

The Forgotten Key

by Ray Comfort

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I once spoke with a man who was mystified as to why people cross the white line of morality. "On one side of the white line you have law-abiding citizens who pay their taxes and are generally good people," he asserted. "On the other side of the line you have those who are lawless and corrupt. What makes people cross the white line?" I told him that the "white line" was there because he had put it there; on one side was his idea of good and the other side his idea of evil. The Law, God's "white line," is ten miles up the street!

Man deceives himself by making God in his own image. God rebuked His own people, saying,

"You thought that I was altogether like you" (Psalm 50:21)

In other words, man thinks that God shares his moral standards; but Jesus told the Pharisees,

"what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God" (Luke 16:15).

We find consolation by comparing ourselves to human standards. When we take a look at the rest of humanity, none of us fares too badly.

"But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise." (2 Corinthians 10:12)

The only standard by which people should compare themselves is the Law of God. Most evangelicals, however, shy away from even mentioning the Law in preaching or in personal witnessing. Why is this? Probably because they are ignorant of its true function. They are mystified by Scriptures such as,

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul" (Psalm 19:7)

Finney, speaking of the use of the Law to expose sin, says, "I remark that this is the rule, and the only just rule by which the guilt of sin can be measured..." In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said that the poor in spirit, those that mourn, and those who are meek are "blessed." Why? Because their condition enables them to receive the gospel as the power of God unto salvation. The unawakened sinner is not mourning, poor, or meek and, therefore, needs the Law to bring the knowledge of sin. Until then, he feels the preaching of the cross is foolishness.

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