

Is it a Sin....?

By Nathan Boldt

Sometimes in Christian circles we get ourselves in a mess, not because we don't know the answer, but because we ask the wrong question. In high school, I would often come home to my parents with the question, "is it a sin to _____?" (You can fill in the blank with all the imaginable things a teenager is confronted with for the first time.)



My questions were answered in a memorable and Biblical lesson. My parents finally explained, "Nathan, you're asking the wrong question. The question should not be "Is it a sin to _____..." but rather, it should be "Would it be beneficial to _____?" What was meant by that answer?

Here are four things it taught me:

1. By me asking the question "Is it a sin to _____," what I was really saying was "What can I get away with doing and still be a Christian?" That question was showing my spiritual immaturity at that time in my life. In the New Testament, we are told to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, and soul." I must have not have been looking for ways to get closer to God, rather, I was looking to see how much like the world I could be and still be saved. I must have missed **Romans 12:1** "Do not be conformed to this world..."

2. Notice the New Testament is not filled with "Thou shall Nots", like the Old Testament is. We are under a different mindset. We must understand what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 10 "not all things edify", or in another area "not all things are beneficial." If I was truly asking, "How is this going to benefit others or how is this going to edify others," then it matters not whether it's so-called "sin". The fault comes when the Christian partakes in things without thinking whether it benefits others.

3. It taught me that the New Testament had no way of mentioning each and every new tool of the devil. There are products from the devil today that weren't even

around 100 years ago. Rather, God covered many of the weapons of Satan when He lets us know "our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit." Does that not cover a lot of the questions from teenagers today?

4. Finally, it taught me that my witness is more important than any freedom I may think I have. To put it mildly, there are simply some places a Christian should not hang around, words we should not say, or things we should not let inside our bodies; for our witness sake.

What a change in my approach to all these questions I had! Now, it's just common sense. Sometimes it as simple as asking, "Would God want me to do this?"

Really, it's easier than we make it sometimes.