

# Sermon Notes

## Slogans for Sin or Life in the Spirit

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

June 28, 2015

### Introduction: *Ways we've dealt with sin*

Have you ever sinned and then defended yourself, and your sin? Have you defended your actions, your attitude, your speech...and your intentions? This is one of the ways that sin deceives. We get into it, and then we go deeper. We defend and we justify; that is, we render our own verdict of acceptance upon what we are doing or what we have done. This is to rationalize our sin. To rationalize is "To allow my mind to find reasons to excuse what my conscience knows is wrong" (Harlow Shapley). The Apostle Paul speaks of "suppressing the truth in unrighteousness" (Romans 1:18).

### *Walking the Path of Rationalizing Sin*

James refers to this when he teaches us to *not* point the blame out there or even blame God. He says that *we* are to blame, and it all starts with temptation. Temptation happens when someone is drawn away by his/her own lusts or desires. After this, those desires give birth to sin, and then the sin grows up and "matures" and gets stronger and then leads to death (James 1:14-15). That's why James warns: "Don't be deceived" (James 1:16). Here are some common stepping stones of rationalizing our sin:

Desire—Strategy to seek or get or do—Convince yourself—Starts to become "okay"—Defend it

This is a dangerous path because it deliberately sets aside God's Law, and it suppresses the truth and scalds the conscience. This explains much of what's going on today, and we need to see this in order to be effective in our Christian witness. The problem today is not so much "works salvation" where folks are trying to earn their way into heaven, God's favor, or receive salvation (there's a bit of that still around). Rather, the problem is that people don't even think that they need salvation. They are convinced that they are fine, and are convinced that "the supreme being" (if there is one) wants them to be happy and free and themselves! If you ever dare to suggest anything to the contrary, shock and offense are likely to follow.

This inevitably leads to (or reveals) lawlessness; a looseness; a casting off of any and every restraint. It usually begins with a rejection of any outside authority—"Don't tell me what to do!"—and typically bristles throughout the day. They have rejected law, but they still espouse their own law; they have become a law unto themselves, still demanding all the freedom they could desire.

The Corinthians, wearing the garments of freedom, did what they wanted to do, and *they rationalized what they were doing*. We know this because they had offered little sound bites, bumper stickers, and slogans of their day. Paul takes these slogans and answers them.

### Slogans & Sloganeering

If we do not understand that Paul is picking up their commonly used slogans, we will not be able to understand this passage. There are three (3) slogans that Paul addresses in this passage, and the first one is mentioned twice.

#### 6:12

**Slogan #1**—*All things are lawful for me  
All things are lawful for me*

#### 6:12

**Paul's Response:** *but all things are not helpful/profitable  
but I will not be brought under the power of any*

#### 6:13

**Slogan #2**—*Food is for the stomach and the stomach is  
for foods, but God will destroy both it and them.*

#### 6:13-18a

**Paul's Response:** *Now the body is not for sexual immorality  
(porneia) but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body*

#### 6:18b

**Slogan #3**—*Every sin that a man does is outside the body*

#### 6:18c-20

**Paul's Response:** *but he who commits sexual immorality (porneuo)  
sins against his own body, & your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit*

