

Introduction:

A number of years ago, I was preaching a lesson and misspelled ignorance. I don't know about those present that night but I always remember that mistake. Ignorance leads to a lot of mistakes, problems, and regrets. This lesson we want to look at three categories or types of ignorance and lessons we need to learn.

I) Definitions

A) Ignorant

1. lacking in knowledge or training; unlearned: *an ignorant man.*
2. lacking knowledge or information as to a particular subject or fact: *ignorant of quantum physics.*
3. uninformed; unaware due to or showing lack of knowledge or training: *an ignorant statement*

B) Ignorance

1. the state or fact of being [ignorant](#); lack of knowledge, learning, information, etc.

II) Three Types or Categories of Ignorance

A) Not knowing, being untrained, uneducated

1. All of us are untrained or taught about many things – cars. Physics, chemistry, football, etc.
2. This goes with the will of God, we read of people in the Bible who did not know the will of God.
 - a. People of Nineveh

Jonah 3:4 And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's

walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

Jonah 4:11 "And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left-and much livestock?"

b. People at Mars Hill

Acts 17:21 For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing. **22** Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; **23** "for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:

Acts 17:21 TCNT (All Athenians and the foreigners staying in the city found no time for anything else but telling, or listening to, the last new thing.) **22** So Paul took his stand in the middle of the Court, and said- -"Men of Athens, on every hand I see signs of your being very devout. **23** For as I was going about, looking at your sacred shrines, I came upon an altar with this inscription--'To an Unknown God.' What, therefore, you worship in ignorance, that I am now proclaiming to you.

3. There are a lot of people who are untrained and uneducated in the Bible today.
4. It used to be primary education in our schools actually used the Bible to teach reading, poetry, history, and ethics.
5. Today religion and being religious is equated with being ignorant.

- a. Religious Ignorance as a Threat to Civil Liberty, By Wendy Kaminer, 2010
 - i. As Pew recently found, "large numbers of Americans are uninformed about the tenets, practices, history and leading figures of major faith traditions - including their own."
 - ii. Nearly half of all Catholics surveyed (45%) did not know that "the bread and wine used in Communion do not merely symbolize but actually become the body and blood of Christ."
- b. Religious, but ignorant, by, Susan Campbell, he Baltimore Sun, 2007
 - i. Surveys say only half of America's adults can name any of the four Gospels.
 - ii. Most Americans can't name the first book of the Bible.
 - iii. Only a third know that Jesus (not Billy Graham) delivered the Sermon on the Mount

B) Willful ignorance

- 1. Choosing to not know, not making it a point to know, ex. Car salesman did not know the day's interest rates on auto loans despite the loan person being only a few desk from his.
- 2. Usually go by the axiom, what I don't know can't hurt me, the same mentality which says I won't go to the doctor because I just don't want to know.
- 3. See this in the Bible as people should have known certain things but choose not to.
 - a. There is a God and He created the universe.

Romans 1: 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Hebrews 3:4 For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.

- b. There are things which are right and things which are wrong—murder, lying, immoral conduct, stealing, etc.

Romans 2:13 (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; **14** for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, **15** who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)

C) Ignorance caused by the rejection of the truth

1. Professor apologizing to a medical class for using the term “pregnant woman” as he did not mean to be transphobic. Begs the question: Can a man get pregnant?
2. In the Bible Israel intentionally rejected God’s word.

Jeremiah 5:30 "An astonishing and horrible thing Has been committed in the land: **31** The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule by their own power; And My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?"

3. Don’t give me book, chapter, and verse, give me feel-good stories; don’t condemn be more positive.

Jeremiah 6:15 Were they ashamed when they had committed

abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; Nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time I punish them, They shall be cast down," says the LORD. 16 Thus says the LORD: "Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'

4. God holds people accountable for such an attitude.

Hosea 4:6 *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.*

5. They had priest, prophets, plenty of knowledge but still rejected it.
6. What can we say about us today where God's word is readily available?

III) Lessons Learned

A) What we don't know can and will hurt us, spiritually.

1. We will all be judged by God's word.

John 12:48 *"He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.*

2. Does not matter if I never heard the Gospel, if I consciously made decisions to not hear it, or if I have heard it a million times and rejected it. I am still accountable for my sins.

Acts 17:30 *"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all*

by raising Him from the dead."

B) I need to use some common sense when it comes to God and religion.

1. Ex. Recent video of young woman with a hose putting the water into a pall and then pouring out the water, when she could have just watered the flowers with the hose.
2. If it doesn't make a difference what I believe or do then why did God give us the Bible, the Great Commission?
3. If I can be saved without the blood of Christ, why did Christ die?

C) We are to show due diligence.

1. Up to me to study and learn the Bible.

2 Timothy 2:15 *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

2. I need to spend time thinking about what the Bible says.

D) Rejection of truth does not lead to more truth but false religion.

Romans 1:24 *Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever.*

1. God only made two sexes- male and female.
2. Sin is still sin, even if we call it an alternative lifestyle, or euthanasia, or open mindedness.

Conclusion:

Proverbs 23:23 *Buy the truth, and do not sell it, Also wisdom and instruction and understanding.*

John 8:32 *"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*