

What's Your Excuse?

By

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(New King James Version, unless otherwise noted; emphasis added)

In this teaching I would like to examine our tendency as humans to make excuses for our behavior. We need to understand that God is a God of intentions. His intention is forever good. We humans, on the other hand, have an innate tendency to harbor evil in our hearts and minds.

The origin of excuses:

The actions that arise from evil intentions in the heart bring about prideful destruction and when things go wrong, humans tend to point the finger at someone or something else. It has been that way since the Garden of Eden where Adam blamed the woman and even God and Eve blamed the serpent, (see Genesis 3:12-13).

Genesis 3 –

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹ Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where *are* you?”

¹⁰ So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

¹¹ And He said, “Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?”

¹² Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to *be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.”

¹³ And the LORD God said to the woman, “What *is* this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

In the fall of man that is recorded in Genesis chapter 3, no one took accountability for their wrong choices and we humans, (and indeed the entire planet) have been suffering since that day. What is an excuse anyway? Why do we make them? How can we stop making excuses and change the way things are in this world? These are some of the issues we will look into and hopefully answer within this teaching. We humans are flawed and have the sin nature within our bodies and we may see ourselves as miserable and without hope but what does God think of us? In Jeremiah 29 God says to us...

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Here we can see that God thinks good things about us and His intention is only good and nothing of evil. But what of us humans; how do our hearts measure up? God says in Jeremiah 17...

Jeremiah 17 –

⁹ **“The heart is deceitful above all things,
And desperately wicked;**

Who can know it?

¹⁰ I, the LORD, search the heart,
I test the mind,
Even to give every man according to his ways,
According to the fruit of his doings.

And Jesus said in Luke 6...

Luke 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. **For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.**

So it appears that the location of our intentions is in our hearts. If we are what Jesus called a 'good man', then we will have good intentions in our heart and thus speak forth good things. People who have evil intentions in their heart will speak forth and do evil things. God will not honor the latter.

Proverbs 2:12 A good man obtains favor from the Lord, But a man of wicked intentions He will condemn.

How can we determine what God knows as expressed in Jeremiah 17 about the intents of the heart? The answer is found in Hebrews 4...

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

*Here we can see that it is the **Word of God which we can use to determine the intents of a person's heart.** So if a person walks according to the Word of God, then he/she will speak the Word of God continually and we will be able to see by the fruit of their lips what is in their heart.*

Proverbs 18 –

²⁰ A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth;
From the produce of his lips he shall be filled.

²¹ Death and life are in the power of the tongue,
And those who love it will eat its fruit.

On the other hand, if someone has evil in their heart then their actions and words will belie their evil intent. They may speak flattery but their words will only cause division.

Romans 16 –

¹⁷ Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. ¹⁸ For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

Jude –

⁵ But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶ **And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;** ⁷ as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

⁸ Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. ⁹ Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" ¹⁰ **But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.** ¹¹ Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

¹² These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving *only* themselves. *They are* clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; ¹³ raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

¹⁴ Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, ¹⁵ to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

¹⁶ **These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.** ¹⁷ But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: ¹⁸ how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. ¹⁹ These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

So how exactly will we be able to discern the one who speaks flattering words which sound good but their heart is full of evil? I believe it is found in how they deal with the error of their ways. A 'good' person will NOT make excuses and will own up to their actions whether good or in error because this is in essence what the Word of God teaches us. True Christians will repent if they are in error and will not wait until they 'get caught' to do so. The good person will have a sense that God is always watching and will not care so much what other people think but will be more concerned with what God thinks of them.

Conversely, the evil person WILL make excuses for their behavior and will not come forward as a result of a guilty conscience but will only say they are sorry if they get caught. And even then they will likely speak with a 'forked tongue' and say they are sorry but will make an excuse for their error in the same breath, typically pointing the finger like Adam and Eve did, (see the teaching, 'I Am Sorry – Apology or Repentance').

We can see in Proverbs 2:12 above that God's favor will be with a man of good intentions and He will condemn a man with evil intentions. So we need to be aware that the intentions of a person's heart are spelled out in their words. Jesus said further in Matthew 12...

Matthew 12 –

³³ "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by *its* fruit. ³⁴ Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵ **A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.** ³⁶ **But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.** ³⁷ **For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."**

Excuses are lies:

When I was a child, I once heard a minister say during a sermon that 'deep down inside every excuse is a lie'. That has really echoed in my heart throughout my life. This teaching is fundamentally targeted at expanding upon that notion. I would like to expound upon the idea and rather say that

the root of every excuse is evil in the heart. A person who has a good heart will not make excuses but will repent and try to change. But how do we overcome the evil that is in our heart from the fall of Adam? The answer is to receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior and to allow Him to enter our heart and change us from the inside out. That is really the only way that the evil intent of the heart that God speaks of in Jeremiah 17 can be overcome, but it has to be because WE want to change.

