

KEY THOUGHTS

- Last week's message about sin brings with it a necessary question: What does that sin in us do to our relationship with God? What is its cost to us?
- We incorrectly believe that there are "tolerable sins" which God puts up with in us, and that there are "those really bad sins", ones we can call Crimes We're Embarrassed About (C.W.E.A.).
- C.W.E.A. have consequences attached to them.
- C.W.E.A. lure us deeper.
- C.W.E.A. break our relationship with God.
- What's so mysterious about all this?
- 1. My C.W.E.A has a severe punishment attached to it. (Romans 6:23)
- But we ask, "How can our 'tolerable sins' deserve death?" Partly because we're not just sinning against each other, we're sinning against God Himself!
- Luke 23:34 – when Jesus said from the cross that "they don't know what they are doing," He was referring to the fact that they were putting to death the Son of God.
- In our own sin, WE don't know what WE are doing! It's not the offense we don't know about, it's who we are offending!
- 2. The good news is that Jesus paid for my C.W.E.A., should I choose to accept it.
- God's "stick-to-it-ness" is much stronger than some of us think.
- A word about the fear that we're talking about "cheap grace" and that God overlooks our sinfulness. There is a tension in 1 John related to what we say about sin:
 - 1 John 3:4-6 teaches us several things:
 - Where Jesus goes, He changes things.
 - When Jesus enters my life, my heart, behavior, and attitudes change.
 - C.W.E.A. are an offense to the Lord and to those who follow Him.
 - The Lordship of Jesus over my life compels me to sin not.
 - And yet 1 John 18-9 has a tension to it – if we say we have no sin we are deceiving ourselves.
 - The PENALTY of sin has been destroyed, its POWER has been weakened, but its PRESENCE still lingers.
- The mystery of the gospel is that God would even stay with us!
- Philippians 1:6 – what a promise!
- How is this possible? GOD DOES NOT CHANGE (immutable).

SCRIPTURES

- Romans 6:23
- Luke 23:34
- 1 John 3:4-6
- 1 John 1:8-9
- Philippians 1:6
- Psalm 34:8

PRACTICAL & REFLECT

Some things I need to do to in relation to sin in my life:

- 1. Don't abuse the kindness of Jesus. It's this very kindness that leads us to repentance.
- 2. If lingering sin remains, recognize you're not knowing the grace of Jesus.
- 3. Psalm 34:8 – Perhaps you've not truly tasted and known the goodness of Jesus.
- 4. Surrender to the love of Jesus and let Him change you!