

The Worst Sin

The Worst Sin

And Learning to Hate It

**God has called us
together tonight to learn
His will for our lives.**

**On Sunday we reviewed
the importance of fruit
and started with 18.**

**For us to reach
Higher Ground
we need fruit.**

**But there is a sin that is
hard to detect and hard to
fight that we must hate.**

What Makes a Sin Worse?

- All sin is bad, evil, terrible, and worthy of hell fire.
- But some sins are harder to detect and identify.
- And some sins are harder to fight and eliminate.
- And some sins do not involve people or things.
- These sins take more effort to seek and destroy.

**Every sin displeases God,
and will ruin your life,
and hurt our church,
but there is a worst.**

Murder?

Witchcraft?

Idolatry?

Blasphemy?

Adultery?

Child Sacrifice?

Rape?

Drugs?

Drunkenness?

Heresy?

Hatred?

Sodomy?

No!

These sins are not the worst.

**There is a terrible sin ...
preaching may increase it ...
it can get worse with rebuke ...
it even gets defensive to Jesus!**

What is this sin?

Self-Righteousness!

Self-Righteousness!

**What does God
call this sin?**

Holier than thou!

Self-Righteous Sinners Say

Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou.

They Offend God

A people that provoketh me to anger continually
to my face;

They Offend God

These are a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day.

God Promised Judgment

Behold, it is written before me: I will not keep silence, but will recompense, even recompense into their bosom,

God Compared Them to These

- They are like witches, staying in cemeteries.
- They are like necromancers, sleeping in tombs.
- They are like those eating unclean swine's flesh.
- They are like those eating blood or snake soup.
- God included self-righteousness with these sins.

Isaiah 65:2-6

2 I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts;

3 A people that provoketh me to anger continually to my face; that sacrificeth in gardens, and burneth incense upon altars of brick;

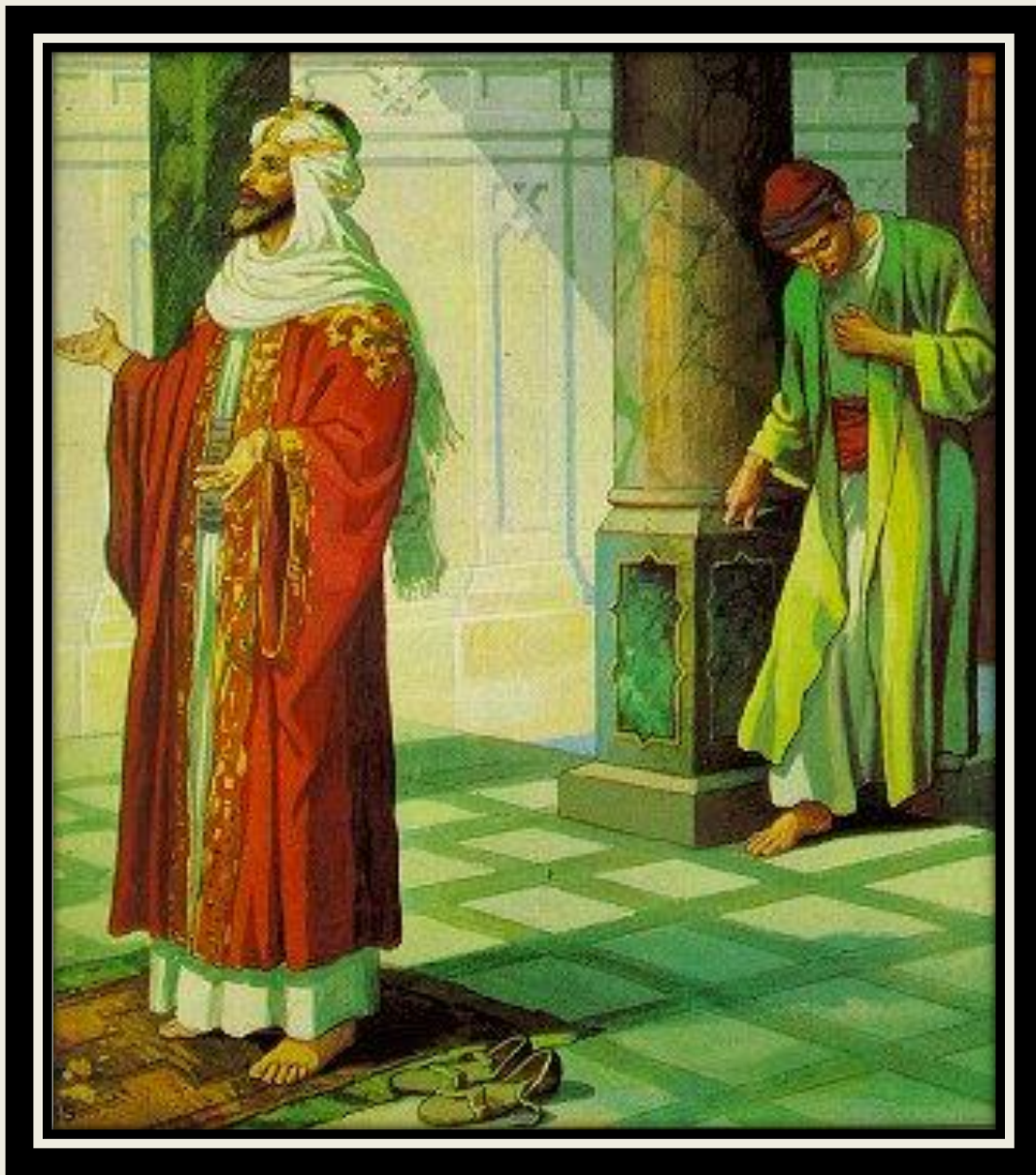
4 Which remain among the graves, and lodge in the monuments, which eat swine's flesh, and broth of abominable things is in their vessels;

