

Vileness is Exalted

written by Tricia Berg

On every side the wicked prowl, as vileness is exalted among the children of man. Psalm 12:8

Which is love? To speak the truth even though it's unwelcome (therefore uncomfortable to the bearer of the message, probably also costing them their popularity), or to tell people what they want to hear even though they don't understand that in the end they will NOT be happy (eternally) that they got their way (but this way doesn't "cost" the one withholding the truth anything in this temporary life)? (Eph. 4:15-5:21, 2Tim. 4:1-5) Isn't it better for people to feel bad for a while now and blissfully happy in eternity (that they found out in time and repented)?

What are we going to tell Jesus when we stand before Him—that we were ashamed of how "unloving" His ways are and so we sided with unsaved, perishing people instead of with Him in this battle for souls? (Mark 8:34-37, 38, Luke 9:23-25, 26, Matt. 10:37-39, Matt. 5:10-12, 13-16, 2Tim. 3:12-17, 1John 2:15-17, Jam. 4:4-10) **Because that's what it is—a battle.** (Eph. 6:10-20, 1Pet. 5:8-11) People who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit should not defile their temples. (1Cor. 3:16-17, 1Pet. 2:4-5, 9-10, 11-12, 1Cor. 6:18-20) They should bear visible FRUIT of His presence in them. (Gal. 5:22-25, Titus 2:11-15, Eph. 5:6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 2Pet. 1:5-7, 8-9, 10-12, Matt. 13:20-21, 22-23, John 15:1-21, Rom. 8:9, 13-19, 7:4-6)

We do know that our God is ONE, not divided against Himself, right? (John 10:30, 8:29, Heb. 13:8, Mal. 3:6, John 1:1-3) There's not "our buddy, Jesus" in the New Testament and "His mean old Father" of the Old Testament. (John 17:23) That would be an idolatrous concept. Jesus died to set us free FROM sin, not TO sin. (Rom. 6:1-11, 2Cor. 5:9-11, 14-15)

Won't God hold us each accountable for not loving our neighbor enough to be truthful with them? (Col. 3:9-10, Rom. 1:18, 32) How can we claim to BELIEVE His warnings and yet not care about those who are going to come under His wrath because unscrupulous, selfish and indifferent people lied to them (or just kept quiet) about what pleases God? (Rom. 1:18-32, 2Thess. 2:9-12, Eph. 2:1-3, 4:18-24, 5:3-6, Col. 3:5-11, Heb. 4:12-13, Rom. 2:1-5, 6-11, Rev. 21:7-8, 22:12-15, Heb. 10:30-31, 1Pet. 4:17-19) If we're "loving" will we let people think that Jesus died so that they could wallow in the sins that He died to cleanse them from? (2Pet. 2:20-22) Shouldn't we tell them instead that He

sets us free from being ENSLAVED to sin (both the penalty for past sins, and the inability to resist continuing in them)? (2Pet. 2:19, 1:9, John 8:31-36, Rom. 6:12-22, Gal. 5:13-26)

If someone I loved said they could fly, would it be loving of me to agree with them? (Maybe they think they have "evolved" enough, or that God "made" them in a different way than others.) And what about when they decide to jump off the roof, should I "support" them in that or shouldn't I tell them the truth before they seriously hurt themselves (and maybe even die)? Many of the behaviors "loving" people affirm (including "who someone can love—strike that—have sex with") come with grave health risks, many of which can lead to physical death, not to mention the eternal consequences for those who defy God by calling good evil and evil good, and act upon it or encourage others to do so. (Rom. 1:32, Isa. 5:20)

(Let's be perfectly clear on this. God designed some body parts to be sexual organs and others are simply NOT—that includes the rectum. That's not "safe sex." That's depravity. (Rom. 1:26-28) The Bible (BOTH Old and New Testaments) does NOT say it's okay IF both partners consent. In fact, both partners are named in 1Cor. 6:9-10—the original Greek makes that abundantly clear. You can look it up on BibleHub.com. In fact, any man who dresses as a woman would also be included in the Greek word, which means when a man behaves like a woman. Also see Isa. 3:12.)

