

On Ridiculous Assumptions

Someone asked me a question the other day, and it's the kind of question I'm sure you've heard before. They're the kind of questions that kids start asking around the age of 12 or 13, often delivered with a bit of an amused smirk written on the face. I've heard two or three different forms of this type of question, and I'm sure you have too. It goes like this: *Can God make a rock so big He can't lift it? Can God make a prison so secure He can't escape from it?* The point of these questions seems to be either to stump the person being questioned, or to call into question God's power—either God cannot make a rock too heavy to lift, or He cannot lift such a rock.

The particular question I was asked was a little like this: *If God can do anything, can God sin?* The person asking me this question was being a bit facetious, but it's a question designed to entrap: if I say that God can do *anything*, even sin, then I've said that God is not perfect. If, on the other hand, I say that God *cannot* sin, then I've said that God is not all-powerful. What's a boy to do?

Well, I do not like being trapped, and I assume you don't either. So I refused to play the game. Here was my answer: God cannot sin, but to assume that this limits God power and freedom is to make a wrong assumption about sin. Sin isn't an ability, like the ability to sing on key, or to run fast, or to lift heavy objects. Sin isn't an ability; it's a *dis-ability*. Sin doesn't add anything to us; it takes everything away *from* us. Having the "ability" to sin is like having the "ability" *not* to see! Why would God want such an "ability"? Why would we think that God would be better if he were limited in this way?

My point here, though, is actually not whether God can fulfil the conditions of a nonsense question. My

point is that it is such a temptation for us to see sin in our own lives as an ability, something we can do that gets us ahead. If we all regarded sin the same way I regard lima beans, for example—as something loathsome and awful to be avoided at all costs—then we wouldn't sin; or at least not nearly as much. But we *love* sin, and think of it as a tremendous asset. We think of it this way: *In an uncomfortable situation? Lie! Feel vulnerable because someone has something you don't? Gossip! Not getting what you want? Fight, argue, and be angry!* It's as though we view sin like it's some sort of fix-all product we'd find marketed on late-night infomercial TV.

Friends, we must cast off this wrong thinking. Sin is awful, full stop. It's not an ability. Sin is a weight which entangles us (Hebrews 12:1); it enslaves us and leads us to death (Romans 6:20–21); it brings us under God's righteous wrath (Ephesians 2:3); it blinds us (2 Corinthians 4:4); sin does all this and so much more.

If this is the case, that sin is a terrible, awful, no-good thing, that it is a deadly limitation and not an ability, then we ought to do two things. First, we ought to stop loving sin. Fight it, hate it, kill it, flee from it, but do not love it! Sin is not a friend, or an asset, or an ability. It is your deadliest foe. Second, we ought to thank and praise God, who is so opposed to the sin which destroys and unmakes us, that He sent His Son to bear the penalty for our sin and to give us His own righteousness! "For

Sin isn't an ability; it's a *dis-ability*. Sin doesn't add anything to us; it takes everything away from us.

our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Can God make a rock so big He can't lift it? Don't be ridiculous. But can He lift us up from the miserable pit our sin has dug for us? He can, and He does, for all of us who trust in Jesus.

Daniel Stanley



**100 Challenge:
Spaghetti Sauce**

For the month of February, everyone is asked to participate in our Salvation Army 100 Challenge. This challenge is for 100 cans/jars (non-glass) of spaghetti sauce. The Salvation Army has asked for either traditional or meat sauce. All donations can be placed on the table located in the sanctuary overflow.

**Sharing Place
Thursday, February 14**



Each Thursday the First Presbyterian Church of Warren provides a free meal to those less fortunate in Warren. We along with other Warren churches, are signed up to help with serving these meals. It is a very simple and practical way to extend the love of Jesus to those in need in Warren. If you are interested in helping with is ministry, please come to the Frist Presbyterian Church by 4:00PM on Thursday, February 14. Desserts are also needed. If you decide to make a cake or some cookies for their dessert, please have them to the church by 4:00PM also. What a better time to share Christ's love than on Valentines day.

Helpers This Month

Deacon of the Week:

- Feb. 3 Kerwin Smith
- Feb. 10 Dave Chapman
- Feb. 17 Brad Morgan
- Feb. 24 Kirk Kirkpatrick

Greeters:

- Feb. 3 Cindy Hile
- Feb. 10 Beverly Pangborn
- Feb. 17 Brad & Sheryl Morgan
- Feb. 24 Marilyn Schoder

Nursery/Children's Church

- Feb. 3 Liza Donovall & Loraine Smith
- Feb. 10 Liza Donovall & Peggy Chapman
- Feb. 17 Liza Donovall & Sheryl Morgan
- Feb. 24 Liza Donovall & Anita Kiener



**Bible Journaling
Thursday Evenings at 6:30**

Join Karen Donovall and several other ladies for Bible Journaling. Enjoy getting creative as you dig deeper into God's Word. Bible Journaling in February will be on the 14 and 28. For more information, contact Karen Donovall.

**Quarterly Business Meeting
Annual Election**

Sunday, February 17
After morning worship service.

On February 17 we will be having our quarterly business meeting and annual election. Everyone is invited to share how God is working through Calvary through the different boards and committees. We will also be voting on new members for the boards and committees of our church. This is a meeting you won't want to miss.



Love one another,
for love comes
from **God.**

1 John 4:7



Upcoming Meetings

Missions Committee
Sunday, February 3
Following Morning Service

Deacon Board
Monday, February 4
7:00PM

Deaconess with Deacons
Sunday, February 10
Following Morning Service

Finance Committee
Monday, February 11
6:30PM

Quarterly Business Meeting & Annual Election
Sunday, February 17
Following Morning Service



Cambridge Warren Church Service

Sunday, February 24 at 6PM

Everyone is invited to join the Donovalls as they lead this service for the residents of Cambridge. There will be a time of singing and a devotional.