

# Following Jesus is not Easy!

Anyone who pretends following Jesus is easy is tragically mistaken. It is war and the first front of that war is one of the most brutal. To do the will of God, we must fight and win battle after battle over the voracious and sinful appetites of our flesh. As long as our spirits dwell within our fleshly bodies, the war between spirit and flesh will rage on. The enemy will keep attacking and we must continue fighting and resisting.

At times, it will seem futile, we will tire of fighting against temptation and we will want to surrender. Much like the Israelites of old, we will wonder why God dragged us out into this dry and barren wilderness to die when turning back to Egypt—even as a slave—seems so easy and comfortable. We will lose battles to temptation. We will succumb to sin. We will feel like giving up the fight and giving in to sin, becoming its slave, will be a reprieve.

This is when we must remember Christ. Christ died to free us from that slavery. He is our strength in the struggle. He gives us the will and wisdom to win. He makes us more than conquerors. He empowers us against our

by Jonathan Perz

adversary. He shows us the way of escape and gives us victory. He gives us grace over death when sin wins the day. But we must continue to choose Him over our flesh. We must remember and choose His will over our own will. We must love Him more than sin. We must continue to fight! Why? Because Jesus fought and died for us! He fights for us even today!

**Ephesians 6:10–13 (NKJV):** “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

Read Romans, chapters 6-8, also.



# The Auburn Beacon



## The Rationale of The Tolerant

By Warren E. Berkley



### Thoughts to Ponder

And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." ... (1 Kings 18:21)

The idea of sinking all our differences into a sea of "love" and sweet tolerance and uniting in division seems to be rapidly reaching every part of the religious world. Denominational bodies who have formerly harbored revenge are now skillfully defending latitudinarianism and independence of belief. Even some who have been enslaved Roman Catholics are now joining forces with Protestants to do what is called "preaching Christ." This denominational philosophy has grown swiftly in recent years until now the distinction between unity and division is nil.

It is to be regretted that those who argue against arguing cannot see their own inconsistency. Actually, practicing what they preach would require that they leave us alone! Are we to suppose that the advocates of tolerance are opposed to all religious arguments except the one in which they are engaged?

even question a religious belief and/or practice held by an honest and sincere person. In cases where we question or deny a practice, we are charged with judging, and told that we do not have the right to judge. With reference to this tolerant attitude, a few observations are in order.

### Logic?

Using human reasoning and logic as their foundation, proponents of tolerance make their case. After all, they say, we are all different; and since achieving religious unity

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### Elders

Walker Davis  
(334) 703-0050  
Larry Rouse  
(334) 734-2133



### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
Worship .....10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

### E-Mail:

[larryrouse@aubeacon.com](mailto:larryrouse@aubeacon.com)

Larry Rouse  
Evangelist and Editor

Find us on the Internet: [www.auchurch.com](http://www.auchurch.com) and [www.aubeacon.com](http://www.aubeacon.com)

### Classes This Week

Monday 8:00 PM

Class on Hebrews at 8:00 p.m. Crawford's house

### News and Notes

- ☑ - Let's be preparing for our meeting with Russ Bowman, Aug 26-30
- ☑ - Please pray for Sid Rowe, bro-in-law of Anna and Christopher, as he has been diagnosed with colon cancer.
- ☑ - Continue to pray for Jimmy Roberts as he recovers from a blood clot in his leg.
- ☑ - Please pray for Mary Ann's mom, Bettie McAreavey, who fell and broke bones in her back and hip.
- ☑ - Congratulations to our graduates!  
Amanda Cagle  
Brock Hester  
Holly McDaniel  
Anna Price  
Andrew Tominack  
Emma Ulrich
- ☑ - William and Toni Herd were in a car accident on the way home from UAB hospital. They are home and recovering. Toni has a broken sternum.
- ☑ - The Elders would appreciate your prayers as we seek a Hispanic preacher to work here in Auburn.
- ☑ - Pray for our expectant mothers: Hannah Hinson and Hannah Morris.
- ☑ - All audio is immediately uploaded to [www.auchurch.com](http://www.auchurch.com) and Audio CD's placed in the foyer.

