

## Matthew 4:17

*From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

*"Steve, I wish you wouldn't use the 'R' word, my non Christian friends don't like to hear that, it scares them away."*

Really by the "R" word do you mean "Repent"? Are you treating what our Lord said as a four-letter word, like it's a curse word, simply because it offends others? Do you really think Jesus cared if He offended anyone when He used the word *repent* in today's devotional verse?

Jesus also spoke of salvation through Him and the drinking of His blood and eating of His flesh, and many were offended by His teaching, and His response to them was, *when Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you?" John 6:61*

Is your response, *"Well, it turns my friends off, so I don't say that word to them. I'm trying to win them to Jesus, not scare them away."*

That's a response from the pit of hell, because repenting is part of what the gospel is all about, not just believing in Jesus, but also repenting of our sins just as Jesus preached.

Yet we so twist the word of God, and instead of "repenting" of our sins, we think that we are saved therefore we rather choose to spend more time "repeating" our sins than repenting of them. Notice I said, "choose" because you have a choice to commit that sin or not too. And that old saying that the comedian, Flip Wilson used to say way back in the 70's "The devil made me do it" just don't cut it. Why? Well we love to quote: *greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. 1 John 4:4b (KJV)*

So if you are giving into sin, then who is the greater one in you? Or better yet, ask yourself, who are you allowing to be greater in your life, the Lord or the devil?

When you quote *greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world*. Do you realize that you are only quoting part of the verse? To answer the above question of "*who is the greater one in you*", you need to quote the entire verse, which says, *Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. 1 John 4:4 (KJV)*

So, are you of God or the devil? If of the devil, then go ahead and continue in your sin. But if you are of God then stop repeating your sin and start repenting of your sin.

Also, let our response to Jesus question of *“Does this offend you?”* be the same response that Peter gave to Jesus.

† **John 6:68-69** *But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*