

The Reasons for Rebellion

Psalm 107:16-21

Psalm 107:16-21 (NASB)

¹⁶“For He has shattered gates of bronze And cut bars of iron asunder.

¹⁷ Fools, because of their rebellious way, And because of their iniquities, were afflicted.

¹⁸ Their soul abhorred all kinds of food, And they drew near to the gates of death.

¹⁹ Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble; He saved them out of their distresses.

²⁰ He sent His word and healed them, And delivered *them* from their destructions.

²¹ Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness, And for His wonders to the sons of men!”

Followers of Christ can get caught in the trap of trying to justify their wrongs. But when we dispense with all the creative excuses, everything can be boiled down to four reasons for rebellion:

- *I refuse to do what God commands.* There are obvious ways to ignore God’s laws, such as committing murder. But more often the subtle, private methods of disobeying become obstacles in our path. These might include harboring unforgiveness or ignoring pleas for help.

- *I pursue what is forbidden.* The Lord has declared certain things off limits. (See [Romans 1:28-32](#); [Galatians 5:19-21](#).) He doesn’t desire to ruin our pleasure, but He does know that some actions can have devastating consequences.

Romans 1:28-32 (NASB)

²⁸“And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,

²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are gossips,*

³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,

³¹ without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;

³² and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.”

Galatians 5:19-21 (NASB)

¹⁹“Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,

²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

- *I pursue something God allows, but in a forbidden manner.* We have a lot of freedom in the Christian life—wealth, success, and relationships are all available to us. But believers are not at liberty to achieve goals through theft, deceit, injustice, or the like.

• *I pursue what God allows, but in my own timing.* Impatience is oftentimes the reason people end up in debt or bad relationships. We decide to go after something before getting clear guidance from God.

Whenever you are faced with a decision, ask yourself this question: *What is the wisest thing for me to do?* Then stop, ask the Lord for direction, and wait until He answers. When we are doing the will of God, we never have to make excuses.