

A person in a dark suit and white shirt is holding a dark-colored Bible. The Bible is open, and the person's hands are visible, resting on the pages. The background is dark and out of focus. The text is overlaid on the image in a bright yellow color.

Do We Have the Right to Declare God's Word?

Psalm 50:16-21

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¹⁶ But to the wicked God says: “What right have you to declare My statutes, or take My covenant in your mouth, ¹⁷ Seeing you hate instruction and cast My words behind you? ¹⁸ When you saw a thief, you consented with him, and have been a partaker with adulterers. ¹⁹ You give your mouth to evil, and your tongue frames deceit. ²⁰ You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother’s son. ²¹ These things you have done, and I kept silent; you thought that I was altogether like you; but I will rebuke you, and set them in order before your eyes.”

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Principle Established

- In alliance with wickedness when tolerating it
 - ◆ *Saw a thief and consented with him*
 - ◆ *Made a partaker with adulterers*
 - ◆ **How?** By tolerating evil rather than rebuking it
- Proverbs speak to the same principle
 - ◆ **17:15** *Justifying the wicked is abomination*
 - ◆ **24:24** *One covering for wicked will be cursed*
 - ◆ **28:4** *Praising the wicked = Forsaking the law*
- **Such deception aids wicked (Ezek. 13:22)**

In Nations of Israel & Judah

- **Rule for any nation:** *Proverbs 14:34*
- Judah allowed it at times (*1 Kgs. 14:22-24*)
 - ◆ Later put it away (*1 Kgs. 15:11-12; 22:46*)
 - ◆ Law accepted NO wickedness (*Deut. 23:17*)
- Israel destroyed for continually allowing it (*2 Kgs. 17:7-18*)
- Death sentence assured “*that there be no wickedness among you*” (*Lev. 20:10-13*)

In the Church

- **Ideal of purity stated: *2 Cor. 11:2-3***
- Cases of immorality tolerated in churches
 - *Rev. 2:20-23* Jezebel tolerated at Thyatira
 - *1 Cor. 5:1-13* Puffed up in receiving evil doer
 - *1 Cor. 15:33* Primary application to church
 - *Jude 3-4* Contend for the faith with false teachers
- In every case of evil present in any church, the instruction was always to **purge it**
- **Evil present is unequal yoke (*2 Cor. 6:14f*)**

In the Family

- **Must seek spiritual good of others: 1 Pet. 3**
- Acceptance of evil devastates the family
 - ◆ *Matthew 5:32*
 - ◆ *Matthew 19:9*
 - ◆ Immorality breeds more & more if not rebuked
- Note demands of love (*Rom. 12:9*)
 - ◆ “Abhor that which is evil”
 - ◆ “Cleave to that which is good”
- **No true love present if tolerate immorality**

Must Not Conceal Sin, But Must Expose, Rebuke & Purge It

- Dealt with severely in O.T. (*Deut. 13:6-11*)
 - ◆ “You shall not consent to him or listen to him”
 - ◆ “Nor shall your eye pity him”
 - ◆ “Nor shall you spare him or conceal him”
 - ◆ “Your hand shall be first against him”
- Same principle seen in N.T.
 - ◆ *Romans 1:32*
 - ◆ *Ephesians 5:7-12*

Are We Guilty of Tolerating Evil?

- **What do we do when we know of evil...**
 - ◆ *In the society around us?*
 - ◆ *In the local church?*
 - ◆ *In our family?*
 - ◆ *In our friends?*
- **Do we:**
 - ◆ Consent to the sinner or listen to his complaints?
 - ◆ Does our eye pity him & give him sympathy?
 - ◆ Do we spare or conceal him from exposure?
- **If so, must repent, changing attitude & action**

Does God see us as having the right to declare truth?