

Satan's Strategy - The Acceptance of Sin in the Church

November 4, 2018

1 John 2:18 ESV

18 Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.

The State of Theology (2018) - Ligonier Ministries

- **God accepts the worship of all religions, including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.** (52% agree, 42% disagree)
- **Religious belief is a matter of personal opinion; it is not about objective truth.** (60% agree, 30% disagree)
- **The Bible, like all sacred writings, contains helpful accounts of ancient myths but is not literally true.** (53% agree)
- **Jesus is the first and greatest being created by God.** (78% agree, 18% disagree)
- **Worshiping alone or with one's family is a valid replacement for regularly attending church.** (58% agree, 30% disagree)
- **The Bible's condemnation of homosexual behavior doesn't apply today.** (44% agree, 41% disagree)

Jude 1:3-7 NASB

3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

4 For certain persons have crept in unnoticed (*pareisdy(n)ō - to enter secretly, stealthily*), those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

5 Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe.

6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,

7 just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.

Missional or Attractional Church?

"In recent years a new movement within the evangelical church has come into vogue, commonly referred to as 'seeker sensitive.' Generally, this movement has seen a great deal of growth. Many "seeker" churches are now mega-churches with well-known pastors who are riding a wave of popularity in the evangelical world. The seeker-sensitive movement claims millions of conversions, commands vast resources, continues to gain popularity, and seems to be attracting millions of un-churched people into its fold."

—GotQuestions.org

"Basically, the seeker-sensitive church tries to reach out to the unsaved person by making the church experience as comfortable, inviting, and non-threatening to him as possible. The hope is that the person will believe in the gospel. The idea behind the concept is to get as many unsaved people through the door as possible, and the church leadership are willing to use nearly any means to accomplish that goal. Theatrics and musical entertainment are the norm in the church service to keep the unsaved person from getting bored as he does with traditional churches. State-of-the-art technology in lighting and sound are common components of the seeker-sensitive churches, especially the larger ones."

—GotQuestions.org

"A time will come when instead of shepherds feeding the sheep, the church will have clowns entertaining the goats."

—Charles Spurgeon

"That very church which the world likes best is sure to be that which God abhors."

— Charles H. Spurgeon

"A church fed on excitement is no New Testament church at all. The desire for surface stimulation is a sure mark of the fallen nature, the very thing Christ died to deliver us from."

—A.W. Tozer

Jesus' Standard for His Church

Ephesians 5:25-27 ESV

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,
26 that **he might sanctify her, having cleansed her** by the washing of water with the word,
27 so that he might present the church to himself **in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.**

John 16:7-11 ESV

7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.
8 And **when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:**
9 concerning **sin**, because they do not believe in me;
10 concerning **righteousness**, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer;
11 concerning **judgment**, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Ephesians 5:3-12 ESV

3 But **sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you** [KJV - "let it not be once named...], as is **proper among saints.**
4 Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be **thanksgiving.**
5 For you may be sure of this, that **everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.**
6 **Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.**

7 Therefore **do not become partners with them;**

8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),

10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

11 **Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.**

12 For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.

"Another proof of the conquest of a soul for Christ will be found in a real change of life. If the man does not live differently from what he did before, both at home and abroad, his repentance needs repented of, and his conversion is a fiction."
—Charles Spurgeon

1 John 3:5-10 ESV

5 You know that **he appeared** in order **to take away sins**, and in him there is no sin.

6 **No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.**

7 Little children, **let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous**, as he is righteous.

8 Whoever **makes a practice of sinning is of the devil**, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was **to destroy the works of the devil.**

9 **No one born of God makes a practice of sinning**, for God's seed abides in him, and **he cannot keep on sinning** because he has been born of God.

10 **By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.**

"If you show me a man deliberately living an unholy and licentious life, and yet boasting that his sins are forgiven, I answer, 'He is under a ruinous delusion, and is not forgiven at all.' I would not believe he is forgiven if an angel from heaven affirmed it, and I charge you not to believe it too. Pardon of sin and love of sin are like oil and water...they will never go together."
—J.C. Ryle

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 ESV

14 **Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?**

15 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or **what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?**

16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "**I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

17 Therefore **go out from their midst, and be separate from them**, says the Lord, and **touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,**

18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

- *It's eternally better to have 10 people with pure hearts than a 1,000 people with a compromised purity.*

"Separation from the world is a very important duty. Everyone who professes to be a Christian should consider it very seriously, for separation from the world has always been one of the evidences of God's work of grace in the heart. Those who have really been born of God's Spirit have always separated from the world, whereas those who are Christians only in name, always refuse to 'come out and be separate.'"

"This subject is especially important today, because many are trying to make Christianity as easy as possible and to avoid the need for self-denial. Many think they may behave just as they like and still be good Christians. I want to warn you plainly against this way of thinking." —J.C. Ryle

2 Timothy 2:19-22 ESV

19 But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

20 Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable.

21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

1 Timothy 3:14-15 ESV

14 I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that,

15 if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

Two Sins in Church Which Always Bring God's Judgment - Willful and Secret

1 Corinthians 5:1-13 ESV

1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife.

2 And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.

3 For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing.

4 When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus,

5 you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

8 Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

9 I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people--

10 not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

11 But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler--not even to eat with such a one.

12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?

13 God judges those outside. "Purge the evil person from among you."

Acts 5:1-11 ESV

1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property,

2 and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.

3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?

4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God."

5 When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it.

6 The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

7 After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

8 And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much."

9 But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out."

10 Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

11 And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

When Members in the Church Sin

1 John 1:5-9 ESV

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Romans 7:18-20 ESV

18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

2 Corinthians 7:9-11 ESV

9 As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.

10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

11 For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.

James 5:14-16 ESV

14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

1 Peter 4:7-8 ESV

7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.

8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

James 5:19-20 ESV

19 My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back,

20 let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

1 John 5:16-18 ESV

16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life-- to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that.

17 All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.