

WRONG IS ALWAYS WRONG!

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“But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.” Col 3:25. We are responsible and must answer to God for the decisions we make and the things we do. People frequently try to defend, excuse, or explain away the wrongs they have done. We must insist that wrong is always wrong, regardless. For example:

- 1. Wrong is wrong even if one does not get caught.** One may cheat on his income tax, copy answers from another in a school test, break the speed limit or shoplift from a store. His philosophy may be, “It’s only wrong if you get caught.” He doesn’t realize that, sooner or later, one’s sin will find him out (Num. 32:23; Prov. 15:3)
- 2. Wrong is wrong even if it is legal.** Civil government is good and we are taught to respect and obey it (Rom. 13:1-7), but sometimes the laws of the state conflict with the laws of God. Civil government has made gambling, alcohol, abortion, and divorce legal, but government cannot make them right.
- 3. Wrong is wrong even if it is for a “good cause.”** A civic or religious organization conducts a raffle and asks people to buy a chance (gamble) because “It’s for a good cause.” A dance is held to raise money for a child who needs an operation. A beer manufacturer says, “Buy our products and a portion of our money will go to fight MD.” Paul strongly rejected the false accusation that said, “Let us do evil that good may come” (Rom. 3:8)
- 4. Wrong is wrong even if someone else causes you to do it.** Adam tried to blame Eve for his sin, but he was still wrong. Sometimes people cave in to pressure or are provoked into doing something wrong, but they are still responsible. Ever hear someone say “The Devil made me do it!” Or “Look what you made me do!” (Gen. 3)?
- 5. Wrong is wrong even if it is difficult to make right.** Some things are very hard to give up. Our heart goes out to those who struggle with alcoholism, lustful thoughts, or an unscriptural divorce and remarriage. We wish to comfort, encourage, and support them, but we cannot give them the idea that something is not so wrong just because it is difficult to overcome. (Luke 14:26,27; Heb. 12:3-4)
- 6. Wrong is wrong even if someone else has done something as bad or worse.** A teenager was trying to talk her Christian parents into letting her go to the school prom, “But mom,” she argued, “everyone’s going to be there.” Social drinking is often defended because, “Everybody’s doing it.” Someone excuses himself by saying, “Well, at least what I did was not as bad as what John did.” “The wages of sin (*any sin*) is death.” (Rom. 6:23)
- 7. Wrong is wrong regardless of who does it.** Years ago, a man expressed appreciation to a gospel preacher for a strong and scriptural sermon he preached in a meeting on divorce and remarriage. “We need more preaching on this subject,” he said. Three years later, the same preacher returned for another gospel meeting and preached the same sermon. This time, the same brother expressed resentment and opposition to such “harsh, unloving” preaching. The

reason? His daughter had recently divorced her husband un-scripturally and remarried. Moses, the man God spoke “mouth to mouth to” because he was “faithful in all mine house” (Num. 12:7; Heb. 3:2) instead of, as to other prophets, in dreams or visions and in dark speeches, once smote a rock he had been told to speak to and was consequently denied entering the promised land, (Numbers 20:12).

8. Wrong is wrong even if it doesn't bother you. Some may insist, “I don't see anything wrong with it.” Once I read of a man who walked through a glass patio door. He didn't see it, but it was still there. Just so, God's standard (objective truth) is still with us and will be till the Judgment itself. (Rom. 2:2)

9. Wrong is wrong even if it appears to be expedient. Caiaphas was willing to let Jesus be crucified – even though He was a just and innocent man – so that the whole nation would not perish (John 11:49-50) A salesman may think it is expedient to lie in order to make a big sale, which will be of great financial benefit to his family. But, wrong is wrong even if it seems like the only way we can gain something we think is needed.

10. Wrong is wrong even if you do not admit it. The prophet Malachi condemned the people of his day for a number of wrongs. Rather than admitting and turning from them, they tried to bluff their way through. They said, “*Where have we done this?*” (Mal. 1:6; 2:17; 3:7-8) The fact that they tried to deny wrong doing did not mean that they were innocent.

We must be willing to face our wrongs and make them right.