

## AFFIRMING VS. CONDONING

*get honest*

In many places today as a part of our culture the term "affirming" is used in context with churches who believe that homosexual behavior is an acceptable and alternative lifestyle, should NOT be called "sin", resisted or repented of.

This same attitude is expected by people who attend churches toward unmarried people living together, illegal drug use, FWB (friends with benefits) pornography, bad and abusive language, uncensored media input - both audio and video, and a myriad of other behaviors.

As Christians, we should hold up a higher standard than the world. Yes we do recognize that "all have sinned" and fallen short of the glory of God Rom 3:23 and so condemning other of their sin is not our place or business. It is our business to get the plank out of our own eye and then help our brother get the speck out of his eye. However, personal repentance and examination is part of being a Christian.

I'm asked the question every week by someone "how should we treat gays who come into our church". Well duuuuh, we should treat them like anyone else! How should you treat a gossip? Disabled person? Rich person? Poor person? Adulterer? Angry or raging person? In Galatians chapter 5 these are ALL considered "works of the flesh". I read on Facebook in recent days "don't judge me because I sin differently than you." I honestly think we can love each other without judgement and yet hold up a standard of morality worthy of a disciple of Jesus Christ.

**"FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD"**

*Romans 3:23*

"Ignored behavior is condoned behavior."

**SIN** is *sin*

-let's call it what it is! Let's do what the apostle Paul said to do also and let our focus be on judging OURSELVES not the world or each other. Yes, we should all be honest about our sin and encourage each other to a higher standard remembering we're all going to die someday and stand before the judge of all the universe. Until then let's remember, we have not been given His position as Judge and Jury!

Father, I turn from my sin and ask you to reveal and remove from me the areas that I have been allowing and blinking at. Bring me into the Image of Jesus and let me be a shining example of his love and forgiveness. Let me not allow what you have called evil in my heart, mind or expression but rather your fruit of ruling love! In Jesus' name, **AMEN!**

**AFFIRMING**  
*the sinner*  
**NOT CONDONING**  
*the sin*

af·firm -(ə'fɜrm)

offer (someone) emotional support or encouragement:

con·done -(kən·dɒn')

to overlook, or disregard (an offense) without protest or censure

## AVOID JUDGMENT *get honest*

I am writing this short and concise pamphlet to speak to the multitude of questions I have had about hypocrisy in the church, homosexuality, multiple marriages, casual sex, drug use, sexual and verbal abuse, lying, stealing, tax fraud, couples living together in sin, and many other issues IN the church.

We have a tendency to judge one sin differently than another. We judge those we don't know and at the same time love and make excuses for those we do know and love. I heard it said "we judge others by their actions - but ourselves by our intentions". We ignore our own sin and then condemn the sins of others. This is wrong and this is "hypocrisy". Sin is sin, period. No excuses, no degrees of sin, just sin. We are all the same when we die! Naked before the eyes of God and he will be our judge!

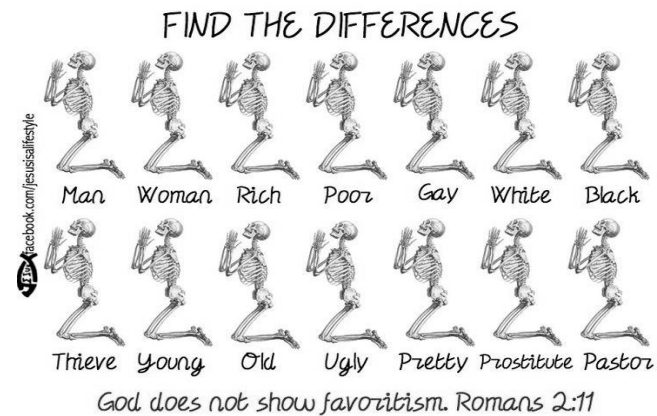
1 Cor 6:9-11 says "Don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be deceived: No sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, or anyone practicing homosexuality, no thieves, greedy people, drunkards, verbally abusive people, or swindlers will inherit God's kingdom. And some of you used to be like this. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

Following Jesus requires us to embrace a new life and put sinful behaviors in past tenses (i.e.: "were"). As God changes us and we submit to these changes, one by one our sins, wrong habit patterns, behaviors and defects of character are removed and HE makes us into His image. During this process, we choose not to condemn our brothers for where they are in their particular journey, instead we pray for a quick change, so that judgement does not come upon any of us.

## GOD LOVES AND CORRECTS *his children*

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world"... that excludes no one! He deeply loves us all! This great love is not however an excuse to condone sin. Denial or deception concerning sin does not remove its consequences. Repentance and receiving forgiveness is what we ALL need in every area of our lives where we have excused our own sin. Jesus told the Pharisees "whoever is without sin cast the first stone". So condemning the sins of another Paul says causes judgement to come upon the one doing the condemning! On the other side of this coin the same Jesus that told the woman caught in adultery "neither do I condemn you", also told her, "go and sin no more". God's love is unconditional however his correction is conditional.

Our sin does not make God love us less, but our denial of sin makes us vulnerable to God's judgment! Scripture teaches in **1 Cor 11:31-32**. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. Getting honest with ourselves with our own sin and turning from it, is our way "out" of judgement.



God does not show favoritism. Romans 2:11

Today we emphasize the Love of of God, and we should do this for love is His very nature and character. To assume, however, that love has no consequences underestimates the "father heart" of God. Hebrews 12:6 "For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child." In this permissive culture we must not be wishy washy but we must deal with sin in our lives!

We need to repent of all sin, not just the ones we don't like. If you're living together in fornication, stop - repent, get married or separate. If you're practicing anger, rage, sexual perversions, stealing, drugs or alcohol and more -STOP seek help and deliverance and counselling- don't just ignore sin, repent and let God's grace empower you to change!