

Romans 2:1-16 – Moral Sinners

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Therefore *[BECAUSE of what we've been reading in Romans 1:18-32]* you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things ["same kinds of things"]. ² But we know that the **JUDGMENT** of God is **ACCORDING TO TRUTH** against those who practice such things. ³ And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the **JUDGMENT** of God?

Romans 2:1-16 – Moral Sinners

Romans 2:1-16

⁴ Or do you **DESPISE** the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? ⁵ But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up (‘storing up’ or ‘accumulating’) for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶ who “will render to each one according to his deeds”: ⁷ eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;

Romans 2:1-16 – Moral Sinners

Romans 2:1-16

⁸ but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness — indignation and wrath, ⁹ tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; ¹⁰ but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹¹ For there is no partiality with God.

¹² For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law

Romans 2:1-16 – Moral Sinners

Romans 2:1-16

¹³ (for **NOT** the hearers of the law are justified in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; ¹⁴ for when Gentiles, who do **NOT** have the law, by nature **DO** the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law unto themselves, ¹⁵ who show (i.e.: display) the **WORK** of **THE LAW WRITTEN IN THEIR HEARTS**, their **CONSCIENCE** also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) ¹⁶ in the **DAY** when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

Romans 2:1-16 – Moral Sinners

God's Holy and Righteous Judgment against our sin, compared to our "judging of others" who sin (we don't have a leg to stand on) ...

Romans 2:1-16 – Moral Sinners

1. Therefore [BECAUSE of what we've been reading in Romans 1:18-32] you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things ["same kinds of things"].

We are NOT the righteous and holy judge, **GOD** is . We cannot be living in sin, living a life that is separated from God **and then** come along and see other folks doing certain kinds of sins, that you think are "wrong" and "**condemn**" them as if you are righteous. God says to such a person: "who do you think you are?" How can you condemn a person to hell, when you are on the way to hell, yourself?

Romans 2:1-16 – Moral Sinners

2. Paul is using a “FAKE PERSON” do argue against →
O man, whoever you are who judge

This is a Literary Device ... similar to a “straw man” ... but in this case it represents the sentiment of real people... there are real people who would, will, and do argue against God and His Word ... so Paul uses “O man” “whoever you are who judge...”

This person is who he argues against ... as an example to prove a point ... so that we can understand what he is attempting to teach us. It is similar to Role Playing exercises.

Romans 2:1-16 – Moral Sinners

3. The Accumulation of Wrath ... being stored for the DAY of Judgment, the Day of God's Wrath ... Romans 2:2-11

When unrepentant sinners (people who are not saved, people who are not genuinely born again) sin, each sin they commit, adds exponentially to their long sinful records ... God records every sin.

They **REJECT** God's Goodness and Love that would lead them to repentance.

Romans 2:8-9 but to those who are **self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness** — indignation and wrath, ⁹ tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil

Romans 2:1-16 – Moral Sinners

3. The Accumulation of Wrath ... being stored for the DAY of Judgment, the Day of God's Wrath ...

Revelation 20:11-15 -- Then I saw a **Great White Throne** and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and **books were opened**. And another book was opened, which is the **Book of Life**. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were **written in the books**. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the **Lake of Fire**. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone **NOT** found written in the **Book of Life** was cast into the **Lake of Fire**.

Romans 2:1-16 – Moral Sinners

4. The MORAL Sinner [the moralist] ... the Gentile, Moral Sinner (the non-Jewish pagan or atheist, pantheist, animist, agnostic, etc...) ... who has some morals ... may have some moral boundaries. They may be the nicest people, kind, moral, etc. but are very far from God. They are not saved, not born again and would be enemies of God in their hearts and minds (they would argue with God and even “judge God” if they had a chance, etc.) Yet, for some weird reason they hold to some moral framework, logical thinking, and are generally nice people (unless you bring up “religion” or things like that, etc.) They might say “at least I am not robbing banks or murdering people”. I might say, “I am glad you aren’t, as well”

Romans 2:1-16 – Moral Sinners

4. The MORAL Sinner [the moralist] ... the Gentile, Moral Sinner (the non-Jewish pagan or atheist, pantheist, animist, agnostic, etc...)

We are born with some sense of morality, especially an acute sense of “fairness”. When we hear children say, “mom, that isn’t fair...” we did not teach them this ... this sense is built into us from conception. We have a sense of “justice” and “fairness” ... but sin corrupts that and it becomes selfish and self-serving fairness. It is only “not fair” when it is against us. But when we are not fair to someone else, it is their fault

Romans 2:1-16 – Moral Sinners

5. Conscience →

“con” = “with” | “science” = “knowledge” → “with knowledge”
Thus, Conscience is “with knowledge” → a “mini-judge” that has some basis to “judge” or to discern thoughts, intentions, and possible actions and choices, etc. Whenever we think about doing something ... we do it **with knowledge**. We either listen to our conscience or ignore it. If our conscience is “innocent” it can be a better “judge” to listen to. If our conscience has been corrupted, hardened, or seared ... it can be a faulty “judge” to follow. In some cases a person’s conscience should NOT be listened to.

Stealing that Cookie from Grandma is always wrong ... unless... ???

Romans 2:1-16 – Moral Sinners

5. Conscience →

We are all born with a Conscience - an area connected with our heart and mind that is like a little “judge” of what is “right” and what is “wrong”. It is very, very basic at birth. It is fed and built up based upon our “up bringing” – how we are raised. Our environment, family life, culture, etc... can affect our conscience. The sinner’s conscience can be so corrupted that it can be considered to be “seared as with a hot iron”

(1 Timothy 4:2).

It can be so hardened as to be irreparable in some cases.

Romans 2:1-16 – Moral Sinners

5. Conscience →

When a person is Born Again in Christ, his/her conscience can become fully clean and can be fed with God's Holy Word and Empowered by God's Spirit so that it can become something to listen to when deciding on doing something that be Good or Bad, etc. → My godly, Biblical Sense of Right and Wrong, based upon God's Holy Word can be infused back into my Conscience.

The fact we were Created in the IMAGE of GOD is the ONLY Reason we have a Conscience in the First Place.

Why would we have a Conscience if we are just evolved by accident from slime ... if there is no God to answer to?

Romans 2:1-16 – Moral Sinners

6. We cannot Earn Eternal Life by doing Good... Although it sounds like Paul is saying that a person who does Good will inherit Eternal Life ... Paul is NOT saying what we think he is saying here. He is using another literary device ... compare / contrast...

Romans 2:7 - eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality

Have you ever sinned, at least once in your life, even a little sin?

James 2:10 → For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble (fail / sin) in one point, he is guilty of all.

Romans 2:1-16 – Moral Sinners

Moralists ... Gentile Moral Sinners...

They are still sinners ... even if they don't commit blatantly, outwardly rebellious sins against God in public (as we read about in Romans 1:18-32) ... and even if those Moral sinners disapprove of those sinful acts of public rebellion ... that doesn't help the case for the Sinful Moralist ... he / she is still in Sin and need of a Savior ... Judgment is coming.