

THE COSTLY SIN OF RATIONALIZATION

In my relatively short lifetime I have never seen the moral standards within our own society, and in the world in general, degenerate quite as rapidly as it has these past few years. That is not to say there hasn't always been an abundant amount of immorality on every continent throughout the centuries, but the enormous population in our contemporary world compounds the problem.

Sexual sins of the most perverse in nature are being embraced as normal and even healthy expressions of love. These sins, combined with a lack of natural affection and respect for others has penetrated every aspect of our society, including our universities. Only those families that embrace godly principles and incorporate them into their lives will remain unblemished.

Regarding rationalization in reference to our modern-day mainstream society, and the lowering of moral standards, I will paraphrase an old adage: "First we tolerate, secondly, we accept, and then, after a period of confusion, we finally embrace."

The deterioration of the family unit is evidenced by a steady increase in the crime rate. Many that choose a path of sin rationalize their actions by carelessly finding fault with defenders of righteousness, and by using the example of a few hypocrites as a reason for denouncing the words of ancient and modern-day prophets of God.

Rationalization breeds bewilderment and unhappiness, as we all have the spirit of deity within us that tells us when we are doing wrong. That spirit touches our conscience when we lower our standards and deviate from an honorable lifestyle. However, when we submit to less than honorable peer pressure and continue to embrace sin, our conscience will become calloused and it will not be as easy to recognize the promptings of the "Spirit of Christ" that we were born with.

Differentiation between right and wrong should be as distinguishable to every individual as the contrast between black and white. However, when we choose to rationalize and justify our sinful thoughts and actions we begin to accept a mixture of the two, and soon variations of gray begin to contaminate our judgment

Music we choose, including its lyrics, plays a big part in the building of our character, as they are outward manifestations of our inward thoughts and actions. For good or evil, we become a composite of what we choose to watch and hear. We do ourselves and others an injustice when we choose to validate corruptively suggestive music, writings, and movies.

The mistake of turning from our Savior and His teachings, undeniable truths that were taught to us in our youth, and gravitating toward the gentile religions of the world, is often a consequence of rebelliously compromising truth through rationalization.

Rationalization can be a formidable tool that Satan often uses in his attempts at deceptive persuasion in his battle to destroy ones soul.

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