

From: Grace Burkholder Stevenson <gb8@email.byu.edu>
To: puko@juno.com
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Subject: DOPE article...finally!

Favorite Sins

Have you ever woken up, joyously, to your alarm and thought, "Alas, today is the day I've been waiting for!! I can't wait to eat Bran Flakes, watch the news, gossip about my neighbors, yell at my brother, and for sure, not read my scriptures, be a bad example to my friends, and not help someone in need! What could ever make this day more perfect?" There aren't many people who would willingly plan these activities. However, how often do we willingly commit sins because they are our favorite sins to commit?

In Sunday School this past week our teacher talked about being forgiven of our sins and giving them up to the Lord. It seemed like an easy, and rather obvious, thing to do. I was really surprised when she said that many of us are unwilling to do this because we have our favorite sins! Think about it- what is your favorite sin...

In Matthew 19, we read "And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, this is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions."

The Savior told him that if he wanted to be perfect he must sell all he had and follow Him. Nevertheless, even knowing this, the young man "went away sorrowful" because he seemed to love riches more than he wanted to follow the Savior- his favorite sin.

It has been enlightening for me to think that we have sins we are choosing to hold onto for whatever reason. These are the things that are stopping us from progressing and coming closer to our Savior. We may feel as though we are justified in keeping our sins, i.e., we aren't really gossiping about someone else... just talking about them, but wouldn't want them to hear-or, It's not that I don't want to share the gospel... I just haven't had anyone to talk to about it.

These are just a couple examples of the many sins of omission or commission we may be hiding from ourselves. Most of the times, these sins we are holding onto are breaking commandments. For example, we were explicitly told to beware of pride, which includes gossiping, backbiting, coveting, and numerous other sins.

I challenge all of us to think of our favorite sins and to repent of them and come closer to the Savior.

GRACE STEVENSON 2/02