

# RATIONALIZING



SO SINFUL BEHAVIOR

*1 Samuel 13:1-15; 15:1-35*



# RATIONALIZING *SO* SINFUL BEHAVIOR



**The belief in sin, and the idea that someone could be referred to as a “sinner,” have all but disappeared from our permissive society.**

**Sinful behavior has been explained away, excused, tolerated, defended, and now accepted by most people.**



# RATIONALIZING

# SO SINFUL BEHAVIOR



Deny God's existence -

Deny Authenticity &  
Accuracy of the Bible -

Perversion of Biblical  
Teaching About What Sin Is

Perversion of Biblical  
Teaching About Grace &  
God's Love - Jude 4

Perversion of Biblical  
Teaching About The  
Judgment.



# RATIONALIZING *SO* SINFUL BEHAVIOR



**When confronted with sin, king David simply said, “I have sinned against the Lord” (2 Sam 12:13).**

**However, when some Christians are confronted with sin in their life, they become defensive and seek to excuse the behavior that is under question.**



# RATIONALIZING SO SINFUL BEHAVIOR

## King Saul tried to rationalize his sin

I Samuel 13:11-12 (NKJV)

II And Samuel said, “What have you done?” Saul said, “When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash, <sup>12</sup> then I said, ‘The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the Lord.’ Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering.”





# RATIONALIZING SO SINFUL BEHAVIOR

**King Saul tried to rationalize his sin**



**1 Samuel 15:20-21 (NIV)**

<sup>20</sup> "But I did obey the LORD," Saul said. "I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. <sup>21</sup> The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal."



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**King Saul tried to rationalize his sin**



- **PRAGMATISM -**
  - “*the people were scattered from me . . .*” [1 Sam 13:11]
  - “*in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal.*” - [Sam 15:21]
- The end does NOT justify the means - (cf Rom 3:8; 1 Sam 15:21-23)



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**King Saul tried to rationalize his sin**



- **GUILT TRANSFERENCE**

- *“you did not come within the days appointed” - [1 Sam 13:11]*
- *“The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder. . .” [1 Sam 15:21]*
- I am responsible for my own actions - I can't shift blame to someone else - (cf Gen 3:12,13)



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**King Saul tried to rationalize his sin**

- **SITUATION ETHICS**

- *“the Philistines gathered together at Michmash, <sup>12</sup> then I said, ‘The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the Lord. Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering.’” (1 Sam 13:11,12;*





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**King Saul tried to rationalize his sin**



- There is NEVER a situation where one can violate God's Law and not be guilty of sin!
- God has given us fixed moral laws that do not bend to the shifting winds of the situation - {1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:19-21}



# RATIONALIZING <sup>SO</sup>SINFUL BEHAVIOR

## Some Other Ways We May Attempt To Rationalize Sinful Behavior



- Selective Comparisons - 2 Cor 10:2
- Claim ignorance - Acts 17:11; 2 Tim 2:15; Acts 17:30
- Claim moderation - Heb 2:1-3; Eph 5:3-7; 1 Thes 5:22
- I'm the victim - 1 Pet 2:18-23
- Procrastination - Acts 24:25; Rom 2:4



# RATIONALIZING <sup>SO</sup>SINFUL BEHAVIOR

## Let Us Never Attempt To Rationalize Sinful Behavior



- The last thing the devil wants us to do is to deal honestly with the sin in our life. - 1 Pet 5:8
- As long as we are avoiding our sin (*by denying it or attempting to excuse it*), we will remain separated from fellowship with God and our souls will be in jeopardy. - 1 Jn 1:7-10



# RATIONALIZING <sup>SO</sup>SINFUL BEHAVIOR

## Let Us Never Attempt To Rationalize Sinful Behavior



Those not in Christ must hear the truth, believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, confess Him, repent, & be baptized into Him.

The proper way for God's people to deal with their sins and receive forgiveness is to confess these sins, repent, and pray to God for forgiveness (1 John 1:9; Acts 8:22).







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