Skyline Family News

November 2nd, 2026

Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

Over the past several weeks, we have been looking at various unbiblical sayings. While many believe these phrases to be in the Bible, they are neither in the Bible nor do they rightly espouse biblical doctrine. Such maxims represent a "bumper-sticker" theology that is at best shallow and at worst heretical.

One such unbiblical saying is "All sin is the same." To be sure, all sins are sinful – all sin is bad, all sin separates us from God, all sin crucified Christ, all sin warrants God's just wrath – but not all sins are equally or similarly sinful. In a legal sense, any one sin (even perceivably the smallest sin) is enough to justly and eternally condemn us as sinners (Gal.3:10; Jms.2:10). But every sin does not carry the same danger or even the same consequence – whether physical (temporal) or spiritual (eternal).

The idea that all sin is the same, or that all sin is alike to God, is widely used as an attempt to minimize the severity of sin. The thinking is as follows: "Since all sin is the same, my immorality is no different than your gossip" or "Since all sin is the same, my idolatry is no different than your lack of hospitality." Others will declare, "If lust is the same as adultery, I might as well commit adultery" or "If anger is the same as murder, I might as well commit murder." This paradigm is often perpetuated by proof-texting or twisting Scripture (see Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28, and 1 John 3:15). Such verses do not teach that all sin is the same but that all sin is equally sinful by nature. That is, lusting is not less sinful than adultery and hatred is not less sinful than murder.

The point is that we are commanded to avoid all sin – not just "little" or "hidden" sins. We must not think we can "get away" with some sins, as long as we avoid other sins. We must not think that God only sees, or cares about, the "big sins." As the saying goes, "Sow a thought, reap an act. Sow an act, reap a habit. Sow a habit, reap a character. Sow a character, reap a destiny." Or, in the words of Charles Spurgeon, "Little sins lead to great ones!" (sermon: "Little Sins" (Gen.19:20); April 17, 1859).

Psalm 19 helps us to see the different categories of sins: *"Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. [13]Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression"* (vs.12-13). First, there are *"errors"* that we commit, which are unintentional sins. Second, *"hidden faults"* are not sins committed in secret but sins that the sinner does not recognize or remember. Third, *"presumptuous sins"* are sins that are committed willfully and even flagrantly. Last, there are sins *"of great transgression"* which are blatant and rebellious.

While these are all equally sinful, they are certainly not the same. We must not minimize sin in any way or for any reason. Only God can forgive our sin – He alone can make us *"blameless, and innocent"* of sin. He commands us to confess and repent of all sin, and has promised to forgive us when we do: *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (1Jn.1:9).

The closing words of Psalm 19 is a prayer for us all: *"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer"* (vs.14). This is the desire of every mature Christian. We long to be pure and holy – not just from "big sins" or even many sins, but from every sin (Ps.51:10; Matt.5:48; Eph.4:22-24; 1Pet.1:15-16). We want not only our actions and inactions to be pleasing to God, but also our words (*"the words of my mouth"*) and our attitudes (*"the meditation of my heart"*) as well.

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David
(11/2/26)

Scripture Readings for the Week *(Monday – Sunday ~ Week #44):*
Deuteronomy 7-9; 2Chronicles 29-32; Psalm 125-127; Ecclesiastes 3-4; Zeph.; Acts 11-12; James 4-5
Recommended Reading*:*
"Sanctification: The Christian's Pursuit of God-Given Holiness" by Michael Riccardi