

CLASS ON UNGODLINESS

I. Introduction

A. Nature of our heart apart from Christ

Colossians 1:13: "He has delivered us FROM THE DOMAIN OF DARKNESS and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son."

Ephesians 2:1-2: "And you were DEAD IN THE TRESPASSES AND SINS in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience."

Ephesians 2:12-13: "Remember that you were at that time **separated** from Christ, **alienated** from the commonwealth of Israel, and **strangers** to the covenants of promise, **having no hope** and **without God in the world**. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were **far off** have been brought near by the blood of Christ."

Romans 1:18,21 "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth... For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but became futile in their thinking and their foolish hearts were darkened."

B. Defining sin

The essence of sin is a failing, a missing the mark of living for God's glory.

Sin separates us from God but Christ calls us "to be separate to God" through His redemption from our sin and death.

II. What is ungodliness

A. Biblical Definition

"The real essence of all sin is ungodliness, a failing to live for God's glory and this is what makes sin truly sinful." Martyn Lloyd-Jones

"Ungodliness describes an attitude toward God, while unrighteousness refers to sinful actions in thought, word, or deed... that God is essentially irrelevant in his or her life... basically live as though God doesn't exist." Jerry Bridges

Ungodliness is a living out daily life without any relation to God or consideration of God in relation the day's plans, decisions, activities, encounters.

"Sin aims always at the utmost... it is modest, as it were, in its first motions and proposals, but having once got footing in the heart by them, it constantly makes good its ground, and presses on to some farther degrees in the same kind... it prevails to the hardening of men and so to their ruin. It thinks all is indifferently well if there be no such further progress... but sin is still pressing forward and that is because it has no bounds but utter relinquishment of God and opposition to Him." John Owen

"He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' BUT the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other." Luke 18:9-14

"A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more? Simon answered, 'The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt.' And Jesus said to him "you have judged rightly." Therefore I tell you her sins which are many are forgiven for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little loves little." Luke 7:41-43,47

"Now this I say and testify in the Lord that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. BUT that is not the way you learned Christ! -- assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." Ephesians 4:17-24

"Superficial diagnoses leads to false remedies and no cures." -John Piper

"What dominates your mind and stirs your hearts? Is it discontentment with your life or longings for earthly pleasures? Does outward prosperity appeal to you more than growth in godliness? Do you relate to God as if he exists to further your selfish ambitions or are you convinced that you exist to glorify him? Do you covet the esteem and crave the approval of those around you? Do you go to great lengths to avoid looking foolish or being rejected for your Christian faith? Do you consider present and material results more important than eternal reward?" -CJ Mahaney

III. Identifying ungodliness in our lives

A. Functional Atheism

“Come now, you who say ‘Today or tomorrow we will go into such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit’ – yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills we will live and do this or that.’ As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.” James 4:13-17

B. Escapisms

“Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Matthew 4:4.

C. Work

Colossians 3:22-24 says “Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye service as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”

D. Schooling

E. Money

F. Unforgiveness

IV. Godliness: What is Godly living?

2 Timothy 3:5 “They have the appearance of godliness but denying its power.”

Titus 2:11-12 “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.”

Titus 3:3-6 “For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures... But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our savior appeared, he saved us, not because of our works done by us in righteousness but according to

his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ.”