

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Ranking Sins

Is murder worse than lying? Is misusing God's name worse than stealing? Is forsaking the assembly worse than being gluttonous? Is ignoring the poor worse than jealousy? I'm sure you've heard it said many times: "All sins are the same. No sin is worse than another. All sins are offensive to God." That statement is true. This statement is true as well: All sins have the same spiritual consequence, but not all sins have the same earthly consequence. For instance, if I murder someone, there is nothing I can do to bring that person back to life. The consequence of that sin is permanent. However, if I steal someone's car, I

can repent of that sin by returning the car and asking the owner for forgiveness. Both sins affect my soul the same way; but each sin affects my earthly life differently.

We also fail to understand the full meaning of sin when we focus our opposition on sins that we deem disgusting while shrugging our shoulders at other sins. How angry do you get when you hear that 50 million+ babies have been aborted since Roe vs. Wade became law? Compare that to how angry you feel when you know someone is greedy. Do you feel the same. If not, why not? Both are sins. But one is disgusting while the other is com-

mon. Is it because the consequences are different, or is it because one is gross and the other one isn't? Are we more outraged by homosexuality and pornography than other sins because they're gross or because they're sins?

We shouldn't base our attitude toward sin on whether or not we think the sin is gross. All sins—regardless of their consequences—damage our souls and separate us from God. Only the blood of Jesus can wash sins away—even the gross sins. Ranking sins based on our emotional reaction is a waste of time.

James Hayes

June 9, 2013

Issue 115

Items of Note:

- Jessica Humston is very weak after her second chemotherapy treatment.
- John Hayes' address is: 1512 Hunters Ln. Nashville, TN 37207.
- Annette Harris, Becky Rose's aunt, has tumors in her lungs and is in much pain.
- Addie Farmer is undergoing extensive radiation treatment.
- J.W. Head is being treated at Parthenon Pavilion.

VBS Begins TONIGHT at 6:00; Monday-Thursday at 7:00
Mens' Meeting Cancelled Due To VBS

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: M. Newell

Pray: Terry Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: J. Newell

Serve: E. Walker, D. Stuard, Crabtree

Pray: Baker

Pleasant View church of Christ
2500 Highway 49 East
P.O. Box 189
Pleasant View, TN 37146

Sunday School: 9:30
A.M. Worship: 10:30
P.M. Worship: 6:00
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm
Phone: 924-9714

I Thessalonians 5:23
“Now may the God of
peace Himself sanctify you
entirely; and may your spirit
and soul and body be
preserved complete, without
blame at the coming of our
Lord Jesus Christ.”

*“Jealousy is, I think, the worst of all faults be-
cause it makes a victim of both parties.”*

Gene Tierney

*“The surest route to breeding jealousy is to com-
pare. Since jealousy comes from feeling less
than another, comparisons only fan the fires.”*

Dorothy Corkville Briggs

Your Story

The apostle Paul was dragged out of the temple by an angry Jewish mob in the middle of Acts 21. Roman soldiers and centurions arrived on the scene and prevented the mob from killing Paul. Standing on the top step of some barracks, with the protection of the soldiers, Paul addressed the mob. He didn't tell them to leave him alone. He didn't highlight all of their faults. He simply told them his story. In order to convert the lost, we must share our story. Notice Paul's method.

He identified with their history. He began by stating, “I am a Jew...” (Acts 22:3). He was one of them. Christians should never distance themselves from their

neighbors. We eat at the same restaurants, shop at the same stores, and our children attend the same schools. “I am like you” goes a lot farther than “I am better than you.”

Next, *Paul explained his conversion.* He told about hearing the voice of Christ on the road to Damascus. He said that Ananias met him in Damascus and baptized him. You also have a story to tell. Your story is probably not as dramatic as Paul's, but it's your story. The lost need to know how Jesus changed your life, and how He continues to do so.

Finally, *Paul told them his purpose.* He said that Jesus later spoke to him in the temple and said, “Go! For I will send you far away to the Gen-

tiles” (Acts 22:21). The lost world needs to know that you are serving the Lord every day. You are not just someone who *talks* about Jesus—you are someone who *lives* for Jesus.

Don't be afraid to share your story. Your spiritual journey is not a tale of moral perfection. It is a story of a sinner who was saved by the grace of God. It should be showed every day and shared with those who need the Savior.

“For we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20).

James Hayes
