

Acts # 73 “We Are God’s Creation, He Is Not Ours”

Acts 17:16-23

The sin of anger motivates jealousy which leads to cruelty which is often expressed through gossip and judging of other people.

The old expression ‘Two wrongs don’t make a right’ is true; we cannot gain happiness from someone else’s unhappiness which is what retaliation tries to do.

We can NEVER become happy by getting revenge.

To punish someone else with revenge tactics such as verbal sins or physical violence is obstruction of divine justice which always backfires.

Unrestrained anger stems from arrogance and if remained unchecked, becomes a motivation for murder.

Here is Paul becoming all things to all men that he may win some to Christ; so note that he reasoned with anyone in the marketplace who would listen.

These are smart people who love to show off their prowess as intellectual giants and Paul is no slouch himself; he can compete with anyone in virtually any discussion but he’s not sent by God to win arguments, he’s commissioned as an apostle, to win souls!

Idolatry is caused by rejection of Jesus Christ as Savior and substituting self, someone else or something else as one’s god.

Rejection of God’s only Savior Jesus Christ, creates a vacuum in the soul and into that vacuum is drawn some form of idolatry which begins in the mind and then manifests itself through outward practice.

Idolatry eventually produces unwarranted phobias and a variety of neurotic and psychotic conditions.

Religion is the worst thing that ever entered the world because it causes all its followers to constantly stumble and Christianity is the best thing in the world as Jude 24 states: ‘To Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy.’

Religion is man seeking to gain the approval of God by human works, either for salvation as an unbeliever or for spirituality as a believer.

But Christianity is God doing something for man through His grace and therefore, He receives the glory for man’s salvation and his spirituality.

Their idolatry stems from their rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Believers in Jesus Christ can become immoral through demon influence but demon

possession related to idolatry is seen in unbelievers only.

Paul will proclaim the One and only God to them getting them to realize that they don't know everything about the gods and he can offer some added information for their enlightenment.