

Psalm 40:8 (NLT2)

I take joy in doing your will, my God, for your instructions are written on my heart.”

“Sin is not bad because it’s forbidden. It’s forbidden because it’s bad.” - Pastor Jon Courson

- ✓ Don’t play on the freeway
- ✓ Don’t touch that pot of boiling water
- ✓ Don’t play with matches
- ✓ Don’t drink and drive
- ✓ Don’t do drugs

This is a very short list of things that we all know that are bad because they are dangerous; therefore we use that dreaded “D” word “Don’t”. Just like pastor Jon’s statement that I have at the opening of today’s devotional. The “Don’t” statements I have here are not dangerous because they are bad, but they are bad because they are dangerous.

Yet how many view the laws of God backwards and actually truly think that sin is bad because God forbids it. Would a kid think that when you tell him or her that it’s bad to grab a boiling pot of water off the stove, that it’s not really bad, but the only reason it is, is because mom or dad says it is? They may think that, until they grab a boiling pot of water and get burned, then they find out that it’s not bad because mom or dad says that it is, but it’s bad because it actually will hurt you.

That’s truly the reason God tell us not to do things (don’t), because He knows that they are bad for us. But the world thinks it knows so much better then God does; therefore, they disobey God’s law and do the opposite, as they think they know better than God, and the results is that this world is spiraling down deeper and deeper into sin and darkness, simply because of disobedience, and they want to “do” when God says “don’t”.

I think of the prodigal son, who thought that he knew better then his dad; therefore, he went and did things his own way, instead of heeding the wisdom his dad taught him over the years. The result was that he ended up eating pig slop until he came to his senses, realizing that his dad was actually right, and the things he taught him were not to ruin his life, but that he could have an abundant life if he just followed what his dad taught him.

The prodigal’s brother was obedient, and because he was, he had all the blessings that his father had for him, even though he didn’t realize it at the time. Look at what the dad said to the prodigal’s brother.

† **Luke 15:31** *And he said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours."*

But if he chose to be disobedient, like his brother and thought the grass was greener on the other side, he too would have found out that the things his dad taught him was to bless him, not to ruin his life.

Sure, you can try things your own way, but in the end, you will find out that God has laws and rules for our protection, not to ruin our life or make us miserable, but rather so that we can have a more abundant life while we are here on the earth.

† **John 10:10b** *I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

† **Jeremiah 29:11** *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

† **1 Peter 3:13-14** *And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."*