

Eleutheros Newsletter

April 2025

Thoughts on Romans

[2:22-23](#) Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? Thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?

The first three chapters of Romans deal with the first element of the Gospel: mankind is hopelessly lost in his sin: holding the truth in unrighteousness ([1:18](#)); ignoring God becoming vain in thinking so that the unbeliever is without excuse ([1:20](#)); manifold foolishness ([1:22](#)); idolatry ([1:23](#)); and many other God-hating things.

Paul continues this theme in these verses by pointing out two more aspects of man's depravity: hypocrisy and arrogance.

It is one thing to SAY it is right to avoid sin. It is quite another thing to avoid that sin!

Scripture is replete with warnings about hypocrisy. Let's look at some verses about this from the book of Proverbs.

A hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbor: but through knowledge shall the just be delivered ([11:9](#)); The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord ([15:8](#)); For as he thinketh in his heart; so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee. The morsel which thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit up and lose thy sweet words ([23:7-8](#)); Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint ([25:19](#)).

Our Lord spoke about the wickedness of hypocrisy as well: *Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and thou shalt see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye ([Matthew 7:5](#)).*

And Paul spoke elsewhere about the consequences of hypocrisy: *Speaking lies in hypocrisy: having their conscience seared with a hot iron ([1 Timothy 4:2](#)); They profess that they know God; but in works they deny Him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate ([Titus 1:16](#)).*

Arrogance is just as sinful as hypocrisy: *Talk no more so exceedingly proudly; let not arrogance come out of your mouth: for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by Him actions are weighed ([1 Samuel 2:3](#)); pride and arrogancy and the evil way, and the forward mouth, do I hate ([Proverbs 8:13](#)); I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and I will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible ([Isaiah 13:11](#)); For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith ([Romans 12:3](#)).*

The Apostle dealt with other sins that are often caused by hypocrisy and arrogance in his day; and we would do well to confront these same issues in our day.

Can leaders in today's churches, schools, and missions honestly say that hypocrisy and arrogance are being eliminated? In fact, is it not something that seems to be increasing?

How can we deal successfully with such pernicious sin?

The answer, of course, is found in dwelling in God's Word and honoring His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ!

Consider the words to this gear hymn:

No, Not One!

Johnson Oatman, Jr.

*There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus—No, not one! No, not one!
None else can heal all our soul's diseases—No, not one! No, not one!*

*No friend like Him is so high and holy—No, not one! No, not one!
And yet no friend is so meek and lowly—No, not one! No, not one!*

*Jesus knows all about our struggles; He will guide till the day is done.
There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus—No, not one! No, not one!*