

Romans 2:1 (NLT2)

You may think you can condemn such people, but you are just as bad, and you have no excuse! When you say they are wicked and should be punished, you are condemning yourself, for you who judge others do these very same things.

Some people think that being a witness is pointing out other people's sins. But think of this coming week when we are celebrating Thanksgiving, and we are talking to our family, friends and those who are there, wherever we are celebrating this time.

Think for example, maybe there is someone, or those, who are alcoholics. So we put on our Jesus pants (so to speak) and start telling them that they are going to hell because they are alcoholics and that they need to stop drinking or they will go to hell. And let's say that they actually listen to us and actually stop drinking alcohol for the rest of their lives. So when they die, they will still go to hell, they will just go there sober.

I know that sounds kind of funny, but it's the truth. Because unless being an alcoholic was their only sin in life, then even if they did stop drinking, how many other sins are they still committing that are keeping them from going to heaven?

I know for me, before I came to Jesus, I used to have the worst mouth ever, because it was full of vulgarity, and every other word I said was some sort of a F Bomb, or any other vulgar word I could say. But when I came to the Lord and got saved, the Lord took that sin from me immediately, and to this day I could probably count the fingers on my hands the number of times I said a vulgar word over the last 40 years. But if all I did was stop cursing without Jesus as my Savior, I would have still gone to hell, just with a clean mouth (Language).

We tend to think that all someone has to do is stop doing that one sin that is so evident to everyone else, and they will be saved. If that were true, then Jesus would not have had to die for our sins, if it were just a matter of us being sinless. But the truth is (and we all know this) that we cannot stop sinning. Sure, some may stop drinking, but what other sins are they doing? How many sins will that person have to stop doing in order to make it to heaven? Or let's put it more into perspective, how many sins would we have to stop doing to make it to heaven on our own efforts? We know we can't, so why are we putting a burden on others by pointing out their one sin and telling them to stop doing it?

So this next week, when we are with our family and friends, let's be more like Jesus, and less like the Scribes and Pharisees, who loved to point out the sins of others. Let's be more like Jesus who was known for hanging out with sinners, and not pointing His finger at them telling them what awful sinners they are.

✝ **Matthew 9:10-11** *Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"*

And in order to be like Jesus, we need to be like a hospital or doctor who never turns patients away, but rather they are there to get their sickness treated.

✝ **Matthew 9:12-13** *When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."*

People who go to the doctor already know that they are sick, they don't need to be told. Just like people already know that they are a sinner (no matter how much they say they are ok). They are just looking for a cure, and we have it.

So let's share with them the treatment for what they already know they have, which is a sinful lifestyle. And that treatment is Jesus Christ and His payment for our sins on the cross, by the shedding of His blood, by dying for our sins on the cross and rising from the dead the third day. That's what people need to hear about, and not our accusations that they need to stop that one sin that we don't like them doing. But rather they need to come to Jesus who will cleanse them of their sins, if they will only ask Him to. Then the Holy Spirit will do the work in them to stop doing (repent) those sins, not just that one sin, but all of them, just as He is working the same thing in our lives as well.

✝ **Philippians 2:12-13** *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*

✝ **James 5:19-20** *Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.*

✝ **Romans 12:9-10 (NLT2)** *Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.*