

“Just Don’t Tell the Preacher!”

(By Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Illustration: Small children, playing hide and seek, will believe themselves to be hidden when they cover their eyes. They believe that if they can’t see you, you can’t see them. With their hands over their eyes, they are in the dark in more ways than one; their reasoning is child-like and unenlightened. That’s cute; and, a lot of adults will play that game with them endlessly.
 - 1. It ceases to be amusing when adults try to play hide and seek in spiritual matters
 - 2. Last year I received a surprise when I was told that some of the young people here go to dancing with the approval of their parents. When I asked how it is that I haven’t heard of it, the answer came back that the parents say to their children, “Just don’t tell the preacher.”
 - 3. Think that kind of reasoning through: “As long as the preacher doesn’t know, then God won’t be able to see me.”
 - 4. “No, Paul, what you don’t understand is that some of us believe you are too strict and conservative; we have come to believe that dancing and such things are ok now.”
 - 5. You know, I heard the same reasoning for Christians wearing swimsuits on public beaches when I was preaching in Ohio; I heard the same reasoning about social drinking in Arkansas; I heard the same reasoning for viewing pornography here about seven years ago
- B. I have some searching questions for you
 - 1. Are you confident in the core of your being that kind of reasoning will be accepted by the Lord when you stand before Him in judgment?
 - 2. Are you aware that each generation tends to carry things further than the previous one? In other words, when you tell your children they can go to dances, do you consider how much further into sinful conduct they will permit your grandchildren to go?
 - 3. Are you aware that kind of conduct blurs the distinct nature of the message of the Gospel you are to manifest before the world?
 - 4. While I was initially hurt when I heard of this, it hurts me more to know that in my 35 years of experience as a preacher, one day you will come to me when your children grow up, leave home, and depart the faith, asking for me to say something to help bring them back to the Lord.

I. CAN YOU REALLY HIDE ANYTHING FROM GOD?

- A. Jer. 23:24, 49:10; Ez. 28:3; Isa. 59:12; Num. 32:23; Rev. 6:15-16
- B. Everything you do and say is noted by the Lord, whether good or bad
 - 1. Matt. 10:42, 12:36; 2Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10; Ecc. 12:14
- C. Can you hide your sins from the people around you?
 - 1. Sometimes for a long time, seldom from Moms, often from the preacher and the elders

D. Can you hide from God?

1. Jonah 2:1 - Jonah was at the bottom of the sea in the stomach of the great fish far from home, and God heard his prayer
2. Psalm 139:7-12; Gen. 3:8-10; Matt. 10:26

II. CAN HIDING SINS FROM THE PREACHER MAKE THE SINS LESS SINFUL?

A. Whether or not the preacher knows about the sin has no impact on the sinful nature of the sin or the condemnation attached to it

1. If a preacher tells you it is acceptable to sin, will that make the sin acceptable to God?
 - a. Nor does the preacher calling an acceptable behavior a sin make it a sin
2. Whether I know or not has no impact on what God sees you do, and has no impact on whether or not the activity is sinful.
3. Righteousness and sin are defined in the scriptures, and it is your responsibility to know them and act accordingly.

III. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT DANCING?

A. The same thing it says about immodesty and social drinking; the same thing it has been saying for thousands of years.

1. The fact that it is accepted by the world changes nothing
2. The fact that it is accepted in many denominational doctrines changes nothing
3. The fact that some of the brethren here have come to believe it is acceptable doesn't change what is written
4. My Ohio brethren who believe it is ok to lay on the beach in a modern bathing suit in full view of others, have changed nothing about what the Bible says about immodesty
5. My Arkansas brethren who believe it is ok to have a few beers or glasses of wine, have changed nothing about what the Bible says about drinking alcohol

B. We will have a lesson on dancing in the near future, and as always, we will consider what the Bible says about it.

1. To dismiss what the Bible says about this as merely the preacher's overly conservative view, puts you and your children at risk