

“Justifying” Sin

I. Introduction

A. Though God exhorts us to *turn* from sin, Satan tempts us to look for excuses that “*justify*” sin. Consider twelve examples of this, and what Scripture teaches in response.

II. Blaming Sin on Others

A. One way some seek to justify sin is by shifting blame for wrongdoing to others. While other people can be a strong *influence* on us, no one can *force* us to sin. **Exodus 32:21-24**

III. “The Devil Made Me”

A. Some might seek to justify sin by claiming that “it couldn’t be helped” or “it’s Satan’s fault.” While Satan *tempts* us, he cannot *force* us to sin. We can and must *resist* him. **James 4:7**

IV. Attacking the Messenger

A. Some deflect attention away from their sin by going after those teaching the truth (or the truth itself). **Galatians 4:16**

V. Using Others as Our Standard

A. We might also be tempted to “justify” sin by comparing ourselves to others instead of the perfect standard of God’s will and God’s Son. **2 Corinthians 10:12; Matthew 7:13-14**

VI. “I’m a Good Person Overall”

A. We might seek to “justify” sin in one area by claiming that obedience in other areas makes it OK. **James 2:10**

VII. Taking God’s Grace for Granted

A. Similarly, some might think that living in sin is OK because “God’s grace will cover it.” **Acts 3:19; Romans 6:1-2**

VIII. Appealing to Claims of Men

A. Some seek to justify sin by referencing teachings of men that conflict with what God says. With any sin we want to “justify,” we can almost certainly find teachers to “tickle our ears.” Such does not change *God’s* teaching, though. **John 7:47-49; 2 Timothy 4:3-4**

IX. Twisting Scripture

A. Like those who tickle people’s ears, we might be tempted to twist Scripture in order to “justify” sin. **2 Peter 3:16**

X. “We Can’t Understand the Bible”

A. We might also seek to justify sin by claiming that some or all of God’s will can’t be understood. Yet, Scripture shows us that we can all understand the truth. **1 Thessalonians 5:27; Philippians 1:1**

XI. “To Each Their Own”

A. Similarly, some infer that God permits us to decide for ourselves whether something He teaches to be sin actually is. **Galatians 1:8-9**

XII. “No One Will Know”

A. There can also be a temptation to “justify” a sin by claiming that if no one knows about it, it doesn’t matter. Yet, sin is always serious, and it is always known by the Supreme Judge. **2 Samuel 11:27; Hebrews 4:13**

XIII. Doing Evil “That Good May Come”

A. Yet another way in which man seeks to justify sin is by claiming that “the end justifies the means.” God teaches that wrong is *wrong*, no matter the end goal. **Romans 3:8; Colossians 3:9**