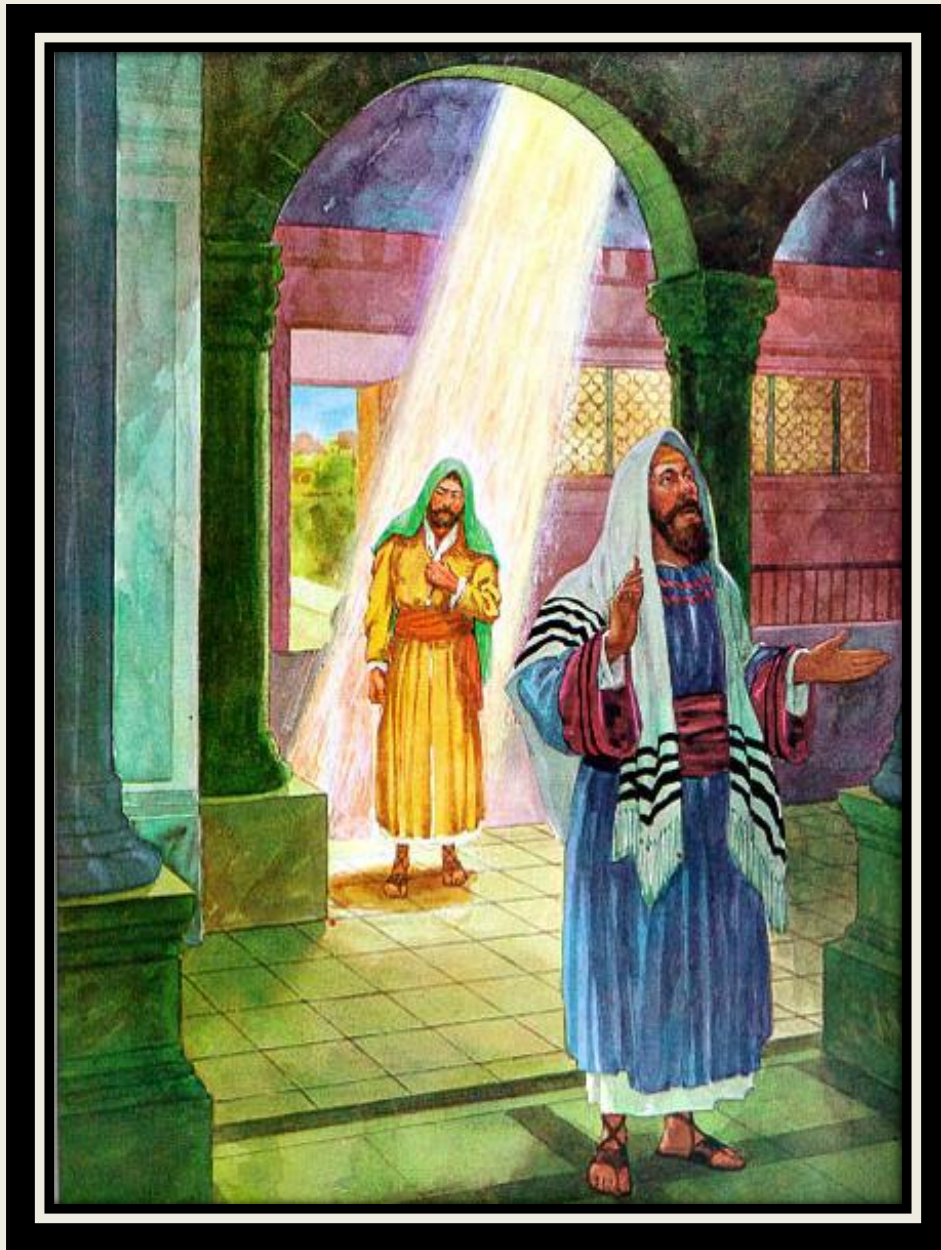
Isaiah 65:2-6

5 Which say, Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou. These are a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day.

6 Behold, it is written before me: I will not keep silence, but will recompense, even recompense into their bosom,









Luke 18:9-14

9 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

Luke 18:9-14

13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

**Are you saying that I am guilty
of the sin in these two places?**

Yes, of course!

Your question proves it!

We all have depraved hearts!

Here Is How It Works! (1)

- You pick sins that others sin ... *those sins are bad!*
- You pick sins that tempt you ... *and you allow them!*
- You make a difference in sins to justify yourself.
- You flatter yourself that you are not like others.
- You justify yourself over others, against preaching.

Here Is How It Works! (2)

- You never miss church ... you despise vacationers.
- You never did drugs ... you despise those that did.
- You're not divorced ... you despise those that are.
- You leave services once ... you despise two-timers.
- You pray in back room ... you despise those not.

Here Is How It Works! (3)

- You limit definition of “neighbor” like a lawyer.
- Without charity, you judge others in worst light.
- SR ... *selective righteousness* ... if you get to pick!
- You fail to hate bitterness, grudges, hate, or pride.
- You value your strong points higher than God does.

Here Is How It Works! (4)

- You thrive on thinking others evil for their sins.
- After you condemn others, you despise them.
- You value neatness, income, childcare over pride.
- You pile on by pulling together the faults of others.
- You flatter yourself for minor things you do okay.

Here Is How It Works! (5)

- You enjoy finding and discussing faults of others.