Often times it is difficult to tell the true from the false, especially when someone is skilled at making excuses. I have also found in my walk with Jesus, (especially since I have been in Africa for many years now) that people will tell you what they believe you want to hear and they will not really care whether or not what they say is true. In other teachings I have explained that God has shown me there are three reasons that people lie...

1. To look good in the eyes of others
2. To justify their position, (even if it is wrong)
3. To get something they think they cannot get without lying

In all cases the lie will originate in an evil heart and is rooted in the fear of something other than God, which is a form of idolatry. Jesus said...

Matthew 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather **fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**

We need to fear God more than what people think of us or what we can get apart from obeying God. There is nothing on this earth that is worth going to hell over. So, even if a person gains something in this life by lying, it will do them no good in the end.

Revelation 21 –

⁷ He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. ⁸ But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and **all liars** shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

Matthew 16 –

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him **deny himself**, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶ **For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?** ²⁷ For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

How to overcome:

God will never force us. He may encourage us sternly through punishments but in the end He will not force us to do the right thing. The decision must come from us. And Jesus said, as recorded in Matthew 12 above, it is up to **US** to either make the tree and its fruit good or bad. This means that we must make ourselves and the intentions of our heart that lead to our words either good, (through abiding in Jesus through obedience) or make ourselves bad by holding onto the sin nature that we were all born with. It is a choice we all have to make in this life. Only those who overcome the sin nature through working with the Spirit of God and learning to walk according to the Holy Spirit, (and not according to the flesh) will make that transition and find the favor of God in our lives, as well as have an eternity with God. Everyone else will end up in the lake of fire with all the other liars. There are only two categories of people in the earth, the 'overcomers' mentioned in Revelation 21:7 who,

(with the help of God) overcome the sinful nature and the second category of people is everyone else, as mentioned in verse 8. Only the overcomers will find the favor of God and live forever with Him. Everyone else will end up in the lake of fire where they will find eternal destruction. Again, the choice is ours to make.

When people make the wrong choice and give in to the lusts of the flesh they end up doing what the majority of people do and go down the wide path that leads to the lake of fire. Why do they make the wrong choice? Because it is easier to do what the majority of people are doing. It is easier to simply 'fit in'.

Matthew 7 –

¹³ “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

¹⁵ “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’

²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

²⁴ “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

²⁶ “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

In these verses we can see that Jesus said it will be difficult to do things His way...the ‘narrow’ way and few will do what He wants them to do. It is easier to follow the wide path that most people are taking through this life. Even many of those who call themselves ‘Christian’ or say that they love Jesus will not actually DO what He wants them to do but will do things in His name without living according to what He taught. Those that do the right thing and abide in Jesus through obedience to Him will be able to withstand even the most difficult times and challenges because they operate by God’s wisdom. They will not talk so much but will do what Jesus directs them to do THE WAY He wants them to do things and not just talk about it. They will be peacemakers and live in peace.

James 3 –

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. ¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Those who follow the way of the world, even if they claim to be followers of Jesus, will have confusion and every evil thing in their lives. They will not be able to stand in the day of challenges and will come to destruction in due time because to live life according to the dictates of our own mind is foolish pride and cannot bring true happiness or peace.

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way *that seems* right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

It is essential that we do things God's way and learn to walk according to the leading of the Holy Spirit and the wisdom of God.

James 1 –

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ *he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

We need to pray about everything and do what the Bible teaches us to do without wavering. God will not accept any reasons or excuses for doing otherwise. Jesus gave examples in a parable about the kingdom of God of what will happen if people fail to do as He directs them to do, even if they have what we might consider 'legitimate' excuses.

Luke 14 –

¹⁵ Now when one of those who sat at the table with Him heard these things, he said to Him, "Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!"

¹⁶ Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, ¹⁷ and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' ¹⁸ But they all with one *accord* began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' ¹⁹ And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' ²⁰ Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' ²¹ So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here *the poor* and *the maimed* and *the lame* and *the blind*.' ²² And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' ²³ Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, that my house may be filled.' ²⁴ For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.' "

²⁵ Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, ²⁶ "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish it— ²⁹ lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see *it* begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish?' ³¹ Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. ³³ So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

³⁴ "Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? ³⁵ It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

In this parable we can see that Jesus is clearly putting forth the principle that God does not accept excuses. He will not allow ANYONE who does not do His will but rather walks according to their own ways to enter His kingdom. That is because Lucifer was an angel of light who was very close to God but he decided that he could take over heaven and do things HIS way. Lucifer though he knew better than God and he convinced a third of the angels to follow him in his rebellion but it did not turn out well for them. God will never allow such to happen again. He wants us to be different than Lucifer and his followers. We must prove to God in this life that we hate even the very flesh that we walk in and that we love Jesus more than anything on this planet. Otherwise we will not be allowed to enter the kingdom of God but will end up in the lake of fire with Lucifer, (who is now known as Satan) and his followers, (see the teaching, 'Why the Flesh?').

