

They Declare Their Sin as Sodom

Isaiah 3:8-9

Introduction

1. The land of Sodom is notorious – **“the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD.” (Genesis 13:13)**
 2. Their degraded moral compass is highlighted by their brazenness regarding their intentions with the angels who visited Lot in the city – **Genesis 19:4-5**
 3. Such knowledge makes the Lord’s description of His unfaithful people more alarming – **Isaiah 1:10; 3:8-9** – they were characterized by the worst of the worst.
 4. Judah had become so desensitized and so worldly that they declared their sin without shame, just as the men of Sodom had done on that terrible night outside of Lot’s house.
 5. The people of God must be on guard in the world of darkness less they become guilty of an open and unashamed declaration of sin in their lives.
- I. Brazen Sin in the World
- A. “The World” is Not of God
 - a. **“God, who made the world and everything in it” (Acts 17:24).**
 - b. Scripture uses “the world” in a very different sense:
 - i. **1 John 2:15-16** – though God made “the world”, He did not in this sense.
 1. **“of”** – *ek* – denoting origin, source, etc.
 2. **“For all that is in the world...is of the world”** – the world created itself.
 - ii. **Romans 1:22-25** – exchanging God for the lie and serving self.
 1. This exchange leaves the world without bearings.
 - B. “The World” is Past Feeling
 - a. The result of the rejection of God and self-creation is catastrophic.
 - b. Paul concisely depicts the form of the world which has recreated itself by embracing the lie – **Ephesians 4:17-19**
 - i. Futility of mind – empty of life’s true substance, God.
 - ii. Understanding darkened – no spiritual light.
 - iii. Alienated from life of God – separate from source and activity of spiritual life.
 - iv. Ignorance – ultimately of reality (cannot know things as they actually are without God).
 - v. Blindness (**“hardness,” NASB**) of heart.
 - vi. Past feeling – complete desensitization.

- vii. Resulting in a boldness in sin – **“all uncleanness”** (comprehensive) with **“greediness”** (*pleonexia* – covetousness).
 - 1. This brazen promotion and participation in all types and degrees of sin is evident.
 - 2. **1 John 4:4-6** – these are the ones to whom it is most evident.
- II. Brazen Sin Among God’s People
- A. “The World” Influences God’s People
 - a. **Isaiah 3:8** – **“stumbled...fallen”** are indicative of a descent from a higher plane.
 - i. Rebellion against God – **Isaiah 1:2-3** – they don’t know their protector and caregiver.
 - ii. Sin sick – **Isaiah 1:5-6** – head, heart, whole of them.
 - b. The occasion of their fall:
 - i. **Isaiah 3:1-3** (the judgment reflects the problem) – trust in material, trust in man’s wisdom and power.
 - ii. **Isaiah 2:5-6** – worldly influence – they have abandoned God’s revelation and gone after **“eastern ways.”**
 - c. Warning about conforming to the world – **Romans 12:2**
 - i. **“Do not conform to the pattern of this world” (NIV).**
 - ii. **“be conformed”** – passive – i.e. do not allow yourselves to be conformed.
 - iii. Such is an insidious process – a gradual and subtle influence that eats away at our identity with God.
 - iv. **1 Corinthians 15:33** – evil company corrupts.
 - v. **Galatians 5:9** – little leaven leavens.
 - vi. Separation is necessary – **2 Corinthians 6:17-7:1**
 - 1. Not full physical, but separation through transformation – **John 17:16-18; Romans 12:2**
 - 2. I.e. when there is not the proper separation through care given to what we take in, and how we discern such with God’s word, the world inevitably will influence us, and our sensitivities to unholiness will be reduced.
 - B. God’s People Can Become Brazen About Sin
 - a. **Isaiah 3:9** – though Judah was in deep, the description shows such can be true with even “subtler” or “lesser” sins.
 - i. **“The look on their countenance” – “The expression of their faces” (NASB)**

1. **Jeremiah 6:15** – forgotten how to blush.
 - ii. **“they declare their sin as Sodom”** – cf. **Genesis 19:5** – full and open disclosure of their intentions.
 - iii. **“they do not hide it”** – hiding sin is never good, but it manifests a sensitivity and shame that is still intact.
 - iv. Judah is compared to Sodom for a reason – their departure from the Lord was drastic and the comparison appropriate.
 - v. **However, the ultimate emphasis is on how Sodom openly declared their sin without shame or attempt to hide it – the specific sin can be anything, but the open declaration of it manifests a serious heart condition.**
- b. The New Testament often manifests relationships sins have to each other regarding not only nature, but degree:
- i. Sexuality – **1 Peter 4:3** – lewdness (greater), lusts (lesser)
 1. **“Let us walk properly, as in the day...not in lewdness** (greater, koitē) **and lust** (lesser, aselgeia)” **(Romans 13:13).**
 2. Abominable idolatries – brings them under the same nature.
 - ii. Intoxication – **1 Peter 4:3** – drunkenness (greatest), revelries (lesser), drinking parties (least).
 1. **“Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry** (greater) **and drunkenness** (lesser)” **(Romans 13:13).**
 2. Abominable idolatries – brings them under the same nature.
 - iii. Social – **Colossians 3:8** – anger, wrath, blasphemy, filthy language (abusive speech of all sorts) – escalation.
 1. **“Let us walk properly, as in the day...not in strife** (greater) **and envy** (lesser)” **(Romans 13:13).**
 - iv. Some may not be brazen about a greater sin, but because they have been desensitized by worldliness, they declare openly the lesser sin without blushing, without attempting to hide, but it has been normalized.
 1. Not fornication, but filthy thoughts/speech/entertainment, lewd bodily activity (dancing, worldly dating), immodesty, etc.
 2. Not heavy drunkenness, but social acceptance/association, social drinking, etc.

3. Not physical altercation/abuse/murder, but abiding anger, venting (to individuals, social media, etc.), retaliation, etc.
 - v. **James 1:27** – we are to keep ourselves unspotted from the world.
 1. This is comprehensive.
 2. **James 2:10-11** – not only murder, but adultery.
- III. The Unbroken Law of God
- A. **Isaiah 3:9-11** – those who hold fast to their sense of shame and humility before God leading to righteousness will be blessed, but the wicked will be punished – such that they have brought upon themselves.
 - B. God’s Law of Sowing and Reaping
 - a. God created the world to reflect spiritual reality – **Genesis 1:11-13** – seed yielding according to its kind.
 - b. Nobody denies or challenges these simple truths.
 - c. However, most people, but even some brethren assume that this seed principle, or sowing and reaping principle does not equally translate spiritually.
 - d. **Galatians 6:7-8** – he does not give specifics regarding the Spirit or flesh here, because he gave it before (**5:16-26**).
 - i. Someone may refuse to sow the fleshly seed of one sin but openly cast the fleshly seed of another in their life.
 - ii. If it is sowing to the flesh then the reaping will be corruption – nobody can escape this.
 - iii. God will not judge on a curve – the standard is His holiness and His word, neither of which condone any level of worldliness.

Conclusion

1. The world we live in is so full of sin. There has been such an acceptance of blatant immorality in our society that the people of God are at risk of heavy influence.
2. We are not above being influenced by the greatest forms of immorality, but we need to be aware of the insidious nature of the danger that could take us there.
3. We must keep ourselves from being desensitized to any sin. The word of God will ensure that we maintain the proper perspective.