

“Endorsing and Promoting Sin – Part 2”
Romans 1:32
(Preached at Trinity, May 27, 2007)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Last week I directed your to **Verse 32**. In many ways it is a summary of the section we’ve been looking at since **Verse 16**. Paul began in **Verses 16-17** by introducing the subject of justification by faith alone – how a man is made right before God – the righteousness of God revealed.
2. Beginning with **Verse 18** Paul begins to explain why we are in such dire need of justification. Our sin has brought us under the wrath and curse of God.
3. The remainder of the chapter has illustrated just how sinful human beings are. They will not have God. They despise Him. They hate His sovereignty, His Law, His holiness – Especially His Son.
As we read Paul’s description of the sinfulness of humanity it confirms for us just how desperately we need the Gospel; why we so desperately need the righteousness of God.
4. In **Verse 32**. Paul summarizes the problem of the human heart.
 - A. All men have an inner understanding of God’s demands
“Who knowing the judgment of God”
 1. **δικαίωμα** – refers to something established or something ordained
Paul is referring to the law of God
The NAS captures it well – “the ordinance of God”
 2. We saw in **Verse 18** that the wrath of God is clearly revealed. This is because the law of God is written on our hearts
 3. Paul is saying sin is committed against knowledge.
 - B. They continue to sin despite the fact that they know the consequence of sin
“that they which commit such things are worthy of death”
5. Men have such a love affair with sin they will practice it no matter what. They sin in spite of the consequences.
At the end of **Verse 32** Paul makes an additional statement that demonstrates man’s love affair with sin.
Romans 1:32 – “not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”
NAS **Romans 1:32** – “. . . give hearty approval to those who practice them.”
6. This phrase shows just how wicked human beings are. Not only do we sin, we take pleasure in the sins of others. We actually promote and endorse sin in others.
7. As I pointed out last time we see this demonstrated all around us.
Our culture in general is in love with sin. Immorality is the norm, materialism is the standard – It is like people today are competing to see who can outdo the other in sin, all to the applaud of everybody else.
8. We all agree that promoting and endorsing sin is evil – it is the height of wickedness that characterizes lost humanity. It is not surprising for us to see lost people behaving in this manner. But this must be applied to our own heart. Sin crouches at our door.
9. Sometimes Christians are guilty of endorsing and even delighting in sin. We not only have delighted in sin in the past, sometimes certain sins continue to be our delight.

- A. We sometimes give a particular sin a place of safe harbor
 - B. Do you have a particular sin that you have refused to deal with? That besetting sin? That one sin you delight in, you justify it, try to defend it. You take pleasure when you see other Christians doing it.
Are you guilty of endorsing sin in your own life?
Is the very person guilty of promoting and endorsing sin yourself?
10. This morning I want to look at this subject in greater detail. This is a very dangerous subject for a pastor to address in our generation. Antinomianism is running rampant. Many professing Christians today know nothing of holiness. As soon as you begin addressing the subjects of sin and holiness you are accused of legalism. Many have tried to put that label upon our own church.
11. What are some other ways Christians today are guilty of endorsing and promoting sin?
- I. When we participate in activities that promote sin
- A. In our individualistic society we tend to look at sin only as it applies to us
 - 1. We should be concerned about activities that cause others to sin. Our great desire must be to promote the honor of God, never sin against God.
 - 2. Paul said to offend a weaker brother is to sin against Christ
1 Corinthians 8:12 – “But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.”
 - 3. We must have a high regard for the holiness of others.
Luke 17:1-2 – “Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe *unto him*, through whom they come! ² It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.”