- It is the ease that you apply a sermon to others.
- You accuse others ... though you have your sins.
- Hearing a sermon ... you think you do not need it.
- You respond that you are content with life as is.

Here Is How It Works! (6)

- It excuses your sins by ... we don't understand you.
- It remembers sins of others when it is confronted.
- It fusses about "who told you" rather than repent.
- It scorns the one correcting by naming their sins.
- It minimizes repentance ... cuz it wasn't that bad.

Here Is How It Works! (7)

- It will find fault with anything or anyone – *hateful!*
- It daily assumes *I am good* rather than *I need God*.
- It throws itself at pet virtues ... missing real virtue!
- It pompously sits in judgment on anyone different.
- It creates artificial standards for itself and others.

Here Is How It Works! (8)

- It always assumes its children better than others'.
- It keeps a list of faults to recall when others appear.
- It fails to commend others by emphasizing faults.
- If it sees virtue in others, it questions motives.
- It is the creative expression of deceitful hearts.

Here Is How Pharisees Did It

- Ranked tithes of herbs over judgment, mercy, etc.
- Ranked faith-promise gifts over parental honor.
- Allowed heart murder by foolish anger and railing.
- Allowed heart adultery by fantasies and divorce.
- Ranked the Sabbath over personal mercy to men.

Let God Warn You Some More!

Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

Proverbs 26:12

Let God Warn You Some More!

The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.

Proverbs 26:16

Let God Warn You Some More!

There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

Proverbs 30:12

Let God Warn You Some More!

All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes;
but the LORD weigheth the spirits.

Proverbs 16:2

Let God Warn You Some More!

Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?

Proverbs 20:6

Let God Warn You Some More!

Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?

Proverbs 20:9

Is Self-Righteousness that Bad? (1)

- I cannot reason with you, for you know everything.
- You cannot see it in yourself – you are too good.
- It believes you are holy, intelligent, virtuous, etc.
- It is hard to admit you are a wrong, foolish rebel.
- You defensively protect yourself against reproof.

Is Self-Righteousness that Bad? (2)

- It has the proud look God hates (Pr 6:17; 30:13; Ps 101:5).
- It will be different just to be different ... *profane!*
- It violates the beam and mote rule of Jesus Christ.
- It provokes God to anger like smoke in His nose.
- Jesus will send these boasters to hell (Matt 7:22-23).

Do you hate this sin yet?

Admit you are guilty!



How can you stop it?

How Can You Stop It? (1)

- Know ... Jesus hates Pharisees ... loves sinners!
- Self-righteousness ruins all your “righteousness”!
- Use counselors instead of thinking you are wise.
- Be the prodigal rather than his haughty brother.
- Honor those you despise ... and then do it again!

How Can You Stop It? (2)

- Know ... Jesus saves sinners ... not the righteous!
- Becoming wise requires being a fool (1 Cor 3:18-19).
- Do you love correction? Why not? Don't need it?
- Do you love those who correct you? Why not?
- How you take criticism is a very significant trait.

How Can You Stop It? (3)

- Paul ... claimed chief sinner ... could hardly do right!
- Break your heart to contrite (Ps 34:18; 51:17; Is 57:15; 66:2).
- Love mercy ... love it! ... and show it to all others.
- God resists the proud, so get over yourself, now!
- Be a giver ... a real servant ... a slave ... get down!

How Can You Stop It? (4)

- Paul ... claimed ... less than the least of all saints.
- Love others ... want the best for them ... not you!
- Pick the best in the church ... and know you ain't!
- Things you “excel” at ... God does not care about.
- Loathe yourself ... well below those around you.

How Can You Stop It? (5)

- Hate your sins more than anyone else's sins.
- Let scripture rank virtue ... love, humility, mercy.
- Criticize criticism ... by yourself ... or anyone near.
- Never rejoice in others' iniquity, only the truth.
- Remember that any one sin can send you to hell.

How Can You Stop It? (6)

- Let Bible rank sins ... Romans 1, heart, envy, etc.
- Reject all artificial or emotional ranking of sins.
- Think about the self-righteous in the hottest hell.
- Denigrate yourself sincerely in heart and then lips.
- Hate sins of omission as much as of commission.

How Can You Stop It? (7)

- Be a servant of men ... helping them with faults.
- Pray for those you despise for not measuring up.
- Adam's sin damned humanity ... you are far worse.
- Jesus befriended sinners far under Him. Will you?
- Your self-righteousness makes you worst of all.

How Can You Stop It? (8)

- Despise personal competition ... or Bible emulation.
- Rank your children's depravity worse than others'.
- Prefer others and their lives over your own life.
- Treat others as you would treat the Lord Himself.
- Have no self-righteousness to confess at Judgment.

**Pride goeth before
destruction, and an
haughty spirit before a fall.**

Proverbs 16:18

**Let nothing be done
through strife or vainglory;
but in lowliness of mind let
each esteem other better
than themselves.**

Philippians 2:3

**With all lowliness and
meekness, with
longsuffering, forbearing
one another in love;**

Ephesians 4:2

Hate self-righteousness!

Be a servant of sinners!

You can do it ... and well!

**If you are convicted ...
the first two links below
will provide much more.**

For Further Study

- **Self-Righteousness** (2001) ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/self-righteousness.pdf>.
- **Forgotten Sins** (2004) ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/forgotten-sins.pdf>.
- **Lovest Thou Me** (2009) ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/lovest-thou-me.pdf>.
- **Forgiveness of Sinner** ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/forgiveness-of-a-great-sinner.pdf>.
- **Proverbs 26:12** ... http://www.letgodbettrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/26_12.php.
- **Proverbs 20:6** ... http://www.letgodbettrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/20_06.php.
- **Proverbs 26:16** ... http://www.letgodbettrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/26_16.php.

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1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

5 For every man shall bear his own burden.

Galatians 6:1-5