Disobedience and excuses:

There is another very good example of what disobedience and making excuses will cost a person. King Saul was the first king of Israel. He had everything, good looks, intelligence, money and power. But he was rather afraid of what people thought of him than what God thought of him and he therefore disobeyed God. So God took everything from him and he eventually died in misery and torment.

1 Samuel 15 –

¹Samuel also said to Saul, "The LORD sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of the LORD. ²Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. ³Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.' "

⁴So Saul gathered the people together and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men of Judah. ⁵And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and lay in wait in the valley.

⁶Then Saul said to the Kenites, "Go, depart, get down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt." So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. ⁷And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt. ⁸He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. ⁹But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all *that* was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.

¹⁰Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, ¹¹"I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments." And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night. ¹²So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal." ¹³Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD."

¹⁴But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?"

¹⁵ And Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed."

¹⁶ Then Samuel said to Saul, "Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night."

And he said to him, "Speak on."

¹⁷ So Samuel said, "When you *were* little in your own eyes, *were* you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel? ¹⁸ Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are ^[b]consumed.' ¹⁹ Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the ^[c]spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?"

²⁰ And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. ²¹ But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal."

²² So Samuel said:

**"Has the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,
As in obeying the voice of the LORD?
Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,
And to heed than the fat of rams.**

**²³ For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,
And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.
Because you have rejected the word of the LORD,
He also has rejected you from *being* king."**

²⁴ Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. ²⁵ Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD."

²⁶ But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel."

²⁷ And as Samuel turned around to go away, *Saul* seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. ²⁸ So Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, *who is* better than you. ²⁹ And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He *is* not a man, that He should relent."

³⁰ Then he said, "I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD your God." ³¹ So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD.

³² Then Samuel said, "Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me." So Agag came to him cautiously.

And Agag said, "Surely the bitterness of death is past."

³³ But Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women." And Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.

³⁴ Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house at Gibeah of Saul. ³⁵ And Samuel went no more to see Saul until the day of his death. Nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul, and the LORD regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel.

In this story we can see that God was angry and regretful about choosing Saul as king of Israel. It took years for God to raise David up to replace Saul but He eventually did. When Saul died he had lost

everything and was a miserable mess. His life was ruined after this event. He no doubt ended up in hell as well.

As an aside, most people do not understand why God would have the Israelites destroy every living thing in a region but it was because the Amalekite people had mixed with fallen angels as described in Genesis chapter 6, (as had most of the people in the land of Canaan). They had produced giant offspring and had even mated with animals, so the entire gene pool of these peoples had been corrupted from what God had created, not to mention that they were evil pagans who worshipped the fallen angels as their gods. Thus, the one, true God wanted them done away with, so they would not contaminate the genetic pool of the Israelites. That is why God had sent the flood of Noah, to wipe out these genetic mutants who were working to undermine the plan of God for mankind in the earth, (see the teachings 'The Great Deception', 'Atlantis Rising' and 'Demons, Evil Spirits, Aliens, UFO's and the Rich Elite').

One might ask why God would not simply destroy them Himself? The reason is that He did so once with the flood of Noah but the same thing happened after the flood and this time He had the nation of Israel that He called His own. God wanted them to overcome their human compassion and do things God's way and to thus prove their allegiance to Him. He wanted to know if they loved Him more than any mortal being or physical treasure on earth, (see Luke 14:15-35 above). And the people led by Saul failed miserably. They did things their own way and when they got caught by the prophet Samuel, Saul made excuses and pointed the finger at others when it was his job to lead them in the way God told them to go. In this event, Saul proved himself unworthy of being king and God had to replace him with David, whom God says in Acts 13:22 was a man after His own heart. While David was not without fault and even committed adultery and murder, the difference between him and Saul is that when David sinned and was confronted about it, he repented and made an effort to change. God does not accept apologies. He only honors and accepts repentance, (see the teaching, 'I Am Sorry – Apology or Repentance').

So in the story of Saul and the Amalekites we can see that Saul feared what people thought of him more than he feared God. This is idolatry. And we see in what Samuel said to Saul that rebellion, (or not doing as God directs us to do) is like the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness, (which shows that the person really believes they are right and God is wrong) is as inequity and idolatry. So one does not have to practice the dark arts or cast spells to operate in witchcraft according to the Bible. One also does not have to worship inanimate objects to practice idolatry. If someone does what THEY want to do rather than what God wants them to do it is witchcraft and idolatry to God and Revelation 21:8 says those people will end up in the lake of fire. Is it really worth ending up as eternal 'toast' to be able to say, 'I did it my way'? I do not believe so.

