

Do You Think God Is Offended?

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In declaring the meaning of the parable of the tares, Jesus told what is going to happen at the end of this world. He said, “The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear” (Mt. 13:41-43). The Bible teaches that the kingdom of Christ is the church of Christ (Mt. 16:18-19; Acts 2:47; 8:12; 14:22-23; 17:7; 28:31). At the end of the world Christ is going to send forth his angels to gather out of his kingdom “all things that offend.”

Do you think God is offended when a Christian curses? (Eph. 4:29; Col. 3:8; 4:6; Mt. 12:36-37).

Do you think God is offended when a Christian drinks alcoholic beverages? (Hab. 2:15; Gal. 5:21; 1 Pet. 5:8).

Do you think God is offended when a Christian becomes guilty of fornication or adultery? (Mt. 5:32; 19:9; Gal. 5:19; Eph. 5:5).

Do you think God is offended when a Christian smokes cigarettes? (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19-20). Instead of demanding that the preacher prove it is wrong to smoke cigarettes, why don't we have the smoker try to prove it is right? After all he is the one doing it! (1 Thess. 5:21-22). [One of the rules at the SCDC (Shelby County Detention Center or Penal Farm) in Memphis which houses 3,500 inmates is that tobacco is considered contraband at that correctional facility. You won't see anyone lighting up a cigarette with impunity behind the razor wire at the SCDC.]

Do you think God is offended when a Christian is greedy and stingy? (Eph. 5:5; Col. 3:5-6).

Do you think God is offended when a Christian forsakes the assembly? (Heb. 10:25).

If God is offended at such things, and we have the assurance of his word that indeed he is, then what is going to happen when Christ returns? Never forget that Jesus said, “The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.” Members of the church who have fallen into sin stand in need of repentance now while time and opportunity linger! (Lk. 13:3; Rom. 2:4; Rev. 2:5, 16, 22; 3:3, 19).

*Careless soul, why will you linger, Wandering from the fold of God?
Hear you not the invitation? O prepare to meet thy God!*

*Why so thoughtless are you standing While the fleeting years go by,
And your life is spent in folly? O prepare to meet thy God!*

*Hear you not the earnest pleadings Of your friends who wish thee well?
And perhaps before tomorrow You'll be called to meet thy God!*

*If you spurn the invitation Till the Spirit shall depart,
Then you'll see your sad condition, unprepared to meet thy God!*

*Careless soul, O heed the warning, for your life will soon be gone;
O how sad to face the judgment, Unprepared to meet thy God!
--James Henry Stanley, 1909*

“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?” (1 Pet 4:17). A Christian who has fallen away is in greater danger than even those who have never named the name of Christ. Peter taught, “For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them” (2 Pet. 2:21).