How can we even say we love God and yet call Him a liar? Isn't that what people are doing when they say He made more than two genders? Aren't those who administer opposite gender hormone "therapy" and perform operations trying to BE God—as if they're trying to "correct" His "mistakes?" As if that's not bad enough, people are pushing for VERY young children to be taught all sorts of unspeakable things in public school. What's the motive for stealing their innocence as early as possible? (We all know that once you've seen or come to know something, you can't "un-see" or "un-know" it.) Do you think the children are safe? I don't.

Let's wake up and seek the truth and light of the Bible instead of exalting evil. God detests pride of any kind, most especially pride for sin. (Jer. 6:15-19, Psa. 18:27-28, 75:4-5, Prov. 6:16-19, 21:4, 1Cor. 5:2, Jude 1:16, 2Pet. 2:12-14, Rev. 2:20-23, 3:1-6, 3:17, 1Thess. 4:3-5, 6-8, Gal. 5:19-21, Eph. 5:5-6, 1Tim. 1:8-11) And He hates it when the minds and bodies of children are corrupted by evil people. Whoever does such things will answer to Him for that. (Luke 17:1-2, Matt. 18:5-10, Mark 9:42-50, 1Tim. 5:20-21, 1Pet. 4:3, 4-5, Col. 3:25, Rev. 22:11-16, Jude 1:14-16)

context of verse at the top of this article:

*Save, O LORD, for the godly one is gone; for the faithful have vanished from among the children of man. **Everyone utters lies to his neighbor; with flattering lips and a double heart they speak. May the LORD cut off all flattering lips, the tongue that makes great boasts, those who say, "With our tongue we will prevail, our lips are with us; who is master over us?"** "Because the poor are plundered, because the needy groan, I will now arise," says the LORD; "I will place him in the safety for which he longs." The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times. You, O LORD, will keep them; you will guard us from this generation forever. **On every side the wicked prowl, as vileness is exalted among the children of man.** Psalm 12:1-8*

related verses:

*And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For **what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.**" Luke 16:15*

*"But if a **wicked person turns away from all his sins** that he has committed and keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, **he shall surely live; he shall not die.** None of the transgressions that he has committed shall be remembered against him; for the righteousness that he has done he shall live. **Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?** But when a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice and does the same abominations that the wicked person does, shall he live? None of the righteous deeds that he has done shall be remembered; for the treachery of which he is guilty and the sin he has committed, for them he shall die. "Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. **Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed,***

and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live." Ezekiel 18:21-32

For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a **fearful expectation of judgment**, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. **How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?** For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "**The Lord will judge his people.**" It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Hebrews 10:26-31

But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you. **They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children!** 2 Peter 2:12-14

For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire." 2 Peter 2:18-22

And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—**just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and**

pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. Jude 1:6-7

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but **whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.** Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but **woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!** And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. Matthew 18:1-10

Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. 1 Corinthians 14:20

For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be **wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil.** Romans 16:19

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Galatians 6:1

But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "**Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.**" Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. Therefore, **if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.** So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a **pure heart.** Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's

servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. **God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.** 2 Timothy 2:19-26 (Also see Rev. 2:18-3:6.)

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh **no longer for human passions but for the will of God.** For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but **they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.** 1 Peter 4:1-5 (Also see 1Pet. 3:13-17, 1Pet. 5:6-11.)

Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of falsehood, who draw sin as with cart ropes, who say: "Let him be quick, let him speed his work that we may see it; let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw near, and let it come, that we may know it!" **Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight! Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, and valiant men in mixing strong drink, who acquit the guilty for a bribe, and deprive the innocent of his right!** Therefore, as the tongue of fire devours the stubble, and as dry grass sinks down in the flame, so their root will be as rottenness, and their blossom go up like dust; for they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts, and **have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.** Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against his people, and he stretched out his hand against them and struck them, and the mountains quaked; and their corpses were as refuse in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger has not turned away, and his hand is stretched out still. He will raise a signal for nations far away, and whistle for them from the ends of the earth;

and behold, quickly, speedily they come! None is weary, none stumbles, none slumbers or sleeps, not a waistband is loose, not a sandal strap broken; their arrows are sharp, all their bows bent, their horses' hoofs seem like flint, and their wheels like the whirlwind. Their roaring is like a lion, like young lions they roar; they growl and seize their prey; they carry it off, and none can rescue. They will growl over it on that day, like the growling of the sea. And if one looks to the land, behold, darkness and distress; and the light is darkened by its clouds. Isaiah 5:18-30

Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! *Why would you have the day of the LORD? **It is darkness, and not light, as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him.** Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? "I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amos 5:18-24*

"For my people are foolish; they know me not; they are stupid children; they have no understanding. They are 'wise'—in doing evil! But how to do good they know not." *I looked on the earth, and behold, it was without form and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light. I looked on the mountains, and behold, they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro. I looked, and behold, there was no man, and all the birds of the air had fled. I looked, and behold, the fruitful land was a desert, and all its cities were laid in ruins before the LORD, before his fierce anger. For thus says the LORD, "The whole land shall be a desolation; yet I will not make a full end. "For this the earth shall mourn, and the heavens above be dark; for I have spoken; I have purposed; I have not relented, nor will I turn back." At the noise of horseman and archer every city takes to flight; they enter thickets; they climb among rocks; all the cities are forsaken, and no man dwells in them. And you, O desolate one, what do you mean that you dress in scarlet, that you adorn yourself with ornaments of gold, that you enlarge your eyes with paint? In vain you beautify yourself. Your lovers despise you; they seek your life. For I heard a cry as of a woman in labor, anguish as of one giving birth to her first child, the cry of the daughter of Zion gasping for breath, stretching out her hands, "Woe is me! I am fainting before murderers." Jeremiah 4:22-31*

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? **The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."** I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. **Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.** Psalm 2:1-12 (Also see John 15:1-10 - it's necessary to ABIDE in Jesus, not merely make a false confession of faith. See Rom. 8:1, 8:9-19.)

"See, I have set before you today **life and good, death and evil**. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by **walking in his ways**, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your **heart turns away**, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you **life and death, blessing and curse**. Therefore **choose life**, that you and your offspring may live, **loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days**, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them." Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (Also see 1John 2:1-6, 2:28-3:10, Heb. 6:4-12, Matt. 13:18-30, 36-43, 47-50, 25:1-30, Rev. 22:11-15.)

And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But **as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**" Joshua 24:15

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For **what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?** What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer

*share with an unbeliever? **What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God;** as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty." 7:1 Since we have these promises, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.** 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 (Also see John 1:5-10, 1Cor. 6:17-20, 1John 2:15-17, Jam. 4:4-10, 1Pet. 1:17-19, 2Pet. 3:11-14, Heb. 12:28-29, Rom. 8:13-23)*

We ALL slip from time to time, and ALL can be FORGIVEN, but we are NOT meant to trample on and profane the precious blood of Jesus and outrage the Spirit of grace by persisting in the sins we've been cleansed from. That is what is meant by "hardening our hearts," which were "circumcised" by sorrow over our sin. (Rom. 2:29, Deut. 30:6, Acts 7:51, 2Cor. 7:9-10, Heb. 3:7-14) We're meant to keep our pristine white garments, which cost Jesus untold suffering unto death, CLEAN by repenting and following His Spirit IN us rather than going back to wallow in the mud. (See above, and Rev. 3:4-6, 21:7-8, 22:14-15, Jam. 1:27, 5:19-20, 2Tim. 2:24-26, Isa. 52:13-53:12) That is not working FOR salvation—it's behaving as a saved, adopted child of GOD should, by the power of HIS Spirit. (Titus 2:11-15, Gal. 5:24, Rom. 13:14) If we're "unable" to resist making a practice of sin, we need to examine ourselves as to whether we really believe or not. (2Cor. 13:5, 1John 5:18-19, 2:3-4, 3:6, Gal. 5:19-23)

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2 Peter 2:12-22, Jude

*On every side the wicked prowl, as vileness is exalted among the children of man.
Psalm 12:8*

Choose

LIFE

Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! Luke 17:1

Better to have a millstone hung around the neck and be cast into the sea than that to cause one of these little ones to sin. Luke 17:2