What are some activities that promote sin? As I considered this subject there are some particular sins that Christians are embracing today.
 - B. Gambling including the lottery (this should not need to be mentioned except for the thousands of professing Christians participating in the activity)
 - 1. Gambling promotes covetousness – God has ordained that our wages should be the fruit of our labor
 - 2. Gambling is seeking gain at the expense of our neighbor
Instead of loving our neighbor and seeking to promote their wellbeing we are striving to increase our wealth at their expense.
 - 3. Those who spend their money gambling are supporting an industry that leads people to sin.
Gambling hurts families as people addicted to gambling squander wages
 - C. Sabbath breaking – this is one of the great sins in the Christian community today
 - 1. Disregarding the Lord’s Day is breaking God’s Law – it is the Fourth Commandment. God has declared this day to be holy.
God has declared this day to be a day of worship – a day given over to God. Why do men hate this so much?
 - 2. When we support business open on Sunday we not only break the 4th Commandment, we promote the sin in others.
 - 3. When we go to a restaurant on Sunday we are endorsing employers keeping their employees from worshipping God. We are endorsing sin. Sabbath breakers are glad the business are open and breaking God’s Law. “not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”

4. This is a sin that Christians fervently defend. They don't want to give up their after church meal or their afternoon TV.
 5. The story of the beggar, the man who had seven dollars and gave him six
- D. When we attend "R" rated or many PG movies we are endorsing this type of entertainment
1. God commands us to guard our minds.
Philippians 4:8 – "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things."
 2. Not only are we polluting our own minds, we are promoting the industry with our money.
 3. Hollywood is bent on sin – they endorse sin and promote sin. We must not be willing accomplices.
- E. When we dress immodestly we are tempting other to sin – we are promoting sin. When our clothes draw attention to our bodies.
The besetting sin of men is lust - Men need to protect their eyes
Christian ladies must be careful to promote holiness and never tempt to sin.
- II. When churches refuse to practice church discipline – If we allow sin to creep into our church we are endorsing sin – we are taking pleasure in sin.
- A. Paul accused the church of Corinth of their lack of grief over the issue of sin
1 Corinthians 5:2 – "And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you."
Their lack of grief points to the issue here in Romans – Their lack of sadness demonstrated their endorsement of sin.
- B. Sin in the church will affect the whole
1 Corinthians 5:6-7 – "Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? ⁷ Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:"
1. Holiness is of the greatest importance in the church of Christ
 2. To allow sin to go unchecked is to endorse sin – to do nothing is to give our approval.
- C. Christians have a duty to watch over one another
When you see your brother sin and do nothing about it you are endorsing their sin and promoting sin in others.
Galatians 6:1-2 – "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."
- D. Our Church Covenant requires that we watch over one another in love
That, we will exercise a Christian care and watchfulness over each other, and faithfully warn, exhort, and admonish each other, as occasion may require;

- III. When parents do not properly discipline their children
- A. Parents are responsible in what they allow
 1. You are the parent
 2. What do you allow your child to watch, listen to, do?
What do you allow your children to wear?
 3. Parents today are afraid to be parents.
 - B. Parents must let their children know loud and clear that bad behavior will not be tolerated.
 - C. From the earliest age we must teach our children that there are consequences for their actions
 1. Ultimately they will stand accountable before God
 2. We know that our children are born with lawlessness in their heart
We must not allow this lawlessness to go unchecked
 - a. We must teach our children the proper reign of law – the exercise of authority
 - b. There must be household laws which include reward and punishment
 - c. This demands swift consequences for disobedience
 - D. If we allow sin to go unchecked in our children we are endorsing their sin and their sin will surely grow – Romans 1 applies to them!
 1. **Proverbs 22:6** – “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”
 - a. We are to train them up in the way they *should* go, not in the way they *would* go.
 - b. Left unchecked they will follow the way of their heart.
 2. Love demands discipline. Love demands that we now allow our child to continue in sin.
 - a. A parent that doesn’t discipline his or her children is showing a complete disregard for their wellbeing.
Proverbs 13:24 – “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.”
Proverbs 29:15 – “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to *himself* bringeth his mother to shame.”
 - b. We must not allow bad behavior – if we do we are endorsing their sin. If we endorse their sin it will surely escalate.
A. W. Pink – “The least offense of a child against the rulers of the home ought not to pass without due correction, for if it find leniency in one direction toward one offense, it will expect the same towards others, and then disobedience will become more frequent till the parent has no control except that of brute force.”

Conclusion:

1. To take pleasure in the sins of others is the height of wickedness.
2. To take pleasure in the holiness of others is to be Godlike.
We should labor to promote holiness in all. This demands particular attention to your own life.