

Shema Series
Moral Conversion
04/22/23
Newport News

(Honoring Chris & 4/29 PUSH)
Opening

-Participation: favorite family games...cards or board games?

1. The rule people
2. The fun people
3. The competitive people

-But everyone playing a game has said at some point, **"Hey, you can't do that."**

-So in life, who decides what is right and what is wrong? And more specifically, as Christians do we have a practice of pointing that phrase at ourselves?

-I believe this is the single biggest contributing factor to Christians today undermining our witness for Christ to the world...the disparity that far too often exists between what we say we believe and how we live.

Introduction

-Moral Conversion means being responsible to cultivate habits that embody the moral *warehouse* one has embraced and to live according to a broader social responsibility. (discipleship community...vital)

-Did you know there are several psychological forces that make good people do bad things? (explains "good" and "bad")

-(reference article you read had 14...here are 5)

1. **Broken Window Theory** (rundown communities...)
2. **Cognitive Dissonance** (stress from internal conflict...)
3. **The Pygmalion Effect** (the way I'm treated...)
4. **Reactance Theory** (if my rights are infringed upon...)
5. **The Compensation Effect** (the accounting mindset...)

(tonight talking about staying true to our moral compass)

Recap

-(show the Shema diagram)

-(explain word Shema)

-rebellious - reluctant - reflexive

-I want the reflex of my heart to be one of obedience to God!

-(show the Shema diagram)

- **Moral Conversion means being responsible to cultivate habits that embody the moral warehouse one has embraced and to live according to a broader social responsibility.**

-I am never going to be better at being obedient to God until I learn how to be true to myself, which MUST include genuine care and compassion for others!

The Right Rules

-St. Augustine (famous theologian who lived from 354 to 430 AD) on sin, “An utterance, a deed, or a desire contrary to the eternal law”

-Together at City Life, we ask these...

-Is _____ a sin of omission or commission?

(James 4:17) - ref.

-Is _____ a sin of morality, conscience, or liberty?

(Romans 13:8-14 and Romans 14) - ref.

-Is _____ a sin that is time bound?

(Matthew 15:13) - read and explain “uprooted”

-Is _____ a sin that leads to death?

(1 John 5:17...venial vs. mortal) - ref.

-If you ignore the complexity of something in an effort to simplify truth, you inevitably create the confusion you were trying to avoid.

-Any sin that i listed in Scripture with the stated consequence of spiritual death, eternal damnation, or the loss of Heaven as an inheritance...can never be time bound or a matter of conscience.

**(1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 5:3-5)*

The Right Reasons

-Moral Conversion means being responsible to cultivate habits that embody the moral warehouse one has embraced and to live according to a broader social responsibility.

-John 8:1-11

>Is Jesus minimizing her sin?

>I believe here he is exposing the sin of the religious, shaming another for their own gain...

>it's not their rule book He is confronting, it's their reason for exposing her and the manner in which it was done...

>"Go and sin no more" = command to repent (not just sorrow and regret)

- 2 Chronicles 7:14..."Go and sin no more is paraphrase!"
- Love how "accusers" started with Scripture and Jesus ends with it!
- "Accusers" all left, but there was still a crowd, sometimes people leaving your church is not a bad thing!

*-I am never going to be better at being obedient to God until I learn how to be true to myself, which **MUST** include genuine care and compassion for others!*

Band

-I want the reflex of my heart to be one of obedience to God!

-(show the Shema diagram)

-Questions (Moses in Pharaoh's House)

- **Have I taken personal responsibility for my life and actions?**
- **Do I act the same when I am in public as when I am alone?**
- **Do I cultivate virtues & values and develop habits that enable me to live by my principles?**
- **Do I acknowledge and confront my inconsistent behavior?**
- **Is my sense of right and wrong moving more toward care and compassion for others?**

Close

(WELCOME HOME MOMENT)