Why Do We Sin?

Tony Mauck · 1 Corinthians 15:33–34

INTRODUCTION

- To suggest that we should be unconcerned with sin or that the gospel of grace somehow minimizes its significance is a misunderstanding of grace altogether.
- Examine everything carefully, hold fast to that which is good, abstain from every form of evil.
- Understanding why may indeed help us to yield not to temptation.

1 Identify Sin in All of Its Forms

- We need to be able to identify sin in all of its forms.
- This pride leads to an elevation of self. That I am therefore better and more important than everyone else.
- Things that we categorize as gossip and slander emanate from a heart that doesn't love.
- Another heart issue that I think believers struggle with is a love of this world.

2 The Influence of Others

- The nation of Israel provoked him, but it did not excuse him, as we noticed from his conduct.
- Sometimes other people and their behavior and actions have influenced us to act in a certain way. That is a violation of the will of God.

3 To Hide From the Demands of Conscience

- That spiritual being that Tolstoy is talking about is the conscience.
- Men drink, Tolstoy argues, as they desire to cater to what he calls the animal activity so as to hide from oneself the demands of conscience.
- People pursue sin and sometimes the specific sin of drinking and drugs because they don't want to hear the sting of conscience.

4 Looking for a Diversion and a Feeling

- They're looking for an escape from the routine and the ordinary of their lives.
- There's a high, there's a thrill, there's a rush, some kind of passion that they want to feed, the animal being that they want to feed.
- Not just chemical addictions like drugs and alcohol, but what about behavioral addictions? Gambling. Pornography.
- So what's the attraction? It's that simple. It's feeding the animal being.

5 Trying to Make Sense of Life

Ecclesiastes 3:11; Philippians 3:8

- I think people sin because they're looking for something.
- I think we transgress the will of God because we're trying to make sense of life.
- There is a vacuum in our souls that only God can fill. God has put eternity in our hearts.
- Nothing's going to fill our souls other than God.
- I count all things to be lost. Everything. For the sake of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

6 Become Sober-Minded and Stop Sinning

1 Corinthians 15:33–34

- Become sober-minded as you ought and stop sinning, for some have no knowledge of God.
- A significant key to overcoming the temptations that Satan throws in our paths has to do with the way that we're thinking.
- Don't let God and His presence be removed from your mind for very long.
- Because if you stop thinking about those things, you are susceptible to transgression.

THE CHALLENGE

Fight sin in your heart and in your lives with all of your might. It is not good for you. It will not do you well. But righteousness always will.

MY NOTES