### August Birthdays

- 1-Trinity Jerkins
- 2-Emma Miller
- 6-Allyson Ferguson
- 6-Sandra Chason
- 8-Alli Luther
- 9-Elliot Weldon
- 11-Walker Davis
- 12-Jon Coleman
- 12-Bryon Buzan
- 13-Ariel Ramsey
- 15-Everleigh Crawford
- 16-Sharon Edwards
- 18-Heidi Abell
- 18-Chris Britnell
- 21-Matt Cavender
- 22-Case O'Dell
- 23-Jordan Holliday
- 24-Sophie Hall
- 26-Payton Davis
- 27-Chip Freeman
- 28-Larry Rouse
- 28-Cole Johnson
- 28-Alex Dobbins

Lisa Carter (Daniel's mother)	Jesse and Martha Godwin (Troy's parents)	Nell Holcomb (Ben's grandmother, Joannetta's aunt)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's nephew)	Mary Edwards (Sandra Chason's mom)	Kimzey Simpson	Ruth Addison (gmom of April and Julie)
Tory Colvin (sister of Case O'Dell)	Austin Rush (Katie Gentry's cousin)	Barbara Weeks	Brooke Perkins
Joel Black	Emily Thompson (Abbie Harrison's cousin)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Abbie Harrison
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Arabelle Rich (Joannetta's aunt)	Charles and Jane Hunt (Chuck's parents)	Doug Bailey (Keith's brother)
Gay Ulrich (Emma's mom)	William and Toni Herd	Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt)	Jesse Russell (Ron's brother)

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would be a colossal, if not impossible task, why not just settle for "peaceful co-existence" and stop all this disputing? But human wisdom in the form of "logic" was never intended to originate spiritual truth (**1 Cor. 1-2**). Any attempt, then, to contend against contending on this basis is invalid. But is their plea logical?

### Consistency?

It is to be regretted that those who argue against arguing cannot see their own inconsistency. Actually, practicing what they preach would require that they leave us alone! Are we to suppose that the advocates of tolerance are opposed to all religious arguments except the one in which they are engaged? We are reminded of the double-minded, anti-legalist who binds his anti-legalism on others. He actually sets himself up as a standard and judge just as do the tolerant about whom I am writing. But their inconsistency goes further!

### Selective Regard For Bible

As a finicky customer makes his way through the cafeteria line, so the tolerant folks make their way through the Bible. We are encouraged to insist on the letter of the law when it comes to morality, for example, but "doctrinal matters" are not nearly so vital. Stamp out drunkenness, fornication and dishonesty even if the effort involves exposing and rebuking sinners; but let folks believe anything they will concerning baptism, faith, the church, the Lord's supper and worship! And, oh yes be sure to pound away loud and long about the wicked party spirit, while placing little emphasis upon "unimportant truths" such as the work and organization of the church.

But, the Lord made no such distinction between "morals" and so-called "doctrinal matters." Paul said that he had, "shunned not to

declare the whole counsel of God," and Jesus said that. "man liveth by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (**Acts 20:27; Matt. 4:4**).

### Self-Righteous

Among the several planks in the platform of the "leave everybody alone" party is the charge that defenders of the truth are self-righteous. But, when we insist upon strict adherence to God's word are we demonstrating self-righteousness? If the term "self-righteous" means insisting on God's righteousness, yes! But that's hardly the idea. In fact, those who would have their own way while refusing to submit to God's righteousness are self-righteous (**Rom. 10:3**)!