Excuses are lies that are expressed by an individual in an effort to cover up the error one has committed when they are caught in sin. God will never accept ANY excuse but only confession of the sin and a continued effort to overcome the sin. This is the only way one can truly live in Jesus Christ and have eternal life. Excuses are of the world and not of God. Jesus said in John 15...

John 15 –

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.²¹ But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.²³ He who hates Me hates My Father also.²⁴ If I had not done

among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. ²⁵ But *this happened* that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'

Because Jesus came and set things right there is no longer any excuse for sin, only a certain expectation of eternal judgment and fiery indignation from God. We can no longer willfully sin and expect that God will simply overlook that behavior or attitude.

Hebrews 10 –

²⁶ For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. ²⁸ Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on *the testimony* of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

True repentance and willing obedience:

God will only honor true repentance and willing obedience.

Isaiah 1 –

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD,
You rulers of Sodom;
Give ear to the law of our God,
You people of Gomorrah:

¹¹ "To what purpose *is* the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?"

Says the LORD.

"I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
And the fat of fed cattle.
I do not delight in the blood of bulls,
Or of lambs or goats.

¹² "When you come to appear before Me,
Who has required this from your hand,
To trample My courts?

¹³ Bring no more futile ^[f] sacrifices;
Incense is an abomination to Me.

The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies—
I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting.

¹⁴ Your New Moons and your appointed feasts

My soul hates;

They are a trouble to Me,

I am weary of bearing *them*.

¹⁵ When you spread out your hands,

I will hide My eyes from you;

Even though you make many prayers,

I will not hear.

Your hands are full of blood.

¹⁶ "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean;
Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes.

Cease to do evil,

¹⁷ Learn to do good;

Seek justice,

Rebuke the oppressor;

Defend the fatherless,

Plead for the widow.

¹⁸ **"Come now, and let us reason together,"**

Says the LORD,

"Though your sins are like scarlet,

They shall be as white as snow;

Though they are red like crimson,

They shall be as wool.

¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient,

You shall eat the good of the land;

²⁰ But if you refuse and rebel,

You shall be devoured by the sword";

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Herein we can see that God will call us to reason with Him. But He is not really interested in hearing our reasons for rebellion. He will never accept those reasons and will only punish people for their rebellion. In order to have the favor of God, we need to be willing to obey Him and not to rebel. Anything else will not be acceptable to God. Even if we have committed many sins against God, if we will simply humble ourselves before Him and confess those sins, He will be faithful to forgive them. But if people commit sin and they try to make excuses for their sin by saying things like, "I am only human", in effect they are denying their sin and calling God a liar.

1 John 1 –

⁵This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

So let us come before God and honor the blood of Jesus that sets us free from sin and STOP SINNING. If we simply stop sinning then we will not need to have any fear on the Day of Judgment because we will not need to have excuses or reasons for our sin since it will not exist. But if we fall short of what God calls us to do let us not make excuses but confess our shortcomings and ask for forgiveness and also ask Jesus to help us to stop sinning. This is the true love of God and His way, not the way of the world which is full of excuses.

1 John 4 –

¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear,

because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us.

Fear involves torment. King Saul was tormented in his life because of he feared people more than he feared God. This is the error of many. We need to fear God and Him alone, just as Jesus said. Fear is a choice. We choose what and whom we will fear. God wants us to choose to fear Him and nothing and no one else. Anything less than that is unacceptable to Him. Fear of something other than God is the root of every lie ever told. So lying is always a choice. Excuses are lies wrapped up in a nice package of words that are meaningless to God. Excuses come from the intention to deceive that is in the person's heart. If there is deception in the heart then that person is not following God and will never enter the kingdom of God because they have chosen to live in the darkness of lies over the light of the truth of Jesus. Again, NOTHING on this earth is worth ending up in the lake of fire. I recommend that we choose to fear God and Him alone and to stop making excuses for our shortcomings. Rather let us do as the Bible teaches...to CONFESS our sins and ask for forgiveness and God will forgive us. If we try to 'explain' what happened when we decided to sin, God does not want to hear it and will never accept those excuses because they are rooted in fear and are lies. So let me ask you...'What's your excuse?' for not obeying God...the answer according to the Bible is, you don't have one! So repent and ask Jesus to help you change.

Romans 1 –

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. ²⁰ **For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that *they are without excuse*,**²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. ²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers,³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

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