

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- 10 nor complain**, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. **11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.**
- 12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.**

1 CORINTHIANS 10:9-10 (NLT)

⁹ Nor should we put Christ to the test, as some of them did and then died from snakebites. ¹⁰ And don't grumble as some of them did, and then were destroyed by the angel of death.

1. Acknowledge the seriousness of sin
(repentance needed)

➤ **Sexual sins are serious**

- **Need to exercise caution and avoid all sins.**

1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-11 (NKJV)

⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-11 (NKJV)

¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:18-20 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

1. Acknowledge the seriousness of sin
(repentance needed)

➤ **Sexual sins are serious**

- **other sins of addiction that can damage our body**

1. Acknowledge the seriousness of sin
(repentance needed)

➤ **Sins we should repent from**

JOHN 8:11 (NKJV)

**She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her,
“Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”**

1. Acknowledge the seriousness of sin
(repentance needed)

➤ **Sins we should repent from**

- **sin no more**
- **repent and act differently thereafter**

MATTHEW 9:12-13 (NKJV)

**¹² When Jesus heard that, He said to them,
“Those who are well have no need of a physician,
but those who are sick. ¹³ But go and learn what
this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’
For I did not come to call the righteous,
but sinners, to repentance.”**

**1. Acknowledge the seriousness of sin
(*repentance needed*)**

➤ **Sins we should repent from**

- **Let us acknowledge the sin of adultery and other sins as serious and repent if have committed the sin.**

Acknowledge the seriousness of sin
(repentance needed)

2. Avoid a judgmental attitude (*brokenness needed*)

- **Judgmental attitude manifest itself by meting punishment**
 - **unspoken propensity**
 - **to think that to show compassion and to forgive means taking sin lightly**
 - **affront to their righteousness**

2. Avoid a judgmental attitude (*brokenness needed*)

- **Take heed of our own vulnerability and sinfulness**

JOHN 8:7 (NKJV)

⁷ So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, “He **who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.”**

2. Avoid a judgmental attitude (*brokenness needed*)

➤ Take heed of our own vulnerability and sinfulness

- **Only those without sin may proceed to throw the stones of condemnation.**
- **We are so unaware of our sins that we have become judgmental in our attitude towards sinners and offenders.**

2. Avoid a judgmental attitude (*brokenness needed*)

➤ Take heed of our own vulnerability and sinfulness

- **need Jesus to convict us of our hidden sins and our tendency to commit all kinds of other sins**
- **proud and unyielding**
- **disobedient to authority and dishonouring of others**

2. Avoid a judgmental attitude (*brokenness needed*)

➤ **Take heed of our own vulnerability and sinfulness**

- **unforgiving and resentful**
- **ungrateful and unbelieving, and so forth**

2. Avoid a judgmental attitude (*brokenness needed*)

- **Consciousness of sin of the young and the old**

JOHN 8:9 (NKJV)

**Then those who heard it, being convicted
by their conscience, went out one by one,
beginning with the oldest even to the last.**

2. Avoid a judgmental attitude (*brokenness needed*)

➤ The older people walked away first

August/September 2023 Impact Magazine carries an interview with S Dhanabalan :

“It varies from time to time, depending on the situation. As I got older, the verse that shaped my thinking very much is 1 John 1:9. That has been my verse for many years now. My consciousness of sin and God’s holiness became clearer as I grew older.”

1 JOHN 1:9 (NKJV)

**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to
forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all
unrighteousness**

2. Avoid a judgmental attitude (*brokenness needed*)

- **more easily convicted by his conscience as he grows older.**

2. Avoid a judgmental attitude (*brokenness needed*)

➤ **Paul became more conscious of his sin as he got older**

- **increasing sense of unworthiness and sinfulness**
- **“least of the Apostles”**

1 CORINTHIANS 15:9 (NKJV)

**For I am the least of the apostles, who am not
worthy to be called an apostle, because I
persecuted the church of God**

2. Avoid a judgmental attitude (*brokenness needed*)

- **Paul became more conscious of his sin as he got older**
- **“least of the Saints”**

EPHESIANS 3:8 (NKJV)

**To me, who am less than the least of all the saints,
this grace was given, that I should preach among
the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,**

2. Avoid a judgmental attitude (*brokenness needed*)

- **Paul became more conscious of his sin as he got older**
- **worst of all sinners**

1 TIMOTHY 1:15 (NLT)

This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” — and I am the worst of them all

2. Avoid a judgmental attitude (*brokenness needed*)

- **Paul became more conscious of his sin as he got older**
- **Paul has brokenness:**
 - **person with a contrite and humble spirit**
 - **filled with a sense of guilt and remorse**

ISAIAH 57:15 (NLT)

**For thus says the High and Lofty One
Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:
“I dwell in the high and holy place,
With him who has a contrite and humble spirit,
To revive the spirit of the humble,
And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.**

PSALM 34:18 (NKJV)

**The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart,
And saves such as have a contrite spirit.**

2. Avoid a judgmental attitude (*brokenness needed*)

- **Paul became more conscious of his sin as he got older**
- **May each passing day find us more easily convicted by our conscience**

Avoid a judgmental attitude
(brokenness needed)

Acknowledge the seriousness of sin
(repentance needed)

3. Aim for mercy and restoration
(compassion needed)

JOHN 8:10-11 (NKJV)

10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” **11** She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

3. Aim for mercy and restoration (*compassion needed*)

- **Give offender another chance.**
- **This is the essence of restoration.**

3. Aim for mercy and restoration (*compassion needed*)

➤ Make room for compassion

- **holiness and compassion of Jesus**
- **full of truth and grace**

JOHN 1:14-18 (NKJV)

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’”

JOHN 1:14-18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

3. Aim for mercy and restoration (*compassion needed*)

➤ Make room for compassion

- **His mercy and compassion triumphed over the law!**
- **They did not nullify the law.**

MATTHEW 9:12-13 (NKJV)

**¹² When Jesus heard that, He said to them,
“Those who are well have no need of a physician,
but those who are sick. ¹³ But go and learn
what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’
For I did not come to call the righteous,
but sinners, to repentance.”**

3. Aim for mercy and restoration (*compassion needed*)

➤ Make room for compassion

- We should grow in our compassion and mercy as we grow older and we become more conscious of our own sinfulness.**

3. Aim for mercy and restoration (*compassion needed*)

➤ Two cases in our church history

- **Two cases involving inappropriate relationships:**
 - **First one was dealt with when I was a very young leader in my twenties.**
 - **The other when I was in my 60s.**

1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-2 (NKJV)

¹ It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles — that a man has his father's wife! ² And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that **he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.**

GALATIANS 6:1 (NKJV)

**Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass,
you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit
of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also
be tempted.**

GALATIANS 6:1-2 (CEV)

¹ My friends, you are spiritual. So, if someone is trapped in sin, you should gently lead that person back to the right path. But watch out, and don't be tempted yourself. ² You obey the law of Christ when you offer each other a helping hand.

Aim for mercy and restoration
(compassion needed)

Conclusion

- 1. Acknowledge the seriousness of sin
(*repentance needed*)**
- 2. Avoid a judgmental attitude
(*brokenness needed*)**
- 3. Aim for mercy and restoration
(*compassion needed*)**

Conclusion

- **Lessons should guide our attitude and response to the offenders and to ourselves.**
- **PM's delay:
showed the compassionate side of the PM.**

Conclusion

- **PM with a heart:
translates into caring public policies**
- **Our attitude and response to
the government:
duty to pray for our government.**

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4 (NKJV)

Therefore, I exhort first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. ³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Conclusion

- **Instead of pelting stones at them why not we pray for them.**