### Conclusion

There is only "one faith" (**Eph. 4:5**) and that faith is held by those who hear and obey God's word (**Rom. 10:17**). To suppose, then, that one can believe one way and another believe differently on matters revealed by God and both please God is to falsely assume that there is no "one faith" which is sufficient for all men. Jude wrote concerning the "common salvation," for salvation in Christ is enjoyed by those who, by their trust and obedience, share in "one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all," (**Eph. 4:4-6**). Those who are thus related to one another by their kinship with God, will feel a burning desire to instruct others in the way of righteousness, not to exalt themselves as "know-it-alls" filled with angry pride, and out of a real love for lost souls and out of a desire to please the God who has commanded that they, "contend earnestly" for the faith (**Jude 3**). Though this will entail the exposure of every false way, the honest man who is determined to serve God on God's terms will not be offended.

Truth Magazine - May 16, 1974



# A Godly View of Sin

By Sewell Hall

"What happened to sin?" This question, occasionally asked these days, can be answered with another question: "Whatever happened to God?" When people lose sight of God, sin cannot be far behind.

**The World's View Of Sin:** -- Worldly people usually have in mind some vague definition of sin. In their view murder is sin because it hurts other people. If you asked the average person to name a sinner, he might well name Saddam Hussein; look how many people he has hurt! On the other hand a psychology professor I knew insisted that sexual relations between two unmarried consenting adults is no more than a handshake if no one gets hurt.

Some take another step to call things sin if they hurt the one who does them. These days some people think of smoking as sinful because it harms the body. At the same time, drunkenness is winked at as long as one does not harm himself or drive under the influence.

Things may be thought sinful once they become socially unacceptable; speaking against homosexuality is just about the most heinous sin some people can imagine. Illegal things are considered sinful if one is caught and, if not, they become clever. And, of course, anything that makes you feel bad about yourself is probably a sin for you.

Notice that all of these involve horizontal relationships. Sin is defined in purely human terms. The only authority acknowledged is human authority. The guilt or innocence of any action is judged by its visible and foreseeable effect on people here and now. God is not in the picture.

**The Godly View:** -- As godliness is defined, however, everything is judged in reference to God. The word sin, as used in the Bible, is "missing the mark." Crime is missing the mark set by men: sin is missing the mark set by God (**1 Jn. 3:4**). Murder is sin, not because it is illegal or because it hurts someone but because God has forbidden it. The mark God has set may be missed by going beyond it (**1 Jn 5:17; 2 Jn. 9**) or by coming short of it (**Jas. 4:17; Rom. 3:23**).

The act by which "sin entered into the world" (Rom. 5:12) was an act that few people in our godless age would call sin. In fact, I am asked sometimes, "What do you think that Adam and Eve really did?" Well, what they really did was eat a piece of fruit (**Gen. 3:6**),

and it was sin because God had forbidden it. Whether men see anything wrong in their action is beside the point.

When God told Abraham to offer his son on an altar (**Gen. 22:2**), he would have sinned if he had failed to obey. His faith was demonstrated in his willingness to do what God said, regardless of his own human sense of right and wrong.

Fornication, idolatry, adultery, homosexuality, covetousness, drunkenness, and extortion were socially acceptable in Corinth, but the Holy Spirit through Paul insisted that those practicing such things would not "inherit the kingdom of God" (**1 Cor. 6:9,10**). "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience" (**Eph. 5:6**).

Even worship can be sin if it is not what God desires (**Matt. 7:21-23**), and a failure to worship is also sin (**Jas. 4:17**).

God And Sin: -- Once God is brought into the picture it becomes clear that sin is man's greatest problem. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men..." (**Rom. 1:18**). What man on his own can escape the wrath of God? Since sin is an offense against God, only God can forgive it. And forgiving sin is not easy even for God. It cost Him the life of His Son.

The just penalty attached to sin by a just God is death; consequently, justice demands that the penalty be paid if sins are to be forgiven. If the sinner paid it he would be forever separated from God. But "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (**Jn. 3:16**). He allowed His Son to be "cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of My people, to whom the stroke was due" (**Isa. 53:8**).

Whenever we are tempted to sin, even in ways that the world considers innocent, we should ask with Joseph, "How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" (Gen. 39:9). And when even the world pronounces us guilty, we still must confess to God along with David, "Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight..." (**Psa. 51:4**).

