

Sin and Condemnation: The World's need to get right with God

(61)

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[Romans 1:18-3:20](#)

(Continuation from 03/19/17)

D. God's Case against the Religionist (Jew), [Romans 2:17-29](#)

[\(Romans 2:17-29\)](#) **Introduction— Religionist— Jew:** this passage is an excellent study of the Christian religionist or church member as well as of the Jew.

God's case against the Christian religionist **includes four points.**

1. **The religionist professes religion (v.17-20).**
2. **The religionist fails to live what he professes (v.21-24).**
3. **The religionist believes that a ritual (circumcision) is the way to secure God's approval (v.25-27).**
4. **The religionist misses the whole point: a true religionist is a man who is righteous inwardly (v.28-29).**

2. [\(Romans 2:21-24\) Religionists— Hypocrisy— False Profession:](#) the religionist (Jew) fails to live what he professes.

[Romans 2:21-24 \(NASB\)](#)

²¹“You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal?”

²² You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?”

²³ You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God?”

²⁴ For “The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,” just as it is written.”

This is seen in **five pointed questions.**

1. “You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?”

[Romans 2:21 \(NASB\)](#)

²¹“You, **therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?** You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal?”

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Series: The Book of Romans

The question is not only for teachers, but for everyone, because we all teach others. Throughout life we all claim to know some truths about morality and about how people should live and behave. We often share those truths with our children, friends, fellow workers, and others. When we share, and teach, do we not listen to the truth? Do we not teach ourselves? What right do we have to tell others how to live if we do not live that way? This is the sin of hypocrisy, a sin committed by so many religionists.

Matthew 23:28 (NASB)

²⁸“So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”

Luke 6:46 (NASB)

⁴⁶“Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?”

1 John 3:18 (NASB)

¹⁸“Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”

2. “You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal?”

Romans 2:21 (NASB)

²¹“You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? **You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal?**”

Do you take from others; do you.....

1. steal money?
2. steal from your job?
3. steal from your neighbor?
4. steal from your family?
5. steal while shopping?
6. steal while taking tests in school?

If you steal, what right do you have to say that others should not steal—that everyone else should not have the right to take what they want from whom they want? If enough people began to take what they wanted when they wanted, then the world would exist in utter chaos. If you say that men should not steal, why do you steal? This is the sin of too many religionists.

Stealing is a sin that leads to utter chaos. Because of its devastating effect, it is one of the ten commandments, and note: it is so important a commandment, it is repeated time and again.

Exodus 20:15 (NASB)

¹⁵“You shall **not steal.**”

Leviticus 19:11 (NASB)

¹¹“You **shall not steal,** nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another.”

Deuteronomy 5:19 (NASB)

¹⁹“You **shall not steal.**”

Matthew 19:18 (NASB)

¹⁸“Then he said to Him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not commit murder; You shall not commit adultery; **You shall not steal;** You shall not bear false witness.”

Romans 13:9 (NASB)

⁹“For this, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, **You shall not steal**, You shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Ephesians 4:28 (NASB)

²⁸“He who steals must **steal no longer**; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need.”

3. “You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery?”

Romans 2:22 (NASB)

²²“**You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery?** You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?”

You who want pure *brides* and spouses, husbands and *wives*, sons and *daughters*, do you live purely? What are you looking at and watching, reading and hearing?

Do you.....

1. look a second time?
2. read pornographic books, magazines, and novels?
3. have lustful thoughts?
4. harbor sexual thoughts?
5. dress in a manner exposing your body?
6. watch and support television films that have or suggest scenes of immorality?

Regardless of man's denial, we do what we think; and our thoughts come from what we see and watch, read and hear. Therefore, if we look and watch, read and listen to sexual suggestions, our thoughts center upon fleshly desires. This is the reason for the breakdown of morals in society. If you say a man should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? Do you commit it in your mind? This is a major sin among some religionists.

Christ knew this; therefore, He said.....

Matthew 5:27-28 (NASB)

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, **'You shall not commit adultery'**; ²⁸but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her **has already committed adultery** with her in his heart.”

4. "You who abhor idols, do you rob temples [do you commit sacrilege]?"

Romans 2:22 (NASB)

²²“You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? **You who abhor idols, do you rob temples [sacrilege-KJV]?**”

The word “sacrilege” (*hierosuleō*) means “to violate one's commitment to God and to rob from God”.

It means to consider something more important than God, something so important that it requires.....

- 1. the commitment that you owe God.
- 2. the tithes and offerings that you owe God.

You say that you worship God and abhor idols; yet you take what belongs to God—your commitment, your time, your energy, your tithes—and you give it to something else. You make something else more important than God; you make it an idol. This is one of the major sins of the religionists.

Deuteronomy 11:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“Beware that your hearts are not deceived, and that you do not turn away and serve other gods and worship them.”

Isaiah 42:8 (NASB)

⁸“I am the Lord, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images.”

1 John 5:21 (NASB)

²¹“Little children, guard yourselves from idols.”

5. “You who boast and take pride in the law [the Bible], through breaking the law do you not dishonor God?”

Romans 2:23 (NASB)

²³“You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God?”

The answer is clear.

- 1. We do dishonor God when we talk about His Word yet break His commandments.
- 2. We do dishonor God before men, causing His name to be blasphemed.

When we boast in God's Word yet break His commandments, we give great occasion for the world and its people to take the name of God and.....

- 1. blaspheme
- 2. curse
- 3. reproach
- 4. ridicule
- 5. mock
- 6. deny
- 7. insult
- 8. profane

Many a person is doomed because of the hypocrisy of religionists. This is one of the terrible sins of religionists.

Mark 7:6 (NASB)

⁶“And He said to them, “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me.’”

Titus 1:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“They profess to know God, but by *their* deeds they deny *Him*, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.”

James 3:10 (NASB)

¹⁰“From the same mouth come *both* blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.”