Moving Toward Sodom

Jared Bollman · Genesis 13:1–13

INTRODUCTION

- What influence do we voluntarily place ourselves under?
- He was surrounded by iniquity, he was surrounded by sin, but he was surrounded by those things because of the choice that he made.
- It certainly wasn't wise. It certainly was not a good idea. It certainly did not embrace what was in the best interest of his own soul.

1 Rules or Righteousness?

1 John 2:15–17; 1 Peter 2:9–12; Philippians 3:17–20

- We have begun as a people, not everybody, but some, to try to distill all that Christianity is into a simplified, codified list of do's and don'ts.
- If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. That's not a do or a don't. That's a call to a higher standard.
- But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession. Brothers and sisters, do we live like someone that belongs to the Father?
- Our citizenship is in heaven. What does that mean? It means we better not get tangled up with the things that he was talking about in verses 18 and 19.

2 Not Exactly Sinful: My Relationship to God

1 Peter 2:1–12

- Just because they can't find book, chapter, and verse, they like to say it's permitted.
- I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.
- We're at war. You and I are at war for our souls.
- If I'm less faithful today than I was yesterday, if I'm closer to the world today than I was yesterday, that cannot be pleasing to the Father.

3 Does It Have the Appearance of Evil?

Galatians 5:16–21; Romans 1:28–32

- And things like these. He clearly acknowledges this is not an exhaustive list.
- The devil has gotten good at coloring things with shades of gray that if we try to overinterpret the scripture, we'll excuse ourselves right into hell.
- We laugh at too many things. The devil is entertaining us with things that are sinful.
- Just because we're not crossing the line ourselves doesn't mean that we're clean if we're standing there giving our approval to those who do.
- Almost every sin begins when we make a compromise we know we shouldn't.

4 What Does This Do to My Heart?

1 Corinthians 6:9–12; 1 Corinthians 10:23–24; Philippians 3:20

- All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.
- Just because you've got the right to do something doesn't mean that you ought to do it.
- What do the liberties we take say about the nature and direction of our heart?

5 Can I Ever Be Pleasing to God?

- Can I ever be pleasing to God if my goal is to live as close to the world as possible?
- We have to grow up. We cannot be the Peter Pan Christians.
- I have known far too many people that have crossed lines that they said that they would never cross. Because they lived too close to the world.

6 Can God Truly Ever Be Our First Love?

- Can we really say that God is our first love if, like Lot, we choose the best of what this world has to offer and move closer and closer to a place that we know we ought not be.
- It is not easy as it is to be godly in a world that is so ungodly. Why, oh, why, oh, why do we insist on making it harder?

THE CHALLENGE

In short, we need to beware of moving towards Sodom. And we need to be aware of the world in which we live. We need to be careful.

MY NOTES