

A Sin Against A Brother Is A Sin Against Christ

Sunday PM 02/09/20

Introduction:

1 Corinthians 8.12 There are certain passages that cuts to the heart of the matter very quickly. In speaking of the eating of meats sacrificed to idols, Paul lays down a number of guidelines of when to and when not to eat the meat. But then, he gets to a big important principle. We need to think about the other person but even more than that.

I) The Principle

A) We have a relationship to and with our brother.

1. Did Cain have a relationship with Abel? **Genesis 4.9**
 - a. Involved what to do and what not to do with Abel.
 - b. Certainly involved not killing his brother.
2. What was the relationship between Joseph and his brothers?
 - a. Did they sin against him by throwing him into a pit and selling him into slavery?
 - b. They admitted their guilt, **Genesis 42.21.**

B) We can expand that relationship to Christians and their fellow Christians.

1. What is our duty, relationship to those who fall prey to sin? **Galatians 6.2.**

2. What is our relationship to our brothers and sisters when it comes to worship? **Hebrews 10.24,25.**

C) Going one step further the scriptures says a sin against a brother is a sin against Christ. **1 Corinthians 8.12**

1. Speaking of the judgment Jesus said to help others is to help him and to neglect others is to neglect Him, **Matthew 25.40**
2. Paul in persecuting Christians was persecuting Jesus, **Acts 9.1-5.**
3. Going back to **1 Corinthians 8.11** Paul points out that Jesus died for that other person just as much as He died for you.
4. Therefore we need to be concerned about sinning against a brother.
5. Let us point out some ways we might do so.

II) Ways To Sin Against A Brother

A) By setting a bad example.

1. This is the lesson from our text. **1 Corinthians 8.1-13.**
2. Our example can cause someone to do something they should not, i.e. violate their conscience.
3. It is a serious thing to cause someone to be lost. **Matthew 18.6.**
 - a. Perhaps by your manner of speech, or having a “I don’t care attitude toward your work, family, religion.”

- b. Everyone has someone watching them.
4. We need to be living in such a way that we can tell someone to follow our example. **1 Timothy 4.12**

B) By forsaking him in time of trouble.

1. The disciples forsook Christ when He was on the cross.
2. Demas forsook Paul, **2 Timothy 4.10.**
3. There are generally two types of people when help is needed, those who run to help, and those who run from helping.
 - a. Think about the parable of the Good Samaritan in **Luke 10.30-37.**
 - b. Everyone had the same opportunity to help but only one did.
4. Helping one another is the practice of pure religion, **James 1.27.**

C) By refusing to forgive, **Luke 17.1-4**

1. I have known Christians to say they could never forgive someone or, if they ever did that to me, I could never forgive them.
2. Such is truly a dangerous thing to say.
3. Forgiveness is commanded.
4. To not forgive could result in the other person giving up and falling deeper into sin, **2 Corinthians 2.6,7.**

D) By neglecting to restore one overtaken in a fault.
Galatians 6.1.

1. Jesus in the parable of the lost sheep, spoke of the shepherd going to find the one lost sheep, ***Luke 15.4.***
2. Points out the value that one sheep had to the shepherd.
3. How much do you value, love, me? Enough to try and restore me if I fell into sin?

E) By failing to preach/teach the Gospel to the lost

1. This is the work of the church. Who will do it if we don't?
2. The Gospel is God's power to save, ***Romans 1.16.***
 - a. I remember Grover Stevens baptizing me but I remember even more the Bible classes and sermons that were preached.
 - b. For almost every baptism there was someone teaching the lost sinner.

Conclusion:

Don't sin against Christ by rejecting Him, ***John 12.48.***