

We are called to do good works! (Part 1)

Jesus against Antinomianism

Rev. 2:6; Eph. 2:8-10

	Commendation	Criticism	Instruction	Promise
Ephesus (2:1-7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rejects evil• doctrinal vigilance• Persevered in hardship through patience	Lost first Love	Do the works you did at first	The tree of life

⁶But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the **Nicolaitans**, which I also hate.

[Revelation 2:6](#)

"The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers."

[Psalm 5:5](#)

"Every evil of theirs is in Gilgal; there I began to hate them."

[Hosea 9:15](#)

"For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong."

[Jeremiah 44:4](#)

"do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath, for all these things I hate, declares the LORD.

[Zechariah 8:17](#)

Nicolaitans or Nikolaites”

(Strong #G3531)

Niko- conquest or victory over others

lai – people

tes – the

“The Conqueror of people”

⁵This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

Acts 6:5

Antinomianism

(from the Greek: ἀντί(anti) "against" + νόμος(nomos), "law")

²⁰The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more,...

Romans 5:20

Religious life throughout Roman Empire

- **Universal** (everywhere in everything)
- **Prominent** (visible temples, processions)
- **Diversity** (all deities were acceptable, renunciation was not necessary)
- **Sacred places**

‘Chaeremon invites you to dine at the
table of the lord Sarapis at the
Sarapeion (sc. temple of Sarapis)
tomorrow, the 15th, at the 9th hour.’

‘found in contemporary papyrus’

Sexual license was the rule rather than the exception in much of the ancient Mediterranean world. Hauck and Schulz write concerning Greek sexual ethics, "The main cause of prostitution is the Greek view of life which regards sexual intercourse as just as natural, necessary and justifiable as eating and drinking" (Kittel 1968, 4:582).

The Letter to the Gentile Believers

...**27** Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to tell you in person the same things we are writing. **28** It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond these essential requirements: **29** You **must** abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals, and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things. Farewell....

Acts 15:27-29

Corinthian's logic

- we have been baptized and are therefore one with Christ;
- we have shared in the sacrament and therefore in the body and the blood of Christ
- we are in Him and He is in us
- therefore we are quite safe
- we can eat meat offered to idols and come to no harm.

After reducing the condition of salvation from ethical perfection to faith alone, the theory cannot then consistently expect self-interested individuals to undertake further ethical behavior! Their sins are forgiven ... they are saved, so no further leverage on them can be generated through self-interest (which previously came principally from the prospect of hell, but that problem has now been resolved).

Weakness of justification theology of Paul
Douglas Campbell “The Deliverance of God”

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—
⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:8-10

26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. **27** And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes and to carefully observe My laws....

Ezekiel 36:26-27

⁹ Or do you not know that **wrongdoers** will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ **And that is what some of you were.** But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11