

“Attitudes Associated with Ungodliness”



2 Peter 2:10-14

Theme: The ungodly are defiantly consumed with gratifying their own desires.

I. AN ARROGANT ATTITUDE TOWARD AUTHORITY – *2:10-11*

A. The Conceit of the Arrogant – *v. 10*

1. There exists within the attitude of the ungodly a humanistic – that is man-centered, view of life which believes that the center of each individual’s universe is self – “... *and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority ...*”
 - a) “*corrupt*” [μιασμός] – pollution or corruption – a defiling influence
 - b) “*desires*” [ἐπιθυμία] is actually a singular desire – a desire for corruption
2. Thus, the attitude is that such ungodly ones do not care about anything other than indulgence in what is craved; that is, we answer to nobody and determine what is “appropriate” or “inappropriate.”
3. They are described as ones who “*despise authority*” [κυριότης] – literally “lordship” and demonstrates how their true resentment is Jesus Christ who imposes Himself into their lives.
4. They are described as “*daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties ...*”
 - a) “*daring*” [τολμητής] – refers to someone being bold in showing an impudent lack of respect
 - b) “*self-willed*” [αὐθάδης] – stubborn in insisting on one’s own ways or perspectives
 - c) “*they do not tremble*” [τρέμω] – “to shake involuntarily, quiver in fear; to feel the impact of something, that is, to be in awe”
5. The “*angelic majesties*” that are being “reviled” are the demons who exist in greater “majesty” than human beings.
6. There also exists a disrespect for the authorities that do exist – they blaspheme with no shame or fear – cp. *Luke 23:39-41; Zechariah 3:2; Jude 1:9*

7. These false teachers rail against demonic powers, damning demons, binding demons, casting out demons as if they were of greater authority than those demons – cp. **Acts 19:13-16**.

B. The Contrast to the Angels – v. 11

1. In contrast to these arrogant men, angels stand far more powerful and mighty than any man – “... *whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.*”
2. The angels themselves refuse to get involved in the reviling and rebuking of these angelic majesties – cp. **Jude 9**.
3. “*Like Michael, believers should not confront Satan and his minions alone. Instead, they should seek God’s intervening power against demons. Yet false teachers, by stark contrast, are so self-confident, brazen, and reckless that they did what even Michael ‘did not dare’ to do – directly reviling angelic majesties as though they had authority over them.*”¹

II. AN ANIMALISTIC ATTITUDE TOWARD MORALITY – 2:12-13a

A. The Carnality of Their Thinking – v. 12a

1. “*But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed ...*” - their attitude toward morality is completely controlled by their base, natural instincts – not on a desire to comply with a rational standard established by God.
2. “*creatures of instinct*” are distinct from humanity who are made in the image of God and therefore ought not to be “*captured and killed.*”
3. They tend to make judgments about things they don’t know about – having an equally qualified moral compass as “*unreasoning animals.*”
4. In reality, they relegate morality to whatever pleases, demonstrating a lack of conformity to God and a definitive estrangement from His image.

B. The Calamity Awaiting Them – vv. 12b-13a

1. Their judgment is sure – in sowing their “wild oats” their lives will be destroyed – “... *will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed.*” - cp. **Jude 1:10**

¹ MacArthur, pp. 98-99.

2. However, they will not even have to wait until then – “... *suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong*” - the consequences of doing wrong is to suffer wrong – cp. **Romans 1:24-27**.
3. Sin is its own reward together with the misery that it brings.

III. **AN ACCOMMODATING ATTITUDE TOWARD SIN – 2:13b-14**

A. **The Commitment to Their Habits – v. 13b**

1. Unlike most sinners who seek the cover of darkness to hide their indulgences in sin, these “*count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime.*”
2. They “*count it a pleasure*” – [ἡγέομαι] - consider or reckon; it is deliberate pursuit of blatant wickedness – cp. **Ephesians 5:12**
3. Peter describes them once again – “*They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, as they carouse with you.*”
4. “*carouse*” [συνευωχέομαι] – means to “feast together” and likely refers to celebrating the Lord’s Table with them – cp. **Jude 12**
5. They are moral blemishes and spots – purposefully defiling your times of fellowship by means of their “*reveling in their deceptions.*”

B. **The Compulsion of Their Habits – v. 14**

1. But, even if they desired to, they are so entrenched in their habits that they are caught – they cannot stop!
2. “... *having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin ...*” – the reference here is that their minds are consumed with adulteries – lit. adulteresses – their minds constantly are consumed with sin.
3. They likewise lure or entice weak ones into participating in their lewdness – “... *enticing unstable souls*”
 - a) They are deliberately seeking to trap people by their false teaching – “*enticing*” [δελεάζω] – lit. means “to lure by the use of bait”
 - b) “*unstable souls*” refers to those who are spiritually weak because of a lack of knowledge of the truth.
4. Their perspective is trained to seek gratification – “... *having a heart trained in greed, accursed children.*”
5. They constantly exercise themselves in greedy aberrations from truth in order to personally gratify themselves at the expense of others.